



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

AND

**THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)**

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALAWI

OF

**MRS IRINA BOKOVA
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO**

10 -12 JULY, 2013

1. The Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova, paid an official visit to Malawi from 10 – 12 July, 2013.
2. During her visit, she held private discussions with Her Excellency the President Dr. Joyce Banda, on matters of mutual interest. They expressed their high appreciation of the cooperation between Malawi and UNESCO, covering the full range of UNESCO's areas of competences, including the joint activities carried out within the context of the programme approved by UNESCO's General Conference, to strengthen the foundations of sustainable development, poverty eradication and lasting peace. On this basis, they agreed to deepen the state of cooperation in response to needs as defined by the Government of Malawi to further inclusive development.
3. During the visit the Director General had the opportunity to meet with government Ministers of Education, Science and Technology; Information, Labour; Tourism and Culture; Energy; Vice Chancellors of the University of Malawi, Mzuzu University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Chairman of the Malawi University of Science and Technology.
4. Both parties expressed their satisfaction regarding the ongoing cooperation and their wish to further expand and enhance the existing partnership between Malawi and UNESCO across the fields of competence of the organisation.
5. To this end, and with the guidance, advice and cooperation of UNESCO, the Malawian authorities may wish to implement a number of activities such as:

IN EDUCATION

6. The implementation of the National Education Sector Plan (NESP) and the achievement of the goals of the Dakar Framework for Action by 2015 with the primary aim of providing a basic education of good quality to the entire population through the:
 - Promotion and development of early childhood care and education;
 - Development of indicators for the monitoring and assessment of literacy achievement, identification of the level of literacy skills of the population and the development of appropriate strategies for action, including training programmes providing capacity building for policy-makers and practitioners;
 - Promotion of literacy and life-long learning for poverty eradication and sustainable development, in keeping with the aims of the United Nations Decade for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014);

- Analytical case study on gender disparities in education, especially at the secondary level, to identify issues and challenges, and formulate recommendations for concrete action;
 - Development, implementation and review of strategies to meet educational and training needs, particularly those of the marginalised and excluded. Outreach to rural populations through mobile educational and cultural services is needed;
 - Reform of the secondary education curricula, including textbook review and development as well as the strengthening of science and technology education and education for sustainable development;
 - Address issues of quality, relevance and efficiency of education and of the learning environment in rural areas and the building-up of the capacity of teachers in learner-centred teaching methodology; and
 - Assistance to the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa to identify partnerships and mobilise resources to improve its effectiveness as a regional resource for capacity building to address social issues, mainly in respect of HIV/AIDS and Girls' Education and Youth Development.
7. Continuation with efforts to reform the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector and scaling up the Organisation's efforts relating to entrepreneurship courses in TVET institutions as well as in other tertiary institutions.
 8. Establishing strong ties between specialized institutions such as Southern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality (SACMEQ), International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP), International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa(IICBA), UNESCO Institute of Statistics(UIS), International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) and UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) to enhance their role as reform agents in the development of the education system in the country in the area of education policy leadership, planning, research, education quality monitoring and management.
 9. The promotion of education for international understanding and global citizenship and environmental protection among the youth, within the framework of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and the activities of the UNESCO Clubs and Associations.
 10. The improvement of national educational assessment techniques to measure educational achievements, in association with UIS
 11. The introduction and application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's) into teaching/learning process and teacher training.

IN SCIENCE

12. As a follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the World Conference on Science (Budapest, 1999), the strengthening of the science and technology sector through activities relating to science and technology policy in general.
13. Technical assistance towards the establishment of the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST).
14. Greater participation in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), with particular emphasis on capacity-building, ecotourism, development and regional cooperation.
15. Support towards strengthening capacities for exploiting renewable energy resources.
16. Scaling up the promotion of girls participation in science and mathematics subjects and the use of micro-science kits in Community Day Secondary Schools (including the training of teachers in the use of the kits).

IN SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

17. Continued support towards capacity building of the National Bioethics Committee.
18. Popularization of the Convention Against Doping in Sports.

IN CULTURE

19. Within the context of the implementation of the 1972 Convention for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, Malawi will nominate Nyika National Park and Mbona/Khulubvi Sacred sites in order to raise the number of sites on the World Heritage List for Malawi.
20. Malawi would be interested in the installation of solar energy at the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Site, Chongoni Rock Art Site and the Lake Chilwa Man and the Biosphere (MAB) reserve to mitigate the effects of climate change on these sites.

21. Capacity building for heritage managers in order to improve the management of our world as well as national heritage sites.
22. Capacity building in enforcement of the copyright law which is still critical for the various law enforcement agencies such as the police, customs, immigration, magistrates and lawyers in order to win the fight against piracy.
23. Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage particularly the strengthening of national capacities so that Malawi's intangible cultural heritage is appropriately safeguarded.
24. Support towards raising awareness on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in order to strengthen our cultural industries.

IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Enhance freedom of expression through:

25. Promotion of gender equality in media operations and content;
26. Establishment of more community radio stations and strengthening of existing ones as instruments for promoting pluralism, transparency and empowerment of citizens;
27. Assistance in safeguarding our documentary heritage for the present and future generations;
28. Promotion of the application of Information and Communication Technologies to enhance the quality of and access to education.

The Director-General took due note of the breadth and scope of the activities outlined by the Government of Malawi and expressed her gratitude for Malawi's keen interest in working with the Organisation. She expressed UNESCO's availability to accompany Malawi's action in these various domains and to mobilise partners and extra-budgetary funds to this end.

Signed on Thursday 11th July, 2013, as follows:

**For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organisation**

**For the Government of the Republic
of MALAWI**

The Director General

**Minister of Education, Science and
Technology**

MRS. IRINA BOKOVA

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