



**6<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the UNESCO Executive Board**

**8-9 June, 2020**

**UAE Opening Statement**

**Her Excellency Noura Bint Mohammed Al Kaabi**

Madame Director General, Mr. Chairperson, dear Colleagues, warm greetings to all of you.

We are pleased to be here at this special session of the Executive Board and wish to extend our appreciation for the organization of this meeting.

In recent weeks, we have held extraordinary meetings of Government in the UAE, to plan for the coming months and years, taking into account the rapidly evolving new reality. I am proud to say with confidence that we, in the UAE, will be ready to face the challenges and new opportunities awaiting us in the future.

I am also confident that we, as the Executive Board, will determine a way forward for our work.

It is important that the Executive Board is able to efficiently carry out its oversight functions, and that UNESCO is able to carry out its work and focus on impact. My proposition is that we take this challenge as an opportunity to find more efficient ways of making well-informed decisions while ensuring that we remain inclusive. As such, we support the proposition to establish an Open-Ended Working Group to prepare for virtual sessions of the Board. We hope to be able to meet for the 209<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board with a clear framework.

We appreciate UNESCO's efforts in developing a report on the impact of the pandemic on its work. We commend its response, efforts in mobilizing international cooperation, and raising awareness. We keenly followed these initiatives and participated in the online meetings.

To better understand the impact of Covid-19 on UNESCO and in order to be able to make recommendations and decisions for the future, it is necessary to clearly understand the implications of the current situation on the Organization. Therefore, we support the proposal for a comprehensive report to be presented to the Board at its 210<sup>th</sup> Session.



Dear Colleagues, this crisis is an opportunity for us to demonstrate the agility, adaptability, and endurance of UNESCO and this Board. We need to be able to channel the limited resources UNESCO has for maximum impact for the benefit of the people we serve.

I look forward to working with all of you in supporting UNESCO.

Thank you very much.