



SOLOMON ISLANDS

39th General Conference of UNESCO

- Madam President of the General Conference
- Madam Director-General
- Excellencies
- Distinguished Delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the People and the Government of Solomon Islands, I extend our warm greetings and congratulations on your election as the President of the General Conference.

Madame Zohour Alaoui, au delà de vos compétences exceptionnelles qui nous ont fait vous choisir, vous représentez un grand pays, le Maroc, dont le Souverain met en oeuvre des programmes de coopération essentiels pour l'avenir de l'Afrique mais aussi pour la région Pacifique. Qu'il en soit remercié.

I would like also to acknowledge the excellent leadership provided by your predecessor in facilitating the proceedings and leadership of the last General Conference.

At first we would like to congratulate our Executive Board for having nominated the distinguished Mrs. Audrey Azoulay as our next Director General.

Depuis les premières heures, mon gouvernement a appuyé avec énergie et détermination sa candidature et nous sommes heureux que ses qualités et surtout sa profonde valeur humaine aient été reconnues lors de cette élection.

Les Etats du Pacifique entendent appuyer Mme Azoulay dans ses entreprises qui, nous en sommes persuadés, rendront prestige et rayonnement à notre Organisation.

A ce moment, il m'appartient de saluer avec émotion le départ de Mme Irina Bokova. Durant huit années, elle a tenu la barre d'une Organisation qui a connu de nombreux et graves problèmes et subi de multiples attaques injustifiées.

Mme Bokova s'est battue jusqu'au dernier moment pour garder le cap. Elle mérite honneur et respect.

Madam President, Solomon Islands has continued to implement UNESCO related programs on the areas of World Heritage Site, Memory of the World, Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment, ICT in Education and advocating for climate change and disaster preparedness.

'Education 2030' is implemented at the country level. The Sustainable Development Goal 4, and its corresponding targets aims to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all".

Solomon Islands is committed to ensure

- access to education at all levels
- quality of education in terms of teacher effectiveness and better learning strategies for students
- Management of resources at the national, provincial, education authority and school level.

In Solomon Islands we have made moderate progress in our efforts to improve the quality of education and learning opportunities for our children and youths. We still need to work hard

- to implement programs and activities of UNESCO's sectoral mandates such as development of relevant curriculum materials and resources
- using ICT to ensure education reach the unreached

- to develop participatory approach that can enable us to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge in the management of the impact of climate change and natural hazards.

Solomon Islands will continue to advocate together with other Pacific Islands countries to ensure that Pacific Islands call for consideration of issues surrounding climate change is addressed by UNESCO and other UN agencies.

Climate Change is indeed the most critical threat to our very existence in the Pacific and there is a need for the industrialised nations to honor their obligations to reduce global temperature increase.

I cannot but express our concern about the current process put in place to insert our voice in UNESCO. We need a reserved seat in the Executive board as this is where the voice of Pacific Islands States can be heard and needs can be discussed.

Les Etats du pacifique qui sont le trésor de notre monde ont été trop longtemps oubliés, négligés, malmenés. Aussi je me fais l'interprète de tous nos Etats frères en réclamant avec force ce siège au Conseil Exécutif.

Ceux qui produisent en quantité ce terrible CO2 ne peuvent pas ne pas se pencher sur le cas de ceux qui en subissent tous les effets dévastateurs et qui pourtant n'en produisent pas un gramme !

My country is committed to ensure that its cultural heritage is protected and safeguarded. We have recognized and realized the need to preserve our cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge given the fact that Solomon Islands have diverse cultures.

As a "least developed" country, Solomon Islands fully appreciate UNESCO's support together with our Pacific neighbors and is honored to be part of UNESCO's educational, scientific, and cultural programmes. We are committed to UNESCO and will continue to implement your programs that are aligned to our government priorities. We will continue to partner with other National Commissions to collaborate in the implementation of your programs.

Et je lance à nouveau cet appel à tous les Etats membres : nous, Ets du Pacifique, nous sommes un vrai Continent. Nous représentons un patrimoine merveilleux, unique et tellement fragile.

Il est temps que vous nous donniez une vraie place autour de la table.

Thank you very much