

UNESCO ADDIS ABABA LIAISON OFFICE TO AUC AND UNECA

NEWSLETTER



JULY 2018 - DECEMBER 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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*Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso
Director of UNESCO Addis Ababa
Liaison Office to AUC and UNECA and Representative to
Ethiopia*

I took over the mantle as the Addis Ababa Office Director in July 2018 to build on to my predecessor's notable achievements in support of the African Union, as well as priorities of Ethiopia. Following the decision by UNESCO's Governing Bodies to strengthen the Office in 2019, a process generously supported by the Ethiopian National Commission for UNESCO under

the Presidency of H.E. Dr. Tilaye Gete, Minister of Education, in the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, our team has grown in numbers and diversity with nationalities from more than ten countries working together on projects and programmes from all of UNESCO's areas of competence, in support of the AU and Ethiopia.

We have also strengthened our Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication & Information Sectors with additional international staff, consultants, volunteers and interns, who bring on board immense expertise which has increased our contributions to Ethiopia and the AU priorities. In addition, we have intensified our cooperation with UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds, Private Sector and National and International Organisations.

The Office was also greatly honoured to host high level officials from UNESCO Headquarters. Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO visited Ethiopia in May 2019 on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day Global Conference where she also announced that H.E. Dr Abiey Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, had been named as laureate of the 2019 edition of the UNESCO Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize.

The office also hosted Mr. Frimin Matoko, ADG/PAX who came back to Ethiopia where he attended the AU summit and Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences who made her first visit to Africa since her appointment and engaged with African Union Commissioner for Human Resource, Science and Technology. She also met with Ethiopian Government authorities and hosted a science diplomacy dinner to exchange with partners on the UNESCO science programme in Africa.

Support to the African Union

In line with the UNESCO Liaison Office mandate to provide the much needed support to the African Union, the Office had notable achievements through the four areas of UNESCO's competences.

Through an intersectoral approach, our Education and Communication and Information sectors

have contributed to the achievement of the African Union flagship project "Reaching 1 Million Youth by 2021 Initiative" in the framework of Agenda 2063 in promoting MIL and digital learning as key competence for the youth in Africa to contribute to Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 targets.

With the aim of empowering the youth for self-employment and play a role in the culture of peace development, the office has supported the African Union Commission on Human Resource, Science and Technology (AU/HRST), in the process of launching



H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AUC and Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO Liaison Office to AUC and UNECA

the Pan African Virtual and E-learning University (PAVEU) as an arm of the Pan African University.

Through our Science programme, the office has carried out a mid-term review of the implementation of the 2024 Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) and developed a draft Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programme for the period 2019-2024, which was validated in March 2019 and endorsed by the STC-EST. One example of our fruitful cooperation with other UN partners, is our Natural Science sector initiative on Man and Biosphere Reserves, which together with UNEP, develops and supports Ethiopia's five registered Biosphere reserves, where biodiversity is conserved whilst implementing sustainable ways for local communities to benefit from the reserves' resources and allowing the national as well as international science community to conduct research.

In cooperation with the Embassy of Germany the

sector also developed a documentary movie on the Lake Tana Biosphere reserve, which showcased the positive impact these projects have on local communities and the sustainability of the ecosystems. In Culture, our office contributed to the celebration of Africa's cultural heritage by developing an exhibition on the continents' World Heritage Sites and a movie on its Intangible Cultural Heritage in the website. Having developed these without external assistance but solely through the work of our staff, is another example of the strengthened capacities at our Office.

Our Communication and Information sector took lead in organising the 2019 World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD) Global Conference in Addis Ababa, which was the biggest global event so far of the UNESCO Liaison Office to AU and UNECA since recent times. It demonstrated UNESCO's capacity to mobilise and convene partners, by ensuring ownership of such events by the host government and national stakeholders. The inclusivity principle through a multistakeholder approach created synergies, reinforced our combined energy and ensured that "no one was left behind". Hosting this event in Ethiopia also affirmed UNESCO's and global media stakeholders' unwavering support to the Ethiopian Government concerning the ongoing national reforms including the media environment.

Support to peace building in the African Union Member States has been a priority for the Addis Ababa Office. The Office played a central role in coordinating the tripartite cooperation between UNESCO, the AUC and the Government of Angola in organising the first edition of the Biennale of Luanda: Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, which took place in Luanda from 18-22 September 2019, with the main objective of growing the Pan- African movement for a culture of peace and non-violence through the establishment of partnerships involving all stakeholders and ensuring Women and Youth are actively engaged as important pillars for sustainable peace on the continent.

Deepening our partnerships in the UN System, Private Sector and with Bilateral Donors

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, without whom our achievements

throughout the past year would not have been possible. As UNESCO Addis Ababa, we are extremely pleased and honoured to cooperate with a diverse set of actors and representatives from the Government of Ethiopia, African Union Commission, UN family, diplomatic corps, development agencies, media, academia and civil society involving the youth and ensuring that no one is left behind. We are very proud of these strengthened relationships and are looking forward to opportunities of expanding our activities with new partners.



Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of UNECA and Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO

Meet the Director Secretariat



Bemnet Yisrak, Programme Assistant and Membere Abiey, Assistant to the Director

EDUCATION

AUC and UNESCO Celebrate International Day of Education



Participants of the International Day of Education

On 24 January 2019, the UNESCO and the African Union celebrated the International Day of Education. This year, the celebrations were held under the theme “Education – A key driver for Inclusion and Empowerment.” Ms. Ana Elisa De Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office to AU and UNECA and UNESCO Representative to Ethiopia, addressed participants and emphasized the close and mutual relationship between the theme of the International Day of Education and the AU theme of the year – “Refugees, Returnees and

Internally Displaced persons.” H.E. Professor Sarah Anyang Agbor Commissioner for Human Resources, Science & Technology African Union Commission further added that, in line with the AU theme of the year, “It is therefore essential to consider the place of education in preventing or mitigating conflict and humanitarian situations that lead to displacement”.

The event thus sent an important reminder to all participants, civil society and governmental institutions that Education has to lead the way towards building an inclusive, peaceful and empowered society. Especially in times of increased migratory pressures and movements education is key for offering every person a place in society and self-determined future. After the event, participants also agreed to work towards more visibility of the International Day of Education in 2020, thereby kicking-off preparations for enhancing the impact of the celebration next year. Kofi Selom Azasoo, National/Country Director, AIESEC in Ethiopia also added that “education is the bedrock for growth in any society and that is no different in our African Context.”

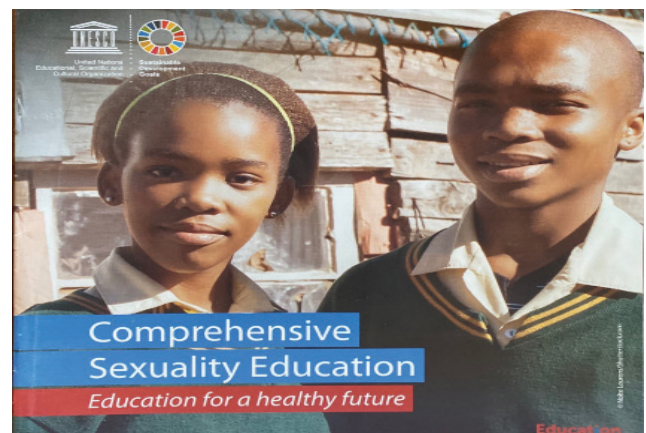
Comprehensive Life Skills Education (CLSE) in Ethiopia



Workshop on CLSE

UNESCO Liaison Office is closely working with its partners in the Federal Ministry of Education and regional education bureaus, as well as in educational institutions and teachers to promote CLSE and youth-friendly sexual reproductive health (SRH) education and facilities. The office organized a workshop for 29 senior curriculum experts, where core gaps in Ethiopian curricula with regards to CLSE and SRH were identified and addressed. Improved CLSE is expected to help the country and continent at large to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend.

Furthermore, CLSE helps lower HIV infection rates and maternal mortality. Through online trainings, UNESCO also equipped 52 participants from 8 Colleges of Teacher Education with the expertise to provide over 3,000 teacher trainees in their respective colleges with relevant CLSE and SRH training. Further, the Liaison Office also conducted a rapid assessment of SRH services in target clinics, in order to identify key areas for improving their youth-friendliness, effectiveness and overall quality.



Moving “Medemer” and Other Indigenous Concepts Towards Inclusive Peace and Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15 February 2019



UNESCO Liaison Office Addis Ababa in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Addis Ababa University, department of philosophy convened a brainstorming conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 February 2019. The conference aimed at initiating discussions among academia, intellectuals, policy makers, human right activists and practitioners on the concept ‘Medemer’ (literally, being added for togetherness) which was introduced by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and on other indigenous concepts related to peace and development. It also aspired to encourage the efforts of academic and research institutions to explore, conceptualise, challenge and enrich indigenous thoughts and bring them on board for dialogue and discussion at different levels and employ them for learning and solving social, political and economic problems.

Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO Liaison office Addis Ababa, representative to the Africa Union Commission (AUC) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) delivered a welcoming remark to the invited officials, distinguished guests and participants. In her speech, the Director highlighted the rich history and diverse linguistic and cultural heritages of Ethiopia for which its people as well as the whole Africans are pride of them. She also appreciated the concept ‘Medemer’ which was generated by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, particularly its endeavor to bring the Ethiopian people together for peace restoration, building and stability of the country and the Horn of Africa. Subsequently,

His Excellency Dr. Tilaye Gete officially opened the brainstorming conference. In his speech, Dr. Tilaye appreciated the efforts of the current Ethiopian government administration in transforming the country using the concept, ‘Medemer’ that H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopian had introduced. In order to build and sustain peace and security in Ethiopia and beyond, Dr. Tilaye Gete emphasised the pressing need of promoting a culture of peace and citizenship through education systems. This requires the consideration of African indigenous knowledge and skills, cultures, languages and values in the curriculum and pedagogy and the teacher training institutions.

In the conference, five high-profiled panelists from Addis Ababa University, the University of Peace, Africa, the University of Science and Technology, the Sudan, human right activist and the African Union (AU) provided their thoughtful discussion points around peace, security, social cohesion, interculturalism and development in Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa and the entire continent. The panelists unanimously underlined the inseparable, interconnected and interdependent aspects of peace, human rights and development. Indeed, Ethiopia and other African nations should respect them and exercise as part of their major social, economic and political obligations regardless of any circumstances.

Participants from government, civil societies, universities, the AU and UN system, and teachers and renowned individuals also shared their views on the issues under discussion. Finally, as the way forward, a statement of collective action was suggested and get signed by the relevant stakeholders who were deemed to explore, deepen and promote various African indigenous thoughts through dialogue, research and practice.

Project on Improving Refugee Education in Ethiopia



Workshop on Refugee Education in Ethiopia

UNESCO-IIEP has been working to support joint planning with host and refugee communities in Ethiopia since November 2017. The project reinforces the capacities of both the Ministry of Education and Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) in five refugee-affected regions: Gambella, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali, and Afar. All project regions border with other countries which may aspire for cross border relations and plan for crises and refugee influxes. This intervention is under the project conducted “Strengthening refugee and host community educational coordination, planning and management systems in Ethiopia”. It is implemented with the Agreement for Contribution from one UN agency to another for the purpose of Programmatic Activities done by the contributing agency UNICEF and recipient agency UNESCO-IIEP.

The purpose of Refugee Education Programme is to build on existing initiatives to strengthen the coordination, planning and management of education provision in refugee and host communities. The capacity-development initiative for education planners and supervisors focuses on education planning, microplanning, school mapping, indicators analysis and data collection on the risks of conflict or natural hazards on host and refugee communities.

In addition to this, UNESCO was asked by the Government of Ethiopia to provide technical support to finalize the Education and Training Roadmap. A UNESCO technical assistance team was established, consisting, two HQ units, UIL, UNESCO Liaison

Office in Addis Ababa and IICBA with the leadership of IIEP. The technical team had joint scoping mission from 30 June to 6 July 2019 and a one-week writing workshop held from August 5-11, 2019 to finalize the Roadmap. At the moment, the Roadmap is ready for approval by the national authority. Concurrently, the Federal Ministry of Education also requested UNESCO-IIEP to provide technical support for the preparation of the Sixth Education Sector Development Programme (ESDP VI). Terms of Reference (TOR) developed and agreed with the Ministry of Education to prepare the sector plan. The situation analysis is finalized by the national experts.

Some of the achievements since the inception of the project are:

1. Improved knowledge and skills on educational planning of refugee and host communities for education stakeholders to begin to analyze the performance of the education system and plan together;
2. Indicators analysis to examine the performance of the education system;
3. Training of Enumerators focused on school mapping and enumeration in refugee communities that enabled experts to collect data that complement the school mapping exercise;
4. Technical Planning workshops to examine the performance of the education system in their respective regions and woredas and discuss priorities for both host communities and refugee settings.

AU Continental Teacher Prize Honors Teachers



The African Union (AU) hosted the inaugural award ceremony for the first Continental Teacher Prize. The AU Teacher Prize has been established as a means for demonstrating respect for teachers and the teaching profession, by encouraging and celebrating the committed teachers in Africa. The Prize raises the status of teaching, facilitates sharing of best practices in teacher excellence, and inspires the best possible candidates to join the teaching profession. Furthermore, the AU Teacher Prize is meant to serve as a catalyst for similar programmes at regional and national levels. The Teacher Prize is an important and valuable instrument that contributes to the success of the Agenda 2063 and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), with the following objectives:

1. Enhance visibility and status of teachers in Africa at all levels - Preprimary, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary including TVET;
2. Promote teaching as a first choice profession at all levels;
3. Celebrate and encourage outstanding teachers.

For the 2019 edition of the African Union Continental Teacher Awards, prizes of \$10 000 each were awarded to top African teachers at the secondary school level. The following are the winners for 2019 edition:

1. Ms Augusta Lartey-Young (Ghana);
2. Sister Gladyce Kachope (Uganda);
3. Mr. Eric Ademba (Kenya).

Through a competitive process, the winning teachers were selected for demonstrating the following qualities:

1. Engaging in quality teaching which results in high standards of student achievement;

2. Demonstrated knowledge of the subject matter, while keeping up with recent developments;
3. Encouraging desirable behaviour among students through positive feedback and other methods;
4. Managing classes to enhance the quality of learning processes, while ensuring accommodation of students with varied learning needs and abilities;
5. Engaging in activities and networks that enhance the social and cultural value of learning;
6. Helping students to achieve their long term career goals by organizing engagement with relevant agencies and information;
7. Demonstrating multi-valency in facilitating acquisition of knowledge and skills, as well as values for peace building and responsible citizenship
8. Positive engagement with fellow teachers encouraging mutual learning;
9. Positive reputation from stakeholders and community members;
10. Highly commended by students and staff members.

The event, facilitated by outgoing Head of the Education Division, Dr Beatrice Khamati Njenga, was attended by Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, Director of UNESCO Institute for Capacity Building in Africa; and Ambassador Ranieri Sabatucci, European Union Head of Delegation to the African Union, as well as Ambassadors and officials from the AUC Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), senior officials from Member States, RECs, Universities, education development agencies; as well as Media and other partner organizations.

UNESCO Contributing to Adult Literacy Learning in Ethiopia



Technology based and tailor made literacy learning approach contributed to advancing family and integrational literacy learning in Ethiopia. The project with the overall objective of contributing towards enhancing literacy rates through technology-based (including affordable mobile devices) functional literacy learning system in daily lives of adults has been implemented in three regions.

The Federal Ministry of Education and UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office took the initiative. Three public higher education institutions (Ambo University, Debrebirhan University and Hawassa College of Teachers Education) actively engaged in research, tailored literacy materials development and translating innovative concepts into community learning practices. The respective Regional Education Bureaus (REBs), District Education Offices (WEOs), and targeted communities implemented the pilot project in nine Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR. Because of the project, the capacity of literacy facilitators improved, community-learning centres equipped to allow interactive and participatory adult literacy learning. Equally, local communities and local structures are enhanced to providing technology-based literacy learning program for youth and adults.

A total 105 learning topics most relevant to daily lives of target population identified, designed and prepared in three languages with active engagement of adult learners, facilitators and experts. With the technical and professional support of the ICT

departments of the three partner's public universities, the tailored lessons recorded, edited and put to use on assigned devices/ laptop computers and mobile devices. Literacy facilitators, supervisors and school directors (CLC managers) trained with the technology assisted facilitation skills and basic learning center management. In addition, hard copy of the learning materials and facilitator guide are offered to the facilitators. A total 450 (four hundred fifty) most who are young and adults women achieved integrated basic literacy and life skills in shorter time span comparing to the two years national IFAE programme for similar learner groups.

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), located in Hamburg, Germany, directly supported the project with the aim of enhancing the field of literacy and lifelong learning in member states. In the context of Ethiopia, the project focused and marked benefits in enhancing adult and continuing education, literacy and non-formal basic education through appropriate and affordable technology in the planning, materials development, learning process and management.

The project has significant achievements to revisit and improve literacy policies and plans in Ethiopia including through ICT, and monitor the acquisition of foundational skills and lifelong learning opportunities for youth and adults both women and men. Scaling up the project contributes to addressing Ethiopia's educational development agenda and attaining the Sustainable Development Goal 4.

UNESCO Awarded Certificate of Appreciation



The Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office to AUC and UNECA in Addis Ababa receiving a Certificate of Appreciation.

UNESCO received a certificate of appreciation from the Ethiopian Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry Development Institute (FBPIDI) for its contribution to the sector in Ethiopia. This award signifies the importance of the work that UNESCO is doing in the Agro-processing sector and the need to continue this fruitful collaboration between the Ministry of Industry, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) agencies and UNESCO. Through the Better Education for Africa's Rise II (BEAR II) project, UNESCO is supporting the Ministry of Industry in the labour market assessment on demand and available skills for young people in the areas of Agroprocessing, Occupational Standards and Curriculum review and development, TVET teachers, leaders and institutional capacity building. The project contributes to global efforts to implement the Education 2030 Agenda, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025) ([link is external](#)), and the UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2016 – 2021).

On the Occasion, the Director General of FBPIDI, Mr Solomon Tadele highlighted that UNESCO's contribution of the country's effort on developing agro-processing skills that enable young men and women to create jobs is remarkable and a great addition to its development endeavours. UNESCO has agreed to continue the capacity building of the industry and TVET professionals aligning Agro-processing with quality Technical Vocational and Education and Training programs.

