

## Speech by the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic

Sr. Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo,  
Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia General,  
Señora Directora General,  
Estimados colegas, Estados Miembros,

The Dominican Republic honors the efforts made to put in place this historical meeting and express its profound solidarity to the nations deeply affected by the current health crisis. In addition, our country would like to highlight this meetings' exceptional virtual framework in the absence of our six working languages...

Dear colleagues, it is not news that the world before the pandemic cannot be compared to the world we are currently shaping. The world we left behind was the world in which the word **"NO"** was a symbol of power.

Hence, instead of being part of the solution, this negative response left us in a position in which we forced others to convince us and with all due respect, that's our curious strength.

In this sense, we must stick and respond accurately to our mandate – now more relevant than ever – by renovating our working methods since, as an International Community, we are being asked to respond in a post-covid-19 era.

An era in which the traditional approaches and conventional methods are being questioned and thus, cannot remain the same. An era in which global challenges need a global response. Consequently, we are not talking about new ways of working if we portray the word **"NO"** as our main response. Because the truth is that, it takes a lot of courage, leadership, and ownership to have **"YES"** as an answer and to think outside the box...

Therefore, the urgency of this meeting should highlight the importance of this multilateral house in the middle of an unprecedented crisis.

For this, we cannot lose sight of the significance of this Board, of the Organization, and the importance that we, as Member States, have in drawing the pathway of UNESCO.

In this sense, we must continue to be the leading Organization in linking peacebuilding, sustainable development and, intercultural dialogue within the United Nations system.

The Dominican Republic will continue contributing to achieve these common goals, always wagering for a comprehensive consensus...

To finish, we would like to stress that the way we act must not be the pandemic's fault. Thank you.