

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dong Gi KIM, Republic of Korea
the 6th Special Session of the EXB, 8 June 2020

Mr. Chair,

Madame DG, Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Korea appreciates the Chairman and Secretariat's efforts to continue to implement UNESCO programmes and make preparations for the post-COVID world. I would like to focus my general remarks on solidarity and inclusion.

The recently launched Group of Friends for Solidarity and Inclusion with Global Citizenship Education is part and parcel of our common efforts to place respect for human rights and dignity squarely at the center.

The Group of Friends adopted a joint statement which resonates with UNESCO's mission to promote solidarity and inclusion.

I would like to read part of the joint statement:

COVID-19 is a grave global pandemic that is affecting all aspects of our lives. Existing inequalities have deepened and the crisis risks to undermine progress that has been made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

As nations of the world race to find solutions to the pandemic, we firmly believe that closer global cooperation is the key to success of our endeavors.

Now is the time for UNESCO to take concrete actions.

The current global context of COVID-19 highlights the relevance and importance of Global Citizenship Education in countering hate, discrimination, and stigmatization.

Our Group of Friends will serve as a platform for solidarity and inclusion to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond. Reaffirming our commitment to a sense of common destiny and the founding ideals of UNESCO, we resolve to help strengthen social trust through the transformative power of GCED. We invite all to join in our voice.

Mr. Chair, we have circulated the joint statement after the launch of the Group on 26th May.

Our Group of Friends is open to all interested UNESCO Member States and all Member States are invited to join.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.