

Statement of the Group of 77 and China
196th session of the Executive Board (approximately 2-3 mins.)
14 April 2015

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We thank the Director-General for her remarks and the reports of the Secretariat to the Executive Board under items 4, 5, and 15. We also thank you for giving us the opportunity to deliver this statement.
2. The Group of 77 and China consists of 134 UN member states and represents over half of the world's population. While many of our members have made great progress in raising the living standards of our peoples, we continue to face severe challenges to development and remain in need of international cooperation provided through the Organization. Thus, the work of UNESCO across all its sectors remains extremely important to the members of the G77 and China, in all its fields of competence: education, natural, social and human sciences, culture and communication and information. We also support the UNESCO priorities, particularly the Action Plan based on the Samoa Pathway for Small Island States and Youth issues.
3. As we celebrate UNESCO's 70th anniversary and look forward to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, we believe this year 2015 is a time for collective reflection, renewal, and concerted action.
4. More than ever, the demands on UNESCO are increasing as we witness the rise of violent extremism and conflicts, widening inequalities, and global challenges such as natural disasters and climate change. These affect all countries, whether from the South or North, whether developed or developing.
5. We agree, as stated in the draft C/5 Budget, that "UNESCO's mandate is vital to the success of the future agenda, to build sound foundations for sustainable development, lasting peace, and meaningful international cooperation, on the basis of solidarity, dialogue, mutual respect and justice."
6. We are quite concerned about the financial constraints facing the Organization. Core programs and capacities of the Organization in the regular budget, such as Priority Africa, gender equality, intercultural dialogue, culture of peace, protection of cultural and natural heritage, and the IOC, among others, must be strengthened. Overdependence on extra-budgetary resources reduces predictability and hampers sustainability. Transparency and accountability are more necessary now than ever.
7. We therefore encourage member states of the Executive Board to adopt a constructive and forward-looking approach when analyzing the C/5. The challenges we face together as a world community are colossal. In this regard, the Organization must be empowered to help improve its efficiency particularly in the promotion of the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, the institution must be strengthened in order to achieve the SDGs which in turn will benefit in establishing a more equitable, peaceful and prosperous world, which we all aspire for by 2030.
8. In closing, allow me to assure the Executive Board of the G77 and China's willingness to work closely with all partners in our joint endeavor to lead our Organization through its journey of success in future agendas.