

**China**

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## **Learning to Live Together**

Learning to live together, the theme of the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of International Conference on Education of UNESCO, is of tremendous significance for today's world. We are ready to take advantage of this forum to share our ideas and experiences with friends and colleagues from around the globe.

The new millennium offers abundant opportunities as well as challenges, information and network technologies are advancing at a dazzling pace. Children of today will live in an era where distance is to be shortened and international exchanges increased. It is, thus, essential for them to learn to live together. In 1985, the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, Mr. Deng Xiaopin said, "education should be oriented towards modernization, the world and the future". In other words, education in China shall increase the students' understanding of the rest of the world, develop in them respect for the cultures, values, customs and religions of other nationalities so that they are able to adapt to and live together in the future modern society.

China, home to 56 ethnic nationalities and a civilization of 5000 years, witnesses huge differences in terms of language, culture and customs. The Chinese government has consistently promoted the policy of "mutual respect and joint development". And respect for cultures and values of other nationalities have always been a part of China's education agenda.

Friendship makes us so close, although we are a world away". The words represent the ultimate state of "harmony of humanity" in Chinese philosophy. The five principles of co-existence have served as our long-standing guidance in handling international relations. The Chinese government highly values the key role played by education in carrying forward such excellent cultural traditions.

To increase the awareness of cooperation and respect of differences and to learn to live together have been and will continue to be essential for quality education for all. The Chinese government, the schools and communities are making tremendous efforts in this regard to contribute to international solidarity and cooperation. Looking ahead, we are keenly aware that we have a long way to go. We are ready to join in our common efforts to learn to live together 