

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE PLENARY DEBATE OF
THE 201ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Chairperson of the Executive Board,
President of the General-Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya welcomes alignment of the draft 39 C/5 to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Africa Union's agenda 2063 as well as the emphasis on gender transformative approach. We also welcome the increased regular programme resources to Priority Gender Equality.

With regard to Priority Africa, we note with concern that in most major programmes the allocation of regular programme resources is reduced as compared to the 38 C/5. We request the Director-General to clarify the rationale for the reduction of regular programme resources to Africa.

We also call on the Director General to pursue the strengthening of the field offices in Africa, ensuring that the offices have adequate and qualified staff to enable them to effectively contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

UNESCO should deepen strategic and innovative partnerships as well as coherence and synergies within the United Nations System. UNESCO should also fully utilize the Structured Financing Dialogue (SFD) for resource mobilization.

Foresight and Enterprise Risk Management should also be reinforced for UNESCO to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya appreciates partnership with UNESCO to host the proposed Pan African Regional Conference on SDG 4, in March 2018 in Kenya, aimed at reviewing Africa's progress in the implementation of Education Agenda 2030.

Kenya further appreciates UNESCO's support in fostering collaboration between policy makers, scientific communities and other stakeholders in building peaceful and inclusive societies. We also welcome the emphasis placed on the sports as well as the ethical principles in relation to climate change.

We also acknowledge UNESCO's actions to partner with youth as well as promote their empowerment and participation as global citizens in the implementation of the SDGs.

Kenya supports UNESCO's efforts to promote a culture of peace and non-violence and stands in solidarity with UNESCO Member States confronting violent extremism.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya appreciates UNESCO's support to Members States to promote the contributions of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development.

Kenya welcomes the introduction of an expected result to support Member States use of Biosphere reserves, Geoparks and World Heritage sites as learning sites for inclusive and comprehensive approaches for sustainable development.

To advance development and management of Biosphere Reserves in Africa, Kenya proposes the setting up of a Trust Fund as a sustainable financing mechanism for the African Biosphere Reserves Network (AfriMAB).

Kenya commends the International Hydrological Programme role in assisting Member States respond to challenges of water security, climate change and drought which often heighten conflicts amongst communities.

We will continue supporting the UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa, H.E. Mwai Kibaki, 3rd President of Kenya, who is currently involved in addressing the challenges of accessing clean water in Africa.

Kenya appreciates the role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and its capacity development function of empowering Member States to sustainably use their coastal and marine resources.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The introduction of a transversal Expected Result on the protection of culture in emergencies as a means of strengthening coordinated action is useful in promoting intersectorial collaboration.

Kenya supports the adoption of the Draft Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the 2005 Convention in the digital environment, as a strategic framework for understanding, interpreting and implementing the Convention. We encourage UNESCO to strengthen capacity building in Africa to support Member States prepare nomination files for natural and cultural heritage.

We welcome the strengthened focus of the draft 39 C/5 on freedom of expression, safety of journalists, media development, documentary heritage, access to information and knowledge including OERs and ICTs as well as enhanced media contribution to diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment.

Finally, we commend UNESCO for enhanced collaboration with Member States on safety of journalists including capacity building programmes for the judiciary.

Thank you

