ORAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR
OF THE PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX)

17 OCTOBER 2008
Mr Chair of the Executive Board,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to submit the report containing the result of the work of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission that I have had the honour to chair at the present session of the Executive Board.

After adopting its timetable and pursuant to Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, at its first meeting the Commission elected as temporary Chairperson the distinguished representative of Jamaica whom I thank wholeheartedly for her excellent stewardship and readiness to assist me in the conduct of the debates.

In accordance with the agenda adopted by the Executive Board at its first plenary meeting on 6 October 2008, 32 items were considered by the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission, 13 of which were considered at the joint meeting of the PX and the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commissions. For that purpose, the PX Commission held five meetings on 10, 15 and 16 October 2008. At the beginning of its work, the Commission decided to deal with item 30 without discussion. For the purpose of in-depth debate, four working groups were formed to consider the draft decisions on items 7, 15, 16 and 47, and this reflects the active participation of all members of the Commission during the lengthy meetings held to consider all of the items on our very full agenda.

Mr Chair,

In accordance with Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board which provides that the “Board shall adopt the entire set of draft decisions recommended by each plenary commission as a whole, unless a Member State requests that a specific decision be adopted separately”, at the end of this report, I shall submit, as a whole, the draft decisions contained in document 180 EX/68 Parts I and II.

My oral report will consist of a synopsis of the debates held in the Commission’s meetings, and so I crave Members’ indulgence if the synopsis does not reflect the full wealth of the debates on the various issues considered on those days.

Mr Chair, all of the draft decisions submitted by the Commission were approved by consensus, evincing the spirit of mutual understanding that prevailed throughout the Commission’s proceedings.

Mr Chair,
Distinguished colleagues,

My report will give an account of the debates under the following themes: (i) sectoral issues; (ii) intersectoral activities; (iii) institutes and centres; (iv) programme and budget (35 C/5); (v) methods of work of the Organization; (vi) norms and regulations; and, lastly, (vii) general matters.

Education

In regard to the field of education, a wide-ranging debate was held on item 7, Report by the Director-General on progress made with respect to education for all (EFA), including UNESCO’s contribution and application of the Global Action Plan to achieve the EFA goals by 2015.

The representative of the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Education, provided updated information on UNESCO’s work to promote EFA worldwide, preparations for the meeting of the EFA High-Level Group and UNESCO’s efforts to ensure that the next Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) will be more country-centred.
Several Member States praised UNESCO’s work for its strides forward in EFA coordination, its encouragement of endeavours to achieve the goals set for 2015, above all with respect to three flagship programmes (TTISSA, LIFE and EDUCAIDS initiatives) and its focus on quality education, technical and vocational education and the holistic approach to education. In view of the persistence of numerous problems in many countries, concern was expressed over the current lack of financial resources and capacity, above all in view of the present financial crisis. The importance of continuing to give priority to South-South cooperation and to triangular cooperation was affirmed. Several delegates requested that the data contained in document 180 EX/7 be analysed by means of case studies and examples of achievements and persistently problematic areas and that activities already completed under the Global Action Plan be described more precisely.

The Assistant Director-General for Education informed the Commission that many of the educational endeavours mentioned, such as institutional capacity-building and the extension of the positive effects of debt swaps for education, would require an increase in extrabudgetary funds. He said that the requested analyses and case studies regarding progress in EFA had already been included in the EFA Global Monitoring Report and that the EFA team would make concerted efforts to improve the linkages between the Report’s findings and the relevant activities of UNESCO and other EFA stakeholders. He highlighted the need for precedence to be given to education in development programmes, stating that, at the country level, the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) was being applied in 80 countries and had been concluded in another 60. He also said that information summaries on the subject would be used as inputs to the next C/5 document, as would the findings of all relevant meetings and conferences.

In view of the complexity of the draft decisions before it, the Commission entrusted the task of drawing up a consensus draft decision to a working group in which States interested in the matter participated. The working group met on Saturday 11 October, in the afternoon, and was chaired by the distinguished representative of South Africa. After that afternoon’s proceedings, the group submitted to the Commission a consensus draft decision, which was approved with slight amendments.

The representative of Saudi Arabia introduced item 54, Proposal for the establishment of the UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for outstanding practice and performance in enhancing the effectiveness of teachers, stating that the purpose of the Prize was to reward examples of excellence in education, notably in developing or disadvantaged communities.

Several Member States expressed strong support for the establishment of the Prize and congratulated the United Arab Emirates on the initiative, stressing, in particular, the need to rate highly and support teachers, and recognizing their important role in providing quality education. One Member State underlined the importance of the Prize in bringing the efforts of the teaching profession to the fore at the international level. The representative of the United Arab Emirates then took the floor as an observer to thank the members of the Commission and express gratitude to the Organization for establishing the Prize. The representative of the Director-General expressed the Education Sector’s support for the proposed Prize.

