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THE 40<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO

**GHANA'S POLICY STATEMENT**

TO BE DELIVERED BY

**DR. MATTHEW OPOKU PREMPEH,**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND LEADER OF GHANA  
DELEGATION

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President of the General Conference,  
Chairman of the Executive Board,  
Director-General of UNESCO,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

**It** gives me much pleasure to have this opportunity to address the 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO. Ghana associates herself with previous speakers to congratulate you on your election as President of the 40<sup>th</sup> session. We wish you a successful tenure of office and assure you of our support.

**Mr. President,** as a multilateral Agency of the United Nations with the widest fields of competence, UNESCO is today called upon to respond to global challenges confronting our world. Ghana believes that the 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference presents a good opportunity for UNESCO to deploy its unique experience and expertise for our common good. As we all know, UNESCO's added value lies in its ability to address complex challenges in an interdisciplinary manner.



**In** that context, Mr. President, we urge UNESCO to continue its work on Artificial Intelligence (AI); Universal access to information and scientific knowledge; Promotion of knowledge systems and the diversity of cultural expressions; Women and girls' education as well as education of other vulnerable groups in society. Furthermore, as a global promoter of peace, UNESCO needs to re-imagine how the ICTs and in particular the Internet, could be harnessed to create knowledge societies and address violent extremism in all its forms. Mr. President, it is time for UNESCO to unleash the transformative power inherent in education, the sciences and culture to secure a better world for humankind.

**Ghana**, therefore, would like to see the preliminary proposals for the new 41 C/4 (2022 - 2029) addressing the aforementioned. This will undoubtedly consolidate the gains of the present Medium-Term Strategy which final Programme and Budget (40 C/5) this General Conference stands to approve.

**Mr.** President, after a critical evaluation of the various budget scenarios presented by the Executive Board, Ghana notes with satisfaction the explanation by the Director-General urging Member States to endorse the **US 534.6 Million budget ceiling**. It is our hope that the Director - General and the Secretariat will deliver on the programmes and effectively implement the agreed priorities of **Africa, Gender Equality, Youth** and the **SIDs**.



**Additionally,** this budget ceiling will enable the Director-General to consolidate the gains made in the Strategic Transformation processes - to re-organize the internal structures of the Secretariat and strengthen core programmes and the institutional systems upon which the Organisation was founded.

**Excellencies** ladies and gentlemen, Climate Change has caught up with humanity. The world's resources continue to be at the mercy of the climate menace thereby, adversely impacting our collective efforts towards sustainable development. Let us not forget, Mr. President, that, it is a shared responsibility to reverse the negative impact of climate change by doing things differently in today's world of technological revolution. To that end, Ghana associate herself with the programmes of the Natural Science sector, particularly, in the basic and applied sciences, engineering and ICTs which are linked to robotics, genomics and bioinformatics, as well as Artificial Intelligence. We avail ourselves to UNESCO programmes in these areas.

**Mr.** President, the Government of Ghana finds it expedient to support UNESCO's actions in education in the Africa region. By this, on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO, Ghana is proposing to upgrade to a Category II status, the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA) of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.



**The** IEPA intends to expand its work of educational planning and research, policy formulation and training for educational leadership to the West Africa region and beyond. **The Government of Ghana will contribute a total of 3.4 million dollars annually towards the operations of both the proposed IEPA Centre and the AIMS–Ghana Category II Institute.** We call on all Member States to support this important initiative which will transform educational planning and address human resource and systems needs of education in Africa.

**Allow** me Mr. President to express Ghana’s appreciation to UNESCO, the Government of Norway and partners for the on-going support to make a critical intervention on the teacher targets of SDG4 through the NTI project in Africa. Ghana looks forward to an outcome comprehensive National Teacher Policy Document based on the UNESCO benchmarks.

**Mr.** President, UNESCO’s advocacy role in promoting culture through its normative instruments is worthy of commendation. Ghana appreciates the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory Mission that was undertaken to examine the impact of the **Elmina Bay Project** on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Elmina Castle. Following the report of the mission, the Government of Ghana has taken steps to address the issues raised on these international properties which are dear to UNESCO.



**Indeed,** in the year of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNESCO Slave Route Project, the significance of these Forts and Castles particularly, with respect to education on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and contemporary slavery, cannot be overemphasised.

**H.E.** the President of Ghana **Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo - Addo** declared this year as the 'Year of Return' to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of the First African Slaves in the English Colony of Jamestown. We are grateful to the Director-General for the support in the celebration of the 'Year of Return'. Beyond the 'Year of Return', Ghana has put in place concrete measures to consolidate the gains and achievements made in 2019.

**Excellencies ladies and gentlemen,** let me finally inform you that Ghana is vying for a seat on the Executive Board as well as the Councils of the **Man and Biosphere (MAB)** and the **Information for All (IFAP)** programmes at the coming elections of the General Conference. We call on all Member States to support our candidature bid.

**I** thank you for your attention.