

**SPEECH OF GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO  
Paris, November 2021**

**REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS**

**Mr. Ambassador  
LISANDRO ROSALES  
Secretary of state  
Office of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

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- Mr. President of the General Conference
- Mr. President of the Executive Council
- Madam General Director of UNESCO
- Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and People of Honduras, I send warm greetings and wish the best results in this 41st General Conference.

Honduras congratulates the People and Government of Brazil for assuming the Presidency of the 41st General Conference of UNESCO through H.E. Ambassador Mr. Santiago Mourao. We fully trust that it will be a Presidency with all the capabilities of GRULAC. Mr. President, we have a lot to do.

We acknowledge the high commitment of Ambassador Agapito Mba-Mokuy, who presided over the Executive Council in these last two years and, in extremely difficult circumstances. He has led it with strength and wisdom.

We trust in the new mandate that will be initiated by General Director Audrey Azoulay. Madam Director, we recognize your leadership in the management of the current crisis where UNESCO has fulfilled its responsibilities.

Regarding the achievement of the great objective of UNESCO, "Peace"; as a country, we are committed to the values and principles in which this organization was founded 75 years ago and which sustain it with solidity.

We recognize that there are many pending tasks, and it is pertinent to review the policies and actions to achieve the goals set.

We have the responsibility to inherit to the next generations a more environmentally friendly space; with long-term sustainable solutions. We must build a world with greater equality, equity, and a better scenario of peace and coexistence.

Honduras is in the heart of Central America, in a geostrategic center. Honduras has an exuberant natural wealth that concentrates 6% of the planet's biodiversity in hydrological sources, forests, jungles, beaches, and beautiful coral reefs. Today, this is an example of the nerve center of the debate between Development and Conservation.

The development of our people demands rational mechanisms and sustainability of the resources within our reach.

Honduras reaffirms its support and credibility in the work of the Sciences sector of UNESCO, in particular, the "Man and the Biosphere Programme" (MAB), very present in our country.

The Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, IHP, promotes unique investigations on groundwater matter in our territory; and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, with actions to strengthen our resilience to high vulnerability to climate change, especially in the coastal areas of our region.

We are proud of our world heritage sites. We appreciate the permanent action of technical assistance we receive from the World Heritage Centre, which takes us by hand to achieve a significant improvement in the quality management processes of our sites.

We are also part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves through the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, Cacique Lempira, San Marcos de Colon, and the Trifinio Fraternidad Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, which we share with the Republics of Guatemala and El Salvador. It is a symbol of fraternity and harmony among our people.

The multiethnic and multicultural wealth of Honduras commits us to continue working in the strengthening of UNESCO conventions. Especially those related to the protection and promotion of heritage and cultural diversity.

In addition, our country continues the exploration and research in the recently discovered archaeological remains called the "White-City" in the Mosquitia area; there could have been situated an unknown, mysterious, fascinating, and unique ancestral culture in the American continent.

We remain committed to promoting the strengthening of the Convention of 1970 to optimize this normative instrument in the proposals for conflicts resolutions, bilateral negotiations, and the implementation of practical legal measures against illicit trafficking in cultural property.

In Education, Honduras welcomes the significant advances of the Framework for Action 20/30, aimed at searching equitable and accessible education for everyone.

Education is the main instrument to manage change, fight poverty, eliminate hunger, fight climate change, achieve a better health system, achieve clean energy sources, enjoy the arts and value and protect our cultural and natural heritage. Hence, we can offer more job opportunities.

Regarding Climate Change, Honduras has established that responses adopted about International Agreements must be under the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. In other words, those who have contributed the most to generate this crisis are the ones who must contribute the most to solve it.

Working in these efforts means hope to Honduras. The construction of paths and adopting fair measures for nations is the responsibility of UNESCO. With Justice is how we will continue to aspire for PEACE generation, the cornerstone of this organization.

Thank you.