

## UNESCO'S PROMISE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

On the occasion of the High-level Conference, "Fostering Women's Empowerment and Leadership", organized within the framework of "UNESCO's Soft Power Today" series, Paris, 30 June 2017

**Reaffirming** the critical importance of "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs),

**Recalling** that gender equality is a shared vision of social justice and human rights, and as such is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda aspirations for ensuring prosperity and well-being for all women and men, while protecting our planet and strengthening the foundations for peace,

**Noting** that gender equality was designated in 2008 as one of the two global priorities of UNESCO and that, since then, UNESCO has been at the forefront of the international dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment, serving as a global reference for innovation and leadership,

**Recognizing** the personal dedication and commitment of Ms Irina Bokova – the first woman Director-General of UNESCO – and her great achievements for the promotion of gender equality as one of the two global priorities of the Organization,

**UNESCO** hereby

**Reiterates** its commitment to an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that fully reflects the interrelated nature of the 17 SDGs, drawing on its universal humanist mandate and areas of specialized expertise;

**Confirms** its determination to accelerate the process of mainstreaming gender equality in all of its programmes to support the implementation of SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the implementation of the gender equality and women's empowerment components of all the other SDGs, including but not limited to the following: promoting girls' and women's education; promoting women in science, especially at decision-making levels; promoting women as agents of social transformation; promoting the full participation of women in cultural life; reinforcing gender equality in and through the media; empowering girls and women through information and communication technologies; and combatting violence against girls and women in all its forms;

**Encourages** its Member States to incorporate SDG 5 and the gender equality and women's empowerment components of all the other SDGs in their national planning processes, policies and strategies, and to benefit from UNESCO's support in developing methodologies for the generation, collection and systematic use of sex-disaggregated data, as well as for contextualizing specific gender equality and women's empowerment targets and indicators in all UNESCO domains;

**Continues to foster** multi-stakeholder partnerships in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all of its domains and to pursue stronger coordination within the United Nations system – in particular with UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, and UNICEF with other global and regional organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank and European Union, as well as with national and local partners including civil society, the private sector and academia – thus ensuring a coordinated approach to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment at the global, regional and country levels;

**Expresses** warm appreciation to the participants of the Conference for their contribution to mobilizing knowledge and intellectual capital on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in all areas of UNESCO's mandate, and for bringing this Promise to the attention of the international community as a call to rally efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment in the years to come.