

GRENADA
6th Special Session of the Executive Board
8-9 June 2020

Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Mr. President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to start by presenting our deep condolences and sympathy to all the families who have lost their loved ones during this difficult period.

I would like also to thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for all the efforts made to allow this session to be held. I would like also to commend the Director-General for the measures taken to allow UNESCO to continue to function in order to fulfill its role in this difficult context.

This is when solidarity and international cooperation are the most essential to respond to the crisis.

COVID-19 is not only a severe health crisis but it has socio-economic consequences especially for Small Island Developing States with small economies that are predominately dependent on tourism.

In Grenada, we have had to rethink what is important to us and how we can protect our people while creating the best opportunities for us all. We have seen the importance of the digital economy not only to education, but also for areas such as culture and tourism.

The resilience of the education and tourism sectors is largely dependent on innovation, digital transformation and ICT integration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how much important and needed is the unique mandate of UNESCO for building inclusive Knowledge Societies.

We have developed several programmes focused on education such as the e-learning platform MStar which includes resources for students and teachers training modules. Where we cannot reach students on the platform, we have also broadcast programmes on televisions and radio stations as no student must be left behind as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to the support of UNESCO in capacity building and resource mobilization, that will assist us in dealing with current problems and challenges of the future.

Thank you.