Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Strategic partnership is crucial in the implementation and achievement of the Aspirations of Africa’s Agenda 2063 and principle of “Leave No One Behind,” embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must work together. This was clearly reflected in our Eastern Africa regional 3-day retreat from 22 to 24 July 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya. Participating were Edouard Firmin Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations (via video), Nicholas Jeffreys, Assistant Director-General for Administration, Mr. Mohammed Djelid, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning and Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO in Eastern Africa Region, German Commission for UNESCO, Heads of National Offices in the Region, the UNESCO Liaison Office at the African Union, Category 1 UNESCO Institutes and staff from the region, national offices and headquarters. Also joining the retreat were Mr. Charaf Ahmimed, Head of Transformation Support Unit by skype, and Mr. Eliot Minchenberg, Chief of Section for Relations with the United Nations and Intergovernmental Organizations, UNESCO headquarters.

For the first time Sudan and Burundi participated in both the retreat and the meeting of the National Commissions with both delegations calling for their countries to be included in UNESCO Eastern Africa
Region. The deliberations took place in the context of UN and UNESCO reforms, with the participants taking the opportunity to reflect on their impact on the operations in the field. Other issues of relevance discussed included; communication, review of processes and procedures related to risk management, budgeting, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, professional development of staff, and review of programmatic achievements and challenges in the region.

At the conclusion of the 3-day retreat six broad recommendations were adopted as follows: Strategically Positioning UNESCO, to be effective in the current environment of reforms; Mobilizing and effectively utilizing UNESCO Assets globally for greater impact in the region; Strengthening partnerships and collaborative platforms for efficient delivery of results; Reviewing UNESCO Structures to better reflect the realities on the ground; Devising creative mechanisms to ensure UNESCO’s Presence at Country Level is visible; and Strengthen Communication across all UNESCO entities and with external partners.

The TROIKA PLUS, the Education Development Partners’ Coordination Group (EDPCG), which UNESCO chairs and coordinates with the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education of Kenya held its first ever Joint Sector Review of implementation of Education Policies, Plans and Programmes on 25 July 2019. The Joint Sector Review will monitor progress in the provisioning of and access to equitable, quality and relevant education and training while at the same time highlight the successes, gaps, challenges and provide recommendations that would inform remedial action. EDPCG is the Local Education Group in Kenya that works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, in provision of both financial and technical advice to the Ministry to ensure alignment of interventions to global and regional commitments and support to the government priorities.

Finally, let me close by reiterating a key message from our retreat on the importance of continue working together in close collaboration with the National Commissions, and fostering strategic partnership with development partners to ensure that, “No One is Left Behind” in our respective interventions.

I wish you a fruitful week!

Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta.
Do you have a project that uses #ArtificialIntelligence to enhance teaching and learning? UNESCO ICT in #Education Prize could be for you! Find out more.

The ALIPH Foundation has launched a second call for projects, which support a wide variety of activities to protect heritage that is endangered, under threat or which has suffered from damage by conflict. The deadline for applications is 20 September 2019, 3 p.m. CET. Project proposals can be submitted online. More information here.


Week’s events

The UNESCO Eastern Africa Programme Retreat and the Eastern Africa National Commissions Workshop, 22 to 24 July

Joint Discussions on UN Reforms and UNESCO Strategic Transformation. Localizing “Leave No One Behind”

Discussions during working groups ©UNESCO.
Eastern Africa Region National Commissions for UNESCO Workshop © UNESCO.

Cultural dinner, courtesy of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO © UNESCO.

Celebrations of Africa Day for Seas and Oceans 25 July and International Day of Conservation of Mangroves, 26 July © UNESCO.
UNESCO WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHENS NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN SEYCHELLES - The Department of Culture of Seychelles, the International Council of Museums (ICOM)-Seychelles and UNESCO organized a “National workshop to strengthen capacities to fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects in Seychelles: prevention, cooperation, restitution” from 24 to 26 July 2019 in Mahe, Seychelles. The three-day workshop was led by international experts from UNESCO, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) as well as high level national experts from the Seychelles Department of Cultures.

Dr. Hirut Woldemariam, Minister of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE) opened the 3 day Conference on Internationalization of Higher Education, research and Sustainable Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on July 25, 2019. UNESCO Nairobi sponsored the participation of nine countries, namely, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Somalia, South Sudan, and Tanzania whose contributions enriched the discussions. UNESCO Nairobi also did a presentation on the need to ratify the Addis Convention, an initiative welcomed by academics from across Africa who committed to following up with their governments back home and also pursue their interest in the UNESCO Chairs program which responded perfectly to their interests in joint research projects with countries of the North & South. The TROIKA PLUS, the Education Development Partners’ Coordination Group (EDPCG), which UNESCO chairs and coordinates with the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education held it’s first ever Joint Sector Review of implementation of Education Policies, Plans and Programmes on 25 July 2019 in Nairobi. The Joint Sector Review will monitor progress in the provisioning of and access to equitable, quality and relevant education and training while at the same time highlight the successes, gaps, challenges and provide recommendations that would inform remedial action. EDPCG is the Local
Georges Boade
29 to 30 July
Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta
Study tour to Japan by IICBA
29 July to 9 August
Hiroshima, Japan

Jane Kamau
To participate in the Regional Early and Unintended Pregnancy Campaign launch under the Eastern and Southern Africa
31 July
Johannesburg, South Africa

Maurice Asudi
To facilitate 4 workshops on: 1) Conflict Sensitive Education; 2) HIV & Health Education (Karuna Project); 3) HIV &Health Camp for Higher Education Institutions and 4) Training of Trainers workshop in Gender Responsive Pedagogy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
31 July to 2 August
Kampala, Uganda

Mid-term review of the UNESCO SIDS (Small Island Developing States) Action Plan 2016-2021
Living heritage and indigenous peoples: The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Participants in the UNESCO Eastern Africa Programme Retreat and in the Eastern Africa National Commissions for UNESCO, UNON, Nairobi, Kenya, 22 to 24 July 2019 © UNESCO