



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

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**ZAMBIA'S POLICY STATEMENT DURING THE GENERAL POLICY  
DEBATE OF THE 39TH SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANISATION (UNESCO), PARIS. NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

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**NOVEMBER 2017  
PARIS, FRANCE**

**The President of the General Conference**

**The Chairperson of the Executive Board**

**The Director General**

**Honorable Ministers**

**Your Excellencies**

**Distinguished delegates**

Zambia wishes to join UNESCO Member States in congratulating you Madam for being elected as the President of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We also wish to congratulate Madam Audrey Azoulay the incoming Director General, and assure you all that Zambia is committed to rendering its unwavering support as you carry on the baton of leadership.

Zambia also acknowledges the phenomenal effort from the outgoing Director General, Madam Irina Bokova, who has steered UNESCO through a very trying and difficult period during her tenure of office.

**Madam President**, my country has made tremendous strides in improving the welfare of its citizens.

**In the Education Sector,**

Zambia takes pride in aligning itself with the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, Education 2030 Agenda and Africa Agenda 2063. In this regard, we are reviewing the policy and legal framework guiding the entire education system. As a Country, we have continued implementing interventions aimed at attaining the SDG4 through the provision of inclusive and equitable quality education, promotion of lifelong learning opportunities, continued teacher

professional development as well as provision of teaching and learning materials, equipment, and the required specialized rooms.

**Madam President,** With the assistance of UNESCO and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the country has developed materials for the teaching of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and more than 60% of the teachers have been trained in the teaching of CSE.

Zambia is also benefiting from the UNESCO-China Fund in Trust (CFIT) through which two Colleges of Education are being transformed into ICT Centers of Excellence for teacher education.

To further improve competencies, standards and teacher pedagogy, my country has partnered with UNESCO through the Nordic Capacity Development for Education (CAP-ED) Project which is meant to enhance quality in teacher education.

**On Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET) and Higher Education,** we are focusing on enhancing access, quality, equity and efficiency in the provision of skills training and development. In this regard, a Skills Development Fund has been set up to improve access to quality skills training, and enhance participation of the private sector in curriculum review, financing of skills development and providing industrial experience.

**Madam President**

Zambia is working with UNESCO in promoting quality Higher Education through the strengthening of quality assurance systems as we are part of the 10 Member

UNESCO-SHENZHEN Project on “Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa.”

### **Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates**

Zambia is repositioning **Science Technology and Innovation** to be the driving force behind its sustainable development agenda through **promotion of the teaching and learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in schools and public universities; and promoting science research in institutions of learning.**

Zambia has recognized that the shortage of STEM skills are more acute in females, hence, we have established a Female Post-Graduate Scholarship Scheme to support and encourage female Scientists, Engineers and Researchers at all levels.

Zambia has also invested in research in Infections Disease for Humans and Animals, and in Mining under the Eastern and Southern African Centres of Excellence (ACE II) project. In addition, Incubation centres for start-up businesses are being established to help commercialise various innovations and research products in line with SDG 9. Further, in our quest to promote the development of sustainable energy, we have established a Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology which will build capacity for the safe use of Nuclear Technology.

We have also established a Ground Receiving Station (GRS) thereby building capacity for Earth Observation which has not only promoted and enhanced quality of meteorological data and earth observation, but also boosted planning for food security and work to avert climate change related disasters, among others.

### **With regard to Social and Human Sciences**

We will continue scaling up social protection programmes in order to empower the vulnerable in society and to provide social welfare services such as water and sanitation.

### **Madam President, regarding the Cultural Sector**

Zambia recognizes the role culture plays in promoting stability and unity. Hence, we are finalizing the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and also exploring opportunities for the promotion of sustainable development through the conservation of World Heritage Properties.

### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Communication and Information** is playing a critical role in developing the lives of our citizens. In this regard, we have established the “Smart Zambia Institute” to spearhead all ICT activities in the country.

To respond to the skills capacity needs as the country moves towards establishing an e-government system, we have set up an ICT Centre of Excellence. Also, the country has laid a fibre national ICT backbone and is migrating from analogue to digital systems and this will be completed by end of 2017.

### **Madam President, in Conclusion,**

I wish, on behalf of my Country, to re-affirm our continued commitment to the tenets upon which UNESCO was established and the mandate to which this great organization must fulfill. We shall remain a proud member of UNESCO.

**I thank you.**