

**ADDRESS**

**PROF. DR. RADOVAN STANISLAV PEJOVNIK  
REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO**

**202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board of UNESCO  
PARIS, FRANCE, 10 October 2017**

Intervention at the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive board, plenary debate on items 4 and 5

Madame Director-General,  
Mr President of the Executive Board,  
Mr President of the General Conference  
Excellences, distinguished colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to address you today at this 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board.

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

Allow me to thank you Madame Director General for your important work during your mandate. Even in difficult times, you were able to give UNESCO its visibility when working on building peace in the minds of men and women. You will give your successor an important legacy. Thank you.

We have before us an important task of electing the new Director General of UNESCO and we are looking forward to working together in support of a stronger UNESCO, which will be able to meet global challenges in education, science and culture, when implementing the Sustainable Developments Goals of the Agenda 2030.

We aim for UNESCO to have a new Director General with integrity and capacity to reform the organization within the UN system with its unique mandate. Moreover, we strongly believe that UNESCO deserves a structured budget which will be focused on priorities and relevant programs which are aligned with UNESCO's mandate.

Dear Colleagues,

At the forthcoming session of the General Conference, we will have the opportunity to discuss the way forward regarding the international collaboration in the field of Open Educational Resources and the adopted results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Open Educational Resources Congress that took place in Ljubljana last September. International collaboration on OER is one of the ways how to implement SDG 4 on Quality Education. I am confident that the short report about the 2<sup>nd</sup> World OER Congress as well as the two adopted outcome documents: the LJUBLJANA OER ACTION PLAN as well as the

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT will be available soon as information documents complementing the available texts that are online already.

Until then, I would like to share with you very brief information about the Congress, organized by UNESCO and the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in close collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning, Creative Commons, the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair on Open Technologies for OER and Open Learning (Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia) with the generous support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

In preparation for the 2nd World OER Congress, six Regional Consultations and two international surveys on OER were organized by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in close cooperation with UNESCO and the Government of Slovenia and again with the generous support of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the national authorities in the six host countries: Malaysia, Malta, Qatar, Mauritius, Brazil and New Zealand.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World OER Congress, which has brought together 500 participants from 100 countries, marked 15 years of growth and development in open-licensed learning and teaching resources since the term “OER” was first coined at UNESCO in 2002. The theme of the 2nd World OER Congress – “OER for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education: from Commitment to Action” – reflects the pivotal role OER can play toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and above all Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education.

At the Congress, a ministerial panel comprised of 14 Ministers of Education and Higher Education underscored the need to develop greater diversity of languages for learning materials, policies to develop capacity of and partnership with teachers, and the need for both online as well as offline access options to broaden the reach of OER.

Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the UNESCO Education as well as Communication and Information Sector for their excellent cooperation; I would also like to highlight the valuable contribution of the Knowledge Societies Division in preparing and organizing this successful event.

To conclude, allow me to inform you that Slovenia took over the six months chairmanship of the Platform for Education on Human Rights as from 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Platform is composed of 10 countries: Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand. We

aim to raise awareness on the importance of Human Rights Education for Sustainable Development and build resilience. And this is yet another effort in support of the implementation of SDG 4.7.

Thank you!