Message of the Director

The Conference on **Higher Education, Policy and Research: Quality and Future Challenges for East Africa and the Indian Ocean** is a few days away and we are looking forward to a fruitful engagement on higher education with more than 9 ministers and official delegations, a number of experts and representatives from academic institutions in the region and Secretary-Generals of National Commissions. The conference will make a significant contribution to positioning higher education as a priority in the region and strengthen reform to promote science research at national and regional levels for socio-economic and environmental development, promoting resilient strategies vis-à-vis science and climate change by pooling intellectual and financial resources, promoting peace and security, accelerating ICT integration in Higher Education. Furthermore, a contribution will also be made towards the twinning of universities for harmonization and recognition of certificates through development of content of syllabuses, curriculum development and joint research studies.

We are inviting all interested to be part of the **dialogue through our website and social media channels**. We will be posting videos and infographics on the conference, the importance of higher education and policy making and addressing the themes of ICT in Education, Science and Climate Change and Peace and Security. Consult our [Facebook page UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa](https://facebook.com/UNESCORegionalOffice). Start engaging and contributing to the conversation by posting using the **#HE4EastAfrica** and check for regular updates!

At the office we had a good discussion on Education 2030 indicators, during a one-day workshop for staff at the office to understand the SDG Education indicators and the role of UNESCO and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in the global monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. The education systems are as varied as there are countries in the Eastern African region which makes it difficult to compare data but even more important is the difficulty of implementing other aspects of mobility of students and professors, transfer of credits, recognition of certificates etc. UNESCO has an important role to play in promoting a rights based approach to education, a standard setter through instruments such as the Addis Ababa Convention and building capacities so that countries in the region are prepared for Education for the 21st Century. We need to engage with Member States in responding to the African Union vision of regional integration and the implementation of the [Addis Ababa Convention](https://addis-ababa-convention.org/) both of which are premised on the measure of success based on the extent to which countries in the different regions in Africa are able to build harmonized systems be it for education, trade, customs and infrastructure among others.

I would also like to highlight the importance of the sixth annual [International Jazz Day](https://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/communication-and-information/creative-economy/international-jazz-day/), which will be celebrated worldwide on April 30, 2017. The educational and community service dimensions of International Jazz Day are what set this day apart from the multitude of concerts and jazz festivals taking place every day around the world and several countries in the region.

Ann Therese Ndong Jatta
Announcements
International Jazz Day, 30 April 2017

Paris, Washington, D.C. and Havana – UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock announced the sixth annual International Jazz Day, which will be celebrated worldwide on April 30, 2017. The day will culminate with an All-Star Global Concert presented at the Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of Cuba, the Cuban Institute of Music and the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO. The concert will be live streamed by UNESCO and will feature an extraordinary array of artists from around the world paying tribute to the international art form of jazz. To follow the music, check the website of the International Day of Jazz celebrations and contribute with your musical experience by tweeting using the hashtag #JazzDay.

World Press Freedom Day 3 May 2017

Every year, 3 May is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession. National celebrations take place each year to commemorate this Day. UNESCO leads the worldwide celebration by identifying the global thematic and organizing the main event in different parts of world every year. The international day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 following a Recommendation adopted at the 26th Session of UNESCO’s General Conference in 1991. This in turn was a response to a call by African journalists who in 1991 produced the landmark Windhoek Declaration on media pluralism and independence. Check the website of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2017 with all the events.
Web News of the week

UNESCO partners with ICRC to raise awareness for Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict

Consultancy position in Rwanda - Orientation sessions and Trainings

Consultancy position in Rwanda - Inclusive Education Workshop

Consultancy position in Rwanda - Development of Case studies and checklist on inclusive education for Modules on School Leadership and Management

Events of the week

Madagascar

1 to 12 May 2017

Harmonized approach to certification and training engineering - Cooperation with UNESCO Madagascar and Mr. Toumi Brahim, an international expert in Antananarivo
**Tanzania**
2 to 3 May 2017
Commemoration of World Press Freedom Day under the theme “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s Role in advancing Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies” in Mwanza

