

**Speech of Her Excellency Ana Paula Tuavanje Elias Minister of Education
and President of the National Commission for UNESCO
of the Republic of Angola**

**40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference
12 to 27 November 2019**

**Mr. President of the General Conference;
Mr. President of the Executive Council;
Madam Director-General of UNESCO;
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Heads of Delegations;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

On behalf of the Angolan Government, I have the honor to congratulate you Mr. Chairman for your election as Chair of this session, and wish you the success on this noble mission.

I'm also honored to thank and congratulate Ambassador Zohou Alaoui for her exceptional engagement as President of the 39th Session of the General Conference.

Godspeed on your new mission.

Our homage it's also extended to Ambassador Lee Byong-Hyon, for the wise way he conducted the works as Chair of the Executive Council in the last two years.

I also great and encourage Mrs. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO General Director, for the set of initiatives that have been taken to turn UNESCO into a strong and more credible Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

The world has experienced great challenges, since the forced migration, terrorism, cyclical financial crises, the climate change, inequalities, social exclusion, all that challenges us as governments and the international community, for a greater commitment to the implementation of the 17 sustainable development goals at local, regional and global levels.

We are in the era of the artificial intelligence and we have faith that this scientific advance will contribute decisively in the search for innovative and sustainable solutions. Therefore we must cooperate in solidarity, and on a global scale, in order to build more humane, inclusive and sustainable societies. This way of acting is supported by multilateralism to which Angola commits without reservation.

However, the use of new intelligence technologies should safeguard the concerns of African countries and so many others in the southern hemisphere, regarding the digital divide, in particular the access to innovative technologies and the strengthening of institutional and learning capacities in this area.

In this way, we consider it appropriate and relevant to develop a strategy on Artificial Intelligence for Africa, on the one hand, and on the other hand, the elaboration of an international normative instrument on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the visit in May 2018 of President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, Angola notes with satisfaction the positive evolution in cooperation relations with UNESCO.

From 5 to 8 July 2019, we held the first edition of FESTIKONGO, with the participation of representatives of Gabon, Congo and the DRC. It is an international festival for the promotion of cultural values linked to the former Kingdom of Kongo, whose capital, M'banza Kongo, was inscribed in 2017 on the world heritage list.

In September 2019 Angola hosted the first edition of the "Pan-African Forum: Biennial of Peace Culture in Africa", a joint initiative African Union, UNESCO and Government of Angola, carried out under the motto: "**Building and Preserving Peace; a movement of several authors**".

Of the valuable contributions collected, it is worth highlighting the innovative experience arising from the partner forum, whose model can fruitfully feed the ongoing discussion at UNESCO, about the structured dialogue of financing.

On September 18, 2019, the Director General and the Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation signed in Luanda, the agreement on the implementation of the National Program of Doctoral Training in Engineering, Sciences, Technology and Innovation aimed at training of 165 young people from 2020 to 2027; as well as the rehabilitation and equipment of scientific research infrastructures in Angola; partnering with the world science academy.

For the five-year period 2018-2022, the National Development Plan focuses on the qualitative development of the scientific research, as well as on the transfer of technologies.

The Luanda Biennial was also an occasion for the countries of the Central Africa sub-region to discuss the problem of coastal vulnerability and the strengthening of institutional capacities and human resources in the preparation of the United Nations decade on the management of sustainable oceans (2021-2030).

The success of this first edition comforts us in the projection of the following that will take place in Luanda in 2021; I therefore take this opportunity to thank you, and ask for your support in the decision submitted to this plenary with regard to UNESCO's engagement in the preparations for the 2nd edition.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Angola considers education a constitutional right that must be guaranteed to all.

The executive approved this year the Youth and Adult Education Action Plan for the period 2019-2022 aimed at intensifying literacy, expanding the partners network and diversifying funding sources.

At the moment, it is a priority to improve the quality of education at all levels, and strengthening of the vocational technical education programme and teachers.

With regard to the primary and secondary education, ongoing efforts indicate a literacy rate of 76.2%;

In general education and professional technician are enrolled 10.608.415 students in the academic year 2019;

In the higher education, 308.309 students are enrolled.

In the field of communication and information, with the objective of promoting and ensuring pluralism and diversity of opinions and cultural, linguistic and religious and ethnic expressions was created the Media Regulatory Authority (ERCA).

Angola supports the budget scenario of 534.6 million and hopes that this option will strengthen the funds allocated to Africa priority to improve the efficiency of the performance of regional offices.

I will not be able to finish, without first, congratulating the members of the Executive Council for supporting to establish May 5 as a Commemorative Day for the Portuguese Language at UNESCO.

We will continue to work with UNESCO and the African Union to materialise our commitments.

I thank you for the attention you have given!