

STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE RIZIKI PEMBE JUMA, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- **Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation;**
- **Your Excellency Ambassador Ahmet Altay Cengizer, President of the General Conference;**
- **Madame Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO;**
- **Excellencies Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is with great honour and pleasure I stand here to address this 40th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. On behalf of my Government I congratulate you Ambassador Ahmet Altay Cengizer for being elected to that well deserved position of the President of the 40th General Conference of UNESCO.

Mr. President;

I wish to reiterate that my Government will continue to value the work of UNESCO and commends the Secretariat under the abled leadership of Madame Azoulay in ensuring that UNESCO implements its mandate as enshrined in its Constitution. Tanzania believes that UNESCO will remain to be a key stakeholder in our quest to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. President;

It remains to be a clear fact that there is a need to intensify the implementation of UNESCO's expertise and competencies, in promoting the culture of peace in the minds of our people, alleviating poverty and fostering socio-economic development. The United Republic of Tanzania urges for an increased collaboration in educational programmes for youths with a stronger linkage to technical and vocational training for job creation. It is an open truth that UNESCO can play a critical role in these areas and it can really make a difference. My Government applauds UNESCO for its effective programmes in basic, vocational and teacher education programs that have been implemented in Tanzania.

We, further, strongly believe that the solutions to the challenges facing the youths can be found within our policies, and through the youth themselves. For that purpose, we congratulate UNESCO for creating a forum through which world leaders dialogued with the young people on ways and means to deepen cooperation with a view of addressing the existing global challenges, including climate change.

Mr. President;

On this realization, UNESCO must continue to create opportunities for the young people to play an integral role in promoting and embracing the culture of peace, especially through education initiatives - as a tool for personal and social development and empowerment.

Mr. President;

While gathering here today to discuss important issues which fall under the UNESCO's mandate, particularly promoting quality education, one of our Member

State, Zimbabwe, has its education sector being negatively affected by the sanctions imposed since the year 2000. The imposition of these sanctions have had severe impact on the country's economy. Thus, the primary and secondary education sub-sectors have failed to achieve country's vision of increasing access and offering equitable and quality education.

It is against this backdrop that, the Heads of State and Government of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in a joint Communiqué of their 39th Summit held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in August 2019, called for an immediate lifting of sanctions to allow a socio-economic recovery in the country. This call was also echoed by a statement issued on 25th October 2019, by the Chairman of the African Union Commission. The United Republic of Tanzania, therefore, appeals to all UNESCO Member States to support the SADC region on its call for the removal of all forms of sanctions imposed to Zimbabwe to pave way for a socio-economic transformation and economic development of the country.

Lastly but not least, the United Republic of Tanzania congratulates the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, His Excellency Abiy Ahmed Ali "for his efforts in promoting peace, particularly for his initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea" which earned him, the deserving award of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

I thank you for your kind attention.