**Djibouti**
2 to 4 May 2017
Conference on Higher Education and Research: quality and future challenges for Eastern Africa in Djibouti City

3 May 2017
World Press Freedom Day Celebrations in Djibouti City

**South Sudan**
2 May 2017
National Conference: Tackling Hate speech for Peace and RaPNet Awards in Juba

3 May 2017
National event to celebrate 2017 WPFD and Launch of JSI assessment report in Juba

**Rwanda**
4 to 6 May 2017
Consultative meetings on the development of the teacher development framework with Central, District and School/Community level stakeholders in Kigali

**Kenya**
3 May 2017
World Press Freedom Day Celebrations in Nairobi

3 to 4 May 2017
Training of community radio practitioners on technical proficiency of Community Radio studios

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**Missions**

**Georges Boade**
28 April to 6 May 2017 Montreal Canada UNESCO Institute of Statistics Headquarters

**Several Staff Members of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa**
2 to 5 May 2017, Djibouti City Conference on Higher Education, Policy and Research

**Lydia Gachungi**
1 to 4 May 2017 Juba South Sudan National conference on Hate speech and the South Sudan 2017 World Press Freedom Day Celebrations
Meetings

Scientific Camp of Excellence for Mentoring Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), 10 to 14 April 2017

The 2017 camp was organized from 10 to 14 April 2017 at Kaaga Girls' High School in Meru County. Female students from secondary schools in the North and Upper Easter Regions of Kenya were targeted. A total of 240 students and 30 accompanying teachers (mainly science teachers) from Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Isiolo Counties in North Eastern and Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Embu Counties in Upper Eastern regions participated in the camp. This was the fifth camp to be organized since the inception of the programme in November 2014. A total of 32 Counties out of the 47 have been covered by the UNESCO STEM programme with 971 secondary school girls having been mentored in Mathematics, Physics, Agricultural sciences, Marine and Ocean Sciences as well as the different fields in engineering such as electronic and telecommunication engineering, Geospatial and Space Technology Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering etc. as well as the available opportunities in TVET institutions. The students were also mentored on life and survival skills for women and girls.

Teachers/Peace Education IICBA project in six countries April 20 to 21 2017

UNESCO IICBA held an inception phase workshop of a project on "Teacher Training and Development for Peace-Building in the Horn of Africa and Surrounding countries from April 20 to 21. The aim of the project is to reconstruct and enhance the teacher training and development framework in emergency areas in the targeted countries view a particular view on peace education. The project is financed by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affair and will take place from April 2017 until March 2018, and will focus particularly on teachers at secondary level.UNESCO IICBA has selected Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea to participate in the project, and representatives from MOE in all these countries were present. Representatives from the relevant UNESCO countries offices were also assisting at the meeting.
Somali Media Support Group Meeting in Nairobi 27 April 2017

The Somalia Media Support Group met in UNESCO this week and agreed to support the Somalia Media partners and the government, with the process of amending the Somalia Media law. This follows the request to UNESCO by the new Somali Minister of Information Eng. Yarisow. To also enrich the Somalia Media Support Group future meetings, the media partners have also resolved to establish 4 thematic working groups aligned to the 4 Pillars under the Somali Federal Republic Media strategy.

From the office

Communication and Information team meeting in Nairobi on 26 April 2017

Exploring possibilities of combining efforts with a view to establishing online lectures that offer graduate courses for practicing journalists in Somalia, was the outcome of a meeting the CI team held with visitors from the Norway NLA University College and the Somalia Media Network. This online course would be hosted by one of the existing universities offering journalism courses in Somalia and with the capacity to provide ownership and accreditation for the trained students. The courses will also be aligned to the UNESCO Model curriculum for journalism education, as well as consolidate a pool of lecturers from internationally recognized universities. To actualize these ideas, the Somali Media Network will work closely with the CI sector, in preparation and submission of a project proposal under the 2017 IPDC call for proposals.