



中华人民共和国常驻联合国教育科学文化组织代表团

DELEGATION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE CHINE AUPRES DE L'UNESCO

1 rue Miollis, 75015 Paris France - Tel. 01 45 68 34 56 - Fax 01 42 19 01 99

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador YANG Jin
Permanent Delegate of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO
At the General Policy Debate of the 210th Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO
Paris, 3 December 2020**

Chairperson of the Executive Board,
President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Dear colleagues,

This session of the Executive Board is held in an innovative way to ensure that the Executive Board fulfills its responsibilities during the pandemic. China highly appreciates the Chairman of the Executive Board for the effective efforts he has made in convening this session. China commends the Director-General for leading the Secretariat to overcome difficulties and maintain the normal operation of the organization to the extent possible since the outbreak of the pandemic. I have just heard the sad news on the passing of former President of France, Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, an old friend of Chinese people. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere condolences over his passing. The UNESCO family has lost several outstanding colleagues since the beginning of the Pandemic, and I also express my deepest condolences for their passing.

The global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought us profound understanding that humankind is a community with a shared future. Only by strengthening solidarity and upholding multilateralism, can we effectively address the challenges we are facing. The United Nations system, including UNESCO, is the result of the victory of the world's anti-fascist war. The Organization should take justice and fairness as its cardinal principle, and all its 193 Member States should have the equal right and responsibility to participation.

The major task of this Session is to discuss the proposed framework for the new medium-term strategy, which will have long-term impact on the development of the Organization. It should be conducted through consultation and consensus and reflect the needs of Member States in all aspects, in order to be enriched by the wisdom and strength of all Member States and effectively facilitate them to achieve inclusive, high quality and sustainable development, especially in developing countries.

In the ever-changing international environment, UNESCO's strategic transformation is a long-term task. China appreciates the ambition and vision of the Director General. Yesterday the Director-General announced her bid for re-election. China supports the Director-General's candidacy and hopes she will work with the Member States to promote the organization's core

mandate, enhance its professionalism and comparative advantages, and take up stronger global leadership in the different fields of its mandate.

As the lead agency for the implementation of SDG 4, UNESCO should strengthen its leading role in global education and strengthen policy support and capacity building for developing countries, by giving full play to the important role of the Category-I and Category II Centers in the Education Sector. To this end, after careful consideration, China has put forward a reasonable and feasible proposal to strengthen IBE, and made sincere commitments to it. We hope the proposal will receive positive support from Member States. Next week, China, in cooperation with UNESCO, will host the 2020 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Education to implement the "Beijing Consensus" and reduce the digital and knowledge gaps.

UNESCO should take advantage of the development of the "Global Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" and the "Recommendation on Open Science" to strengthen the global governance of technology and innovation and promote knowledge sharing. China will increase the investment in research and development to implement a more open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial "big science project", with a focus on global issues such as climate change and support collaborative research by scientists from different countries to make better use of new technologies in support of developing countries' development.

UNESCO should take more active initiative in promoting dialogue of world civilizations, to achieve mutual respect of civilizations and humankind's harmonious co-existence by exchanges and mutual learning of civilizations. China believes that the "Silk Road Project", which is an icon for dialogue among civilizations, should be enhanced to be a cross-sectoral, comprehensive flagship project of UNESCO. China will continue to support UNESCO's work in the fields of heritage protection and creative industry, and is committed to organizing a successful meeting of the 44th World Heritage Committee in 2021.

A happy life for the people is the greatest human right. China will continue to support the IFAP Programme to improve people's information and media literacy. While focusing on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, UNESCO should also emphasize the social responsibility of media professionals and enhance ethics of journalism to improve quality of journalism and promote social harmony.

China has been a long-time supporter of UNESCO's Priorities Africa and Gender Equality, and commends the Director General and the Secretariat for the effort made in these respects. China is vigorously implementing the outcomes of the China-Africa-UNESCO High-Level Dialogue on Supporting Priority Africa during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic. China will continue to implement the third phase of the CFIT project and support the World Heritage capacity building in Africa. China will continue to support the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education to promote the development of girls' and women's education worldwide.

China aligns with the statement delivered by the Indonesian Ambassador on behalf of ASPAC Group.

Thank you.