

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR RUDO MABEL CHITIGA, AT THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY FOR MADAME AUDREY AZOULAY, UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL, AT UNESCO FONTENOY, 13 NOVEMBER 2017

Madame President

Excellencies

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Africa Group V(a) I would like to congratulate Madame Azoulay on her election and investiture as the Director General of our organisation.

Madame Azoulay, I would like to welcome you to UNESCO and to wish you a very successful and rewarding tenure. I would like to assure you of the support of the Africa Group as you carry out your work. We are very happy to note that you have roots in Africa.

Madam Director General, the Africa Group V(a) is the largest electoral group at UNESCO with 48 member states. It is the group that I can assure you will give you the greatest job satisfaction as you will be able to make a difference and to see the results of your inputs. To this end I urge you to continue UNESCO's commitment to priority Africa and to mainstream implementation of the flagship programmes.

Madame Director General, we are aware of the financial difficulties that the organisation currently faces. However, I hope you will agree with our position that field offices of UNESCO should be given priority in resource allocation. It is particularly at the field level that UNESCO matters to Africa.

As the Africa Group we will do our best within our limited means to mobilise extra budgetary support including in kind contributions.

Madame Director General, as the Africa group we hope to see more African faces at senior level in the secretariat as opposed to the backrooms and the periphery of the organisation.

Madame Director General once again I wish you success in your new role and assure you of Africa's support.

Thank you.