

202nd Session of the Executive Board – National Statement of Germany

Mr President of the General Conference,

Mr President of the Executive Board,

Madam Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

Germany is grateful for the opportunity to transmit the **written version of its national statement** for the Plenary Session, for inclusion in the documentation of the 202nd Executive Board. We hope that, by choosing to dispense with reading out our national statement in the Plenary Session, we will contribute to a more efficient Board meeting.

The 202nd Executive Board has given itself a very ambitious agenda. The Board will **finalize the Programme and Budget** for the upcoming four years, as defined in document **39 C/5**. It will also **nominate a new Director-General** to be elected by the General Conference for a four-year period. Both decisions will be of utmost importance to UNESCO because they will **determine the future of the organization** for the upcoming years.

Germany welcomes the **Integrated Budget Framework**. This new approach represents a great challenge for UNESCO, and it will only function well if the organization succeeds in mobilizing the extra-budgetary funds required to cover the costs. The **Structured Financing Dialogue** – which has gotten off to a promising start during the process of elaborating the 39 C/5 – will therefore have to be intensified in the coming months.

The need to develop an **effective fund-raising strategy** that comprises and harmonizes the fund-raising activities of the different programme sectors has to be reiterated. The already broad mandate of UNESCO can only be implemented in a satisfactory way by **concentrating on UNESCO's core competencies** within the framework of the five programme sectors.

By **introducing an ever-increasing number of politically controversial topics** to the agenda of UNESCO, the organization risks not only internal division and tedious

debates, but also **losing further credibility**, both among member states and in the international arena.

For a long time UNESCO has been **suffering from considerable budgetary constraints** due to unpaid assessed contributions by a number of member states. The recent letters of the Director-General concerning the grave financial problems of UNESCO have reminded us that the already tense financial situation has worsened in recent months.

Germany, as one of UNESCO's largest contributors, meets **its financial commitments**. We have paid our entire assessed contribution at the beginning of 2017 in order to help stabilize UNESCO's financial situation, and we call on other Member States to meet their financial obligations as well.

The incoming Director-General will face the challenge of **continuing and intensifying the reform process within UNESCO**.

If UNESCO fails to reform, it will not only jeopardize the implementation of its important programmes, but will also weaken its position vis-à-vis other international organizations. This could be especially harmful in areas where UNESCO rightfully strives to play a leading role within the framework of international organizations, e.g. in implementing SDG 4.

The open-ended **Working Group on Governance** has presented a series of recommendations to further improve the functioning and interaction of the General Conference, the Executive Board, the Secretariat and the intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO. These proposals have to be carefully studied by the Executive Board.

Successful performance of well-functioning UNESCO bodies should be encouraged and respected. Germany therefore strongly maintains that the true functional autonomy of the education-related category 1 UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) as well as of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) should be preserved.

Germany believes that our country can continue to make constructive and valuable contributions to UNESCO's further development as a member of the Executive Board. **We therefore would be grateful for your support for Germany's candidature for election to the Executive Board for a second, consecutive term.**