

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS, HON. JOHN C. MUYINGO AT THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE ON 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2017.**

Mr. President of the General Conference,  
Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Madam Director General of UNESCO,  
Excellences, Ministers and Ambassadors,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me open my remarks by congratulating you, Mme President upon your election to chair the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Mme President, Uganda is committed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in General and to the achievement of the Education 2030 Agenda that we adopted in this house two years ago. Uganda therefore backs the Director General's proposals to inject resources in favour of Agenda 2030. In this connection, Uganda has put in place strategies for ensuring effective delivery of an appropriate education to its citizens that is also clearly linked to sustainable development.

I would like in this regard to thank UNESCO for supporting Uganda over the years in the effort to translate Agenda 2030 into reality. I note with

satisfaction that in the 2016-2017 biennium we have received support through the participation programme, regular budget as well as extra budgetary funding to support various initiatives in education. Notable are :

- The Chinese Funds-in-Trust and CapED projects to enhance the quality of teachers' teaching through use of ICT and improve national capacities to manage the teaching profession;
- the promotion of Gender Equity and Equality in Education in Uganda through Gender-Sensitive Primary Teacher Education supported by the Government of Azerbaijan;
- the Skilling Uganda programme through the **BEAR II** project especially as we move towards developing a comprehensive TVET National Policy Framework.
- Global Citizenship Education integrated into the existing national Primary School curriculum, training materials developed and teachers trained with support from APCEIU.

Mme. President, Uganda supports the Proposed strategic objectives under Programme II namely: strengthening science, technology and innovation systems; promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development; the role of biodiversity and the geosciences; Increasing resilience; and Sites for sustainable development. These

proposals will go a long way into strengthening the STI agenda as well as protecting our biodiversity.

Uganda once again appreciates UNESCO's support towards two projects: one for Promotion of Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Endangered Medicinal Plants and Nomination of Important Natural Sites for Designation as Sites for Sustainable Governance and Climate Change Adaptation in Uganda.

In pursuit of the importance we attach to the promotion of social transformation, Uganda endorses the Programme III Strategic Objective of supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures, promoting ethical principles and the thematic areas there under. Uganda is grateful to UNESCO for funding a participation project on Youth Empowerment as Lead Agents for Peace and Sustainable Development. Through the UNESCO Nairobi Regional Office for Eastern Africa, the capacity of three University academics has been enhanced in ethics and bioethics at various levels of education.

Mme. President Uganda is party to several UNESCO Conventions on culture and is operationalizing them for the benefit of our people. We are committed to conservation, safeguarding and promotion of heritage, development of the museums and promotion of inter-cultural dialogue and sustainable

development. Given the importance of culture to humanity, my delegation fully endorses the proposed sectoral priorities and Main Lines of Action in Major Programme IV. We appreciate UNESCO's support to us in this sector especially through the Japan Funds-in-Trust towards the reconstruction of Royal Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi World Heritage Site; the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Uganda and the Korea Funds-in Trust for the strengthening of creative industries in Uganda. Uganda is a candidate for the World Heritage Centre and we request for support.

Mme. President, my delegation supports the proposals for Major Programme V as well. Uganda is committed to the promotion of freedom of expression and access to information as well as fostering freedom of the media. To this end, Uganda liberalized her airwaves in order to promote community access to information, participation and promotion of dialogue. We have made strides in increasing access to information. We are also promoting the use of Community Multimedia Centres (CMCs) and addressing the challenge of increasing diversity of content for public access and safeguarding documentary heritage.

Mme. President, as I conclude, allow me to congratulate Madam Irina Bokova upon her successful completion of her two term tenure as Director

General of our Organisation. We shall miss her but remember her for her resilience, commitment, perseverance and dedication to our Organisation and to humanism. I wish her success in her subsequent assignments.

Thank you for your kind attention. FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

***Ministry of Education and Sports***

***KAMPALA***

***Kampala***

***3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017***