

KENYA

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. PHYLLIS J. KANDIE, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT DELEGATE OF KENYA TO UNESCO DURING THE 205TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO

MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2018

**Mr. Chairman,
President of the General-Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure to address the Executive Board in my capacity as the new Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO. I take this opportunity to reiterate Kenya's commitment to the ideals of UNESCO. Kenya supports the Africa Group statement delivered by Nigeria, Vice-Chair of the Executive Board.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya is pleased to have organized in collaboration with UNESCO and the Africa Union, the 1st Pan-African High-Level Conference on Education (PACE) held from 25th to 27th April 2018 in Nairobi.

The conference set out a harmonized vision to meet the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Conference also adopted the Nairobi Declaration and Call for Action on Education that notably establishes a Joint African Union – SDG4 Education 2030 mechanism to ensure coordinated implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Kenya looks forward to increased collaboration between UNESCO, the African Union and the Member States towards an effective implementation and follow-up to the Conference outcomes.

Mr. Chairman

Kenya also hosted the Fifth Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held from 19 to 21 June 2018, in Diani, Mombasa.

The meeting reflected on the contribution of National Commissions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as enhancing coordination and networking. The meeting also highlighted the important role that National Commissions play in strategically positioning UNESCO in its fields of competence.

Mr. Chairman

Kenya further sets to host a Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference from 26th to 28th November 2018 in Nairobi. The Conference seeks to advance the global discourse on empowering communities to use ocean resources sustainably. Kenya welcomes the announcement to declare UN Decade of ocean science as it informs sustainable policy decisions going forward.

The conference is expected to devote considerable attention to how oceans, seas, lakes and rivers, can accelerate collective quest for sustainable development. We appreciate UNESCO's participation in the Global Conference and Canada and Japan for co-hosting the Conference. Kenya welcomes the Director-General proposal for a joint AU/UNESCO rethink of Africa strategy towards the 2060 Agenda of the AU.

Mr. Chairman

Kenya welcomes the Director-General's efforts to strategically transform UNESCO and her commitment to work with Member States and their National Commissions. We concur on the relevance of UNESCO's mandate which should be strengthened by building on our comparative advantage in the 40 C/5. Kenya further welcomes the strong emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the focus on the Global Priorities: Africa and Gender Equality.

The 40 C/5 must also seek to capture the energy and talent of youth by mainstreaming youth targeted actions across all the major programmes.

UNESCO should further enhance coordination with other UN agencies and deepen strategic and innovative partnerships. Kenya therefore applauds the organization of UNESCO's first Partners' Forum.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya appreciates the role of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in supporting Member States achieve SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation. The UNESCO water family including the network of centres and chairs should be fully utilized to support the implementation of the 40 C/5.

Biosphere reserves and Geoparks are key sites for heritage conservation and sustainable development. Kenya welcomes the progress towards the establishment of a fund to foster capacity-building and promote the conservation of Biosphere Reserves in Africa.

We also thank the National Commissions of Germany and the United Kingdom as well as the UNESCO Secretariat for their continued support towards the establishment of a Geopark in Kenya.

Kenya further appreciates the recent publication of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in Swahili which will promote its dissemination and implementation.

To further promote the objectives of the Convention, the 3rd KNATCOM for UNESCO National Cultural Celebrations, held in September 2018, brought together diverse communities in celebration of our common heritage. We shall also hold the 4th Kenya Week in Paris from 12th to 16th November 2018 during which unique Kenyan cultural expressions will be showcased at the UNESCO Headquarters.

Mr. Chairman,

Artificial intelligence and big data continue to play an increasingly bigger role in people's life. Kenya appreciates the Director General's passion for leveraging emerging technologies for socio-economic transformations. The Government of Kenya has established a committee to study the trends of block chain and internet of things and advise on how Kenya could benefit from the global digital revolution. Kenya is therefore keen to collaborate with UNESCO in exploring the opportunities that exist in these emerging technologies.

**Finally,
Mr. Chairman
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Kenya Delegation received many messages of condolences from UNESCO Member States and Secretariat following the demise of the immediate former Permanent Delegate, Amb. Prof. George Godia. We thank you all for your messages.

Kenya also expresses its condolences and solidarity with Tanzania for the loss occasioned by the ferry that capsized in Lake Victoria, Indonesia and Haiti for the recent Earthquake.

Thank you for your attention