



**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF MALAYSIA  
AT THE 207<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Delivered by  
PERMANENT DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA TO UNESCO  
H.E DR ANESEE BIN IBRAHIM  
REPRESENTING THE HONOURABLE MINISTER**

**PARIS, 15 OCTOBER 2019**

Madam President of the General Conference,

Mr Chair of the Executive Board,

Madam Director-General,

Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the offset, I wish to convey warm greetings and best wishes of your esteemed colleague, His Excellency, Dr. Maszlee Malik, Minister of Education, whom I have the honour to represent today. I am confident, Mr. Chairperson, that with your wisdom and expert guidance, we will see a successful completion of a loaded Agenda at this session.

2. First and foremost, I take this opportunity to commend the Director-General for a spirited presentation of **Item 4 of the Agenda** which

covers the execution of the programme over the second half of the biennium. I commend the Director-General and her devoted staff in adjusting to the budgetary constraints and implementing the approved programmes to the best of their ability.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia applauds the Strategic Transformation team for their efforts and achievements. Malaysia especially commends the rolling out of **transversal teams**<sup>1</sup> across the organization. We believe this approach will not only overcome any silo thinking, but also drive transformation initiatives more effectively and efficiently.

4. The Strategic Transformation team should also be commended for coming up with the **new communication strategy**<sup>2</sup>, which eventually will enhance UNESCO's influence and authority to a wider audience. While the strategy is being detailed out, we look forward to the discussion on how best to implement it, to make it most effective. It should be able to re-emphasize to Member States the question of “**what's in this organisation for me?**”.

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<sup>1</sup> Item 5.III, document 5.III.E and INF

<sup>2</sup> Item 5.III, document 5.III.E and INF

5. Despite the challenges of budgetary constraints, UNESCO still has its strengths. **Report on Internal Oversight Service evaluations**<sup>3</sup> has identified at least two; (i) the power to convene and facilitate meaningful dialogues, and (ii) the mapping of each program to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We would like to see these strengths embedded into the transformation agenda, to further strengthen the initiatives.

6. We also applaud the work of the **Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO**. We would like to report that the IGC for **Management of Social Transformation**, and the Working Group on **Information for Development**, each had a special agenda on responding to the recommendations.

7. We also take note of the report of the **Headquarters Committee**<sup>4</sup> on the progress of the renovation of Building V Miollis, and would like to express our gratitude to the French Government, for taking on the interest and guaranteeing of a future loan for the development<sup>5</sup>.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

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<sup>3</sup> Item 5.II.A, document 207 EX/5.II.A

<sup>4</sup> Item 31, document 207 EX/31 and Add.

<sup>5</sup> Item 13.1 GC, document 40 C/54.I

8. *Climate change is real. It is not a question of IF but WHEN.* That is one of key messages that came out from the **Climate Action Summit in New York** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We are proud to note that UNESCO is playing our part, and climate change is a factor considered in the **Futures of Education Report**. For the benefit of future generations, which UNESCO has always fought for, education for climate change must be strengthened. It is in the minds of the young that the defenses for the planet earth's preservation need to be advocated. We are also happy to inform that **ISTIC**, a Category II Centre in Malaysia, recently organised a seminar here in UNESCO, on Climate Change Education.

9. Either we realize it or not, impact from climate change can wipe out all of our achievements and seriously impede our current efforts. There would be even more displaced people, higher level of illiteracy, and increasing propensity to violence. The time to act is already past. On that note, Malaysia fully supports the establishment of **Office for Climate Education (OCE)** in France as a category 2 centre.

10. Aligned with UNESCO's priority, Malaysia will continue to strengthen technical and vocational education and training<sup>6</sup> (**TVET**), in order to prepare the youths to meet the demand of the future. At the same time, we strive to produce graduates who are able to engage to the

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<sup>6</sup> Item 23.V, document 207 EX/23.V

problems of the real world, by providing value-based education both at schools, and at tertiary level.

11. In conclusion, the decade in front of us will not only see us working together in achieving the 2030 Agenda, but also in striving to nurture a seed culture of peace and tranquility, consistent with UNESCO's mission.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.