

Statement by Mr. Bereket Paulos
Charge d' affaires of the Embassy of the State of Eritrea
In France

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Excellencies,

Honourable President of the General Conference,

Honourable Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Honourable Director General of UNESCO,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, allow me to express Eritrea's appreciation of UNESCO's assistance and cooperation in various educational, cultural, and scientific projects. Similarly, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Audrey Azoulay for her commitment in promoting UNESCO's noble principles and values.

UNESCO's mandate and ideals as well as the need for global cooperation have become more relevant and significant today, since we are confronting an increase in major challenges, such as Covid-19, global warming, intolerance and above all destruction of irreplaceable human heritage and masterpieces.

Eritrea has rich and diverse cultural heritage in general and intangible cultural heritage in particular. Each of the nine ethno-linguistic groups has its own language, traditions and living expressions.

The State of Eritrea ratified the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in 2010. Since then, several programmes and projects have been conducted as part of Eritrea's implementation of the convention.

Asmara, the capital city of Eritrea was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee, which was held in Krakow, Poland in July 2017. Eritrea continues its dedication towards ensuring the registration of other Eritrean sites such as Qohaito Cultural Landscape and Adulis.

Eritrea prepared the State of Conservation Report of Asmara World Heritage Property and submitted the Report to the World Heritage Centre on 15 January 2021.

The State Party, Eritrea initiated a Local Development Plan for Asmara in April 2021. The project will undertake survey activities to assess the present socio-economic condition of the World Heritage Property and will enhance Local Economic Development Plan.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Eritrea's National Education Policy stipulates compulsory basic education, the use of mother tongue for instruction at elementary level, and the expansion of secondary and tertiary education opportunities. Education is universal and free at all levels, including a successful scheme for nomad children. The Government has incorporated UNESCO's educational plans in defining its strategies on Adult Education, TVET, Higher Education and Literacy.

With regards to science, Eritrea's strategic objectives aim at strengthening technology and innovation, enhancing capacity building for research and education, promoting international cooperation for the protection of sustainable management of natural science. Accordingly,

Eritrea held awareness raising workshops on the protection of environment.

Mr. President,

Before closing, I would like to call for a strong solidarity among all UNESCO Member States to confront the extremely challenging task ahead of us. I am confident that the 41st Plenary Session of the General Conference of UNESCO will conclude its work successfully.

Thank you.