

**Statement by H.E. Mr. PAK Yong Su**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,**  
**Permanent Delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to**  
**UNESCO**

**At the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of General Conference of UNESCO**

Mr. President,

Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO,

Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency Mr. Santiago Irazabal Mourão on your election into the Presidency of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and look forward to a fruitful outcome of the session under your able leadership.

I would also like to congratulate Your Excellency Ms. Audrey Azoulay on your re-election as the Director-General of UNESCO under the support and approval of the member states for her dedication to the strengthening and development of UNESCO even under the difficult circumstances during the last 4 years.

Mr. President,

COVID-19 pandemic is still raging, claiming the precious lives of more than 5 millions, and UNESCO is now facing serious challenges and crisis unprecedented ever since its foundation.

I believe that this session will serve as a significant momentum to explore the practical ways to bring the hope of future and the genuine welfare to tens of thousands of young people who lost their parents, brothers and sisters due to the pandemic, and to save breathless cultural sites and an unfair international communication and information order.

Mr. President,

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is exposed to much more unfavorable situation than any other countries due to external factors. However, it wages vigorous struggle to create a socialist civilization, overcoming all kinds of disturbing factors and challenges by its own efforts.

In the DPRK, the educational work continues without any stoppage, and thanks to the Government's policy on prioritizing education and talents, educational contents, methods and environments have been further improved in the educational institutions including schools and universities, and educators and scientists receive increased benefits from the state.

The DPRK strongly encourages the development of science and technology, and the innovation on a constant basis, thus registering scientific and technological successes that significantly contribute to the development of the national self-reliant economy and improvement of the people's livelihood and opening up a new heyday in all fields of literature and art.

In accordance with the decision made at an important meeting held sometime ago, measures have been taken to regularly provide children throughout the country with the nutritious food such as dairy products at the state's expense.

Despite the difficulties more than anytime before, the state investment has increased for improving the condition of nurturing and education, and sustainable and developmental changes are brought about in all sectors by prioritizing the development of science. It is the result of the correct political guidance of the Worker's Party of Korea and the state leadership, the united power and perseverance of the entire Korean people.

Mr. President,

It is the wholehearted desire of UNESCO and humankind to build peace in minds of men and women by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture, communication and information in order to contribute to the peace and stability of the world. However, the desire has been continuously challenged in several parts of this planet.

The world is witnessing national egoism prevailing over the intellectual and moral solidarity among countries and nations, neglecting the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of people.

Even at this moment, false news and disinformation of the U.S. and the Western countries contaminate the space by the state-of-the-art means of telecommunication, embellishing injustice, tarnishing the images of sovereign states and inciting conflicts among nations and civilizations.

It is none other than a revelation of hostilities against the DPRK and a shame on human civilization that Japan is in constant pursuit of its discriminative policies of excluding the children of Korean residents in Japan from its list of supporting high schools.

Targeting the children in executing its hostile policy against the DPRK is a vivid expression of the immaturity and inferiority of Japanese politics and a serious challenge to the just demand of the international community to terminate all kinds and forms of discrimination in the education.

Japanese authorities should behave in a responsible manner as a member state of the Executive Board of UNESCO and a member of the international community and put an immediate end to their outdated and inhumane acts, in conformity with the present reality which requires inclusive and equitable quality education.

Mr. President,

Today, the rapid development of science and technology is exerting a great influence on education, science, culture and communication and information, and the humankind is facing another opportunities and challenges on its way of development.

As demanded by the changing times and reality, UNESCO is required to contribute to the building of just, peaceful and sustainably developing world by promoting the human-centred development and the development which ensures equal participation and enjoyment of all in all its fields of mandates.

In particular, UNESCO should adhere to the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-discrimination and non-politicization of cooperation and steadily increase its technical and financial assistance to the developing countries so as to narrow the global gap and ensure equitable development in its mandatory fields.

Mr. President,

The DPRK Government, true to its foreign policy ideas of independence, peace and friendship, will continue to develop a good neighborly relationship with all countries in the world that respect its sovereignty and are friendly towards it, and actively join all member states in their efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal.

Thank you.