

Closing remarks by

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Chairperson of the Executive Board

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Dear colleagues,

Tomorrow I will send the letter inviting UNESCO Member States to submit candidatures for the post of Director-General of UNESCO. The letters should be accompanied by full biographical information in accordance with Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure. The vision statements can follow later, but within the deadline of 15 March 2025. I will fulfil my role and make sure these elections are transparent, fair and equitable. I repeat that these elections are the business of Member States only, and I will be very vigilant and will react to any interference in this process.

Dear colleagues, I would also like to inform you that the Bureau for Digital Business Solutions, in consultation with GBS, is working on the establishment of a new digital platform which will offer multilingual transcription, access to relevant documents, and a centralized portal for live and Video on Demand retransmissions.

The solution is expected to be implemented during the first quarter of 2025.

I know that many of you have been constantly requesting videos and access to video proceedings of the Executive Board and I think for the case of transparency we should finally make these available and to also protect our archives and institutional memory, following the great initiative of the President of the General Conference.

I would like to also inform you that I am starting a Manual, a Guide for the Executive Board and its Chairpersons. My aim is that the Board takes ownership of its own institutional memory, its institutional knowledge about its proceedings, prerogatives, rules and practices.

This manual will be participative, and you are all invited to participate by including information or flagging issues that you consider important to include and explain in this manual. The contribution of the Secretariat and the Governing Bodies Secretariat with institutional memory will also be welcome.

This was a long and heavy session – we had prolonged sessions every night. I would like to congratulate all of you for very rich debates. The level of preparation was very visible. It is obvious that all the informal consultations and the preparations of decisions and amendments that took place before the start of the session of the Executive Board had a great impact, not only on the efficiency of decision-making but also on the quality of the decision-making. So, I would like to congratulate you all. Please continue these informal consultations in future sessions.

We now expect all these decisions to be fully implemented in a timely manner.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Chairs of the Committees and Commissions for their leadership, their dedication and their patience. I would also like to thank the GBS team that is simply extraordinary. I will not forget our valuable trainees and congratulate the Director of GBS a.i. for surviving her first Board.

Thank you to all the technical staff, affiliated staff and the interpreters. I would like to end by thanking the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and their teams and hope you will all take some time off to rest after these very intensive weeks.

I declare this session closed.