

SPEECH
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FOR UNESCO
HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ATTENDING THE 205TH SESSION
OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD
(Paris, 8 October 2018)

*Your Excellency Mr. Lee Byong-Hyun, Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO,
Your Excellency Ms. Audrey Azouley, Director-General of UNESCO,
Distinguished guests and delegates,*

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to Indonesia and her people, who have so grievously suffered from the recent tsunami. This disaster has once again tolled the warning bell for the fragile, volatile and uncertain world of ours. Since the 204th session of the UNESCO Executive Board, and throughout the recent past, such global issues as terrorism, immigration, climate change, and food and water security have still been threatening peace, security and stability in many regions in the world. Meanwhile, power politics and self-centered nationalism is still on the rise, negatively affecting the role of multilateral institutions. Against this backdrop, we expect even more and still believe that international organizations, including UNESCO, will continue to lay the foundations to address global challenges and rally countries together, to strive for a world of peace, equality and sustainable development. UNESCO's mission remains unchanged: "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture".

In that spirit, Viet Nam supports the reform by the Director-General and the Secretariat, "Strategic Transformation" (transformation stratégique), in order to enhance the organization's comparative advantages and uplift its influence at the global level. The report delivered by the Secretariat has shown encouraging progresses in the process of *strategic transformation*. We welcome the efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat and would like to make some recommendations. First, the UNESCO's strategic transformation should be linked with countries' development demands, particularly in the areas of UNESCO's expertise. Second, the transformation should be associated with the ongoing United Nations reform. Third, the participation of member states from the very beginning of this process is of great importance and will be a deciding factor for the reform's success. It is necessary that member states can take part

in regular consultation, information and discourse on the strategic transformation, and play a concrete role throughout the process.

Also regarding the reform, Viet Nam stands by the recommendations approved by the 39th session of the General Conference on the reform of processes, procedures and working methods of the UNESCO governing bodies, including those regarding the Executive Board. We look forward to the early adoption of these recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of the organization's activities.

In addition, resource mobilization is critical to every plan, program and strategy of the organization. Viet Nam welcomes the efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat to introduce measures to stabilize the budget and increase the mobilization of extra-budgetary fund. We are pleased to note that the Partners' Forum this September not only reaffirmed our partners' interest in UNESCO's programs, but also provided opportunities to muster additional resources for the organization's tight budget. We also highly value and recommend that member states and partners should increase their contribution to the fund without implementation terms attached.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recent 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018 selected the theme: "Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies". This theme has reflected the United Nations' determination to cement its role as the international community's leader in addressing global issues.

Within the United Nations system, as the organization representing mankind's conscience and wisdom, UNESCO has made tireless efforts as the leader in its portfolio, and in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The successes in the areas of culture, science, education and information have contributed to reinforcing the international community's confidence in multilateral solutions. We take note of UNESCO's successes in strengthening cooperation with various countries, international organizations and the private sector to step up the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 on Education. The Organization, particularly its International Hydrological Programme (IHP), has also played a consultative role in the formulation of policy for the effective management and use of water resources. Viet Nam highly appreciates UNESCO's contribution to the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil and reaffirms her support for the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Urgent call for decisive action on water". In addition, UNESCO's continued recognition of titles is of vital importance in preserving and promoting the value of world heritages. UNESCO titles not only have helped to bring nations in the world closer together through the recognition of global values and the protection of the common values of mankind, but are also generating new resources for the development of many countries. On this matter, we propose that UNESCO should pay attention to the needs of different countries,

particularly poor and developing ones, and support them in achieving a balance between the protection and the appropriate use of the heritage.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this occasion, may I express my gratitude to UNESCO and the UNESCO Office in Ha Noi, particularly the Chief Representative, for your substantial contributions in accelerating the signing of the Viet Nam - UNESCO Memorandum of Understanding for the 2016 to 2021 period. Also, we would like to inform you that Viet Nam and UNESCO will jointly hold an important event: “The 2019 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship” in July 2019.

Viet Nam pledges to work with UNESCO and its member states, increase her participation and contribution in the implementation of programs and initiatives to bring UNESCO to the people and communities around the world to translate our visions and goals into reality in the near future. We fully agree with the UNESCO’s motto: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” We expect to “go far” with all of you, for a world of peace, prosperity and equality for all nations and peoples.

Thank you for your kind attention./.