

**The address by His Highness the Patron of Hamdan Award**  
**On the occasion of opening Room-1 at UNESCO HQ, Paris**  
**30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is our pleasure to be with you here today picking one of the many fruits of our partnership and collaboration. The opening of this majestic room prompts the memories of the elite decision-makers and prominent representatives of many states, who used to convene here in friendly spirits and good intentions. The echoes of their discussions and numerous constructive and accountable reviews, that contributed to spreading the enlightenment of education, knowledge and the ethos of the grand human values, still resonate through the walls and corners of this magnificent hall. These values helped us strongly fight back the challenges of natural disasters, the human venality and repressive thoughts in a bid to sustain the welfare and coexistence of humanity in one world where the values of peace, stability, and mutual respect do prevail.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

We are very proud of the firm relations between UNESCO and the United Arab Emirates, which is continually improving due to the close patronage by the political leadership and the President of the United Arab Emirates His Highness Sheikh **Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, may God save him, and His Highness Sheikh **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum** Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, may God bless him. Our UNESCO/ United Arab Emirates relations revolves around multi-faceted and profound partnership based on well orchestrated objectives that seek global peace and welfare of humanity as well as augmenting the modern configuration of the knowledge societies on the solid footings of best international practices and standards. Since the foundation of the United Arab Emirates, under the governance of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God repose his soul in serenity, and the country's membership in your esteemed Organization advocate the above-mentioned joint values and goals that have had precedence in our sustainable development plans. Investment in science and education, in capacity-building, and cognitive and cultural evolution became our principal concerns. The United Arab Emirates is now an archetypal state for the knowledge society, sustainable development, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, smart solutions, and human inventiveness and initiatives.

This empowerment availed us the opportunity to achieve our responsibilities successfully vis-à-vis the cultural, human, and environmental issues, and positively contribute to the international efforts of diversified programs and projects, such as; combatting poverty and desertification, providing education and the necessities of life in some regions in Asia and Africa, launching education and learning initiatives like teachers-training, proper learning environs, cognitive brilliance, language learning, and encouraging the notable educational practices, besides fostering joint dialogues of civilizations and cultures, and combating fanaticism, intolerance and intellectual intimidation.

Such positive practices have nurtured our partnership, endowed us with countless opportunities to express our confidence, which stems from our firm belief in the worth of education and knowledge and their significant contribution to the prosperity and sustainability of the human civilization. As we have mutually agreed upon the procedures of establishing the educational support Fund, that partnership has also triggered the kickoff of a new project, which we are really proud to tell you about today. It is the “World Giftedness Center”, which introductory works are ongoing. Its vision is to establish a worldwide talent support network that will foster the gifts and talents of young individuals from around the world—independent of their socio-economic status or the amount of educational infrastructure to which they have access. We ensure that the existence of such smart International center will help debase the obstacles that used to eclipse the rights of the gifted and talent in acquiring decent chances for self-progress and development.

We look forward to the close caring and support of UNESCO to the sector of the gifted and talented. We hope that all of us shall exert our best to backup the initiatives and efforts in this respect.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the opportunity you availed me to join your ranks en route for supporting the mission of education. Your caring and close attention to our educational initiatives have enhanced the steady progress of our partnership and the accomplishment of our common goals.

We are confident that the inauguration of this room shall revitalize our readiness to continue our efforts towards achieving our mutual goals under the leadership of Her Excellency Ms. Audrey Azoulay, the Director-General of the UNESCO, to whom we extend our congratulations and heartily wishes for success.

As we invite everybody to support this great organization to play its role and carry out its mission effectively and efficiently. We renew our commitment to provide the UNESCO with everything that may augment its efforts and help achieve its model goals.

Before concluding, we would like to express our sincere respect and appreciation for the outgoing Director-General on the UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova, who professionally steered the organization through many difficulties and challenges, and we wish her Godspeed and success.

Thank you very much. May God bless you all.