

*Azərbaycan Respublikasının YUNESKO
yanında Daimi Nümayəndəliyi*



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At the outset, please allow me to thank you Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, as well as President of the General Conference and Madame Director-General of UNESCO, and Member States for the efforts to ensure the continuity of the work of the Organization in this unprecedented situation.

Azerbaijan believes that despite all the challenges that we face today, the continuity of the work of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO are essential to promote multilateralism and inclusive cooperation among Member States as key factors to achieve UNESCO priorities.

As a reliable member of UNESCO and the international community, Azerbaijan is committed to preserving and strengthening the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the Charter of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chair,

Just recently the entire world celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of Second World War and victory over Nazism. The war that resulted in a staggering cost on human lives and re-shaped our vision for future. While the reminiscences of this tragic past are still fresh in our minds, we still witness with anxiety the growing trends of glorification of Nazism and similar ideologies by erecting the monuments to Nazi collaborators or by instilling ideas of supremacy in school textbooks. It is repugnant that sometimes it happens as part and parcel of state policy. Azerbaijan has repeatedly opposed in all fora's the manifestation of the modern forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We believe that UNESCO as a truly global Organization in accordance with its *raison d'être* has to redouble the efforts to prevent these dangerous tendencies in close cooperation with Member States. We need to learn the lessons of the past and we have collective responsibility before humankind that this will never happen again.

Thank you.