

ANNEX XIV

**Closing speech by Mr A. B. Borishade, Minister of Education of Nigeria
and President of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education**

Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura,
Assistant Director-General for Education, Sir John Daniel,
Director of the International Bureau of Education, Mrs Cecilia Braslavsky,
Honourable Ministers and other Heads of Delegations,
Delegates,
Members of Intergovernmental Organization, Foundations and Non-Governmental Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

When this conference opened four days ago we were faced with a historic assignment that is to identify problems and proffer solutions to the challenge of living together in a globalizing world.

Today we have listened to the outcome of this Conference, we need to congratulate ourselves for a very fruitful Conference. I feel confident to state that the Conference has fulfilled its essence, which is to examine, more precisely, how to promote the mastery of the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the intellectual and moral development of individuals and our societies so that we can live together in peace and harmony.

The outcome of this conference will surely form a major addition to the body of knowledge on human diversity and will become an integral part of strategic prescriptions for the promotion of quality education for all across all activities in which humans are involved, but more importantly on learning to live together.

Distinguished delegates, we should depart from this Conference not only feeling satisfied for being part of a landmark event but also with the full realization that within the assignment of global peace and harmony we are faced with the challenges of human diversity and that global peace is bound intricately with the clear understanding and respect for the mutuality of the diversities of human heritage and identity. The ultimate survival of humanity may, in fact, be determined by our individual and collective sensitivity to these challenges.

We should all be grateful to the International Bureau of Education for the choice of the theme of this Conference and for creating this credible platform for us to peer into the future of humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to state that this Conference has also brought to the fore the challenges before UNESCO and its operational units, the need to promote dialogue and to pioneer action towards the building of bridges of understanding based on equity and justice among nations. This is a prerequisite for the surrender of old fears and the promotion of a conducive environment for learning to live together. It is an assignment we must all face by cooperating with UNESCO in our respective dispositions and capacities.

Mr Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO, the Director of the International Bureau of Education and fellow delegates, it has been a wonderful experience for me to guide the 46th session of the ICE. I thank you all for giving me this rare honour and for your cooperation.

I wish to state my profound appreciation of the efficiency, organization and rigorous planning of the conference officials and secretariat staff.

The dedication of the resource persons and conference officials as well as the warmness and cordiality of the secretariat staff remain commendable. I have not been surprised but still I am immensely grateful.

Finally, I want to thank the Swiss Government for the hospitality accorded us in this beautiful city of Geneva even the gods of the city brought us sunshine. This has been wonderful.

Distinguished delegates please bear my love to the members of your family and your loved ones and say that we have had a good conference.

Once more, I congratulate all of you for a wonderful conference and I congratulate myself for being part of it all.

Bon voyage.

Thank you.