

207th session of the UNESCO Executive Board

European Union statement

Mr President,

Madam Director-General,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the Candidate Countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey.

Permettez moi de résumer les points saillants de notre déclaration, la version officielle a été remise au secrétariat.

1. L'union Européenne et ses Etats Membres voudraient réaffirmer leur plein soutien à l'UNESCO. Notre partenariat avec l'UNESCO est étroit, il se traduit par notre soutien politique, par des actions concrètes sur le terrain, par exemple à Mossoul, et par notre contribution financière collective qui reste la plus importante.

2. L'Union Européenne est attachée au processus de transformation stratégique. Nous nous félicitons des progrès accomplis sur les trois piliers. Permettez moi de mentionner en particulier la nouvelle stratégie globale de partenariat.

4. S'agissant du futur, la nouvelle stratégie à Moyen terme est très importante. Nous nous félicitons du processus de consultation engagé, et attendons un calendrier clair pour les prochaines étapes. Il est pour nous important d'avoir une stratégie permettant de définir des priorités et d'orienter les ressources en fonction de ces priorités pour atteindre les ODD. Cette stratégie sera également un outil utile pour faire mieux connaître le travail et les ambitions de l'UNESCO.

5. Furthermore, the EU notes the importance of the EXB recommendations regarding the C/5 to be submitted to the General Conference, including on UNESCO's budget for the second biennium (2020-2021).

6. The UN reform is important for the EU. It should now be fully implemented by all, in all its aspects including the resident coordinator system and its cost-sharing arrangement. It is important for UNESCO, and for the UN system. The success of UNESCO's Strategic Transformation and its support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are grounded in its integration with the ongoing repositioning of the UN Development System.

7. In terms of priorities, we wish to see a human rights-based approach in all sectors for the full mandate of UNESCO. We also expect UNESCO's leadership to be a strong and proactive voice, in particular in the field of right to education, freedom of expression, and safety of Journalists. It is a shared responsibility between UNESCO's representatives and UNESCO's Member States. We welcome the report on the working methods, procedures and practices of the Committee on Conventions and recommendations (207 EX/25) which offers sufficient clarification on the actual functioning of the Procedure 104.

8. We appreciate the work undertaken on recent initiatives aiming at better preparing UNESCO for the new and future challenges, in the field of Open Science, Future of Education, Artificial Intelligence. They are a landmark for a new and visionary UNESCO.

9. With respect to the continuing implementation of the Board decisions we recall that the EU remains concerned about the situation in the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol, Ukraine. The EU position on this matter remains unchanged. We continue to support UNESCO's focus on the issue by concrete follow-up to the decisions of the Executive Board.

10. We look forward to our discussions during this session and to open and constructive dialogue with all colleagues on issues of shared importance.

Thank you.