

International workshop for capacity building of ECOWAS countries on education for  
global citizenship

7 to 9 July 2015, Dakar, Senegal

Closing remarks on behalf of

Mrs. Ann Therese Ndong Representative-Jatta, UNESCO Director Dakar

Akemi Yonemura, Programme Specialist

Distinguished representatives of the ECOWAS Member States,

Development Partners,

Guests,

On behalf of our Director of UNESCO Dakar, Mrs. Ann Therese Ndong-JATTA, who could not come to the closing session due to another commitment, and the entire UNESCO family, including headquarters and Bamako office, whose representative unfortunately had to leave early due to an unexpected family matter, I wish to express my wholehearted appreciation to the representatives of all the 15 ECOWAS Member States who traveled all the way to Dakar and development partners based in Dakar, who gathered here to increase our common understanding of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and to explore implementation options and strategies together. I hope your excitations of the workshop are met.

Let me also express my sincere thanks to Ms. Lydia Ruprecht from UNESCO HQs who stimulated our discussion in a well-structured and organized manner by introducing the

concept of global citizenship education, and sharing UNESCO's approach, tools and resources, as well as the findings of the mapping exercise of peace education and UN recommendations on GCED.

Special thanks to Mr. Pape Guisse, who has been championing peace and human rights education in the ECOWAS region for the past decade, to all the moderators, especially Mr. Gaspard Onokoko, who facilitated and helped the participants in engaging in the discussion, and to rapporteurs who presented comprehensive reporting of the discussion.

UNESCO colleagues, particularly, Mr. Saip Sy was indispensable for the preparation of this workshop, pulling together all the key national authorities and international partners who have been active in GCED, supported by a technical expert, Mr. Amadou Ndoeye, and logistical support by Mrs. Fatou Ndiaye, Mr. Bassirou Niang and Ms. Xinxin Yu and many other colleagues. We also appreciate the interpreters for their excellent interpretation for the past 3 days.

GCED is based on existing work in areas, such as peace and human rights education, including culture of peace, among others, where UNESCO has longstanding experience in both the conceptualization of the ideas and implementation. GCED presents a paradigm shift that recognizes the relevance of education in understanding and resolving global issues in social, political, cultural, economic and environmental areas. Thus, the goal of GCED is to empower learners to engage and assume active roles both locally and globally to face and resolve global challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants for your active participation in the workshop and very hard work to identify regional priorities and discuss effective integration of GCED into education policies and programmes. I hope that all participants acquired both theoretical knowledge and concrete ideas for developing activities and programmes in the coming years.

UNESCO will also make all the materials presented in the workshop available in public on our website<sup>1</sup>, and utilize the outcomes of this workshop to design our next programming cycle, taking into account the regional challenges, issues, needs and gaps to advance the achievement of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNESCO is looking forward to cooperating with the ECOWAS Member States and partners in promoting GCED in West Africa.

I wish all of you a nice journey back home.

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<sup>1</sup> **UNESCO Dakar:** [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/dakar/about-this-office/single-view/news/global\\_citizenship\\_education\\_for\\_west\\_african\\_countries/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/dakar/about-this-office/single-view/news/global_citizenship_education_for_west_african_countries/)

**UNESCO Headquarters:** <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/resources/in-focus-articles/global-citizenship-education/>