The President:

Thank you Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Luvsanvandan Bold, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Your Excellency, please.

9.1 Mr Bold (Mongolia):

Mr President, Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the delegation of Mongolia and in my own name, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, and the other members of the Bureau on your unanimous election and express my confidence that under your skilful leadership the General Conference will achieve successful outcomes. Allow me to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation in the deliberations and work of the General Conference. We warmly welcome the delegation of Anguilla in joining UNESCO as its ninth Associate Member and wish her fruitful cooperation within the UNESCO family. It gives me great pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, on her nomination for re-election to the post of Director-General for the next term, and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

9.2 Mr President, UNESCO-led global programmes and projects yielded fruitful outcomes for advancing development priorities, such as improving access to universal quality education, combating illiteracy, providing sustainable development with science and evidence-based policies, supporting and strengthening multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue, building knowledge-based societies through the effective use of information and communication technology and promoting global citizenship. However, emerging new trends and challenges force us to unite our voices and make collective and resolute decisions for achieving sustainable development and lasting peace. We need to mobilize all our efforts in order to achieve the internationally-agreed Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the education for all (EFA) goals. In this regard, Mongolia highly appreciates UNESCO’s active involvement in the ongoing post-2015 development agenda debates within its mandate. Taking this opportunity, I would like to emphasize that UNESCO has been substantially contributing to the social and economic development of Mongolia through its multifaceted activities aimed at providing policy and technical advice as well as national capacity building in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information.

9.3 The Government of Mongolia has defined the “green economy” as a main pillar of its sustainable development and is currently developing a national policy framework for a green economy. We believe that our successful cooperation with UNESCO in the field of sustainable development education will bring closer our objective to develop the green economy and instil a policymaking approach based on the nature-man relationship at each and every level of administration.

9.4 Mongolia is a nation with rich natural and cultural heritage. I am pleased to note that in recent years, several examples of national heritage have been inscribed on UNESCO’s lists of the tangible and intangible heritage. We are committed to continuing our cooperation with UNESCO in preserving, restoring, advertising and conducting research into our internationally recognized and registered heritage. The Government of Mongolia is looking forward to expanding further its cooperation with UNESCO for building national capacity to fight against the trafficking of cultural objects.

9.5 Mr President, as the Director-General rightly stated at the recent UNESCO World Innovation Summit for Education panel, organized in Doha, and I quote, “we need to rethink the fundamentals of education for new times – to strengthen human rights, to deepen respect and mutual understanding, to respond to a world of change”. Mongolia is determined to contribute to UNESCO’s agenda of learning to live together through its global initiatives on literacy and education for democracy. On this occasion, I would like to thank the United Nations family for its continuous support of Mongolia’s initiatives in recent years. In this respect, I am pleased to note that a week ago, at Mongolia’s initiative, the resolution entitled “Literacy for Life: Shaping Future Agendas” was unanimously approved by the Third Committee at the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

9.6 As you are all aware, Mongolia has successfully held the Presidency of the Community of Democracies for the past two years. During this term, Mongolia initiated a resolution on education for democracy, which was approved by the United Nations General Assembly last year. Moreover, together with our Canadian partners, we have developed “Education for Democracy: A Curriculum Framework”. The framework focuses on encouraging active democratic citizenship and provides guidance on how to educate for democracy, and not just what to teach. Mongolia is willing to cooperate with UNESCO and other fellow Member States in promoting education for democracy.

9.7 Mr President, in conclusion, I would like to reiterate my delegation’s strong commitment to working together with other Member States towards strengthening UNESCO so that it remains a centre of excellence for advancing education, culture, sciences, and communication and information worldwide. Thank you for your attention.