

Saint Lucia

Mr Chairperson of the Ex BR
Madam Chairperson of the GC
Madam Director General
Excellencies, Dear Colleagues

Hurricane Dorian is gone and Bahamas is no longer in the news, but the destruction and the suffering are still there.

Bahamas has to face reality and start reconstruction. However the irony is that Bahamas is going to be told that it is not eligible to access Official Development AID (ODA) because it's a Middle Income Country (MIC).

I ask.... Where are they supposed to get assistance to rebuild when they do not have the resources and are suffering from impacts they did not have any hands in creating?

Policies that determine access to ODA based on GDP per capita have to change.

[In the UN Development System, some entities have adopted different approaches to MIC's.]

UNICEF is challenging the whole scheme of MIC's and is focusing on the multi-dimensional needs of each country in light of its human development situation and its vulnerability.

UNESCO ^{→ with its humanistic approach to everything} should have been the first to set the example. It is time we have this discussion in the EX BR. MICs and particularly SIDS, should be allowed to benefit from extra-budgetary resources | ~~within the integrated budget framework.~~

Mr Chairperson,

Saint Lucia would like to congratulate the Director General for launching an independent, science based assessment of all education systems as we had proposed in our speech at the last Board. The results of this assessment will complement the report of the International Commission for the Futures of Education and

add to its value. This could restore UNESCO's position as a game changer.

UNESCO has lost ground as a lead agency in education. Its leadership is challenged and its relevance is questioned. The position and role of UNESCO were weakened by the loss of the US contribution, politicisation and extreme dispersion and by the fragmentation of the international education framework and the fierce competition resulting from it.

UNESCO can take the lead in education again if it wants to.

It has a unique standard setting function.

It has a strong convening power that it should use in a meaningful way with clear objectives. We want to see UNESCO as a shaper not just a convener.

However, in the end what is going to matter most, is our capacity to focus on what is really relevant in terms of impact on quality education for our children, who are going to struggle with in a world where change is exponential in an unprecedented way.

In parts of the world some are preparing to send nanorobots into the brain linking it directly to the Internet to upgrade intelligence and memory. While some of us are still struggling with literacy and have not even started the introduction of 21st century skills in our education systems. These are the real priorities.

We are far too dispersed and our resources are spread too thin to achieve any substantial impact.

Mr Chairperson,

Mobility is not an objective but is an important tool for the Organization.

An agile workforce is one that is focused on "knowledge workers" with high-level expertise from both inside and outside an organization, capable of acting quickly and efficiently in response

to needs. The way an agile workforce is managed depends on the nature of each organization.

In UNESCO with its dual normative and operational mandate, an agile workforce cannot mean that everyone is interchangeable. For example, a fundraiser at UNESCO Headquarters can be sent to Africa to mobilize resources but cannot be sent to Africa as a high-level program specialist in education. This is neither fair to the staff member nor to Africa.

Our staff members should not become administrators and project managers with no expertise of their own and whose job would become to hire and manage consultants.

The administration at the UN in New York faced similar challenges when implementing the mobility policy. The Secretary General wisely decided to pause the implementation of mobility until he received the results of the evaluation of its implementation.

The results showed that there were flaws in the original design because it did not take into consideration the specificity of the Organization and its dual nature, normative and operational, where a "one fit all" approach does not work, unlike in organizations with a one-item mandate, where an interchangeable workforce is easier.

Mr Chairman,

"International Organizations do not carry values,

It's the persons working in them who do.

We should give more attention to these persons."

Thank you for your attention;

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