



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

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**Statement by**

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Minister of Education and Human Development of the  
Republic of Mozambique**

**on the occasion of the  
38th Session UNESCO General Conference**

**Paris, 05 November 2015**

**Hon. Stanley Simataa, President of the General Conference**

**Mr. President of the Executive Board,**

**Madame Director General,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour and privilege for me to address this assembly on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique.

Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you upon your unanimous election to preside over the General Conference of UNESCO.

We commend the excellent work done by the President of the Executive Board during his tenure of office in the preparation of this Conference. Likewise, we highly commend our Director General, Madam Bokova, for the brilliant work she has been tenure of office in particular the preparation of this conference doing at the helm of this Organization.

## **Sustainable Development Goals - SDG**

As we celebrate 70 years of UNESCO, we are encouraged by the amount of achievements that this Organization has managed to accomplish in its core mission, and we are therefore confident that together we will prevail in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets related to UNESCO's priorities in education, culture, sciences, communication and information, that our leaders have just launched in New York this year during the UN General Assembly.

### **Education for All**

With regard to Education for All Initiative, our commitment in Mozambique places this endeavour at its highest degree in the agenda of our System of Education.

It is a work on progress, but we are happy to report that Mozambique has made a remarkable progress on this area, though the task ahead remains a serious challenge.

On the other hand, the Government of Mozambique is placing more focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a strategy to train adequate skilled professionals, particularly young people, to allow them to easily get into the employment market or to develop creative initiatives for their self-employment.

To those efforts it is worth noting that the Government of Mozambique is due to introduce a New System of Education, embracing steady new parameters with regard to the number of years of free education that will be extended from 6 to 9 years.

The new system pay a special attention to the improvement of methods and strategies with respect to education for girls. We have to deploy every possible mean at our reach for the retention of girls at school so to allow them to enjoy equal benefits with their peers the boys as part and parcel of the Human Rights embodied in our Constitution.

Likewise, equally important is the Teacher's Training Program which stands of a vital importance for the successful implementation of the New Education System we are Introducing (or will be introducing shortly)

### **Culture**

Together with the introduction of the New System of Education the Government is investing heavily on the culture sector as a source for knowledge a mechanism to promote social inclusion throughout the country. As a result, culture's relationships with development programs has become a determinant of our sustainable growth, taking into account the various materials, values and the richness it has a

potential to produce within the society.

We have by the way a number of projects underway in Mozambique aimed at the protection and promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Intangible Cultural Heritage, Cultural Industries, etc.

More support is needed from UNESCO and from all our partners to this end.

### **Science for Sustainable Development**

Mr President,

The Government of Mozambique is placing its priorities in areas like Man and Biosphere, Water and Oceans - Mozambique is well advanced in preparing for the establishment of biosphere reserves. Under UNESCO-IHP's Programme Mozambique together with other African Portuguese Speaking Countries have established a Technical Committee for strengthening water education for sustainable development. In the area of Oceans, Mozambique recently hosted a Western Indian Ocean Planning Meeting for the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition. It is our hope, to see more resources being deployed to IOC, MAB and IHP Programs.

### **Information and Communication Technologies**

One of the goals of the government in this area is the reduction of the digital divide between different regions, genders and ages. To meet these objectives there are programs to disseminate the reduction of computer literacy, extend the infrastructure and services to more community and create regulations to facilitate this process. Examples of these efforts are the implementation of Multimedia Community Centres (CMC) in rural areas, the implementation of computer program in schools, the liberalization of telecommunication market which resulted in the rapid increase of the mobile network and services across the country.

The government is also engaged in the implementation of the e-government strategy which aims to improve the efficiency of the government and the better delivery of the services to the community.

**Thank you for your kind attention!**