



**UNESCO-PARIS**



**Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

**DRAFT**

**JOINT CONFERENCE  
HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF THE G77 AND NON ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
DURING THE 37<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO**

We, the Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Group of 77, Paris Chapter, and the Non-Aligned Movement in UNESCO, meeting in Paris on 6 November 2013 at the 37th General Conference of UNESCO:

Salute the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of the Group of 77 to be celebrated in 2014, and recognize the importance of the Group and its contribution to international solidarity and cooperation.

We firmly declare the following:

1. *Reaffirm* our strong attachment to UNESCO's Constitution, whose mission statement defines its main lines of action, and emphasize the importance of the intergovernmental nature of the Organization, which establishes the existence of an active and effective multilateralism.
2. *Further reaffirm* the validity and the relevance of the five areas of competence of UNESCO, which are: Education, Culture, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences and Communication and Information, and to maintain its leadership in these areas.
3. *Emphasize* the importance of improving the efficiency in the field of these Major Programmes in order to contribute to the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, intercultural dialogue, ethics and, above all, to consolidating peace.
4. *Recall* that UNESCO must concentrate on effective flagship programmes that contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
5. *Recall* United Nations resolution A/RES/67/18, entitled "Education for Democracy" adopted on 28 November 2012, where the General Assembly "Encourages ... UNESCO ... to strengthen their efforts to promote the values of peace, human rights, democracy, respect for religious and cultural diversity and justice through education".

6. *Reaffirm* that UNESCO must, more than ever, promote a culture of tolerance, gender equality, full participation of youth in a just society and safeguard our cultural heritage. The voice of UNESCO must not go unheard when world peace comes under threat.
7. *Highlight* that UNESCO should consider as a priority education for peace and sustainable development, and a free, independent, ethical and pluralistic media.
8. *Reaffirm* our full support to the Sector for Social and Human Sciences and emphasize the need to integrate ethics in its various programmes and activities. Moreover, we reaffirm the importance of preserving the Intergovernmental Programme Management of Social Transformations (MOST), focusing on the promotion of social inclusion and equality, through research on public policy and sustainable development.
9. *Recognizing* that education is a public good and a fundamental human right, we emphasize the importance for UNESCO to preserve and strengthen its mandate and leadership in the field of Education, the top priority of the Organization, particularly through Education for All (EFA). UNESCO must scale up efforts in a last “Big Push” to accelerate the implementation of the six goals of Dakar by 2015, including renewed efforts to fight illiteracy, promoting the exchange of good practices and the South-South and North-South-South cooperation. Moreover, UNESCO must strengthen its leadership in the global coordination of EFA and the attainment of its objectives, to prevent their dilution and dispersal within a global post-2015 agenda, promoting synergies and coherence in terms of global initiatives on education.
10. *Emphasize* the crucial role that UNESCO plays to promote science and technology education, indispensable for sustainable development and poverty eradication. Science for All should be vigorously implemented through our Organization.
11. *Highlight* that UNESCO should strengthen its action through enhanced ICT flagship programmes including the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), which have proven to be relevant in addressing the needs of developing countries which in turn will contribute to the acceleration of economic development and improve access to information and knowledge.
12. *Reaffirm* our support for Priority Africa and welcome the new vision and strategy adopted recently by the Secretariat as a potential way forward to more effective results for the future activities of this Priority. It is necessary to clearly define Priority Africa’s specific focus areas, to decentralize staff resources from Headquarters to field offices and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the activities implemented.

13. *Further reaffirm* the need for UNESCO to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in their sustainable development efforts, as well as achieving the internationally agreed development goals.

14. *Highlight* the opportunity and desirability of positioning UNESCO strategically in the international debates concerning cyberspace, taking into consideration the Organization's past experiences, plural structure and specific mandates, as well as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) review in 2015. The Organization shall contribute to increase global awareness and common understanding among all stakeholders of the benefits and impacts of ICTs, in particular regarding the ethical challenge of fully exploiting the potential of new media while not compromising universal human rights, including the rights to privacy and freedom of expression.

15. *Emphasize* the importance of continuing the implementation of flagship initiatives on Cultural Interaction and Intercultural Dialogue, such as the Slave Route and the use of the General and Regional Histories produced by UNESCO, particularly the pedagogical use of the General History of Africa.

16. *Attach* the greatest importance to UNESCO strengthening its role as a catalyst for international intergovernmental cooperation.

17. *Stress* the importance of UNESCO's cultural Conventions, particularly the 1970 Convention, relating to the illicit traffic of cultural goods. UNESCO must fully exercise its leadership to articulate international efforts necessary for the effective implementation of this Convention and to explore other ways to further strengthen the fight against the devastation of our cultural heritage with strong action, including underwater cultural heritage; as well as to condemn, monitor and control the action of the illicit traffic of cultural property.

18. *Further stress* the importance of the 1954 Hague Convention on protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and its two protocols and express a deep concern for the irreversible damage of cultural heritage and the desecration of sacred sites in conflict areas, as well as in occupied territories.

19. *Recall* the proclamation of the period 2013-2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures to enhance activities that promote mutual understanding and tolerance through interreligious and intercultural dialogue and cooperation, while emphasizing the unique role of UNESCO in the fostering of a culture of peace through dialogue and mutual understanding, with the aim of attaining a world free from violence and extremism.

20. *Emphasize* the need for UNESCO to enhance its work on youth with a strong focus on civic engagement and social innovation.

21. *Recognize* that slavery and human trafficking continue to pose a serious threat and require a concerted international response, stressing the role of education in

raising awareness about the prevention of human trafficking, reiterate our commitments to extend further cooperation with all relevant United Nations entities, in particular UNESCO as a Member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons to ensure the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, including promoting and considering, the priority of ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking Protocol; as well as enacting national legislation that mandates legal protection for victims of trafficking.

22. *Express* our deep concern regarding the financial crisis facing the Organization, as a result of non-payment of contributions by a Member State, which has put the future of the Organization and its staff in a very delicate situation. *Insist* on the need to review the voting procedure in the General Conference and the Executive Board, in cases of non-payment of contributions by Member States.

23. *Reiterate* that in the midst of the financial crisis UNESCO must preserve the themes and programmes that are core to its mission and define priorities rather than reduce its mandate, but advancing its reform to increase its action and impact in the field.

24. *Reaffirm* the leading role of UNESCO in the final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals particularly in education and culture, and call on all Member States to preserve the core mission of the Organization through the Post-2015 development agenda.

25. *Finally, underline* the absolute necessity for the member states of the G77 and NAM to rescue and preserve the moral strength of UNESCO which encompasses the vast and rich history of knowledge, solidarity and respect for humankind.