

National Statement
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The Republic of Indonesia
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Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh
Good Morning

President of the General Conference,
Chairman of the Executive Board,
Director-General of UNESCO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by joining others in congratulating your Excellency Madame Zohour Alaoui, on your election as the President of the 39th Session of the General Conference.

I would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Michael Worbs for leading the Executive Board for the past two years.

I also take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the Director-General Madame Irina Bokova, for her excellent and inspiring leadership of this Organization for the past 8 years.

We will welcome and congratulate the new Director General to be elected later in this session.

Excellencies,

It has been two years the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development were unanimously adopted, and we commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda.

It is time for us to reflect on what we have achieved, and what must be accomplished in the future.

Indonesia built a legal base for the implementation of SDGs by enacting a Presidential Decree in July this year, followed by the establishment of the National Coordination Team.

Indonesia has achieved significant progress in education sector.

Those enrolling in early childhood education has reached 72.3 percent.

Earlier this year, Indonesia was awarded the first edition of UNESCO Prize for Girl's and Women's Education, for its outstanding programme in gender mainstreaming.

Primary school Gross Enrolment have reached more than 100 percent, and drop out rate reduced to 0.26 percent. The youth literacy rate has reached almost 100 percent.

These are the outcome of the "Smart Indonesia Program", a pro poor policy which warranties every child from poor family can continue education until grade twelve.

We have also revitalized the national curriculum by integrating characters, competencies and literacies, to equip students with the twenty-first century skills. Revitalization of vocational education is another top priority that we have just commenced.

Indonesia is actively strengthening its capacities in science and technology. A pivotal element for a knowledge-based economy.

We are hosting the Asia Pacific Centre for Eco-hydrology and the Regional Training for Marine Biodiversity.

Indonesia remains committed to preserve the Outstanding Universal Values of the Tropical Rainforests Heritage.

We just hosted UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2017, showing our strong commitment to build a free, independent, and responsible journalism.

Recognizing that culture as a DNA of sustainable development, Indonesia organized the World Culture Forum in Bali in 2013 and 2016. The Forum adopted "Bali Declaration", which reemphasized our commitment to mainstream culture into policy.

Excellencies,

Looking ahead, Indonesia wishes to highlight that attaining the SDGs is indeed a critical agenda for UNESCO.

UNESCO must be at the forefront in devising new and creative ways in encouraging reform of education, to ensure our younger generation is ready to enter a more digitalized and technology-driven economies.

UNESCO must also ahead of solving current global challenges: growing inequality, the spread of radicalism and extremism, and the rise of racism and prejudice, and continued degradation of the ecosystem.

As a responsible member of the international community, Indonesia stands ready to

contribute to the global discourse in finding the best possible ways for UNESCO to help create a better world for living.

Finally, I have the honour to announce Indonesia's candidacy to the Executive Board of UNESCO, for the period of 2017 – 2021. We certainly appreciate full support from UNESCO members to our candidacy.

Let us make UNESCO as Home of hope, peace and humanity.

I thank you.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh