

**Saudi Statement  
6th Special Session  
8-9 June 2020**

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
And dear Member States,**

As of mid-April, 1.3 billion learners in 186 countries were unable to attend school with more than 43% of the world without access to the internet or the tools necessary for distance learning. And more than 85,000 museums closed during the pandemic with 10% of all museums around the world may never re-open. Also, the world today is relying on science and technology to power through this pandemic whereas disinformation is only making it worse.

With that said, it is of paramount importance that UNESCO and its all governing bodies and Member States remain active and rise to the occasion. Therefore, we would like to seize this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, and the Moroccan and Swiss Delegations, for your efforts to make the Executive Board as active and consensual as possible.

As we all know, the Executive Board's 209th session is to start on June 29th, which is in 15 working days. We cannot overemphasize the critical role of the inter-sessional working group in reaching a consensus among all Executive Member States for virtually holding the 209th session on the planned dates while complying with the Rules of Procedure.

On a positive note, we would like to appreciate the Secretariat for its efforts to confront the unsurmountable challenges imposed by the Coronavirus in UNESCO fields of competence. Great examples of such efforts are the Global Education Coalition, ShareOurCulture initiative, International Scientific Cooperation, and UNESCO's Handbook on understanding and countering disinformation.

In conclusion, we hope that the inter-sessional working group can finalize all logistical and technical matters to ensure the holding of the 209th session virtually and on time. We also invite the Secretariat to report the implications imposed by the Coronavirus on UNESCO programs and the integrated budget during the 210th of the Executive Board.

**Haifa Al Mogrin  
Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO**