

DRAFT STATEMENT BY CUBA TO THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO
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We are living in an unprecedented international situation. We are still learning about the COVID-19 and the virus that causes it. Many questions about the development of the disease remain unanswered. Uncertainty persists. In face of this scenario, we must act with caution when addressing the methods of work of the Executive Board. These are not times to modify its Rules of Procedure.

When convening UNESCO online meetings, ensuring equal conditions for the participation of all Member States must be a priority. Digital platforms excluding Member States must not be used.

The United States blockade on Cuba not only hinders our development, it also imposes barriers to the relations with the organizations of the United Nations system, including UNESCO.

We recognize the work that the Organization has conducted in support of Member States to deal with the effects of the pandemic. We request that the information on these actions be kept up-to-date.

It is not possible to reproduce the working dynamics of the Executive Board regular sessions in a virtual setting, neither the full discussion of its Agenda. We recommend further reflection on this issue. The possibility of returning to normal in the second half of 2020 with the opportunity that the fall session may afford us, must be part of the analysis.

Thank you very much.