BEAR II is a joint initiative of UNESCO and the Republic of Korea, started in 2017 and will continue until 2021. The project aims to support five Eastern African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, in improving the relevance, quality and perception of their Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems, with the global objective of giving young people a better chance of accessing decent employment or of generating self-employment. As part of the project, UNESCO Liaison Office Addis Ababa convened a five-day validation workshop (October 7-11, 2019) that aimed at gaining the relevant inputs from multidisciplinary professionals in 13 agro-food processing fields and enriching and validating the draft Occupational Standards. This process demonstrated a robust partnership of UNESCO with public and private sectors in engaging about 60 professionals and leveraging their contributions towards a common goal, improving the relevance and quality of TVET provision in Ethiopia.

As an outcome of the workshop, the final Occupational Standards will serve as the basis to develop assessment tools that help to evaluate the performance of TVET trainees, build the technical capacity of teachers and develop curriculum on 13 agro-food processing fields which will be used by TVET providers across Ethiopia.

Technical Support on the Finalization Education and Training Roadmap and Sector Plan Preparation

UNESCO was asked by the Government of Ethiopia to provide technical support to finalize the Education and Training Roadmap. A UNESCO technical assistance team was established, consisting, two HQ units, UIL, UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa and IICBA with the leadership of IIEP. The technical team had joint scoping mission from 30 June to 6 July 2019 and a one-week writing workshop held from August 5-11, 2019 to finalize the Roadmap. At the moment, the Roadmap is ready for approval by the national authority. Concurrently, the Federal Ministry of Education also requested UNESCO-IIEP

to provide technical support for the preparation of the Sixth Education Sector Development Programme (ESDP VI). Terms of Reference (TOR) developed and agreed with the Ministry of Education to prepare the sector plan. The Sector plan preparation is financed by Global Partnership for Education. ESDP VI kick of training provided for the team on the situational analysis. The situational analysis is finalized by the national experts that includes collecting data, update and verify existing databases, reviewing ESDP V implementation and identification of the main challenges to be addressed during ESDP VI.



H.E. Dr. Tilaye Gete, Minister for Ministry of Education



H.E. Professor Hirut Woldemariam, Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology

NATURAL SCIENCES

Visit to Ethiopia by Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences

Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle was in Addis Ababa from 2 – 3 September 2019 as part of her first mission to Africa since her assumption of duty as the UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences in April 2019. While in Addis Ababa, Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle met with the AUC for HRST, the Minister of Science and Higher Education of Ethiopia and UNECA staff. A Science and Diplomacy dinner was also held on the occasion of the ADG visit,



L-R: Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle and H.E. Prof. Afework Kassu Gizaw, Ethiopia State Minister for Science and Higher Education

which was attended by over 50 guests invited from different diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa as well as the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Discussions by the ADG/SC with H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for HRST, mainly focused on Sciences and STI Policy Programmes and re-positioning of UNESCO's Sciences in line with Agenda 2063 and the 'One Million by 2021' Initiative. The ADG/SC highlighted UNESCO Science Programmes, such as the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the International Hydrological Programme, the Basic Science and Engineering Science Programme for Capacity Building at all levels of science, the cross-cutting Programme on Climate Change, and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

In a meeting with UNECA, the ADG/SC advocated for strengthening and synchronizing both UNESCO and UNECA's work on Science, Technology and

Innovation Policy Programmes as well as the two agencies' Intergovernmental Programmes on natural resources related to the sustainable development goals 13, 14 and 15. The need for monitoring data on SDG 4, revision of Africa NDC's, data collection on science, on STI in particular and fostering transboundary management of natural resources as a way to foster integration in Africa was also emphasized.



L-R: H.E. Professor Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology and Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle

During her meeting with Professor Afework Kassu, State Minister in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE), he thanked the ADG for UNESCO's continued support to Ethiopia in education and science, and requested the need to further strengthen the cooperation in the areas of Natural Sciences. He also outlined MoSHE's priority areas of cooperation interest on Science with UNESCO. The ADG promised to tap every available opportunities to deepen cooperation with MoSHE in the fields of Natural Sciences. She pinpointed immediate areas of collaboration in science such as celebration of the 150 years of periodic table, girls science camps, greening Addis, water management and various other capacity building trainings and technical support areas.

Launch Of Lake Tana Documentary Film



Young man in his Papyrus Tankwa after cutting fodder for his cattle being filmed by the UNESCO Film Crew on Lake Tana, November 2017.



Extract from Lake Tana Documentary

Being listed as an UNESCO biosphere reserve since 2015, Lake Tana is the largest lake in Ethiopia and the main source of the Blue Nile. As such, it is an integral part of the diverse local ecosystem.

Funded by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, in 2017 UNESCO, in partnership with UN-Environment, the Ethiopian Ministry for Energy, Water and Irrigation with the support of other stakeholders, developed a documentary about the reserve with the aim to raise environmental awareness, enhance environmental education, sensitize and involve the population to redress environmental issues that adversely affect Lake Tana as well as the livelihood of the surrounding communities.

Local stakeholders were engaged throughout the development of the film, which improved their capacities to contribute to sustainable solutions for challenges of sustainably managing the reserve. In June 2019, the movie was officially launched at the Goethe Institute in Addis Ababa in the presence of H.E. Brita Wagener, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ethiopia. The 60



H.E. Brita Wagener, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ethiopia

participants of the launch, which came from the civil society, academia, government institutions, the private sector as well as the diplomatic corps, engaged in a roundtable discussion on the sustainable management of the Lake Tana biosphere reserve.

As a next step, the movie is planned to be screened to a wider audience, including at universities, municipal organisations or our partners working in conservation, in order to spread awareness for the challenges laying ahead of this unique natural habitat.



Guests at the Lake Tana Documentary Screening

UNESCO Supports the AUC Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024

Since 2018, within the framework of RCM cluster 3, UNESCO has been consulting the African Union Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024). First, the programme implementation from 2014-2018 was reviewed before proposing new programme elements for the period from 2019-2024 (5 Year Action Plan).

To validate the consultancy's results and report, the UNESCO Liaison Office participated in a workshop organized by HRST in March 2019. Together, the 23 participants sought to enhance synergies and coordinate their activities regarding the implementation of STISA-2024.

Drawing from this successful experience, the

UNESCO Liaison Office has extended its efforts to offer advice and consultancy to the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation for developing a comprehensive concept for an operational STISA Monitoring and Evaluating Framework.



East African Capacity Building Workshop on Drought Monitoring and Forecasting

In collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNECA's African Climate Policy Centre, Princeton Climate Analytics and the ENTRO Nile Basin Initiative an East African Capacity Building Workshop on Drought Monitoring and Forecasting was organised from 8 to 10 October 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The training workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from academia, national governments and international organisations in the East African Region and provided a platform for the participants to learn about the African Flood and Drought Monitor, an online tool that brings together ground observations, hydrological and climate modelling and remote sensing to provide integrated drought monitoring and forecasting in support of risk analysis and early warning.

The three-day event also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss other forms of drought risk management, and exchanged ideas for developing knowledge sharing networks.



Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso giving her opening remarks



Participants and Stakeholders of the workshop

Cross-fertilizing Workshop for the Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in Man and Biosphere Reserves (EVAMAB) Project

Addis Ababa Liaison Office supported the UNESCO Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, Man and the Biosphere Programme in organization of a cross-fertilizing workshop for the economic valuation of ecosystem services in Man and Biosphere reserves (EVAMAB Project) from 13-17 May 2019 in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. The EVAMAB Project addresses the evaluation of ecosystem services (ES) in UNESCO-MAB sites in 4 African Countries: Benin (Pendjari), Ethiopia (Lake Tana), Tanzania (Manyara) and Uganda (Mount Elgon). The workshop was attended by over 37 participants in presence of His Excellency Mr. Francois Dumont, Ambassador of Belgium to Ethiopia, His Excellency Professor Fikadu Beyene,

Commissioner of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Mrs. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office. The meeting enhanced synergies and better coordination of activities regarding the management of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves—capitalizing on putting an economic value on the various ecosystem services to appreciate more what ecosystems provide. The workshop also provided inputs to the Draft Manual on Evaluation of Ecosystem Services for MAB managers in Africa and is expected to be presented to the AfriMAB network meeting that took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 30 Sept – 4 Oct 2019.

The UNESCO-IHP International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) Case Study on Emerging Pollutants in Lake Tana (Ethiopia) – UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

The International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) implemented a case study on emerging pollutants in Lake Tana (Ethiopia) – a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This work highlights the problem of emerging pollutants, specifically a chemical called perfluoro alkylated substances (PFASs), in the aquatic environment of Lake Tana and their impact on human health. Moreover, it investigated the presence of this new pollutant in fish and assesses the risk to human health through

food chain, as fish consumption from the lake is increasing. The study recommends solutions to reduce the emission of this pollutant to the lake, based upon science-based surveillance of wastewater and waste disposals. The case study was conducted in partnership with Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources and Uppsala University (Sweden) in the framework of the major UNESCO project on Emerging Pollutants in Water (2015-2018).

