

**209th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO  
GENERAL STATEMENT  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**Chair of the Executive Board,**

**President of the General Conference,**

**Director General of UNESCO,**

**Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,**

This year marks 70 years of Indonesia-UNESCO relations.

Since our membership, UNESCO has influenced the construction of educational, social, cultural and scientific paradigms in Indonesia.

While Covid-19 has cancelled, the many planned events to commemorate Indonesia-UNESCO 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Indonesia reaffirm its commitment to UNESCO, as we address the proliferation of challenges of our time, that require strong partnerships, solidarity and innovative solutions.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of global solidarity, scientific cooperation, as well as accurate and reliable information and communication.

As a strong believer in multilateralism, Indonesia stresses the importance for UNESCO to play its parts, to contribute to global mitigation and adaptation efforts of a COVID-19 world.

Our 209<sup>th</sup> session is therefore important, to chart a concrete path for UNESCO's response, and to ensure the continued relevance of our beloved organization.

In this context, readjusting our priorities, synchronizing of our programs and budget, and adapting the way UNESCO work, is key.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Education is one sector that has suffered tremendously in light of the pandemic.

UNESCO's leadership and support to ensure continuation and quality education is critical.

We encourage programs that supports countries to implement and strengthen distance or remote learning.

In Indonesia for example, the pandemic has disrupted education for around 45 million students.

Various initiatives have been taken to ensure educational activities continues, including through digital platforms such as RUMAH BELAJAR, SPADA, and Guru Berbagi....

Through the national broadcaster, Indonesia is also conducting distancing learning programs for very remote areas.

Our experience shows that a strong public-private partnership is important to ensure success of digital distance learning programs.

No doubt that unique condition of specific regions areas also requires adjustment to approaches in distance learning mechanisms.

For Indonesia, as we move forward to make distance learning a more permanent feature in our education system, we are taking steps to strengthen distance learning program including through, training teachers to conduct distance learning; and ensuring greater and more stable digital access to all students.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Indonesia acknowledge the importance of Future Education initiatives, in the context of the Global Education Monitoring Report to be published in 2021.

This initiative is not only important for preparing future education in a post- Covid-19 pandemic world.

But it is also to anticipate the future of society values, ethics and norms, resulting from developments such as climate change, social

fragmentation, advances in digital communication, artificial intelligence as well as in biotechnology.

Indonesia also underlines the essential role of cultural expressions in strengthening humanitarian spirit and solidarity, fostering social cohesion and bringing resilience to societies.

The closure of world heritage properties, and cultural events and facilities have resulted in adverse impact to the cultural sectors and tourism.

It is therefore important for us to take measures to support cultural professionals and creative industries, including by facilitating virtual cultural expressions and performance during pandemic.

With regards to the reports for this session, Indonesia appreciates the comprehensive and detailed nature of the reports submitted by the secretariat.

The Programme Implementation Report (PIR) provides important developments in cooperation, partnerships and fund mobilization, as well as a useful overview of UNESCO's work.

We welcome the inter-sectoral collaboration highlighted in the report. We encourage early inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination, such as during the setting performance indicators and targets.

With regards to the Strategic Results Report (SRR), Indonesia acknowledges the Secretariat initiatives, notably, in organizing various dialogues with member states in order to shape and seize the Mid-Term Strategy 2022-2029.

While we note the SRR is a performance report, it would be beneficial for the report to have a stronger focus on future trends, partnership and challenges.

On the Report on Management Issues, Indonesia reiterates its commitment to support continuous efforts of UNESCO in increasing efficient and effective resource mobilization, in implementing Structured Financing Dialogues as well as in achieving Strategic Transformation targets.

We look forward to a fruitful, consensus driven meeting for every items in the agenda including the inscription of the new UNESCO Global Geopark.

In this regard, Indonesia looks forward to the inscription of Caldera Toba as the new UNESCO Global Geopark.

**Mr. Chairperson**

Within the UN family, UNESCO's comparative advantages is in education, culture, science, media development and freedom of expression.

Indonesia therefore welcomes UNESCO's efforts to enhance synergies with international stakeholders, especially within the UN system, on UNESCO's key issues.

This is essential to response to the future challenges in a world of increase of inequalities, complexity and uncertainty.

I thank you.