

REP CORÉE

National Statement of the Republic of Korea
on the Occasion of the 205th Session of
the Executive Board of UNESCO

8 September, 2018, Paris

Monsieur le President du Conseil executif,
Madame la Directrice generale,
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un grand honneur pour moi de faire aujourd'hui la declaration nationale de la Republic de Coree a l'occasion de la Deux Cents cinquieme (205e) session du Conseil executif.

Korea has indeed had a truly remarkable and historic year. The mood of peace on the Korean Peninsula, initiated by the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games early this year, has been intensified through the holding of Inter-Korean Summits. The North Korea-US Peace Talks in Singapore last June was a driver of facilitating peace on the peninsula and finally such an atmosphere was led to the announcement of the historic Pyongyang Joint Declaration last month, the first agreement on denuclearization between the two Koreas.

The Korean government will exert utmost endeavors to maintain the current momentum so that it does contribute to permanent peace in Northeast Asia and subsequently in the entire world. Trusting that UNESCO will play a valuable role in those

endeavors, my delegation would like to share with the members of the Executive Board the cooperation Korea envisages to have with UNESCO.

To begin with, Korea is keen to enhance the inter-Korean cooperation in the fields of expertise of UNESCO including education, science and culture. UNESCO was established to cultivate a culture of peace through international cooperation and Madam Director-General has been a advocate for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula ever since the first Inter-Korean summit in April. Therefore, Korea strongly believes that UNESCO would provide invaluable ground for us to expand inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation through the body, which will ultimately guide us to a way to complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Meanwhile, Korea will also accompany UNESCO on its journey towards peace and prosperity for all humankind, making contributions to the UNESCO's programmes and activities. The flagship programs Korean government advocates in partnership with UNESCO includes Global Citizenship Education, Decades of Ocean Science, King Sejong prize for literacy, Jikji Memory of the World prize, and interpretation of the world heritage, to name a few.

Amongst them, Korea has remained fully engaged to the preservation and development of the tangible and intangible

heritage of the world as well as the Memory of the World program, commending UNESCO's constructive role in promoting awareness of the full history of the facts.

In particular, the results of the thematic study "Interpretation of Sites of Memory," commissioned by the Korean Government in cooperation with the World Heritage Center and conducted by the 'International Coalition of Sites of Conscience' stresses the needs to shape a comprehensive strategy on heritage interpretation, reflecting a variety of views from different stakeholders. My government will continue to work closely with the World Heritage Centre to develop further studies in this field.

With regard to the Memory of the World Programme, Korea would like to put an emphasis on the needs to preserve and to guarantee universal access to documentary heritage in improving regulations and procedures of the Programme.

In addition, Korea specially welcomes the initiative by the Director-General to 'Revive the Spirit of Mosul', aiming at reconstruction of humanity, trust and peace, not to mention of culture and education in Iraq. Korea is geared to participate in the international cooperation to reconstruct Iraq through the development and humanitarian assistance.

Mr. President,

Against this backdrop of the crisis in multilateralism, the key element for restoring confidence for the global governance is the reform of international organizations. In this vein, my delegation would like to commend the Director-General for her efforts for the Strategic Transformation Agenda as well as the Structured Financing Dialogue. Also in this connection, I hope that the UNESCO Strategy Forum to be held in Seoul this November will serve as a valuable opportunity to gather views and insights on a strategy for UNESCO to better achieve its reform tasks. On another note, I would like to remind the Member States of the importance of fulfilling their own responsibility of making mandatory contributions in a timely manner.

Lastly, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Republic of Korea will stand firmly supportive of UNESCO's unwavering efforts to reach every single corner of the global village, as well as of the leadership of Madam Director-General in coordinating such efforts. My government looks forward to working closely with all Members of the Executive Board in carrying out the noble task of shaping a thriving future for UNESCO.

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur President.