

I must also express our surprise at the fact that since taking office, and **despite our many requests**, the Director-General had not yet held a general meeting, as is customary in this wonderful house of ours. A general meeting brings together colleagues serving at Headquarters and in the field. It is a solemn occasion but it revitalizes all staff working at UNESCO. It is an opportunity for the Director-General to introduce her high-level team, which has finally been formed, and the members of her cabinet. It also reminds us that we all are, whatever our grades and functions, in the service of an ambitious and universal mandate. We are the United Nations!

The request of ISAU is neither ill-founded nor excessive. The perception that a gap is being created between the Cabinet and the rest of UNESCO is real. In addition, visits to the sectors were swiftly ended, leaving a sense of frustration and nurtures a sense of lack of interest in staff.

As I announced at the arrival of the Director-General, ISAU wishes her every success and will assist her as well as it can in fulfilling her mandate. That is always our intention.

In conclusion, we **implore Member States to accept their responsibilities and provide the Organization with the necessary financial means** in order to support it in "*the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth and the free exchange of ideas and knowledge*" as enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution.

Thank you for your attention.