

JOINT STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE ASEAN-UNESCO COMMITTEE (AUC)

207th SESSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

On behalf of the ASEAN-UNESCO Committee, and in my capacity as Chair of AUC, I would like to present a joint statement of our Group in this two-hundred-and-seventh session of the Executive Board.

The AUC would like to assure once again our confidence in the Director General of UNESCO, and also in the Chairperson of the Executive Board for their able leadership for the past two years.

As in our previous sessions, we have come to a consensus that the Strategic Transformation is getting more complex and at the same time has entered a crucial phase. ASEAN is of the view that we should continue to carry this issue in a concrete, inclusive and open manner. ASEAN stands ready and look forward to contribute substantively and participate actively in this issue.

Another imperative issue that will always remain in great importance is budget allocation. We understand that in this session we have a very important decision to make, which is to decide on one of the three budget scenarios. Regardless which option we decide upon, the final consensus will be a crucial one for the Organization. We would like to state the readiness of ASEAN to support and participate in the upcoming discussion of budget option and allocation.

Regarding programme, we would like to highlight the importance of education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY). ASEAN countries have committed themselves to continue the efforts to enhance the quality of and access to basic education for all including the persons with disabilities, disadvantaged, and other marginalized groups. We also encourage private sector to enhance its role on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to ensure the quality and skill of the region's workforce.

Once again, we call upon the Director-General, the Secretariat and all Member States to continue to nurture a spirit of optimism, solidarity and cooperation, which has never been so imperative and indispensable for UNESCO to overcome current challenges and to seize opportunities for a better future of the Organization.

Finally, ASEAN Member States are committed to working closely with other Member States and the Secretariat to advance our shared goals.

Thank you.