

## UNESCO

Statement by UNESCO ( Speaker: Axel Plathe)

Thank you, Ms Chairperson

UNESCO would like to briefly refer to three paragraphs in the present version of the Draft and suggest retaining the spirit of one paragraph from the earlier version.

In **paragraph 46** (former paragraph 50), UNESCO suggests rephrasing the last sentence as follows:” *The information society should harness and preserve cultural heritage, including digital contents for the future by appropriate methods ~~such as digitisation~~*”.

With reference to **paragraph 47** (former paragraph 51) UNESCO strongly supports retaining the language in the first bracket referring to “*independent, pluralistic and free*” media, in accordance with the principles recognized during several regional conferences that UNESCO organized in the past years, notably those of Windhoek, Almaty, Santiago de Chile, Sana’a and Sofia.

We also recommend avoiding the sentence in the second bracket: “*in accordance with the legal system of each country*” as this formulation might be interpreted as an invitation to breach the principle of universality of recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

With reference to **paragraph 48, Option 3** (former paragraph 52), UNESCO suggests using the words “*promote responsible uses of ICTs*“ and, consequently, replacing the words “*such as*” by “*in order to prevent acts of racial discrimination, xenophobia, and paedophilia*” in the bracket.

Finally, UNESCO recommends retaining the spirit of **paragraph 20 b** of the earlier version of the Declaration referring to specific needs groups, in particularly people with disabilities and including a reference to these groups in Chapter B where appropriate.

Thank you