



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE
UNESCO

**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MOZAMBIQUE TO UNESCO ON THE OCCASION OF THE 201th
SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Paris, 24th April 2017

Mr. President of the General Conference

Mr. President of the Executive Board

Madame Director General

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. On behalf of the government of the Republic of Mozambique, my delegation has the honour to submit the following statement expressing the views and its contribution to the general debate at this 21st Session of the Executive Board.
2. We look at this session as yet another opportunity for member States to share views on the way forward for UNESCO to proceed in the fulfilment of its noble mission guided by the sense of our common wisdom to work together to achieve a common good for the present and for the future generations.

Recognition to UNESCO's efforts and our encouragement to proceed

3. Amid quite a number of resource constraints in the sea of high demands for the implementation of its programmes, UNESCO has nonetheless been doing its level best to address fairly a myriad of education problems claiming for solutions around the world.
4. Mozambique follows with keen interest the tireless efforts carried out by this Organization to mobilize financial resources and we highly appreciate the way in which UNESCO sets up its priorities in the running up of programmes. We seize this opportunity to commend the Director General, Madame Irina Bokova for her tireless efforts in the search for viable solutions in the avenues of hope towards the attainment of the SDD4 within the framework of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations.

Mozambique efforts within the framework of Agenda 2030

5. With regard to concerted efforts that Mozambique is deploying for implementation of the Agenda 2030, the government has decided to set up a multisectoral Commission Chaired by the Prime Minister tasked with the responsibility of overseeing and harmonizing the core activities vital for the successful attainment of the targets defined in the Agenda.

6. Concerning the Education Sector in particular, a Strategic Plan was thus defined placing as its high priorities the continued expansion of the easy access to education for children, the continued support of the Teachers Training program to ensure quality education throughout the country.

Likewise, high in its agenda, the Education Sector continues also to pay a special attention to issues of gender among our children from the inception in the primary education.

All in all, for the Education Sector to succeed we will continue to pay a deserved attention due to the matters of institutional support.

Mozambique Concerns over Climate Change

7. The holding of international conferences every year on Climate Change continues to raise expectations towards the ultimate solutions to save the World from this looming catastrophe. Mozambique geographical location makes it prone to immediate effects of rising seas, tsunamis and cyclones in a systematic manner. Very recently the country was hit by the Cyclone DINEO with its toll of destruction of our weak and vulnerable infrastructures in particular the classrooms. We commend and encourage UNESCO to continue to play its role in tandem with all parties concerned worldwide because the future of human life lies especially on the way we handle the preservation of this beautiful Planet we live on.
8. On the other hand, Mozambique is also prone to cyclical phenomenon of floods and droughts sometimes in the same year with one following the other again as a result of the climate change. Severe consequences either from drought or floods render our system of education inoperative in the affected areas. Our children can't simply manage to go to school!
9. The recurrent cyclical situations (droughts and floods) prompted the government to draw out safeguarding social and environmental policies coupled with the launching of an outstanding emergency project to support the fragile school infrastructures and render them rather resilient.

Education as key to sustainable development

10. Cognizant of the important role the education plays to eradicate poverty and bring about sustainable development in the country, the government has set up a National Authority for Professional training in order to ensure a better Technical and Scientific training throughout the country. By its virtues, this body will consequently define the right model

of professional training to meet the challenges of the Mozambican economy. An economy that must be driven by smart technologies based on applied scientific knowledge in which the new means of communication and information and the use of modern technologies play a crucial role.

11. Finally, we reiterate our considered hope that the effective implementation of the Operational Strategy for Africa 2014-2021 as well as the implementation of the 39C/5 program will unquestionably contribute a great deal for the sustainable development of our continent. We want therefore to encourage UNESCO to redouble its efforts in the mobilization of both human and financial resources for the accomplishment of this noble goal.

Paris, 24 April 2017