UNESCO Participation in the First Ethiopia Water and Energy Week (EWEW)

The Director of UNESCO Addis Liaison Office participated in the first Ethiopia Water and Energy Week from 17 -20 June 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was organized by the Ethiopia Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy (MoWIE) under the theme “Transformation of Water and Energy sector for Ethiopia's New Horizon of Hope” with the main purpose of the EWEW was to raise awareness about the water and energy sector potential, development challenges and opportunities among the public and to create a national and international interaction platform for public-private-development partners. For visibility, UNESCO provided technical and financial support to the Africa Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, a UNESCO Category II Centre housed at the Ethiopia Ministry of Water, Irrigation

and Energy in Addis Ababa, in the production of its brochure of which about 100 copies were distributed during the event. The Liaison office further showcased UNESCO's work in the water sector by distributing over 70 copies of UNESCO's International Drought Initiative, 30 brochure copies of IHP-VIII Water Security Responses to Regional and Global Challenges as well as 30 publication copies of People and Cooperation 50 Years of Water Programmes for Sustainable Development at UNESCO. Each of the aforementioned publication copies were further shared with UN Environment Liaison Office to the AU and ENECA, AU (Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology) and MoWIE.

3rd Ordinary Session for the specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology

UNESCO supported the AU in organizing the 3rd Ordinary Session for the specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) from 10th to 13th December 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The STC-EST 3, brought together Ministers in charge of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, as well as Development Partners, Regional Institutions, Representative of Private Sector among others to take stock of how education, science, technology and innovation may better contribute towards attaining the Africa Agenda 2063 and to take collective decisions, on education, science, technology and innovation.



L-R: H.E. Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor, African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, African Union Director for Human Resources, Science and Technology

In her opening remarks, H.E. Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor, African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST), stressed the importance of Education and STI for the realization of AU Chairperson's initiative (1Million by 2021) focused on creating direct opportunities for the development of young people in Africa, to actively and meaningfully drive the full realization of Africa's Agenda 2063. The AUC Chairperson 1Million by 2021 Initiative aims to create opportunities for Africa's young people through the 4Es – Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement. Furthermore, the Commissioner highlighted the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) as a key policy tool for African Union's Agenda 2063, aimed at harnessing inherent skills and human capital in Africa, as well as fostering the continent's education revolution. Nevertheless, she stressed that the need to step along a long journey,

and translate many 'talks into walks' to address the current challenges and utilize the opportunities on the continent.



L-R: Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, Mr. Andrew Rugege, Africa Regional Director for The International Telecommunication Union.

In her remarks, during the Ministerial Session of the STC-EST, the UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, Dr. Shamila Nair-bedouelle, walked the audience through the different facets of the Education and Science for sustainable development. She highlighted UNESCO's efforts and support to the African Union Commission in implementing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) in the areas of Teacher Development, Data Management and EMIS, STEM Education, TVET and Higher Education. She further noted UNESCO's technical support for the coming 5-years (2020-2024) work plan of STISA 2024 and the evaluation and monitoring of the first phase 2014 -2019 with the African Union Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) and the African Observatory in Science Technology and Innovation (AOSTI). Dr. Shamila further highlighted UNESCO's assistance to Member States, including more than 25 African countries, in terms of developing, reviewing, implementing & monitoring inclusive and gender transformative STI policies. The ADG also mentioned a few emerging challenges which requires a strengthened Science, Technology and Innovation terrain to mitigate. Some of which are climate change, natural disasters, water crises and bio-diversity. She reiterated UNESCO's commitment to working with regional institutions like the African Union to strengthen the Education, Science and Technology space in Africa. In the field of water security, she noted UNESCO's

actions in the context of its Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), including actions on drought monitoring and risk prevention. She presented the Man and the Biosphere programme, an intergovernmental scientific programme aiming at reconciling Conservation of Biodiversity and sustainable and equitable use of natural resources for community wellbeing as well as its major contribution to assist African Member States in implementing Agenda 2030 and its SDGs and AU Agenda 2063. Dr. Shamila concluded her speech with recommendations aiming at strengthening cooperation with the African Union on Education and Science development. Some of the recommendations include, strengthening data collection in Education and Science, M&E and Reporting on SDG4 and CESA 2025 to inform an annual Africa report on Education, Ratification, signing and implementation of the Addis Ababa convention on recognition of certificates, qualifications, and others in the areas of STEM, TVET and ICTs application in Education. She appealed to member countries to strengthen Education for Peace at their respective countries and advocated for the acceleration of the pedagogic use of the General History of Africa in both formal and non-formal Education systems.

Open Science for Africa forum

In the margins of the STC-EST 3, UNESCO in partnership with AU-HRST organized an Open Science for Africa Forum on 12 December 2019 to raise the importance of Open Science for countries that need to strengthen their scientific systems and benefit from the results of science produced worldwide. Open Science is the growing global movement to make scientific research and data accessible to all and African scientists need to be at the cutting edge of contemporary, data-intensive science as a fundamental resource for a modern society. A Science and Education Diplomacy Dinner was later hosted on the eve of 12th December 2019, following the Open Science Forum, by the UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences and African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology during which the two hosts both emphasized on the interlinkages between Education, Science and Innovation in contribution to Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

During the Ministerial Session of the STC-EST 3 on the 13th December 2019, the Ministers of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation acknowledged the game changing potential of open science in Africa in reducing the existing inequalities in STI and accelerating progress towards the implementation of the Agenda 2063 and the achievement of SDGs and commended UNESCO for taking the lead in building a global consensus on open science. The Ministers called for support and promotion of open science initiatives at national, regional and continental levels to increase access to scientific information, data, knowledge and networks and to bring science closer to society. They also committed to support and actively contribute to the consultative and inclusive process led by UNESCO to develop a new international standard setting instrument on Open Science-the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science to be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2021.

Award of 3 Women Scientists under the Green Academies Project

In celebration of the Ethiopia Science Week, UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa awarded 3 laptops to three women scientists/researchers (Ms. Almaz Giziew from Bahir Dar University, Ms. Fenet Belay from Jimma University, and Ms. Teguada Alebachew from Mkele University) in recognition for their research contribution to various scientific areas, among others, including water & sanitation as well as climate change. The celebration took place on 22 November 2019 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and was organized under a special topic in the framework of the Ethiopia Science Week called “Women in Science and

Technology” by the Ethiopia Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (ECA).



Ethiopian Women scientists awarded

Promoting the Contribution of World Heritage for Sustainable Development and Reinforcing Capacities for Protection and Conservation of Paleontological Sites in Ethiopia



Lower Valley of the Awash in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), in collaboration with UNESCO Liaison Office and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, organized a workshop, led by Mr. Koen Meyers, UNESCO Consultant, that aimed at strengthening national capacities for preparing World Heritage nomination dossiers for natural heritage sites in September 2019 in Ethiopia. The country was one of the first signatories to the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and boasts two of the first dozen sites inscribed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978, namely the 'Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela' and 'Simien National Park'.

Over 30 participants attended the workshop, including federal and regional government officials, site management authorities as well as representatives

of international NGOs and local civil society organizations. The workshop was officially opened by Dr. Negeri Lencho, Head of the Oromiya Bureau of Environment and Climate Change, who underlined the importance of the World Heritage Convention in managing and protecting Ethiopia's unique natural heritage. In his speech, Dr. Balayneh Ayele, the Director-General of the Amhara Region Environment and Wildlife Protection and Development Authority, highlighted the benefits of World Heritage status in supporting regional development.



Lower Valley of the Omo in Ethiopia

Review Meeting of the Regional Study Conducted on Cultural Policies in Africa

In preparation of the Forum of Ministers of Culture, which will be held during UNESCO's General Conference in November 2019, a regional study on cultural policies in Africa has been conducted and submitted by the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA). Within the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the study also referred to African continental policy documents such as Agenda-2063 and Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.

A review meeting brought together representatives from AUC, the African Academy of Languages, the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies, African

World Heritage Fund, governments and UNESCO in Abidjan in September 2019. The meeting was officially opened by Mr Daniel Wognin, Representative of the Grand-Bassam Municipality and Ms Anne Lemelistre, Director, UNESCO, Abidjan Office. The study focuses on 26 countries that already developed a national cultural policy.

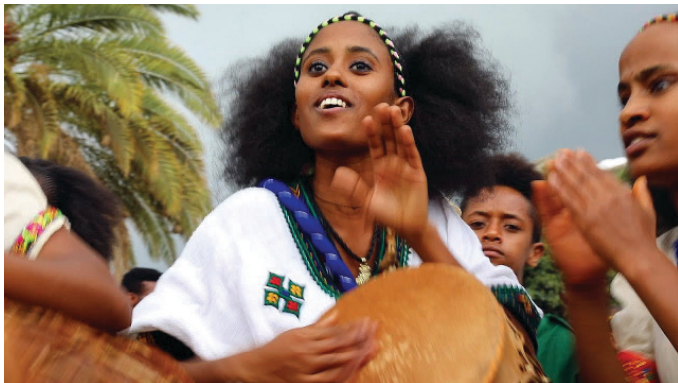
Participants agreed to focus on reviewing the findings and the proposed recommendations of the study and to develop a policy brief (executive summary) to be submitted to UNESCO for distribution with the study. A policy brief will highlight the key findings, the recommendations and key messages.

Ethiopian (Epiphany) Inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (December 2019)



Ethiopian Epiphany is a colourful festival celebrated all over Ethiopia to commemorate the baptism of Jesus Christ. The commemoration starts on the eve of the main festival, when people escort their parish church tabot, a representation of the Tables of the Law, to a pool, river or artificial reservoir. Celebrants then attend nightlong prayers and hymn services, before taking part in the actual festival the following day, when each tabot transported back to its church. The Ethiopian Epiphany is a religious and cultural festival whose viability ensured through continuous practice and the pivotal contribution of the Orthodox clergy.

