



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Closing Remarks

By

H. E. Mr Mohamed Amr

**Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO and
Ambassador and Permanent Delegate
of the Arab Republic of Egypt to UNESCO**

on the occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the

World Education Forum 2015

Incheon, Republic of Korea

21 May 2015

Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers

Madam Director General of UNESCO

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO let me congratulate you all for the successful completion of the World Education Forum.

The last few days have been intense. Meetings, side events, panel discussions and plenary sessions, during which governmental and non-governmental representatives from every corner of the globe, have had the opportunity to share their experiences, challenges and successes.

What is most encouraging is the fact that everyone shared their stories to prove that with a determined effort - on the part of national and local governments, in collaboration with NGOs and other implementing partners - Education For All can and is a reality.

Despite these successes, we must all remain attentive. We must ensure that quality, accessible education for all remains a reality for everyone everywhere and always.

Our discussions during the past 3 days have shown us that many of the goals included in the EFA and MDG agendas are successfully achieved. I still believe that as we strive to accomplish the remaining EFA and MDG goals, this will put us on the right path towards the SDGs.

Quality education is a fundamental human right. Policy makers and civil society organizations must ensure that that right flourishes.

As a public good for the benefit of humanity, together we must ensure that education helps to encourage open, friendly and honest dialogue amongst all people everywhere.

We must celebrate the trans-formational power of education and make sure that we offer educational opportunities to every girl and boy, woman and man; and that we provide also equality of opportunity for those who have, and those who are less advantaged.

Finally we must reinforce the fact that without education there can be no peace, no development, nor the fulfillment of human rights. Without innovative and relevant quality education there can be no sustainable development, nor can there be employment opportunities for today's youth in tomorrow's green economy.

Education, Ladies and Gentlemen, is at the heart of sustainable development!

UNESCO's Executive Board, as a governing body of the Organization, has been closely involved, and has provided strong support to all the processes and key international events leading to this World Education Forum.

We have welcomed and encouraged the Secretariat, and in particular the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, for her leadership and determination in securing education's rightful place as the foundation of all sustainable development initiatives. And we will continue to provide our support as we progress towards the final adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda in New York when the United Nations adopts the SDGs and its corresponding financing framework.

Members of the Executive Board – many of whom have participated in the deliberations during this Forum – are strongly committed to continue our support to UNESCO and the Director-General for the overall follow-up of this important gathering, thus making sure that agreed goals and targets will be met, for the benefit of all Member States and peoples.

Lastly, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me say that the Executive Board of UNESCO warmly welcomes the historic significance of this meeting, which has demonstrated that education is at the heart of a better future for all.

Thank you for your attention.