

DISCOURS DE LA GRECE A LA PLENIERE DE LA 207EME SESSION DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF

Monsieur le President du Conseil Exécutif,
Madame la Présidente de la Conférence Générale,
Madame la Directrice Générale,
Excellences, Représentants des Etats Membres,

La Grèce parvient bientôt au terme de son mandat en tant que membre élu du Conseil Exécutif et cela a été, par tout aspect, aussi bien un grand honneur qu'une grande responsabilité pour mon pays de participer à cet organe directeur de l'UNESCO.

Certes beaucoup de développements ont eu lieu au cours des quatre années depuis notre élection en 2015, mais je limiterai ce discours aux points plus précis de l'Agenda de cette 207eme session. Plusieurs éléments sont d'ailleurs déjà inclus dans la Déclaration de l'Union européenne, avec laquelle nous nous alignons pleinement, y compris sur la transformation stratégique et la protection des journalistes.

On the draft Programme and Budget for the second biennium, Greece looks forward to the fulfillment of the role of the Executive Board in submitting relevant recommendations to the upcoming session of the General Conference. As regards more specifically the Budget, it is the Board's responsibility to offer to the General Conference a consensus-driven regular budget option, which will be sustainable, operational, efficient and sufficient.

As we are approaching the 40th Session of the General Conference, my country is fulfilling its own contribution to UNESCO's role and visibility, in particular in the field of Culture. The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri prize, the only existing prize in the Culture sector will be awarded on the 13th of November. The award of this Greek-funded prize during the General Conference also aims at reaffirming the relevance of protecting and managing cultural landscapes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Prize bears the name of the woman who put the return and reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures on UNESCO's agenda some decades now. My country remains committed to a constructive dialogue with the UK, particularly in the framework of the ICPRCP. In this context, we would like to commend UNESCO for its continuous efforts to

facilitate the relevant discussions on the matter. Greece will continue supporting the substantial and institutional work of the Organisation with regard to return and restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin.

Our engagement is also demonstrated by the submission, together with Egypt, of a Draft Decision on Strengthening the Implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the co-sponsors for their support.

Another contribution of Greece in the field of Culture is the proposal presently jointly with UNESCO in New York, in the framework of the UN Climate Action, on facing the challenge of the Impacts of Climate Change on Cultural and Natural Heritage, with the support of more than 40 member states, including members of the Ancient Civilisations Forum. We are committed to following-up on this initiative, in close cooperation with UNESCO, with the aim of making further progress towards a framework of viable solutions and concrete actions regarding monitoring, protecting and strengthening the resilience of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Monsieur le President, Madame la Directrice-générale,

La fin du mandat grec sera marquée par la visite officielle du Premier Ministre de la Grèce à l'UNESCO, dans le contexte de la Conférence générale, les 12-13 Novembre, suivie par la participation de la Ministre de la Culture et des Sports au Forum des Ministres de la Culture, le 19 Novembre. Nous ne pourrions trouver plus concrète expression de l'importance que la Grèce attache à l'UNESCO, à son mandat, à son rôle au sein du multilatéralisme.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.