

**NATIONAL STATEMENT**  
**of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the General Policy Debate of the**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Conference of UNESCO**  
(Paris, November 10, 2021)

Mr. President of the General Conference,  
Madame Director General,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. It is a great pleasure for me to speak from this tribune of the UNESCO General Conference. I commend the efforts of the UNESCO Secretariat to gather us in person despite current difficulties. I am pleased that we are gradually returning to normal work after a long period of virtual life under the pandemic.

First, I would like to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Santiago Mourao on his election as the president of the General Conference for the next two years. I wish you, Mr. President, all the best in this important and responsible endeavor.

I also sincerely congratulate H.E. Madame Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO, on her appointment for the second term. I would like to extend full support of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to you and your distinguished team. You managed the Secretariat in the best possible manner throughout your first term that partially

We fully share widely supported vision that today UNESCO is on the right path. I would like to commend the productive work the Organization has done to support member states when they were hit by the pandemic. We found relevant and timely all key initiatives launched by UNESCO to respond COVID-19, like Global Education Coalition, ResiliArt and many more.

**III.** Uzbekistan, being an active stakeholder in the international community, under the leadership of President Mirziyoyev has been putting great efforts across broad issues within UNESCO mandate. The investment to advance culture, education, science and information sectors has redoubled, in some cases tripled, during the pandemic to mitigate negative impacts and keep these areas intact.

For instance, to preserve cultural heritage we adopted plan to introduce modern digital technologies to create 3D copies of all four World Heritage Properties. In education and science fields, we are

last years, the media sector is flourishing with an unprecedentedly high pace.

**IV.** In our development strategies, we attach significance to fully utilize the opportunities that UNESCO offers. In the last two years since the official visit of UNESCO Director General Ms. Azoulay to Uzbekistan

