

General Statement by H.E. Mr. Shen Yang
Permanent Delegate and Ambassador of China to UNESCO
At the 6th Special Session of the UNESCO Executive Board
(8 June 2020, Virtual Session)

Mr Chairperson,
President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

We congratulate Mr Chairperson and all members of the Board for our extraordinary effort in convening the virtual Special Session in the context of the most serious global public health emergency since the end of the World War II. It testifies to our determination to work in solidarity in face of our common challenges.

We appreciate Mr Chairperson's commitment to exploring possible ways to carry out the statutory function of the Board during this critical time. We salute the efforts made by the Director-General and the Secretariat to ensure the operationality of the organization in response to the crisis.

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

We know and feel more strongly than ever that we live in a community with a shared future. To address the common challenges to the global village we share, Member States and the Secretariat need to work together in the spirit of multilateralism, mutual understanding and solidarity to strengthen the Organization's leadership and actions in the

fields of its competencies. This calls for concerted effort to seek common grounds amid differences, and for enhanced communication and coordination to guarantee quality delivery of the programmes and timely responses to the current crisis.

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Addressing the COVID-19 challenges needs UNESCO's leadership as well as concrete and effective actions in its mandates, especially in its Priorities. I am confident this Special Session will provide the guidance for forwarding UNESCO's work in this respect.

We wish to add our deep appreciation to the two facilitators for their tireless efforts and dedication in order to achieve a consensus.

Thank you.