



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY**

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**MOZAMBIQUE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF**

**UNESCO**

**PARIS - FRANCE, NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

## **Excellency President of the General Conference**

## **Excellency Director General**

## **Distinguished Heads of Delegations attending the 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO**

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. First of all, allow us to congratulate you Mr. President on your election to Chair this session of the General Conference. We would also like to congratulate Madam Director General , Audrey Azoulay for her abnegation and commitment towards the modernization of the organization and to make it more efficient and effective to be able to face all new changes.
2. We would like to express our appreciation for the contributions made by UNESCO towards the consolidation of the fundamentals for the culture of peace, democracy and sustainable development in our countries, particularly in the African continent. Allow me to inform that we have recently held our 6<sup>th</sup> general elections in Mozambique as part of our process towards consolidating democracy. Likewise, we have embarked on a reconciliation process of our people so as to reach everlasting peace. Last August 8<sup>th</sup> we have signed a Definite Peace Agreement and National Reconciliation with the support of the international community including the United Nations.
3. With UNESCO support we have approved and implemented policies and reforms in education, culture, sciences, technology and sports. The following can be highlighted
  - The strategic transformation that includes curriculum revision and the strategic plan for the next 10 years

- The promotion of curriculum development in sciences focused on new and emerging fields (gas, petroleum, agriculture)
- The revision of the Management & Development Plan of Mozambique Island, World Heritage Site
- The establishment of 563 Community Committees to Manage Cultural Heritage and for the preservation of tangible and intangible Heritage
- Training and accreditation of Anti-Doping Control Officials according to international standards
- The massification of the use of ICTs

**Mr. President**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

4. Our Government integrally subscribes the need for a Strategic Transformation of UNESCO in alignment with the common African position that advocates for a new reconfiguration of the United Nations Systems in general, so as to correspond to the current geopolitical reality, with special focus on suitable representation of countries in development, particularly in the African continent.
5. In the context of UNESCO Priority Africa, we would like to suggest that it is important to establish measurable indicators in order to facilitate assessment and monitoring of the action implemented.
6. With regard to climate change, our country is contributing and we are proud to have the Quirimbas Islands designated as our 1<sup>st</sup> UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and we would like to reiterate our commitment towards increasing Biosphere Reserves Areas to cover 25% of our national territory.

7. Attention must be accorded to the need to continuously raise awareness of the youth for them to take possession of the “ecological agenda” as the unique way for the sustainability of our planet. In Mozambique we consider the youth as “The Sap of the Nation”. In this context, we salute UNESCO’s initiative for the involvement of the youth to lead climate change issues, because they must be the major actors in this process.

8. Allow us to deeply thank UNESCO for the contribution made in the rehabilitation and restoration processes of infrastructures and cultural heritage devastated by the recent cyclones Idai & Kenneth that hit the center and north of Mozambique. This situation required additional efforts in order to mobilize support to repair the damages caused to the school network at all levels to guarantee the continuity of lessons in schools.

Total recovery needs were estimated in 3.2 thousand million American dollars in the 7 affected provinces.

The recovery process requires an inclusive and sustainable intervention in order to make communities more resilient to future disasters.

**Mr. President**

**Excellences**

9. Once more, allow us to reiterate our commitment with the noble ideals of multilateralism and we reaffirm that Mozambique will continue working with UNESCO towards building a world with social justice, more stable and peaceful.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