Natural sciences

We now come to matters relating to the natural sciences. Under item 8, the Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the UNESCO plan of action concerning the decisions and declaration of the African Union Summit on science, technology and scientific research for development (January 2007) was examined. The representative of the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, outlined activities initiated during the first six months of the 2008-2009 biennium in order to implement the three flagship projects provided for in the Plan of Action. Many speakers welcomed the Organization’s positive response to the numerous requests that it has received for assistance in establishing capacity for the review of science, technology and innovation policies.
Members spoke of the need for UNESCO to build science education capacities, especially in regard to science teachers, and for the Natural Sciences Sector to work more closely with the Education Sector and the Communication and Information Sector in implementing the three flagship projects of the UNESCO Plan of Action in support of the African Union’s Consolidated Plan of Action in Science and Technology. They also stressed the need to draw up a report on achievements, tools and standard-setting activities for the next session of the Executive Board, which should highlight the contributions of the MAB Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to the progress achieved under those projects. The speakers also urged UNESCO to build capacities in the fields of gender equality, water resource management, renewable energy and scientific networks. Furthermore, emphasis was laid on the importance of promoting South-South cooperation in capacity-building activities. Several speakers said that there was a crucial need to mobilize resources for the UNESCO Plan of Action in support of the African Union Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology, stressing that those resources should be used not only for science, technology and innovation policy review, but also for project implementation.

In examining item 57, Establishment of the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, the Commission decided not to hold a debate and the decision was approved unanimously and without any amendment. Since the approval of the draft decision, the representative of France, on behalf of the European Union, has expressed reservations about endorsing the item as submitted to the Executive Board, considering that it raised delicate issues for the Organization. The text of her statement is annexed to this report. The Ambassadors of the United States of America and Norway supported the statement made by the European Union.

**Culture**

In the field of culture, under item 10 on Jerusalem and the implementation of 34 C/Resolution 47 and 179 EX/Decision 9, a consensus draft decision was submitted to the Commission, which approved it without a debate and by consensus.

Under item 12, the Report by the Director-General on the preparation of a draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War was introduced by the representative of the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Culture. Several Member States spotlighted the need to secure funding for the forthcoming intergovernmental meeting of experts from extrabudgetary sources only, as provided in 34 C/Resolution 43 adopted by the General Conference.

A large majority of Member States supported the organization of an international meeting of experts and requested that the meeting be held before the 181st session of the Executive Board. They laid emphasis on the need to reach consensus on a recommendation for submission at the 35th session of the General Conference.

Item 58, entitled Rabindranath Tagore, Pablo Neruda and Aimé Césaire for a reconciled universal, was introduced by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the 16 sponsors of the document. All subsequent speakers praised the grandeur of the work of these three outstanding figures of world literature which had contributed to the dissemination of a message of universal scope. The majority of the speakers expressed their desire to see “the universal reconciled with the fruitful diversity of cultures” enshrined in UNESCO’s mandate. After a broad exchange of ideas, the States Members of the Commission decided to invite the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board at the next session proposals on specific activities in the Organization’s fields of competence in order to enhance the value of those works of international renown, particularly within the context of the promotion of cultural diversity. In discussing this subject, the members of the Commission had the opportunity to listen to a moving statement on some of Pablo Neruda’s verse. We were also touched when the distinguished representative of India shared with us the fact that she had had the honour of knowing two of the eminent persons to whom tribute was being paid.
The representative of Ethiopia introduced item 62, Reinstallation of the Axum Obelisk: a testimony of successful cooperation between Ethiopia and Italy, which it had submitted jointly with Italy. After a brief historical review on the Axum Obelisk and thanking the Government of Italy for its action and UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre for its technical support, the representative of Ethiopia called on the Organization to continue to promote similar cooperation initiatives. The representative of Italy thanked the Executive Board for placing the item on the agenda, stressing that the decision to return the Axum Obelisk had been taken under bilateral agreements between the two countries. The operation had been carried out in two phases: first, the Obelisk was dismantled in Rome and transported to Ethiopia and, second, it was reinstalled under a $5 million joint project with UNESCO financed by the Government of Italy. UNESCO had played an important role, thus demonstrating the Organization’s technical operational capacity for such activities. Lastly, the representative of Italy expressed his satisfaction with this instance of fruitful cooperation between the Governments of Italy and Ethiopia and the World Heritage Centre, as such action would strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

The members of the Commission applauded the initiative, approving the draft decision without making any amendments.

