

**MALAYSIA NATIONAL STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY  
H.E. PERMANENT DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE 204TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO  
(10 APRIL 2018)**

Madam President of the General Conference,  
Mr. Chair of the Executive Board,  
Madam Director-General,  
Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, I would like to convey the warm greetings and best wishes from **His Excellency Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid**, Minister of Education Malaysia whom I have the honour to represent at this session.
2. Kindly allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General and Mr. Chair on your election at the tail-end of 2017 to your respective positions. At the same time, I wish to welcome all the Members who have been elected and re-elected to this Executive Board. The arrival of the new leadership and the reinforcement of new members should be a catalyst for change, renewal of ideas, as well as enriching existing ones so that we move forward to stand out as a beacon of peace and development, as our Founding Fathers had conceptualized way back before the end of World War II.

Mr. Chair,

### **CURRENT STATE OF MUCP-MFIT**

3. With the establishment of the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme (MUCP) in 2011, and the signing of the Malaysia Funds-In-Trust (MFIT) Agreement in 2013, the Government of Malaysia has provided financial support to 26 projects and programmes. Five projects have been selected for upscaling purposes, where each project is allocated an amount of one hundred thousand US dollars (USD100,000). In this regard, we would like to take this opportunity to renew our strongest commitment to support UNESCO's activities through MUCP-MFIT.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **MALAYSIA & MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS (MOST) PROGRAMME**

4. As our continued commitment to the cause of UNESCO, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, it is indeed a great honour for Malaysia to be reelected as the President of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST) through Her Excellency Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development for the term of 2017-2019.

5. For years to come, we believe that there is a need to further mobilize the social and human sciences through the MOST Programme to support Member States more effectively.

## **ASEAN DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING EDUCATION FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

6. On another matter, Malaysia is also honoured to lead the initiative of a project on 'Evidence and Statistical Capacity Enhancement on Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY) in ASEAN' in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, UNESCO and Unicef, and supported by the Republic of Korea. This collaboration is timely and welcomed, given the mutual interest from all parties involved, towards more informed policy and decision-making to achieve inclusive quality education for all.

Mr. Chair,

7. Before discussing briefly some agenda items for this session, I wish to share my preliminary observations of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board which was held on the 15th and 16th March. In my view, the Group managed to elicit enthusiasm and support of all Member States. Views expressed by non-Members of the Executive Board could well be taken up, and some of the agenda items duly debated at the Preparatory Group meeting need not be replicated thus allowing more discussions on substantive issues during this Board session.

8. Considering the unprecedented challenges facing the Organization, Malaysia would like to commend the transformative efforts and initiatives presented by Her Excellency Director-General in Item 31. The roadmap and methodology proposed can be viewed as a dynamic plan of transformation with wide-ranging consultation including with agencies outside of the Organization.
9. On another note, Malaysia also wish to highlight the importance of item on 'Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) beyond 2019', which is relevant with our own national agenda of transforming the education systems. Undeniably, the ESD plays an integral part in the context of the 2030 Agenda of the SDGs, and therefore all Member States should strengthen our commitment to the implementation of this global agenda.

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. In closing, UNESCO needs to seek more proactive ways to encourage Member States to pay their membership dues in time. The overarching goal of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and Structured Financing Dialogues (SFD), should be based on the principles of transparency, predictability and donor's diversification. Only then, can we be sure of its smooth implementation.
11. Finally, we wish to take this occasion to thank the out-going Deputy Director General, Mr Engida, for his outstanding contribution to UNESCO. We wish him the very best in his future undertaking. Thank you.