

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**COUNTRY HEAD OF DELEGATION STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
DR. BELIO KIPSANG, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DURING
THE 38TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE ON
5TH NOVEMBER 2015 IN PARIS, FRANCE**

President of the General Conference

President of the Executive Board

UNESCO Director General

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

I join my colleagues in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 38th General Conference of UNESCO which also marks the 70th Anniversary of the Organization. On behalf of my delegation please accept our best wishes for a successful General Conference. We are confident that you will effectively discharge the business of the 38th General Conference.

I now wish to congratulate Ms. Irina Bokova, the Director- General for having steered successful reforms in UNESCO and assure her of Kenya's commitment to UNESCO's ideals.

My delegation supports the proposed budget as outlined in the Draft 38 C/5 document. We appreciate the current budgetary constraints and hope that more support will be provided through extra budgetary support.

The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development provides us with a framework for global action to build the future we want for all. UNESCO has an important role to play in supporting Member States translate the goals into concrete action through its multi-sectoral and trans-disciplinary approach to programme delivery.

Mr. President

Kenya attaches great importance to education as a means to national development. Towards this end, the Government has integrated early childhood education into primary education; is currently reforming curricula, modernizing teacher training and strengthening education partnerships. A policy framework for education and training to meet the challenges of education, training and research in the 21st Century has been developed.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Quality of education depends on the quality of teachers. Teacher management has been reformed and improved to ensure optimal delivery of the curriculum. In addition, ICT Integration and continuous professional development is institutionalized.

Mr. President

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is the foundation for socio-economic development. We have reviewed our STI policy to address the sub-sector's challenges. As a policy the government provides at least 2% of her GDP to STI up from 0.5%. Further, we have established a Research Endowment Fund which annually provides USD 4 million for research; prepared policies for the establishment of a National Physical Science Research Laboratory, establishment of the Kenya Institute of Nanotechnology, a University Research Chairs Programme; and established an STI Mentorship Programme to enhance the participation of girls in science and technology subjects at secondary school level.

We appreciate UNESCO's work on biodiversity. However, illegal wildlife trade is one of the critical global issues that deserve special attention to address the challenges of illegal trade of wildlife in the post 2015 development agenda.

Kenya shares about 54% of her water resources with other countries and is putting measures in place to mitigate challenges of water scarcity. We thank UNESCO for partnering with the Government in carrying out Groundwater Mapping to establish actual potential.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya remains committed to the promotion of social cohesion and reduction of inequalities. Towards this end, Kenya has instituted youth empowerment programmes within the framework of the rebranded National Youth Service, affordable credit programmes for youth and a preference procurement policy.

Further, in sports, Kenya is committed to clean sport. Subsequently, the Government has established a National Anti-Doping Organization with a mandate to prioritize education, training, testing and investigations in this field.

Mr. President,

Kenya has rich and varied cultures which constitute the foundation of our nation and is the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people. To date, Kenya has six heritage sites in the World Heritage list and two elements in the Urgent Safeguarding List. Legislative measures have been put in place to preserve and manage the concerned heritage for posterity. The Government is in the process of ratifying the 2001 Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Mr. President,

Kenya places Information Communication and Technology at the heart of its national development. Kenya has a mobile subscriber penetration rate of 85.5% and Internet penetration rate of 70%. By next year, all corners of our country will be connected to Fiber Optic technology. This will promote Digital Literacy for Schools, with special emphasis with people with living with disability.

The Government promotes freedom of expression and free media and will continue to create enabling environment for growth of broadcasting and media freedom.

In conclusion Mr President I would like to assure you that Kenya remains committed to UNESCO ideals through her specialized programme areas in order to promote global peace and sustainable development.

Thank you.