**Communication and information**

I now turn to matters in the fields of communication and information. Under item 15, the Report by the Director-General on a draft strategic plan for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) as revised by the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP was examined. During the debate on this item, many speakers expressed satisfaction with the new IFAP policy lines and highlighted the Programme’s importance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society. The Commission endorsed the revised strategic plan. Several States Members of the Commission raised the question of financial support for the implementation of the plan and made in that regard specific proposals that entailed financing under the regular budget and from extrabudgetary funds.

In reply, the representative of the Director-General acknowledged that, in order to improve work under the Programme, the Members of the Board and IFAP National Committees should take a more active part in its activities, including fundraising.

After a wide-ranging debate, the Commission decided to establish a working group, which met on Saturday 11 October, and was chaired by the distinguished representative of Brazil. After an effort to find a compromise on the opinions expressed, the working group drew up a draft decision that was approved unamended by the Commission at its fifth meeting.

**Intersectoral activities**

In regard to intersectoral issues, after the introduction by the Assistant Director-General for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, under item 16, the Report by the Director-General on a refined UNESCO strategy for action on climate change was examined. A large number of representatives took the floor to express general satisfaction regarding the refined UNESCO strategy for action on climate change contained in Annex II to document 180 EX/16. They laid emphasis on the challenges that climate change pose to societies worldwide, with particular regard to Africa, small island States and gender parity, and were pleased that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has assigned a joint coordinating role to UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in order to improve cooperation among United Nations bodies in regard to activities relating to the cross-cutting area of climate change (scientific study, observation, assessment and early warning). The representatives stressed the importance ascribed to interdisciplinarity and intersectoral cooperation under the strategy and to the corresponding detailed plan of action that would be submitted to the Executive Board at its 181st session, pinning great hopes on the intersectoral platform on climate change in that regard.
In response to the concern that the text of the strategy should avoid any wording that is not fully compatible with that used in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and related negotiations, an open-ended working group was established to examine the strategy to that end. The group drew up the revised strategy that has been included in document 180 EX/16 Rev., which the Commission approved together with an amended draft decision.

Institutes and centres

The Commission then considered, under item 20 of the agenda, the Report by the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on the activities of the Institute. The Director of UIS, Mr Hendrik Van der Pol, introduced the report by giving a short outline of the main activities carried out by the Institute since the 177th session. After considering the report, the Commission approved the decision inviting the Director-General to continue to be guided by the recommendations of the UIS Governing Board.

Preliminary proposals by the Director-General concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5)

The Commission considered a matter of the utmost importance to the Organization in the coming years, namely item 21: the Preliminary proposals by the Director-General concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5). The representative of the Director-General, the ADG for Strategic Planning, stated that the proposals submitted in the document were the outcome of a broad-based consultation process.

All the representatives were in favour of maintaining EFA as the first priority of Major Programme I - Education, and stated that UNESCO should strengthen its leading role and world coordination in this field and thus extend EFA to all levels of education, with greater emphasis on early childhood, secondary education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), teacher training, higher education and adult literacy. Many Member States encouraged the Organization to increase the TVET support provided to countries and called for greater prominence to be given to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in document 35 C/5. Some speakers expressed the hope that initiatives such as TTISSA and LIFE would be strengthened and extended to other countries and called for the EDUCAID S programme to be continued. Arts education, peace education and science and technology education were mentioned specifically. A number of Member States recommended that UNESCO step up its endeavour to provide upstream policy advice and capacity-building at the national level and continue to focus on the two global priorities, namely Africa and gender equality. Many delegates called for the South-South Cooperation Education Fund to become operational and urged donors to contribute thereto.

In regard to Major Programme II, many delegates considered that UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) should be further reinforced in document 35 C/5. Members expressed strong support for the promotion of science, technology and innovation policies and capacities and speakers called for stronger cooperation with the African Union (AU), in particular regarding the African Union/NEPAD Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology. Emphasis was laid on the importance of freshwater-related activities, having particular regard to the impact of global changes, above all climate change, on water resources. The other areas highlighted as priority matters for the purposes of promoting development included capacity-building in basic sciences, the promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of renewable energy and the fostering of a culture of maintenance. Member States stressed the decisive importance of the contribution of the Social and Human Sciences Sector to climate change issues and to science, technology and innovation policies.

As to Major Programme III, many delegates stressed that it was important to continue the work undertaken in the field of human rights in consonance with the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the field of social transformations
including the human and social aspects of climate change, and in the field of ethics, in particular that of bioethics. Several representatives expressed the view that the Organization should carry
out activities addressing new youth-related problems, in particular youth violence.