Ethiopians Celebrate Ashenda/Shadey, a Popular Female Festival

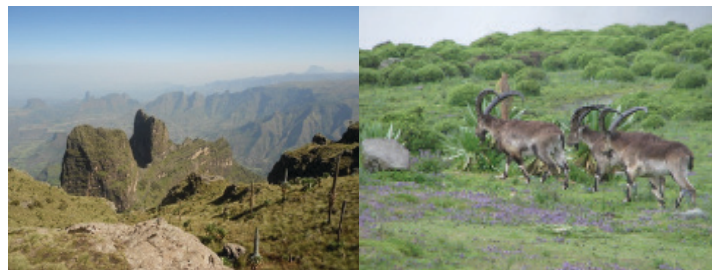


A very popular girls and young women's festival known as Ashenda/Sheday is under celebration in August 2019 in many parts of Ethiopia. Doing their hair in traditional style and dressed in traditional

clothes, girls celebrate the festival with songs and dances. This Ethiopia's intangible heritage is a privileged context for sharing gender roles and identities as well as transmitting them.

The nomination file of the festival submitted to UNESCO by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the property to be registered on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The title as officially presented is Ashenda Ashendye Aynewari Maria Shadey Solel, Ethiopian Girls Festival

UNESCO's Emergency Response for the Simen Mountains National Park



UNESCO provided financial support amounting to 74,225 USD, following the request for the emergency assistance by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport as well as the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) to deal with the fire broke-out on the Simen Mountains National Park since the last week of March and continue throughout April 2019. The national park is among the first inscribed World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1978.

According to the report from EWCA, a fierce fire broke-out in five different spots that has burnt more than 700 hectares of Erica and grassland of the park. The fire raging the park, greatly affected the biodiversity and important species, such as the flagship and endemic Ethiopian wolf, walia ibex and the chillada Monkeys as well as other species. This also happened on the other important natural site, the Bale Mountains National Park almost at the same time.

Ethiopia Hosts a Technical Workshop on Enhancing National Capacities for Natural World Heritage Site Nominations



The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) in collaboration with UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa organized a four-day technical workshop to strengthen national capacities in preparing World Heritage nomination dossiers for natural heritage sites, which runs from 23 to 27 September 2019 in Gondar Town, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.

The workshop, which was led by UNESCO consultant Mr. Koen Meyers, aimed to enhance the technical and institutional capacities and expertise of relevant national stakeholders regarding natural World Heritage nominations, and facilitated discussions that led to a road map and action plan in support of new nominations.

ARCCH and UNESCO-LO Organized a Technical Workshop on Enhancing National Capacities for Protection and Promoting of Cultural Heritages



The Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages (ARCCH) in collaboration with UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office organized a four-day technical workshop to strengthen national capacities in the management, protection and

promotion of cultural cultural heritage sites, which runs from 14 to 17 September 2019 in Adama Town, Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia. The workshop enhances the cultural dimension of development in line with the protection and promotion of cultural diversity in different forms, in particular through initiatives to safeguard cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible as well as the promotion and development of cultural industries.

UNESCO Director-General, Ms Audrey Azoulay Visited the World Heritage Site of Lalibela, Ethiopia



who was in Ethiopia for the celebration of the World Press freedom Day, conduct a working visit to the Rock-Hewn churches of Lalibela, World Heritage site on 3 May 2019. The DG was accompanied by the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Sport H.E. Dr Hirut Kassaw, Director of the UNESCO, Addis Ababa Liaison Office, Madam Ana Elisa Santana-Afonso and Dr Mulugeta Feseha, Director General of the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural heritages.

The visit of the DG shows the attention given to the property, for which the people and government of Ethiopia have a serious concern. The extent of the damage, past and recent conservations as well as technical and scientific analysis was given by Dr Esayas G/Yohannes, Structural Engineer from the Addis Ababa University. Head of the Lalibela Churches administration, H.H Aba Tsige Selassie with priests and the church community welcomed the DG and honoring her with the chanting of the hymn performed with senior priests.

In her message to the church and government authorities, the Director General expressed her gratitude for visiting this marvelous property, which is very significant for humanity. She also ensured the continued support of UNESCO for the protection, preservation and transmission for the future generation.

International Jazz Day Celebrated in Ethiopia



Taking the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day celebration in Ethiopia, the International Jazz Day celebrated on the first of May 2019, at the Addis Ababa City Municipality Hall. The event directed by the founder of Ethio-Jazz, Dr Mulatu Astatke, the Mozambiqan performer, Moria Choinga and regional performers from in the country, particularly the Southern part of Ethiopia. On the occasion attended by thousands of spectators, most of whom are expatriates, UNESCO, Addis Ababa Liaison Office Director and Representative, Madam Ana Elisa Santana-Afonso delivered her message and the Director General's message for the Day.

International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz and its roots, future and impact; raise awareness of the need for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding; and reinforce international cooperation and communication.

Exhibition on “African World Heritage Sites” Mounted at the African Union (02 May 2019)



The office produced and organized an exhibition on the African Heritage sites as well as Intangible

Cultural Heritage of African countries in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The exhibition had 43 banners showcasing the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 24 African countries and 5 cross-boundary heritage sites. Moreover, there were 53 banners on World Heritage Sites in 42 African Member States. This mobile exhibition can be made available to UNESCO's offices and relevant institutions which want to display the richness of African cultures and heritage for peace. The objective of the exhibition was to celebrate the cultural diversity of Africa in the face of growing globalization and promote intercultural dialogue and mutual respect among the African people as the foundation of a peaceful continent. It also aimed at conveying the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted from one generation to generation.

Public Consultation on Implementation and Monitoring of Cultural Policy and the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions



Cultural Heritage of African countries in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The exhibition had 43 banners showcasing the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 24 African countries and 5 cross-boundary heritage sites. Moreover, there were 53 banners on World Heritage Sites in 42 African Member States. This mobile exhibition can be made available to UNESCO's offices and relevant institutions which want to display the richness of African cultures and heritage for peace. The objective of the exhibition was to celebrate the cultural diversity of Africa in the face of growing globalization and promote intercultural dialogue and mutual respect among the African people as the foundation of a peaceful continent. It also aimed at conveying the wealth of knowledge

and skills that is transmitted from one generation to generation. UNESCO, Addis Ababa Office and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism co-organized the public consultation meeting on 30 April 2019, at the conference hall of the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural heritages (ARCCH). On the meeting held at Addis Ababa over 260 cultural professionals gathered to attend and discuss the future of Ethiopia's cultural policy and steps to implement its recently adopted Film Policy. The meeting opened jointly by H.E. Ms Bizunesh Meseret, State Minister for Culture of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr Torbjörn Petterson, Ambassador of Sweden to Ethiopia and Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa.

Professionals from a wide range of creative sectors – film, dance, music, book, and visual and performing arts – were present at the consultation. Over a daylong consultation, they concluded that the urgent needs for art councils and funds, support to civil society organizations, professional training and education institutions, and transparent rules and regulations for copyright management are shared across artistic disciplines. Film producers and filmmakers' professional associations called for a transparent implementation of legal framework to support the sector's value chain, from production to dissemination and access.

Ethiopia Hosts a Technical Training on Enhancing National Capacities for Natural World Heritage Site Nominations

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), in collaboration with UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, organized a four-day technical workshop to strengthen national capacities for preparing World Heritage nomination dossiers for natural heritage sites, which ran from 23 to 27 September 2019 in Gondar Town, Amhara Region, Ethiopia. Ethiopia was one of the first signatories to the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and boasts two of the first dozen sites inscribed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978, namely the 'Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela' and 'Simien National Park'.

Today, Ethiopia is home to nine natural and cultural

World Heritage sites—maintaining its leading position as the African country with the most World Heritage properties. Nevertheless, Ethiopia still has six sites listed on its tentative list of potential natural and cultural heritage sites that it intends to nominate for future inscription onto the UNESCO World Heritage List. The state party is currently preparing a nomination file for the 'Bale Mountains National Park', which was the focus of the national capacity-building workshop organized in Gondar Town this week. Over 30 participants attended the workshop, including federal and regional government officials, site management authorities as well as representatives of international NGOs and local civil society organizations.

The workshop was officially opened by Dr. Negeri Lencho, Head of the Oromiya Bureau of Environment and Climate Change, who underlined the importance of the World Heritage Convention in managing and protecting Ethiopia's unique natural heritage. Dr. Balayneh Ayele, the Director-General of the Amhara Region Environment and Wildlife Protection and Development Authority, who delivered the introductory keynote speech, highlighted the benefits of World Heritage status in supporting regional development through sustainable tourism as well as the protection of natural resources and ecological services. Mr. Getu Assefa, National Culture Officer at UNESCO Addis Ababa Office stated in his remarks that "Natural World Heritage properties are regarded as the most outstanding natural places on this planet".

The workshop, which was led by UNESCO consultant Mr. Koen Meyers, aimed at enhancing the technical and institutional capacities and expertise of relevant national stakeholders regarding natural World Heritage nominations as well as facilitating discussions that led to a road map and action plan in support of new nominations. The workshop also included a one-day field trip to Ethiopia's only natural World Heritage property, the Simien Mountains National Park, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List under criteria (vii) and (x) for its scenic values and global significance for biodiversity conservation as well as home to a variety of globally threatened species.

