



GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA

UNESCO-PARIS

**Declaration of the Group of 77 and China
191st Session of the Executive Board**

Madam President of the Executive Board

Madam Director General

Madam President of the General Conference

1. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its commitment to the reform of UNESCO. This reform must be carried out with a well-defined strategy, specific objectives and a system of verifiable quantitative and qualitative indicators informed by an analytical study by bringing efficiency and effectiveness to the Organization.

2. In accordance with Decision 190 EX/19 adopted by the Executive Board, the Group reiterates the need to preserve the five areas of competence or major programs of UNESCO, with the specificity and validity of each: Education, Culture, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences and Communication and Information. From this perspective, the specific objectives for each of the five (5) sectors should be clearly defined.

3. According to the same decision, UNESCO's global objectives comprise: peace, sustainable development, poverty eradication, social inclusion, ethical and social challenges as well as communication and information".

4.. Our Group expresses its support to the Sector for Social and Human Sciences and emphasizes the need to integrate ethics in its various programs and activities. Moreover, it reaffirms the importance of preserving the Intergovernmental Program MOST (Management of Social Transformations), unique Program within the United Nations system focusing on the promotion of social inclusion through research on public policy and sustainable

development, as approved at the 11th session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council.

5. The G77 and China remorse the late issuance of the Concept Note on the eventual Centre for Social Transformation and Intercultural Dialogue. Our Group in accordance with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group of the Executive Board and Recommendation No. 15 of the MOST Intergovernmental Council would like that discussions on the possible creation of such a Centre be pursued.

6. The G77 and China strongly supports the importance of ensuring that UNESCO maintains its leadership in the global coordination of EFA, preparing concrete actions for the implementation of the GEM Ministerial Declaration 2012. Consequently, we invite the Director General to further strengthen the role of UNESCO in the fight against illiteracy, promote inclusive and quality education, best practices, higher education as a public good, and South-South and North-South-South cooperation.

7. The G77 and China expresses its support to the Sector for Natural Sciences and reaffirms the importance of strengthening the role of STI for sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as the IOC and the Man and Biosphere Program (MAB), as a mechanism that has proven to be effective in the promotion of conservation and sustainability of natural resources and biological diversity.

8. Our Group stresses the importance of the Conventions under the Culture Sector, particularly the strengthening of the 1970 Convention and the need to maintain a constant plea to the moral duty to recognize and respect the sovereign right of the peoples of the world to their historical and cultural heritage, and the need to develop more advanced operational mechanisms that provide this heritage with adequate protection. In this regard, the G77 and China has already sent a letter to the DG with this request. Furthermore, our Group considers it inappropriate that the program "Indigenous languages in danger of extinction" be carried out by the Natural Sciences Sector, and request that funds for this activity be reinstated in the regular budget. In addition, our Group is concerned about the proposal to include the activities related to intercultural dialogue and culture of peace in the eventual Centre for

Social Transformation, and would like to ask for more information about what will be the relationship of the Centre with the Culture Sector and the budget that will be allocated to its activities.

9. Our Group is concerned about the of IFAP, the sole program that addresses current issues such as information access, information preservation, information ethics, information literacy, information for development, multilingualism in cyberspace and reducing the digital divide.

10. The G77 and China feel that in order to avoid dilution of the important issue of youth in both C/4 and C/5, it should be more clearly reflected in the body of the documents and not as an Annex in an Operational Strategy.

11. Our Group wishes to confirm its support for UNESCO's two global priorities, Africa and Gender Equality. It is important for our Organization to achieve more effective and tangible results, hence the two priorities should be backed by action plans with defined objectives, expected outcomes, performance indicators and benchmarks..

12. Finally, the Group of 77 and China wishes to express its concern about the difficult financial situation of UNESCO, which endangers the implementation of its programs, and in face of the budget cuts that have affected program activities more than the operational costs.