

# Kenya and UNESCO at 50 Years Celebration

## Event Programme

### UNESCO Open Lecture Series vol.2

### Roundtable: Perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Date: **Tuesday, 21 October, 2014**

Time: **8:00 - 11:30**

Location: **University of Nairobi, Taifa Hall**

8:00 - 9:00

**Registration**

9:00 - 9:30

**Welcoming Remarks**

*Prof. George A.O. Magoha Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi  
Mr. Mohamed Djelid Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa  
Dr. Evangeline Njoka Secretary General, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO*

**Guest of Honour**

*Hon. Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology*

9:30 - 09:50

**Keynote Speech by Prof. Bethwell Allan Ogot**

*Professor of History and former President of the International Scientific Committee for the preparation of UNESCO's General History of Africa. Also recipient of the International Socrates Award for personal contribution to the Intellectual development of the modern society and Included in the International Register as an Outstanding Personality of the Modern World. Former Chancellor of Moi University.*

09:50 – 11:10

**Interactive Panel Discussions**

Panellists representing UNESCO's fields of competence, namely: Education, Natural and Social and Human Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information will share knowledge and their perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

Education

*Dr. Kilemi Mwiria Education Advisor to the Presidency, Government of Kenya*

Social & Human Sciences

*Prof. Winnie Mitullah Director of IDS, University of Nairobi*

Natural Sciences

*Prof. Shem Wandiga, Managing Trustee, Centre for Science and Technology Innovation*

Culture

*Dr. Joyce Nyairo, Managing Director, Santuri Media Limited (Africa Stories)*

Communication and Information

*Mr. Alex Gakuru, Regional Coordinator for Africa, Creative Commons*

11:10 – 11:20

**Q&A**

11:20 – 11:30

**Closing Remarks**

*Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi*

## Concept Note

### UNESCO Open Lecture Series vol.2

## Roundtable: Perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

### Introduction

1.1 World population is currently at 7.2 billion, and every inhabitant on this planet deserves a share in the economy for a better quality of life. The aspirations are diverse: while the poor strive for food, safe water, health care and shelter for mere survival, those above the poverty line seek a better standard of living through quality education; and those in a higher income bracket are looking for improved technologies to sustain their higher standard of living and well-being. While the world economy may be vast and advancing at an intentionally accelerated pace each year, it is paradoxically also unequal, and has proven to be a threat to the planet. Today, humanity is putting an unprecedented pressure on natural resources, which generates environmental threats on numerous fronts (availability of fresh water, disturbance of ecosystems and destruction of habitats, imbalance in the ocean chemistry...), in such a way that life, water, nitrogen and carbon cycles may be irremediably altered.



1.2 Kenyan youth under 30 account for over 40 percent of the total population. The Global Monitoring Report, 2012 and the Kenyan Education for All (EFA)<sup>1</sup> National Review for example, both call for greater emphasis on the acquisition of skills and competences for its youth, be it basic skills, life-skills or specialized skills through Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET)<sup>2</sup>, which would contribute to societal well-being, with the opportunity for all to benefit from the investment.

1.3 On September 10, 2014, 117 countries gathered at the United Nations along with over 2,000 people from 902 organizations to witness the adoption of a Resolution to pave the way for the incorporation of Sustainable Development goals for an action agenda in the next set of UN development goals post-2015, to be known as *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* or *the Future We Want*.

1.4 Kenya Ambassador Macharia Kamau to the UN is among the 3 ambassador's appointed on the Open Working Group (OWG) on the SDGs, and Kenya has committed to a leadership role in Sustainable Development.

### Purpose

2.1 A half-day Roundtable event is being organized by UNESCO and co-hosted by the University of Nairobi (UoN), to commemorate 50 years of UNESCO in Kenya, and to encourage critical thinking about "sustainable development in the 21st Century" as it pertains to Kenya.

2.2 The purpose of this debate is to understand how informed and participatory the Kenyan approach is for sustainable development as it promotes Vision 2030, the blue-print for the country to become a middle-income nation, which is not only defined by economic well-being, but also through an integrated and peaceful society where each and every Kenyan has equal rights and opportunity for success.

Is this happening? If so, *where* and *what* is the focus?

### Objectives

3.1 **The objectives of the Roundtable are to:** Provide an interactive forum to share lessons learnt, and provide the opportunity to exchange views and stimulate debate about the compelling issues of our time and about best practice through sustainable development thinking from both within and outside Kenya, which may enhance potential support and recognition for positive experiences; and which include the need for 21st century skills for sustainable development in all 5 sectors of UNESCO through a holistic approach for policy and practice.

<sup>1</sup> Education for All is a global commitment to provide quality basic education for all children, youth and adults.

<sup>2</sup> TVET particularly contributes to EFA goals 3 and 6 as they relate to life skills: ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through **equitable access** to appropriate learning and life skills programs (goal 3) and Improving all aspects of **quality of education**, and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in **literacy, numeracy, and essential life skills** (goal 6).

3.2 The following experts have been invited to serve as panelists for this forum, and they would have 10-15 minutes to present their position on the following topics:

PANELISTS	TOPIC
Dr Kilemi Mwiria Senior Advisor (Education), The Presidency, Government of Kenya	Enhancing work skills and youth employability for Vision 2030: A National Agenda for Education
Professor Shem Wandiga <i>University of Nairobi</i>	Harnessing Science for the Benefit of Society
Mr Alex Gakuru <i>Africa Creative Commons</i>	Open Solutions for Knowledge Societies in Building Sustainable Development.
Dr Joyce Nyairo <i>Sanuri Media Limited</i>	Culture as a Vector for Economic & Sustainable Development and Human Well-Being
SHS	Managing Demographic Transformations for Sustainable Development and Social Cohesion

3.3. **The Moderator** will encourage panelists to link their expertise to any of the 17 SDGs listed below, be it by way of quality education, ICTs, social transformations, water, or culture.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS Proposed for Post-2015			
<b>Goal 1</b>	End poverty in all its forms	<b>Goal 9</b>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
<b>Goal 2</b>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<b>Goal 10</b>	Reduce inequality within and among countries
<b>Goal 3</b>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<b>Goal 11</b>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
<b>Goal 4</b>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	<b>Goal 12</b>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
<b>Goal 5</b>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<b>Goal 13</b>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
<b>Goal 6</b>	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<b>Goal 14</b>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
<b>Goal 7</b>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	<b>Goal 15</b>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forest, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
<b>Goal 8</b>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<b>Goal 16</b>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<b>Goal 17</b>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development		

## Contact

### Coordination:

Alice Ochanda, Programme Officer, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi  
[a.ochanda@unesco.org](mailto:a.ochanda@unesco.org) | +254 (0)20-7622086

### Media:

Masakazu Shibata, Public Information, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi  
[m.shibata@unesco.org](mailto:m.shibata@unesco.org) | +254 (0)20 762 2347