



**NAMIBIA STATEMENT**

**38<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**GENERAL POLICY DEBATE**

**DELIVERED BY HON.DR. ITAH KANDJI-MURANGI**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

President of the General Conference,

Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Honourable Ministers,

Heads of delegations,

Excellencies,

Madam Director General,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I congratulate the President of the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference on his election to preside over this session. It is an honor for me personally, to address the plenary under your Presidency.
2. As a country, we are humbled to be accorded the opportunity to preside over the supreme governing body of UNESCO.
3. This Session is taking place after the adoption of the Agenda 2030, which amongst others, recognizes sustainable human development and poverty eradication, as critical. Namibia is committed to eliminating poverty and to promoting peace, tolerance and harmonious co-existence.
4. The 38<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference is also taking place against the backdrop of the World Education Forum, which agreed on a Common Global Education Agenda. Namibia embraces the Education Agenda 2030, aimed at empowering the youth with skills, and promoting equity, access and inclusivity.
5. Namibia acknowledges the importance of strategic university collaboration networks that facilitates expertise, knowledge and research sharing. Hence, our desire to see the replication of the “Connect Asia” project in Africa. It is platforms such as these that facilitate internationalization of higher education.
6. Now is the opportune time for UNESCO to re-align its efforts to contribute strategically to the attainment of the SDGs. Namibia supports a coordinated approach to the ongoing reforms, and is convinced that this will yield positive results for both UNESCO and Member States.
7. My delegation is, however, concern with the results of the outcome of the IOS evaluation of the Field Network Reform in Africa. We therefore, urge the Director-General to take all the necessary steps to ensure the successful completion of the Field Network Reform.

8. Culture plays a pivotal role in promoting diversity and social cohesion. Within the Culture Sector, Namibia supports the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It is in this context that Namibia will host the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
9. Namibia would like to express gratitude to UNESCO for accepting our offer to host this session. On behalf of our government and the people of Namibia, I warmly welcome you all to the tenth session to be held in our country.
10. We value the Natural Science programmes as the key enablers of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Namibia support programmes aimed at improving the interactions and relationships between people and their environment.
11. In the same vain, we also acknowledge the need to safeguard our diversity and environmental sustainability, and look forward to the outcomes of COP 21.
12. We value the work of UNESCO's Expert Bodies, such as the International Bioethics Committee, which is vital in informing the interface issues between science and society.
13. Namibia promotes freedom of expression as a fundamental human right as commissioned by the Windhoek Declaration. We therefore, appreciates the continued focus of UNESCO on the training of media practitioners, and the support to community media including radios, to facilitate and accelerate knowledge and information sharing.
14. Finally, Namibia is fully committed to the ideals of UNESCO and we look forward to our concerted efforts as Member States, to deliver on the UNESCO's strategic goals.
15. I thank you.