

Madam Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Madam President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies, distinguished Colleagues,

Hungary, aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, which will be read later today, in the afternoon. Allow me to make some additional remarks.

Hungary is a true supporter of multilateralism. There are ongoing and emerging armed conflicts all over the world that need our attention, and all have major implications on UNESCO's mandate.

UNESCO's message for building peace is more relevant today, in times of war, than it was almost 80 years ago, at the time the organization was founded. The severity of the war taking place in our neighborhood further strengthens the importance of the dialogue in the field of science, culture and last but not least education.

It is more important than ever for UNESCO and its Member States to avoid the risk of over-politicization. Trust and cooperation are needed.

The protection of education against violence is particularly important for Hungary.

In the field of science, it is our honor to report that the preparations for the upcoming World Science Forum - under the valuable patronage of UNESCO - to be held on 20 - 23 November in Budapest are progressing well. We hope to welcome a great number of scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, civil society and the media to discuss the role of science facing global

challenges.

Hungary remains committed to the SDGs on water, and notes with appreciation that the subject of water continues to be a high priority on the agenda of UNESCO. As the Vice Chair of Group II in Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, Hungary actively supports these initiatives and contributes to the advancement of water-related goals on river-basin and on international scale.

Hungary takes note of the reports related to the programming and budgeting of this Organization, and welcomes all efforts which help UNESCO to cope with the challenges under its mandate. Regarding human resources, Hungary strongly supports the emphasis placed on the equality between women and men, and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UNESCO.

As the current President of the Council of the European Union, Hungary has consistently emphasized the importance of cultural heritage protection, which plays a crucial role in fostering sustainable socio-economic development, climate change mitigation and in promoting peace and security. Furthermore, Hungary is also committed to facilitating access to culture and to include culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 Agenda.

To conclude, let me once again highlight, Madam Chairperson, Hungary's full support for the implementation of UNESCO's mandate.