

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
HON. DR. JOHN C. MUYINGO AT THE 40TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO
GENERAL CONFERENCE ON 14th NOVEMBER 2019.**

President of the General Conference,

Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Director General of UNESCO,

Excellences, Ministers, Ambassadors,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you upon your election to chair the 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference. We trust and have full confidence in you to steer the conference for consensus and agreement on the matters before us. My delegation thanks the Director General, the Secretariat, the Executive Board and the Member States for the preparation of the Draft 40C/5 and other documents for the conference.

Mr. President, Uganda applauds the efforts of the Director General to rationally allocate the meager resources towards achieving the goals of UNESCO. We further applaud the Director General's aspirations for the strategic transformation based on three pillars: changing the structure to strengthen management culture; improving the efficiency of UNESCO's means of action; and informing UNESCO's strategic positioning for 2030. We believe this will take UNESCO to greater heights, especially on its next Medium-Term Strategy, as part of pillar 3 of the Strategic Transformation.

Mr. President, we register our appreciation to UNESCO for continued support through a number of interventions in our Country during the last biennium in all areas of focus and mandate with significant results as highlighted below:

The Education Programme has strengthened the Multi partner Cooperation to Support Teacher Policy and improve learning with support of the Norwegian Teacher Initiative. This has resulted into development of a functional Teacher Management Information System (TMIS); a quality assurance system for teacher education. In the area of HIV and Health Education, Uganda government with

support from UNESCO has developed National Sexuality Education Framework for Uganda which was approved and launched in May 2018.

In line with its objective of skilling Uganda, the government has developed Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) policy with support from Better Education Africa Rise (BEAR II) project. In response to Refugee Education, the Ministry of Education put in place policies and practices where education officers and teachers were provided with skills to implement Conflict Sensitive Education in refugee settlements, and local communities. In order to improve the teaching profession, the government with support from UNESCO through CaP/ED programme developed The National Teacher policy which was launched on World Teachers Day on 5th Oct. 2019. The policy envisions transforming the teaching profession and learning environment for a skilled and globally competitive human resource.

UNESCO's flagship programme on fostering science for sustainable management of natural resources continues to be pursued in Uganda. More than twenty sites of outstanding significance have been identified and are being prepared for nomination to UNESCO for designation in phases as Biosphere Reserves or Geoparks or both, for their rich biodiversity and heritage value. Uganda wishes to be considered for the programme on Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy Instruments assessment that UNESCO has supported in some countries. Uganda welcomes both technical and financial support from UNESCO in the impending review and consensus-building for better ST&I and Natural Resources Management framework in the Country since the time for review of our 2009 ST&I Policy is due.

Uganda appreciates UNESCO's support in the promotion of the culture of peace and non-violence and application of the principles laid down in the international decade for rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022) as a means of attaining the targets in the 2030 agenda. The support promoted some commonly shared traditional values and practices as foundation for peace in the refugee settlements and host communities. Uganda also hosted at Makerere University, an Eastern African Management of Social Transformation (MOST) workshop on the theme: *Youth, Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa*, from 2 - 5 April 2019. The workshop was a demonstration of strategic partnership among stakeholders.

Uganda is party to three UNESCO Conventions (1972, 2003, and 2005). Currently, we are implementing several interventions focusing on revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements listed on the urgent safeguarding list, introducing ICH in our Universities as an academic programme at undergraduate level; preparing the quadrennial report under the 2005 Convention and implementing the 2015 Recommendation on the role of museums and collection among others. We are grateful for the support we have received from UNESCO and the Government of Japan towards the reconstruction of Kasubi Tombs World Heritage Site; the Republic of Korea for the support towards the Strengthening of the capacity of the crafts sector, and the Swedish Government for the support towards the preparation of the Quadrennial Report among others. We are committed to the continued conservation and safeguarding of heritage in all its manifestations and working towards the completion of the restoration of Kasubi tombs.

Uganda recognizes the diversity of content shared on the liberalized airwaves and promotes community participation and dialogue. We are promoting the use of Community Multimedia Centers (CMCs) and the Safety of Journalists as stated in the UN Plan of Action by establishing and strengthening the National Mechanism for the Safety of Journalists. The Recently concluded conference for African Judges in Kampala on Freedom of Expression for Journalists is a demonstration of Uganda's commitment to harness the benefits of the subject through the proposed curriculum intervention.

We call for increase in diversity of content for public access, safeguarding of documentary heritage and increase in the respect for freedom of the media.

Mr. President, I wish the 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference fruitful dialogue that will reaffirm UNESCO's status as a beacon of hope and an agent of sustainable development and peace.

I Thank you.

For God and My Country

Ministry of Education, and Sports, KAMPALA.

14th November, 2019