In relation to Major Programme IV, the majority of the Member States encouraged the Organization
to continue its work to protect and promote cultural diversity as a UNESCO priority in document
35 C/5, especially in the context of the implementation of its international conventions, mainly the
1972 World Heritage Convention, the 2003 Convention on the intangible cultural heritage and the
2005 conventions on cultural diversity, and stressed the need to assign the human and financial
resources required for that purpose. They also stressed the role of culture for sustainable
development. Other areas highlighted included intercultural dialogue as an instrument of mutual
understanding, the work of the Alliance of Civilizations and the intersectoral platform on
contributing to the dialogue among civilizations and a culture of peace. Several Member States
expressed support for arts education and viewed in a positive light the second world conference on
the subject, to be held in 2010 in Seoul. The importance of an intersectoral approach to work in this
field was highlighted, and the possibility was raised of making financial provision in document
35 C/5 to ensure follow-up action on the conference. Members stressed the importance of
languages and multilingualism, particularly in regard to the safeguarding of indigenous and
endangered languages.

In regard to Major Programme V – Communication and information, several delegates stressed the
importance of strengthening the Information for All Programme (IFAP), which some speakers
considered to be a useful framework for capacity-building in developing countries and for the
formulation of information policies and strategies, while others suggested that the Programme’s
intersectoral character should be strengthened. Member States voiced strong support for freedom
of expression and for the development of free and independent media. They laid emphasis on the
importance of carrying out activities to follow up the World Summit on the Information Society
(WSIS) and on the decisive role of information and communication technologies in poverty
eradication. One speaker showed great interest in the establishment of multilingual learning and
language-learning networks.

As to the question relating to the aims and purposes of UNESCO’s intersectoral platform for
support to countries in post-conflict and post-disaster situations, the ADG for Strategic Planning
explained that the platform would be used to facilitate provision of appropriate technical assistance
by the various sectors under a coordinated arrangement designed to improve UNESCO position in
the United Nations system’s common response to such situations.

Methods of work of the organization

Among the items relating to the methods of work of the Organization, the Commission considered
item 27, Report by the Director-General on evaluations completed in 2008, pursuant to
179 EX/ Decision 20. The Director of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) made a statement, after
which the Commission approved the draft decision unamended.

Matters relating to norms, statutes and regulations

Under item 30, Draft amendments to the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee for
the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC), the representative
of El Salvador, on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), read out a
statement underlining the close cooperation between the Secretariat and GRULAC which had led
to the formulation of the amendments submitted to the Board. She stated that the amendments
would improve considerably the efficiency of the Regional Education Project for Latin America and
the Caribbean.
General matters

We now come to general matters considered by the Commission. First, item 44, Implementation of 34 C/Resolution 58 and 179 EX/Decision 39 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories, dealt with progress achieved by UNESCO since the 179th session of the Board. The Commission reached a consensus on the draft decision and then approved it without debate.

After the draft decision had been approved, the Ambassador of Cuba, on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China, expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, calling on UNESCO to continue to provide assistance to educational institutions through various educational and cultural projects. The Executive Board was urged to organize an information meeting as soon as possible in order to discuss the most recent events in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories and to plan activities in UNESCO's fields of competence, particularly in the field of education. This request was reiterated by Kuwait on behalf of the Arab Group of States.

The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic took the floor as an observer and listed the measures taken by Israel regarding settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan and requested that the situation in that area be kept under consideration.

Agenda item 47, Report by the Director-General on the study concerning the proposal for the creation of a network of national authorities to support migrants who are victims of discrimination and xenophobia, was comprehensively debated. On the basis of a draft decision submitted by five Latin American countries, the decision was taken to establish a working group tasked with drawing up a consensus draft decision. The working group met on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 October. After fruitful proceedings chaired by the representative of South Africa, a draft decision, inviting the Director-General to continue examination of the question and the feasibility study process, was submitted to the Commission and was approved by all members of the Commission. As to the funding of an independent pilot project in the Ibero-American region, the Director-General was invited to explore the possibility of creating a partnership with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). After the approval of the consensus draft decision, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba and El Salvador, as well as Uruguay in its capacity as an observer, welcomed the results obtained in regard to the draft decision which constituted proof of the compromise achieved and of the specific guidance given to the Secretariat in regard to the report that it is to submit to the Executive Board at the next session.

In regard to item 48 concerning the Report by the Director-General on the cultural and educational institutions in Iraq, the Commission, after having decided to approve the proposed decision without amendment, gave the floor to the Permanent Delegate of Iraq. In his statement, he thanked the Director-General for the progress made by the Organization aimed at strengthening reconciliation and reconstruction in his country, thanked the donors for their generous contributions and urged them to continue their efforts in that regard.

