

Statement

by

H.E. Ms. Treenuch Thienthong

Minister of Education of Thailand

and Chair of the Thai National Commission for UNESCO

at the 41st General Conference

UNESCO Headquarter, Paris, France

President of UNESCO General Conference,

President of UNESCO Executive Board,

Director-General of UNESCO,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for being elected as President of the General Conference. My delegation wishes to pledge our full support under your leadership. I would also like to congratulate Madam Audrey Azoulay, (ออดเรย์ อาซูลัย) for her re-election as Director-General of UNESCO.

Mr. President,

Uncertainties and challenges caused by the pandemic have brought existing issues and exclusions, both within and between countries, and, of course, the work of our organization has been affected, as well. Nevertheless, allow me to commend

the Secretariat for being innovative in keeping the work right on track with new modalities.

Mr. President,

This conference is being held at the right time as we are entering the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. *The C/4 and C/5 documents*, based on four strategic objectives, will obviously ensure coordination within the organization, while at the same time, increase positive impacts of UNESCO in addressing global issues, particularly when the organization requires a *bring back better collaboration* with its partners. Thailand therefore supports these two documents.

In Thailand, as schools begin to reopen, we have to ensure health safety in school for both students and teachers. Wide coverage of vaccination for students and teachers is our core immediate action. At the same time, a strong effort to bring back all students to education is highlighted as well, to promote inclusive education and avoid the increase of out-of-school children in our society. Our educational personnel are committed to working pro-actively to ensure the rights-based, inclusive and equitable education for all children nationwide.

During the pandemic, educational technologies have been widely introduced. However, discrimination in education is

more visible in our society. In light of this, Thailand believes that *UNESCO's Strategy on Technological Innovation in Education 2022-2025* could be a pathway to contribute to a more just, equitable, peaceful and sustainable society. We also endorse the *Recommendation on Open Science*, which aims to overcome digital, technological and knowledge divides that exist between developed and developing countries.

The *UNESCO's lead role in achieving SDG4* is strongly supported. The linkage between the SDG4 - Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee and the High-Level Political Forum, will also involve stronger collaboration from other sectors to contribute to the achievement of SDG4. Next year, Thailand, together with UNESCO Bangkok, will host the Asia-Pacific Education Ministers Conference to provide an opportunity for us to review the progress made across the region. The Conference will emphasize Thailand's strong commitment in promoting quality inclusive education since the initiative of Education for All in Jomtien.

Thailand encourages UNESCO to help Member States to enhance their capacities in designing science, technology and innovation systems so that scientific knowledge could be well utilized in tackling social needs and environmental challenges. As part of this, Thailand highlights the Bio-Circular-Green

Economy Model as one of the next year national agendas with an integration of STI to capacity building for key actors.

The promotion of *futures literacy* is also strongly supported to cope with global challenges, and help our society be ready in overcoming them. This also includes the awareness of AI that has huge potential to transform the future of humanity, To ensure that these emerging technologies benefit humanity, we support the *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* which will not only protect but also promote human rights and human dignity.

In closing, Thailand would like to express our appreciation to UNESCO Bangkok for the continued cooperation and strong support to Thailand and the Asia-Pacific Region. We also confirm our full commitment to supporting UNESCO in achieving its mission.

Thank you.
