



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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Audrey Azoulay elected Director-General of UNESCO



The 39th session of UNESCO's General Conference today elected Audrey Azoulay as Director-General of UNESCO, succeeding Irina Bokova. The investiture ceremony will take place on 13 November 2017 and she will take office on 15 November for a four-year term.

Audrey Azoulay is a senior French civil servant, politician and former Minister of Culture and Communication.

A graduate of France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration and of the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques, she holds a diploma in Business Administration from the University of Lancaster (UK).

Having worked in the sector of culture since the start of her professional career, Audrey Azoulay has notably focused on the funding of French public broadcasting and on the reform and modernization of France's film support system. She has also served the European Commission providing her expertise on issues concerning culture and communication.

In 2014, as an advisor on culture to the President of the French Republic, she notably initiated the development of a protection plan for heritage in danger, which she was able to implement in 2016 as Minister of Culture and Communication. She has also prioritized improving children's access to culture with the launch of artistic and cultural education school programmes "Création en cours" and created innovative cultural outreach programmes for people in remote and vulnerable areas "Microfolies".

With a longstanding commitment in favour of intercultural and intergenerational dialogue to advance education for all and the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge, she is determined to maintain this commitment as the head of UNESCO.

She will spare no effort in ensuring that UNESCO fulfils its universal mandate fully in promoting values of humanism and openness and serving as a driving force in the United Nations system. The Organization is to achieve this by serving as an intellectual forum for the world of tomorrow, and as a standard-setter that will help society advance, as well as serving as an expert agency contributing to the dissemination of knowledge to the greatest number of people worldwide.

According to Audrey Azoulay, "none of the major challenges facing the world today can be met by any one country on its own without relying on the fundamental pillars of science, education and culture. Thus, UNESCO can and must fully participate in a world order based on multilateralism and humanist values."