

**Statement of the Ambassador Permanent Delegate of Malaysia to UNESCO on the occasion of the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board.**

Mr. President of the General Conference,

Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Madam Director-General,

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now wish to move to my National Statement. I would like to convey the warm greetings and best wishes from H.E. Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid, whom I have the honour to represent at this session.

This particular session of our Board comes at a critical juncture in the life of this Organization centering on the future leadership of UNESCO for which this Board is to deliberate under Item 26, as well as on Item 21 which falls on us, following SP's study, to recommend to the General Conference the expected changes on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing organs of the UNESCO.

The Director-General's presentation of Items 4 and 5 – comprising on the one hand the execution of the programme and the report on the follow-up to the decision and resolutions of both the General Conference and the Board on the other hand, constitutes

is hoped that UNESCO, through its regional offices in Lebanon and Jordan, could develop with financing from UNCHR and private donors appropriate instructional programmes relevant to the countries of origin of such children.

Item 5 (I-H) – Report On The Implementation Of The Strategy For The Reinforcement Of UNESCO's Action For The Protection Of Culture And The Promotion Of Cultural Pluralism In The Event Of Armed Conflict.

Mankind unfortunately, continues to live in a troubled world. UNESCO's work in the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue needs to be further strengthened and the strategy as outlined in the Report has been put forward in a forthright manner. We hold the belief that culture is universal though what makes culture parochial sometimes is the difference it portrays in different settings. Therefore, any strategy that is elaborated on cultural pluralism must start from the premise of minimizing differences so as to result in a wider appreciation of each other's perception of culture.

Item 5 (I-J) – Proposed Strategy And Action Plan To Protect And Strengthen Brand Recognition At Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites And UNESCO Geoparks.

I wish to commend the proposed strategy which aims in protecting and strengthening biosphere reserves. It is my view that biosphere reserves need to be considered as being potentially world heritage natural sites and the correlation between the two deserve clearer articulation. Both the Science and Culture sectors could well broaden the scope of the relationship between Geoparks and Natural World Heritage sites. There

With the cooperation and continuous support from the Member States, Malaysia is committed and pledges to continue to serve as the President of IGC MOST for the second term and as an active member of ICC MAB.

I would like to conclude by re-stating our strong commitment and esteem we have for UNESCO and hope together we can work for the success of the forthcoming Programme and Budget (39C/5).

Our Delegation will be making specific Tributes to the President, the Chairperson and the Director-General at the concluding meeting of this session.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.