

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Kingdom of Swaziland

P.O. Box 39
Mbabane
Swaziland

Phone 268 2 404 2491/3
Fax 268 2404 3880

STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND - HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, DR. PHINEAS LANGA MAGAGULA AT THE 38TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE

**Madam Director General
President of the General Conference
Madam Chairperson of the Executive Board
Distinguished delegates from Member States
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland would like to pay its tribute and appreciation to UNESCO for the enormous support afforded the country for the past 37 years. The last biennium is no exception and Swaziland received great support from UNESCO, as will be highlighted in this statement.

We pay our tribute to UNESCO for continuing to support the country through the Participation Programme. The support extended through this programme contributes to the development of the country and has assisted in the development of critical national policies. This support has also contributed to the visibility of UNESCO in Swaziland and we advocate that this programme is sustained and strengthened.

Swaziland is elated to be among the countries that have participated and contributed to the 2030 Education Agenda and Framework and pledges to put effort into attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Swaziland ascribes to goal 4 of the SDGs which stresses on inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunity for all.

Indeed Swaziland has placed quality high in its agenda for education. The support of UNESCO through the UNESCO International; Bureau of Education (IBE) to analyze the quality of Education in the country in a bid to improve the quality, is highly valued.

Swaziland has recognized more than ever that there is need to put more effort on proper TVET provision, which has been recognized critical for enhancing the gains of education as a sustainable developmental tool, hence we applauds UNESCO's support to development of National policies to enhance effective TVET provision among our nations and support the inclusion of TVET in the education 2030 agenda.

Swaziland strongly applauds support to the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the promotion of diversity of cultural expressions. Swaziland is a country that is rich in culture and aims to preserve and promote it. UNESCO's support, both technical and financial has contributed enormously to this goal. One has to highlight that with UNESCO's support, for the first time in the National Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Culture related indicators were included. These indicators, show how culture through social participation can contribute to the development of the .

We urge UNESCO to continue with support towards the advancement of science and technology, especially in relation to policy. Swaziland has benefited from UNESCO support towards the development of the National Science Technology and Innovation policy and the Science Mathematics and Technology Education policy. The existence of these policies has paved a way forward for the advancement of Science and Technology in the country.

Lastly, but not least, Swaziland would like to extend its special appreciation to the Director and staff of the Regional Office for Southern Africa for the support extended to the National Commission for UNESCO in Swaziland. With their support and guidance, the National Commission has been able to carry out activities related to the mandate of UNESCO with more focus and direction. This has had a great impact in increasing the visibility of UNESCO in the Kingdom; within government sectors, civil society and even at the grass root level. Above all, this has contributed to the welfare and development of the Swazi people. On behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland, I pledge our continued support and commitment to UNESCO and its mandate.

I thank you all.