



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO
UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**KENYA NATIONAL STATEMENT
DELIVERED BY
H.E. PROF. GEORGE GODIA, CBS
AMBASSADOR
AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO UNESCO
AND
LEADER OF DELEGATION
DURING THE 39TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE
ON
1ST NOVEMBER, 2017, PARIS, FRANCE**

President of the General Conference,

President of the Executive Board,

UNESCO Director General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you Madam President on your election as the President of the 39th General Conference of UNESCO. On behalf of the Kenyan delegation please accept our best wishes for a successful General Conference.

I also congratulate Mrs. Irina Bokova, the outgoing Director General for successfully steering UNESCO to achieve tremendous reforms, during her tenure of office despite the challenges encountered. Kenya wishes you the best in all your future endeavours.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In line with SDG 4, Kenya has initiated basic education curriculum reforms which will enable learners to become engaged, empowered and ethical citizens. This curriculum has been piloted and will be rolled out in the early grade levels from next year, 2018. In addition, the Ministry of Education National Sector Education Plan has been reviewed with the support from the UNESCO, in collaboration with IIEP.

We welcome UNESCO's commitment to supporting African countries through building capacities in the integration, coordination and monitoring of SDG4 on Education.

Kenya is pleased to collaborate with UNESCO and the Africa Union towards the organization the 1st Pan-African High-level Meeting on SDG4 in March 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting will review Africa's progress and challenges faced in the implementation of SDG 4.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The last few years have registered a tremendous growth in access to University Education. The number of Public Universities and Constituent Colleges increased from 7 in 2012, to 30 fully fledged Universities and 5 Constituent Colleges in 2017.

Kenya's Vision 2030 has placed emphasis on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Consequently, there has been increase in the number of Technical Training Institutions. The enrolment in Technical and Vocational Colleges has almost doubled from about 55,000 in 2015 to over 100,000 in 2016.

To address inclusivity, Kenya carried out a national survey in 2016 on children with sensory and physical disabilities in order to improve planning for children with special needs. In addition, there has been an increase in transition from lower levels of education to higher levels among children with special needs.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a bid to improve Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) uptake in Kenya, 94 STEM Model schools have been established around the country. So far about 1000 secondary school girls have been mentored in STEM and 150 teachers sensitized on gender responsive pedagogy. We thank the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, for supporting Scientific Camps of Excellence for Girls in Kenya.

We further appreciate the TeachHer Public-Private Partnership through which the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design, Mathematics (STEAM) programme which was launched in July 2017 when Kenya hosted the 2nd TeachHer Regional Training for Africa.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Kenya recognizes freshwater as an important resource for mankind. It has therefore, embarked on assessing the country's groundwater potential in partnership with UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, in Nairobi.

Kenya is also working towards establishing a Geopark in Baringo County which is likely to be the first Geopark in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Government thanks UNESCO for the technical support received this far and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has in place a National Policy on Culture through which it seeks to realize her dreams and aspirations as captured in its Constitution. In the past two years, the Government together with and relevant stakeholders has developed two Policy frameworks for the promotion of culture and creative industries and for sustainable development of world heritage properties, in line with the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Kenya is collaborating with UNESCO to implement a project that aims to document and digitally archive traditional games in Kenya in view of their inclusion in a Digital Library on Traditional Games around the World. Local communities and other stakeholders will benefit from capacity building workshops on digital archiving as well as intercultural dialogue and exchange.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya introduced the world to Mobile Money, *The M-Pesa*. With the launch of M-Akiba, early this year, Kenya once again became the first country in the world to offer a mobile platform for citizens to trade in government securities. M-Akiba is a Government of Kenya issued retail bond built upon mobile money platforms.

In addition, the Government launched the Ajira Digital Programme in November 2016 to help address youth unemployment by empowering and enabling them to earn an income. The programme introduces young people to online work and provides them with the necessary tools, training and mentorship to enable them to work and earn a decent income from digital platforms.

In conclusion, Kenya remains committed to supporting UNESCO in the promotion of education, sciences, culture and communication and information with a view to realizing the SDGs and other globally agreed goals thus contributing to sustainable social and human development.

Thank you.