Communication & Information

World Press Freedom Day Global Conference



Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO



Symbolic Handover of 2020 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference to Netherlands

UNESCO, the Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission (AUC) co-hosted the 26th edition of World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD) international conference from 1 – 3 May 2019 in Addis Ababa. The conference programme, which consisted of two plenary sessions and 28 parallel sessions, followed the theme “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”.

The global conference had over 2,000 Participants from 100 countries, which made it the largest event of its kind organized by the UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office and was accompanied by 100 other World Press Freedom Day events around the world. Together with our 60 partners from the public and private sector as well as civil society, this event underlined the key role of free expression, media and journalism for ensuring free, fair and transparent elections.

Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize

During the WPFDD, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was named as the 2019 laureate of UNESCO’s Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize in recognition of his role as the instigator of the peace agreement between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as his efforts to mediate conflicts across the entire region of Eastern Africa. Following this he was recently also awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.



Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo

Guillermo Cano Award

Each year, the Guillermo Cano award honors journalists, an organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger.

In 2019, the winners were Wa Lone, 33, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 29. At the point of the award ceremony, they were still held in prison, which is why the prize was received on their behalf by relatives. Within a week of the ceremony, they were released under a presidential amnesty, after spending almost 500 days behind bars.

Addis Ababa Declaration

The participants of the 2019 World Press Freedom Day international conference adopted the *Addis Ababa Declaration on Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation*.

It highlights the role of journalism in facilitating peaceful, credible, inclusive, transparent, free and fair elections. Thus, it calls on Member States to strengthen legal and policy frameworks that guarantee respect for freedom of expression and privacy, and foster a diverse, independent media sector.



L-R; Dr. Vera Songwe, UNECA Executive Secretary, H.E. Ambassador Quartery Thomas Kwesi, AU Deputy Chairperson, H.E. Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal and Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General



H.E. Amb. Quartery Thomas Kwesi, AU Deputy Chairperson

“UNESCO deserves congratulations. Your theme for this Conference – The Role of the Media in Elections and Democracy – could not have been better chosen. We are optimistic that this World Press Freedom Day will be an opportunity to draw attention to the great potential of the media, so that they can be prepared in supporting the process of peace, freedom and reconciliation in society.”



Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

“Freedom of Speech is the ultimate trademark of a just society. We are pleased that this year’s World Press Freedom Day celebration is taking place here in Addis Ababa and I would like to thank UNESCO for choosing Ethiopia as the host of the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day. This I believe is no coincidence given the significant progress this country has made in promoting press freedom, especially in the last year.”

Visit of Audrey Azoulay, Director General to UNESCO



UNESCO's Team in Addis Ababa with Ms. Audrey Azoulay



Ms. Audrey Azoulay at the World Press Freedom Day Conference in Addis Ababa



Ms. Audrey Azoulay, DG of UNESCO in Lalibela

Ms. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, visited UNESCO Liaison Office Addis Ababa on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2019. The entire office was honoured to welcome her to Ethiopia. During her visit, she was received by H.E. Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and met with H.E. Quartey Thomas Kwesi, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

After welcoming the participants of the World Press Freedom Day during the event's Opening Ceremony, she also attended the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony.

UNESCO Liaison Office Addis Ababa was further glad to accompany the Director-General on her visit to Lalibela, Ethiopia, home to the famous UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Rock-Hewn Churches.

Enhancing Partnerships and Creating Synergies through the WPF Global Conference

The World Press Freedom Day (WPF) Global Conference was organised by a tripartite effort of UNESCO, the African Union and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In November 2018, Dr. Markos Tekle, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced together with Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office, that the Government of Ethiopia was ready to host the 2019 WPF Global Conference. The State Minister thanked UNESCO for selecting Ethiopia to host this conference and emphasized that opening up the media was an essential part of the current reforms in Ethiopia. He also commended UNESCO for its continued support with both resources and technical assistance to assist Ethiopia's efforts to preserve and protect its national heritage. He stressed that Ethiopia was ready to work closely with UNESCO in projects which would contribute to ensuring sustainable development in the country. Ms. Afonso commended the Government of Ethiopia for its unwavering support to UNESCO and congratulated Dr. Markos Tekle on his appointment as a State Minister of Foreign Affairs. She said UNESCO welcomed the reforms taking place in the country and was committed to support them.

The same month, Quartey Thomas Kwesi, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, confirmed the AUC's readiness to partner with UNESCO and the Government of Ethiopia in co-hosting the WPF Global Conference. These efforts followed an established and fruitful collaboration between the African Union Commission and UNESCO, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism Framework, in promoting freedom of expression and the role of a healthy African media in achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063. Mr. Moez Chakchouk, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, welcomed Ethiopia's decision to host the event, stating that this "illustrates the Ethiopian Government's commitment to democratic reforms, especially in the media sector, which has opened up the space for media freedoms and for strengthening respect for human rights in the country including online freedom of expression". The ensuing preparations for hosting the WPF

Global Conference enhanced the close cooperation between UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office, the African Union Commission and the Government of Ethiopia. In addition, it offered the opportunity to deepen existing collaborations and establish new relationships with numerous other partners. For example, in February 2019, a high-level briefing on the 2019 Global Conference to mark the World Press Freedom Day (WPF) and attended by the diplomatic community, public and private sector, was convened by UNESCO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in order to bring on board key stakeholders and partners for the preparations of the 2019 WPF Global Conference. "Hosting this global conference in Ethiopia is welcome and the Government is fully committed to partner with UNESCO, the African Union Commission and all other media partners", greeted Mr. Kidanemariam Gidey, Director for the International Social and Human Rights Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Many development partners responded to the call for joint efforts in ensuring the 2019 WPF Global Conference was successful.

Strengthening Community Radio Sustainability in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian broadcasting landscape is characterized by three types of media ownership: state or public service, commercial and community. Community Radio is a recent phenomenon with the first community radio licence awarded in 2008. According to the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority (EBA), which licenses and regulates community radio, 49 Community Radio stations have licenses to operate in Ethiopia in 2019. However, those functioning regularly might be less than this number. While few of them are new and have not started operation yet, some others have halted operation due to various factors. UNESCO is the pioneer in supporting members states in establishing and strengthening community radio worldwide. In Ethiopia, UNESCO supported the establishment of the first community radio. Since 2018, UNESCO is engaged in strengthening the community radio sustainability in the country targeting both duty bearers and right holders in identifying and addressing sustainability challenges. An assessment was conducted in 2018 that identified key of challenge and provided recommendations. The government of Ethiopia invested in the development of community radio to promote access to information for communities that cannot be addressed otherwise due to their geographical location, particular interest or the need for the development of their culture. While the ministry of Innovation and Technology leads infrastructural investment, the Broadcast Authority provides capacity development supports in addition to regulation.

Community Radios (CR) in Ethiopia are divided into five categories for licensing (as per Regulation 04/2012 or EBA). These are: 1) Geographical CR, 2) Common Interest CR, 3) Higher Education Institutions CR, 4) Community Focused Higher Education Institution CR, and 5) Community Focussed Local Administration CR. In terms of sustainability, most have challenges that arises from a lack of economic resources. Sustainability refers to the overall functionality of community radio that includes institutional arrangements that enables independent operation, community ownership and management, capacity and ability of resource mobilization and infrastructural quality and operation capacity.

According to UNESCO comparative assessment of community radio, sustainability challenges arise from four areas: structural or intuitional,

economic (financial), social and technical (including infrastructural). One challenge alone puts a community radio under sustainability challenge. According to the assessment findings, most community radios in Ethiopia has sustainability challenge at least in one of the categories. While higher education supported stations have relatively better economic sustainability that also translates into technical sustainability, their social is usually weak with high dependency to direct support from the parent institution. Most others have economic challenges with low resource mobilization capacity. Technical or infrastructural challenge is the dominant factor in operation for most of the stations. Few, however, have very good institutional, social and economic status. This mostly come from the strength of the community radio managers and structural arrangements that provided independent operation. The effect of lack of strong ownership by community councils, which govern the stations, is reflected by poor social, economic and technical capacities of stations. This mainly arises from the lack of awareness by the community and lack of using the station as a tool to advocate for their socio-economic, political and cultural aspirations.

As this is critical for sustainability, UNESCO used the World Radio Day of 13 February 2019 to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of community councils. The theme of the 2019 celebration was “Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace” which was an opportune for Ethiopia to reinforce the contribution of radio, particularly community radio, in culture of peace education. UNESCO organized this event together with the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority, Bahir Dar University Department of Journalism and Communication and Amhara Mass Media Agency. Regardless of the challenges, as per the findings of the assessment, it was stressed that community radios in Ethiopia have played a critical role in serving as the key platform for promoting peace, dialogue and social cohesion.

Based on the recommendations of the assessment and participants, UNESCO preparing a guideline that assists duty bearer and other stakeholders take actions that address the challenges of community radios’ sustainability and empower communities. The guideline will be published in early 2020 by UNESCO.

UNESCO: Strengthening Freedom of Expression and Media Development in Ethiopia



The UNESCO Liaison Office in partnership with CIPESA, AccessNOW and the Bloggers Association of Kenya hosted on September 24, 2019, an Ethiopian Bloggers Forum for bloggers in Ethiopia as part of a skills-building initiative. This event was hosted within the framework of the Continental Annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2019 (FIFAfrica19) and the International Day for the Universal Access to Information (IDUAI 2019).