In regard to item 49 concerning the Report by the Director-General on UNESCO’s contribution to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, the honourable representative of that country thanked the Director-General for dispatching from 27 to 29 August 2008 the high-level intersectoral mission led by the Deputy Director-General of the Organization. The representative of Lebanon emphasized that the two key objectives of the mission had been, first, to identify elements for the purpose of drawing up a comprehensive programme of assistance for Lebanon’s reconstruction and, secondly, to explore the feasibility of a joint UNESCO/Government of Lebanon mechanism for mobilizing resources to that end. The representative drew attention to the areas in which UNESCO and Lebanon had been cooperating since the 2006 crisis and thanked the donors that had contributed to Lebanon’s reconstruction efforts. In view of the fact that the comprehensive programme of assistance would end at the close of 2008, she insisted that a separate item be
included in the agenda of the Executive Board at its 181st session. The Commission approved the draft decision without amendment.

Item 60 on the Global Moral Development Programme for Sustainable World Peace was introduced by Bangladesh. Three representatives took the floor. They drew attention to UNESCO’s mandate in the field of ethics and social sciences and questioned the need for a new programme on morality, a subject which did not fall within the Organization’s fields of competence. The Commission decided to take note of Bangladesh’s proposal in that regard.

**Conclusion**

Mr Chair of the Executive Board  
Mr Director-General  
Distinguished colleagues  
Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion to my oral report, allow me to thank on behalf of the Commission all those who have contributed to the success of its work. I should like first of all to thank the representatives of the Member States serving on the Commission and their alternates, and the representatives of the Director-General for their valuable contributions, which ensured a debate of high quality and an enriching exchange of views.

I should like particularly to thank you, Mr Chair, for your wise guidance and your unfailing support during the various stages of the Commission’s work. Your untiring search for compromise and consensus under all circumstances has greatly contributed to the results we have achieved today. I should like to express well-deserved thanks to the Secretary of the Executive Board, Mr Armoogum Parsuramen, and his entire team for their ongoing assistance.

My thanks go also to the invisible hands that have worked so hard: to the interpreters in particular for their excellent work during the Commission’s lengthy meetings, to the room clerks who were always ready to provide assistance to the representatives, and to the Secretariat for providing the documents to the representatives in a timely fashion.

Lastly, I should like to thank the team of the Programme and External Relations Commission, its secretary, Ms Susana Sam-Vargas, Mr César Moreno-Triana, Ms Clare Stark, Ms Marita Loli-Pflucker and Ms Janet Boulmer, for their exemplary work. All of them have demonstrated a great sense of professionalism and dedication.

Mr Chair,

Allow me to observe, finally, that this session of the Executive Board was held at a very crucial moment for the world. While we were discussing the issues of education, culture, science, climate change, water scarcity and gender equality, while we were examining the question of how UNESCO could work even harder for those who need it the most, concerns outside of the Organization were focused on financial difficulties and international stock markets.

For many outside the Organization, our debates do not make much sense against the backdrop of the current crisis, nor do the issues that we are addressing at this session.

I hope that I accurately represent the thoughts and feelings of many of the distinguished representatives present here when I conclude my report by saying that for us in UNESCO, it makes no sense to envisage a world in which economic development and the financial world do not embrace the aim of ensuring that all children have quality education, an adequate diet and a decent life.

Thank you very much.
ANNEX I

Executive Board

Hundred and eightieth session

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

Item 57

Mr Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the European Union.

I should like to begin by expressing our wholehearted respect for all our African brothers and sisters, the people of Equatorial Guinea and all those who support research in the life sciences, in accordance with the aims and policies of the Organization.

We are very pleased to see that, around the world, on every continent, there is a willingness to support research and to find appropriate resources to ensure its progress.

Our countries cannot however endorse item 57 as it is worded and as it is conceived. The item raises a number of sensitive issues.

We think that item 57 should have been examined earlier by the Board and should have been better documented. This seems to us particularly evident at a time when UNESCO and all its Member States are celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We should also like to inform those Members of the Board who are not yet aware of it that we submitted a proposal several days ago in a spirit of conciliation and compromise. The Chair of the Board knows this, as do the members of the Bureau, and many delegations are also aware of this. We wish this, and the fact that no reply to the proposal has been received, to be known to all.

We deplore this situation.

It is not good for our Organization, meaning that it is good neither for its reputation nor its functioning. In becoming Members of our Organization, all States undertake to serve its ideals: we do so today by recalling what they are, and in particular Article 1 of the UNESCO Constitution.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would include this statement in the record.

I thank you.