

**41st General Conference of UNESCO
Remarks by the President of GRULAC
Ambassador Elía del Carmen Guerra Jurado
Permanent Delegate of Panama to UNESCO
Paris, November 2021**

Mr. President
Heads of Delegation
Madam Director General
Members of the Conference

In my capacity as President of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), let me express how glad we are that a representative of our region has assumed the Presidency of the 41st General Conference of UNESCO.

Be assured, Mr. President, that there is a GRULAC and its professional capacities, with the desire and commitment to collaborate with you meeting these very high responsibilities, particularly when we commemorate the 75th anniversary of

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We envisaged that it was not going to be an easy task and as such many of them

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In other cases, difficult circumstances of the past months, have deepened them at a period during which we have been able to learn and to teach to live with strict rules; notwithstanding how useful and convenient these measures have been for the health of the great majorities; giving up our particular rights and interests in order to achieve

It is a matter of finding a balance between what is proposed by developed countries, the priorities of low-income countries and other countries that, like many in our GRULAC region, have been schematized as middle-income and for whom development and access to sources of opportunities are becoming increasingly distant.

GRULAC has been steadfast in accompanying not only with ideas but with deeds, the people of the region and globally. We contribute to the international

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worthwhile.

Our brothers and sisters from the Island States are living very particular situations due to the impact of climate change. This is a road which is constructed every day given its complexities and real commitments that need to be meet. UNESCO's Declaration of Ethical Principals in relation to Climate Change is one of our most important tools if we want to join in these tasks for the Futures we Want.

We are part of the call of more than 41 Island Member States that demand short-term responses to their various educational, cultural and social circumstances; where a young population is calling and we must listen

We want to see a UNESCO that "speaks our world" and listens to the "voices of the future"

Madam Director General

We have been insisting from GRU II AC on the need to no longer tolerate this illicit

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trafficking of cultural property, and we hope that you will join us with your voice not only as a consequence of the mandate you have already received, but also because you more than anyone else can raise with impetus the banner of protection of the value of different cultures that lies in these goods.

It is vitally important that a call from UNESCO is made to the international community,

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