The forum provided a platform for more than 35 bloggers and journalists to share their experiences and challenges. It was noted that the digital era has provided a platform for people to access widespread information and partake in journalism through active engagement on social and digital media platforms. It was also an opportunity for most of the bloggers to meet up and discuss their work in light of ethical considerations. Participant bloggers who were composed of different thematic areas including health, social affairs and rights advocates, current affairs and politics raised a number of issues in the Forum.

Furthermore, a session focused on fact-checking which was moderated by Cayley Clifford a researcher at Africacheck was highly engaging with key techniques and capacities enhanced. She

stressed on the need to verify all kinds of information before sharing as the technology has brought up challenges, as opportunities, that require readiness and sophisticated skills. She shared tools and methods which could be used by individual bloggers in verifying information received online. She added that the spread of false information had become so widespread as a result of which people make decisions based on these false information that affect their lives and of others.

The last session stressed the need for the creation of an association of bloggers in Ethiopia. In his remarks, Mr. James Wamathai of the Bloggers Association of Kenya, who shared the Kenyan experience, stated “when working as an association of bloggers, it is very easy to organize and create content to counter online hate speech, train members and other online users on digital skills, rights and advocacy”. Participates debated on the need, working structure, and ethical issues of having the bloggers association and formed a 15 member-working group that will facilitate further discussions on the key issues and the way forward.

The organizers UNESCO, AccessNow, CIPESA and BAKE promised to support the working group to achieve its objectives.

UNESCO Accompanying Ethiopia in its Media Law Reform Process

Within the framework of UNESCO's action to promote freedom of expression and safety of journalists in Ethiopia and in particular on policy advice and reinforcement of capacities of the duty bearers, Addis Ababa Office is providing support to the Ethiopia Law Reform Team.

The Organisation is contributing to improving Ethiopia's legislative and institutional frameworks, related to media freedom, access to information and safety of journalists and accompanying the country as it reviews and amends its laws, which regulate institutions of democratic governance, the private sector and civil society.

The media law reform-working group is one of the 8 working groups set up by the National Advisory Council (NAC) under the Office of the Ethiopia Attorney General to support the reform process the government is spearheading. The NAC is an independent group comprised of prominent professional personality (mostly lawyers) with a 13-member team and reports to the Attorney General's Office.

To deliver on its mandate, UNESCO's facilitated a 3-day workshop from 15-17 August in Addis Ababa, which provided local and international expert inputs to the media law drafting team on three draft proclamations i.e;

1. The Media Proclamation
2. Freedom of Information Proclamation
3. Computer Crime Proclamation.

The inputs from the local and international experts were critical before the drafts were submitted to the council of ministers and ultimately to parliament.

Leveraging on its convening power in addressing the challenges faced by a fragmented media sector, UNESCO is partnering with the Ethiopian Media Council to put in place a Multistakeholder Coordination Platform (Ethiopia Media Sector Alliance), that will facilitate effective and coordinated media development initiatives in the country, as well as jointly address the challenges facing the online and offline media in Ethiopia.

This coordination is crucial as the opportunities for media development availed by the ongoing new reforms in the Ethiopia media sector, national and

international media actors are seeking for ways to contribute to the reform agenda, but more often with pocket interventions that are disjointed among the actors.

This coordination is therefore expected to greatly contribute to a vibrant media sector that is capable of supporting the development and peacebuilding agenda of the country, by ensuring various media actors contribute to the priorities aligned to the ongoing media reforms.

Furthermore, with the upcoming elections, UNESCO is taking the lead in building the professional capacity of journalists on reporting elections, by partnering with the Ethiopian Media Council to put in place an elections reporting code of ethics as well as standardized training for journalists on elections reporting, that will be Institutionalised within the framework of the Ethiopia Broadcasting Corporation training Centre.

UNESCO Support for Green Legacy



UNESCO LO Addis Ababa staff joined volunteers in planting seeds during the 29th of July.

The UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa participated in Ethiopia's ambitious tree planting campaign that aims to break world record by planting 200 million seedlings in a 12 hours period on 29 July 2019 as part of the "Green Legacy" Initiative that aims to plant 4 billion trees in the rain season. The Green Legacy Initiative aims at building a greener and cleaner Ethiopia and works towards raising public awareness about environmental degradation and to educate society on the importance of adapting green behaviour.

As part of the campaign, Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa and Representative to Ethiopia, told the national broadcaster –EBC - that Ethiopia's plan is a suitable response to the effects of climate change and important for future generations. She highlighted UNESCO's unreserved backing and its continued support of environmental protection and preservation of unique habitats. For example, Ethiopia is home to five registered UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

The 29th of July campaign managed to surpass its own goal of planting 200 million trees in a single day, with a reported total of 353 million trees planted across Ethiopia.

Ms Amina J. Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, lauded Ethiopia's Green Legacy' initiative

by tweeting "If every country can break records for planting trees like Ethiopia-we can counter the effects of deforestation and climate change."



Opubo Goodhead, UNESCO consultant

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

2nd Pan-African Youth Forum – “1 million by 2021 Initiative”



During the forum, the Chairperson of the AUC, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat launched the “1 million by 2021 Initiative”, which will channel direct investments for youth empowerment into the 4 Es - Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement, through leveraging partnerships and sector opportunities. The launch was also attended by the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, and the AUC’s Chairperson’s Special Envoy on Youth, Ms. Aya Chebbi, who welcomed the 400 youths that visited the event.

The initiative will focus on twelve pathways as the drivers of the 4 Es, such as Models for Teacher Development, Skills Transfer Hubs, Internships and Apprenticeships, Digital Skills, Leadership Programmes and Partnership Programmes. As a result, the initiative is expected to create new opportunities in these 4 Es for millions of young Africans by 2021. During the summit, partners from Governments, International Organizations, Foundations and the Private Sector already pledged their support – among them UNFPA, UNICEF, the ILO, the German Government, DFID, Facebook, Ethiopian Airlines, Save the Children and the Open Society Foundation. The launch of the initiative was a strong action contributing to pan-African solutions and innovations that are co-created and driven by young people. This is a step towards realizing the potentials of Africa as the most youthful continent.

An estimated 75% of Africa’s population is younger than 35 years. Harnessing the demographic

dividend will therefore be key to unlocking the continent’s potential and sustainable development. In recognition of the central role played by youths, the African Union Commission (AUC) hosted the 2nd pan-African Youth Forum in Addis Ababa at the end of April 2019. Under the theme “African Youth Unite for Action – Bridging the Gap and Reaching out to Young Africans”, the event brought together youths from across Africa to contribute to solutions for the challenges young African’s face, especially in Education, Skills and Employment, as well as to empower them to take ownership of the continent’s development.

UNESCO facilitated the participation of UNESCO youth leaders at the event, making sure that the voices of our young partners will be heard in the process. For example, our youth leaders were panellists at sessions on Migration and Education or youth engagement. Other youth leaders led training sessions on Employment and engaged with other participants in a Market Place, where they could network and present their projects and ideas for youth engagement in Africa to potential new partners.

UNESCO attends the 20th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM)

UNESCO Delegation led by Ms Ndong Jatta, Ann Therese, Director of UNESCO for Eastern Africa region, participated in the 20th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM) and the 3rd joint meeting of Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the Africa regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group held from 23 and 24 March 2019 in Marrakech, Morocco. The meeting at of both the African Union Commission, and was tended by Senior Officials the United Nations, as well as Africa regional economic communities, and development banks and other development partners and was an opportunity to engage the Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning to ensure full support for the implementation of the global, regional, subregional, and national goals including the Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The theme of the annual session was “United Nations system support for the African Union in commemorating 2019 as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa”. In attendance was by Ms Amina J. Mohammed Deputy Secretary General – United Nations, H.E Agbor Sarah Mbi Enow, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST), Ms Vera Songwe, UNECA Executive Secretary, Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and Chair of the Africa Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group among others.

The objectives of the meeting were to provide a platform for high-level panel discussions on issues pertinent to the theme with a view to promoting interactions and generating solutions that will contribute to efforts aimed at addressing the challenge of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa. Second, it aims to deliberate on the functioning of the mechanism and the Africa Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group platforms, and to assess achievements, challenges and the way forward in strengthening the coherent and efficient delivery of support to

the African Union and its organs in the context of African Union and United Nations reforms.



The Scene of the 20th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM)

During the second high-level panel discussion on the theme: Upscaling durable solutions, including addressing the forced displacement-development nexus, Ms. Ndong Jatta began her statement by asking the question: “Do we really have a durable solution to the challenge of refugees, returnees and IDPs?” She urged the meeting to ponder on that question as she gave historical cultural contexts of how people used to treat ‘people on the move’ in a human manner.

UNESCO also contributed to the Third high-level panel discussion on the theme: Coordinating the work under the Compacts related to Migration, and to Refugees, as a panelist, Mr. Manos Antoninis, Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO, highlighted that migration and displacement keep eliciting negative responses in many countries and education is a key element of a durable solution.

During a high-level Global Education Monitoring Report side event of UNESCO in collaboration with AU/HRST, IOM and UNHCR, Mr. Antoninis, presented the report. The side event provided a platform to discuss promising practices with migrants and refugees included in national education systems, and the role of education in making societies peaceful, more prosperous and more resilient to migration, during a high-level side event.

Luanda Biennale – Culture of Peace



Heads of States, Government Officials, Chairperson of the African Union and Director General of UNESCO



Youth participants at the Luanda Biennale

The first Pan-African Biennale of Luanda for the Culture of Peace from 18 to 22 September 2019, with the main objective of facilitating the development of a Pan-African movement for a culture of peace and non-violence through the developing partnerships involving all stakeholders and ensuring that women are actively engaged as important pillars for sustainable peace on the continent.

