



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HER EXCELLENCY
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MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF
MOZAMBIQUE**

AT THE 39TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO

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Mr. President of the General Conference
Mr. Chairman of the Executive Board
Madame Director General of UNESCO
Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Heads of
Delegations
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great honour that I stand before you, to address this audience, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique, under the leadership of His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic.

Mozambique warmly congratulates Madam President of the General Conference, Ms. Zohour Alaoui, Ambassador & Permanente Delegate of Morocco to UNESCO.

I would also like to extend the congratulations of the Mozambican Delegation to Madam Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova for the excellent work carried out during the period in which you were in front of our Organization. These words are expressed in recognition and appreciation for the role of UNESCO in its tireless pursuit for peace and the building of a just society and towards sustainable development.

Excellences,

Mozambique continues its endeavours for the strengthening of peace and building a society free of violence. After a troubled period, our fellow citizens now live in a peaceful environment, in a society free of violence and experiencing an economy with good growth perspectives, despite the crisis affecting the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNESCO has provided a multifaceted assistance to Mozambique based on the following priorities:

- The strengthening of educational systems for sustainable development, in order to improve equity, quality and relevance;
- Capacity building in the fields of Literacy and Adult Education. As an example, the implementation of the Malala, Fund created by the Government of Pakistan and supported by UNESCO, aiming at empowering women and girls through a programme called “Family Learning”;
- Drafting of Policies and strengthening of ICTs as key tools for the achievement of quality education, with emphasis on young women and girls. We would like to highlight that the country is benefitting from the Korean-Funds-In-Trust, an initiative that aims at creating competencies for teachers and students, through the use of innovative approaches.
- Establishment a platform for communication and for the

improvement of statistical data collection in the field of education, culture and higher education. In this context, we would like to congratulate the work of the UNESCO's Institute for Statistics.

- Concerning the resilience to climate changes, Mozambique is benefiting from UNESCO's support to provide capacity-building of technicians in building school infrastructures through the VISUS methodology.

Preserving the nature is a major concern for the country. Recently, we have submitted a candidature of the Quirimbas National Park for a Biosphere Reserve, through UNESCO's MAB Program.

We associate ourselves to the African countries in the appeal for the creation of an african fund for biosphere reserves.

Currently, we are disseminating the Policy on Cultural and Creative Industries, the Law on Audio Visual and Cinema and the UNESCO 2003 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Expressions.

The country is committed to strengthening the capacities of the Officers of the culture Sector for the implementation of the 2003 Convention in cooperation with the African Portuguese Speaking Countries.

Mozambique Island, a World Heritage site will be celebrating its

200th anniversary in 2018. We are planning to celebrate the date, and for that we count with UNESCO's support, as a strategic partner.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, we have hosted the International Conference Against Doping in Sports, in Maputo with the support of UNESCO. This reaffirms the commitment of the Government of Mozambique in the fight against doping in sports and other factors preventing the development of sports.

For the Government of Mozambique, freedom of expression and media, is a priority and therefore consecrated in the constitution. In this domain, the cooperation with UNESCO has been crucial in the provision of capacity-building for the expansion of the information network coverage and the inclusion of the population in the governance process.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to conclude my speech by expressing our sincere gratitude to UNESCO for the support provided. Excellences, I would like to reiterate that the contribution of UNESCO and its partners is, and will always be used for building a society, where education side by side with science and culture are at the service of the citizens.

Thank you for your attention