

**Mr. President of the General Conference,
Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Madam Director-General,
Dear colleagues,**

This session of the Executive Board is of great importance for the future of UNESCO. It takes place at a moment when there is widespread consensus on the need to reaffirm UNESCO's essence and to reinforce its central role in the promotion of international cooperation in the fields of education, culture, sciences, communication and information on behalf of peace and development.

Too much time and effort have been spent on political issues that transcend UNESCO's mandate. Limitation of financial resources is hindering our capacity of action. It is the responsibility of all member states to reflect on what we want this organization to become - and this is a very appropriate moment for that.

Let us not allow possibilities of cooperation become sources of new conflicts. Let us concentrate our energies in the accomplishment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, for which our work in the scope of UNESCO is indispensable.

As a founding member of UNESCO, Brazil remains committed to its noble objectives and engaged in the promotion of peace, solidarity, human dignity and social justice.

It is with this spirit that high level priority is given by my country to the promotion of education. We are proud to integrate the ^{Education} Steering Committee ~~of Education~~ and to contribute to the accomplishment of SDG-4 and the 2030 Education Agenda - for which UNESCO has primary responsibility.

In this context, I take this opportunity to thank all delegations who extended their support and co-sponsorship to item 44 of our agenda, highlighting the role of UNESCO in promoting literacy.

I would like to reaffirm our commitment to work constructively for the accomplishment of a Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications. We are also willing to explore the great potential for cooperation in the scope of the E-9 Group, for the promotion of education in developing countries.

Dear colleagues,

In line with our commitment to reinforce UNESCO's mandate, we will guide our actions with the understanding that science, technology and innovation must be fostered, given its role in enhancing inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability.

In this regard, we are honored to host the 8th edition of the World Water Forum, which will take place in Brasilia, in March 2018. With the theme "Sharing Water", this event will provide important inputs to the implementation and monitoring of the "water goal", the SDG-6 under the scope UNESCO's International Hydrological Program.

The promotion of cultural diversity and the protection of heritage are top priorities in our UNESCO agenda. Brazil has been actively cooperating with Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries in capacity building projects in this area in Latin America, ~~Africa and Asia~~ *and AME*

It is the desire to further expand this cooperation that motivates our candidature to the World Heritage Committee. We look forward to this valuable opportunity to intensify our contribution to the protection ~~promotion~~ of the world's heritage.

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

As our Director-General is approaching the end of her term, Brazil takes this opportunity to pay tribute to Madam Irina Bokova for her dedicated work along the past eight years at the helm of UNESCO. We are grateful for the leadership you, Madam Bokova, demonstrated in your tireless defense of human rights, women empowerment, freedom of expression, cultural diversity and a more inclusive education.

Thank you all very much.