For five days, the event brought together over 800 participants representing 17 official country delegations. The one event was officially opened by H.E. Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco, President of the Republic of Angola, in the presence of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, their Excellencies the Presidents of Republic of Mali and Namibia as well as the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the Commissioners for Social Affairs and Rural Economy and Agriculture in addition to ministers of AU Member States and Ambassadors. Participants were also addressed by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege. The participants of the Luanda Biennale agreed on a Communique, which outlined ways to foster a culture of peace in Africa.

To celebrate the diversity, whilst calling for strength by finding unity in shared heritage, the UNESCO Liaison Office created a mobile exhibition on African World Heritage Sites and Intangible Heritages. The Office also organized a side-event

on the State of Peace and Security in Africa with the Institute of Peace and Security Studies of the Addis Ababa University, reflecting on the challenges and solutions African societies have faced in establishing non-violence across the continent. Lastly, the Office facilitated the participation of over 35 youths coming from all over the continent, as well as the attendance of representatives from Femwise. This was generously supported by Ethiopian Airlines, who offered a 20% discount on their tickets for participants of the Biennale, as well as provided free tickets to 15 participants. UNESCO is looking forward to organizing the next Biennale in 2021 an equally successful event for all partners and participants.



Women's Forum Session at the Luanda Biennale for a Culture of Peace

UNESCO at the UN Career Fair

The first ever UN Career Fair in Ethiopia was held at the UN Economic Commission for Africa on August 13, 2019. Over 25 UN agencies and partners presented their activities and career opportunities to 1,800 students and recent graduates, most of them from Addis Ababa University.

UNESCO Liaison Office to AUC and ECA was a key partner in the Fair and actively engaged with committed, driven and bright young students from Ethiopia. At the fair, UNESCO presented itself at its own booth, with staff members offering their advice to potential applicants and sharing their information on UNESCO's work across the world and in Ethiopia in particular. This included producing leaflets on career paths into UNESCO and sharing the experience of past interns and volunteers with the attending youths.

Besides the chance to network with the UN as a potential employer and informing themselves about the work of different UN agencies, the young participants could practice their interview and application skills by attending mock-interviews. Two representatives from UNESCO Addis Ababa Office supported these efforts and were very happy to offer participants tips for future interviews.



Staff of UNESCO Liaison Office to AU and UNECA



Young Participants at the Career Fair



Testimonies from UNESCO Interns and Volunteers



Celine Masheleni (Zimbabwe), Internship at UNESCO from December 2018 - June 2019

Why did you decide to join the UNESCO Liaison Office?

“I have always been interested in working within development spaces on the African continent with particular focus on policy and policy implementation.”

What lessons have you learned during your time at UNESCO?

“I learnt many invaluable lessons during my placement at UNESCO, under the guidance of an excellent and exemplary supervisor, and a welcoming and determined team, I learnt to overcome tasks which I may have been unfamiliar with, or intimidated by but was able to rise to the challenge and complete the duties expected of me.”

Do you have any tip or advice other young people who want to join UNESCO?

“My advice would be to be a go-getter. Look for the opportunities where you can be of help in the office.”



Muthoni Kahuho (Kenya), Internship at UNESCO in summer 2018

Do you have any tip or advice other young people who want to join UNESCO?

“During my first week at UNESCO the Director, H.E Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, asked me what I wanted to achieve during my stay in the organization. I did not expect this question during our discussion. I remember I gave her a vague answer. But this question kept lingering in my mind throughout my stay in UNESCO. When my internship came to an end, I had a brief discussion with her and I confessed to that, “UNESCO made me realize my passion and focus in my career in what I wanted to do, which is to study and work on building a culture of peace in the minds of people.”

Lastly, UNESCO is not discriminative in term of gender, race and religion. I got my internship when I was expecting and worked throughout this period just like any other colleague.”



Teshager Lenma (Ethiopia), Internship at UNESCO from September 2016 – February 2017

What effect did your time at UNESCO have on your career?

“My time at UNESCO helped me improve and become a more professional person. It also accustomed me to working in a multicultural work environment and the UN system at large.”

Do you have any tips for young people thinking about joining UNESCO?

“I would advise for any young person to work with and assist as many supervisors as possible. This will help them understand stand-alone work and collaborative work, which is how things are done everywhere else as well. Understanding this and working with this in mind greatly helps the person to be valuable in any other workplace.”

Coco Korse (Netherlands), Internship at UNESCO in September 2015



What effect did the experience at UNESCO have on your career path?

“Difficult to say. I would like to believe the experiences at UNESCO have broadened my horizon and made me more aware of and appreciative of the heterogeneity in opinions and worldviews.”

What lessons have you learned during your time at UNESCO?

“The impact of politics on day-to-day work. Accepting conditions that are not ideal, and regardless of those conditions, keep pushing towards your goal. “

Do you have any tip or advice other young people who want to join UNESCO?

“Do it!”

Laura Ngumama'anwi (Cameroon), African Union Youth Volunteer hosted by UNESCO 2018 -2019



What was your academic and professional background when joining UNESCO?

“I have a MA in Peace and Security Studies as well as a BA in Educational Psychology. I have also worked as an emergency nurse before participating in the African Union volunteering programme. This background prepared me to work in a challenging environment towards building peace in the minds of men and women.”

What is your current position and responsibilities within UNESCO?

“I am currently a consultant for the Culture of Peace programme at UNESCO.”

What Is your advice for people who want to join UNESCO through the internship or volunteering programme?

“It is exciting working with UNESCO, be ready not to work as an intern or volunteer but as a professional.”

Ononuju Okwaraogoma (Nigeria), African Youth Volunteer at UNESCO 2017-2018



How did volunteering at UNESCO affect your career path?

“The profession development that comes with engaging with several partners and stakeholders exposes you to a very international and diverse work environment. The support, leadership, guidance and mentorship at UNESCO puts you on a path that promotes your development “

What did you learn during your time at UNESCO?

“The most important lesson I learned in my time with UNESCO is to constantly exert yourself, take initiative and be responsible for your learning.”

Do you have any tip or advice other young people who want to join UNESCO?

“Pursuing a career in the UN and UNESCO is a definitely a way to go, you must be willing to be patient, put in your very best, and take responsibility for your development.”

NEW STAFF IN THE OFFICE**EDUCATION***Mr. Albert Mendy*

Mr. Albert Mendy has been appointed as the new Head of our Education Sector. He will be coordinating all projects and programmes under the Education Sector with the African Union Commission and Ethiopia. Mr. Mendy brings extensive experience to his new position, having previously worked as a Senior Programme Specialist in various UNESCO Offices covering Central Africa, which he will contribute to the work the Education Sector is doing at national, regional and international levels.

*Ms. Eszter Szucs*

Ms. Eszter Szucs has over ten years of experience in different sub-sectors of education, throughout all phases of program-cycle management, along various points of the humanitarian-development continuum. Most recently, with UNICEF Malawi, she oversaw the units of early childhood development and basic education quality, supporting development, modelling and rollout of innovative teacher education strategies and of web-based EMIS, as well as learning assessment and a common funding mechanism between Government and development partners, towards aid effectiveness. Prior to that, she gained extensive experience in educational and youth empowerment targeting displaced populations and refugee communities across the Middle East, including Iraq, Syria, the West Bank and Egypt.

NATURAL SCIENCES*Professor Mama Plea*

Professor Mama Plea will oversee and coordinate the National Sciences Sector's projects and programmes with the African Union Commission and Ethiopia as the newly appointed head of the Office's Science Sector. Mr. Plea has worked as a University Professor for Applied Chemistry in multiple Western African countries (Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso) for 13 years. He has been with UNESCO for many years as a Programme Specialist in the Natural Science Sector and has worked for UNESCO at various Offices covering Central Africa. Prof. Plea has a vast amount of experience in UNESCO's work in science and will no doubt contribute to the good work the Addis Ababa Office is undertaking.

*Mr. Rodney Ondjika*

Mr. Rodney Ondjika has been hired as consultant for the organization of the UNESCO-Guinea-Equatorial International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences and the Felix Houphouet-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize in margins of the 33rd Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. He will be coordinating all the activities related to the Prizes with the African Union Commission and the Government of Ethiopia. Mr. Rodney brings experience to his new position, having previously worked as a Political Officer in the Political Affairs Department of the African Union Commission and with the UNFPA Liaison Office to the African Union.

STAFF OF UNESCO ADDIS ABABA LIAISON OFFICE

EDUCATION



L-R: Demelash Zenebe Woldu, Kidist Gezahgne, Muluwork Befekadu, Albert Mendy, Samuel Asnake, Eszter Szucs, Demissew Lemma

NATURAL SCIENCES



L-R: Professor Mama Plea, Norman Mushabe, Rodney Ondjika

CULTURE



L-R: Abel Solomon, Getu Assefa, Kassahun Abate

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION



L-R: Aderaw Tassew and Lydia Gachungi

LIAISON UNIT/SHS



L-R: Mulu Alem Desta, Opubo Goodhead, Malebogo Bowe, Lukas Rosenkranz

ADMINISTRATION



L-R: Moges Belete Negede, Lamin Sanneh, Tamrat Lemma, Mekdes Tadesse, Awgechew Mulugeta, Tesfaye Getachew, Tigist Dagne



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