



LÖGMANSSKRIVSTOVAN
Prime Minister's Office

*Statement on behalf of Faroes at the 41st General Conference of UNESCO
delivered by H.E. Mr. Bárður av Steig Nielsen, Prime Minister, on 10 November 2021*

President of the General Conference
Chair of the Executive Board
Director-General
Distinguished Delegates

Living in an island nation in the middle of the North Atlantic, the ocean has always been vast. With vast distances, vast resources, and vast opportunities. But over the last decades that perception has changed.

We have come to realize that our common earth has its limits, and if we do not change our way of life, it may not provide vast opportunities anymore. Climate change poses a global threat that affects all of us.

We live in a time, when it is more and more clear that we cannot face global challenges on our own and that we depend upon each other. A time where international cooperation and partnerships is key to sustainable development, and where the role of UNESCO is more important than ever.

We must change our minds to change the way we live, and we must do it together.

We highly appreciate UNESCO's clear focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and would like to thank UNESCO's Secretariat for the excellent work with the Medium-Term Strategy. We are now in the crucial decade leading up to 2030 and UNESCO is doing a great job.

This decade is also the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development. The work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the collaboration of numerous stakeholders from all parts of society is crucial to ensure that policymakers all over the world have access to the best possible ocean sciences and services. We highly appreciate the action taken and the Faroe Islands are ready to join the collaboration and to take on its share of responsibility. As a Large Ocean Nation, we are fully aware that the ocean holds the key to an equitable and sustainable planet. Furthermore, as recent scientific development strongly indicates, the ocean might also hold the key to combating climate change.



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It is difficult to comprehend the speed of change that our societies have undergone in our lifetime.

Little more than 100 years ago the small clinker-built rowing boat was the primary use for both fishing and transport around the Faroe Islands. The boat is still in use but is now mainly used for leisure and rowing competitions. We find that the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage is a valuable tool, not only for the safeguarding of traditions and knowledge, but also to engage people across generations and communities.

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is not about going back in time, but about acknowledging the transmission of traditions and knowledge as a fundamental part of sustainable development.

It is in the cross-sectional work that the full value of the UNESCO mandate unfolds.

At this General Conference we celebrate UNESCO's 75th Anniversary. We celebrate history and set our hopes for the future.

The Youth Forum will address how the negative effects of the pandemic on youth can be fought. We appreciate the initiative from UNESCO and wish the participants a fruitful 12th Youth Forum.

I will take this opportunity to welcome Åland Islands as an Associate Member of UNESCO. Åland Islands is already a cherished partner in the Nordic cooperation and we look very much forward to working alongside Åland Islands as associate members of UNESCO.

Thank you for your attention.