

39th General Conference of UNESCO
General Policy Debate
Brazilian National Speech
November 3rd. 2017

- Madam President of the General Conference, Please receive our warmest congratulations for your election and count on Brazil's support and cooperation to accomplish your important mission.

- Madam Director General of UNESCO - allow me to reiterate Brazil's appreciation and gratitude for your remarkable conduction of UNESCO along the past 8 years.

- My Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Every two years UNESCO has the opportunity to reflect, at the highest level of its representation, on its essence, on its role before the circumstances of the time, and on its future.

In this sense, the 2017 General Conference takes place at a very challenging moment.

UNESCO's performance was remarkable for the design of the new humanism proposed by this Organization in 1945. Many accomplishments of moral solidarity towards human dignity that are today taken for granted would not have been possible without UNESCO's work.

It is thanks to UNESCO that primary education today is compulsory and universal. It is because of UNESCO action that our cultural heritage, since the Nubia Campaign in nineteen-sixties, has today a place of high priority for all countries. It was only at UNESCO that scientific studies could be produced, almost 70 years

ago, to prove that differences of race are inexistent and morally unacceptable.

For Brazil, the mission of UNESCO today is complex. The organization has to face pending challenges of the 20th century, such as literacy, and, at the same time, it has to cope with the agenda of the new humanism of the 21st century.

We consider as central elements of this new humanism the promotion of gender equality, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, freedom of expression and intercultural dialogue. The international community also needs to combat extremism, to respond to the effects of climate change and to promote sustainable development with social inclusion.

To face these challenges, international cooperation is needed today more than ever. For Brazil, it is time to strengthen multilateralism - thus upholding international law.

Brazil is a founding member of UNESCO and was among the first 20 countries to ratify its constitution. Brazil has never left this Organization and we are proud to have contributed to UNESCO's work in the promotion of international cooperation in the education, sciences, culture, communication and information all along its 72 years of existence.

UNESCO can count on Brazil for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The mandate of UNESCO converges with some of the current top priorities of Brazil. In Education, a comprehensive reform of our national education system is under way aiming at the consolidation of a Common National Curriculum Basis. On October 24th, during the launching of the Global Education Monitoring Report in Brasilia, the Deputy Minister of Education explained the main guidelines of this new push for modernizing education in Brazil.

Our national priorities are also reflected in the Global Alliance for Literacy; the 2030 Education Steering Committee; and E-9 Initiative.

Our engagement with the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage precedes UNESCO's foundation. The Brazilian National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage celebrated its 80 years of existence and has developed significant partnerships with UNESCO for the protection of the 21 Brazilian sites inscribed in the World Heritage list. We look forward to our election to the World Heritage Committee with the commitment to deepen and enlarge our cooperation with UNESCO, as well as with Latin American, African and Asian countries.

My country is proud to host, in march 2018, the 8th World Water Forum, under the theme "Sharing Water". This event will make concrete contribution to the "water goal" (SDG-6), in the International Hydrological Program.

Dear colleagues,

Brazil celebrates the election of Madam Audrey Azoulay as UNESCO's new Director General. We are willing to extend her the best of our support and cooperation for the successful accomplishment of her important mission.

We are open to expand even further our activities with UNESCO offering expertise and good practices in our national policies and in activities of south-south cooperation in the areas of UNESCO's mandate.

We are also willing to contribute to the UNESCO's reform agenda towards a more transparent, efficient and representative Organization. We look forward to see greater regional balance in UNESCO.

Thank you all very much

