

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RICHARD NDUHUURA  
PERMANENT DELEGATE OF UGANDA TO UNESCO AS OBSERVER AT  
THE 207<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Thank you chairperson,

At the outset, allow me to join Colleagues in extending Uganda's congratulations to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Abiy Ahmed Ali, on being awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

Uganda aligns itself with the Statement made by the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Executive Board representing Group V(a).

We salute the Director General for her leadership of the organization since her election into office. We also thank the team she works with at the Secretariat, the Executive Board and indeed the Member States for supporting her to move UNESCO forward. Uganda further extends her congratulations to the President of the Executive Board for his leadership of the Board.

My delegation, would like to appreciate the support UNESCO has given to Uganda in the biennium in all the programmes. This support has enabled us address issues of teachers in the delivery of appropriate quality education. It has further enabled us to address issues of science, technology and innovation, climate change as well as to promote cultural heritage and freedom of expression. We believe more can be done and, we look forward to this in the next biennium.

We strongly support UNESCO's role towards the achievement of SDGs in totality especially in education, science, culture, communication and information. These are very crucial because they are at the apex of all SDGs. UNESCO should use its potential and harness all opportunities in its catalytic role in the global agenda.

Uganda supports the notion that matters of heritage and culture for development are embraced by all countries and rendered towards addressing poverty, inequality, climate change and hunger to mention but a few. We believe that sustainable development and protection should be in tandem. We shall therefore support UNESCO in this endeavor.

We reaffirm the need to raise awareness of UNESCO's results and capacities in the UN system, its member states and with the public at large. UNESCO still suffers visibility issues and yet as the Intellectual arm of the UN, its mandate is still very relevant and its quest for peace and sustainable development cannot be over emphasized. UNESCO should therefore claim its space and not remain in the background regarding the achievements registered by the organization.

Let me conclude my remarks by expressing our gratitude and appreciation to all cooperating partners who are providing extra-budgetary resources to ensure implementation of various programmes, especially those in Africa.

**THANK YOU.**