

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE PLENARY DEBATE OF  
THE 202<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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

Kenya appreciates the information provided by the Director-General.

We also wish to express Kenya's condolences to the Member States affected by the recent natural disasters as well as our solidarity with UNESCO Member States confronting violent extremism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Actualizing the bold vision set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demands our collective endeavor towards ensuring that focus is on leaving no one behind.

It is therefore imperative that we continue to embrace the reform momentum that will ensure that UNESCO remains fit-for-purpose in effectively responding to the needs of Member States. We should seize the reform process of the United Nations to deepen strategic and innovative partnerships as well as enhance coordination with other UN agencies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Education is as an essential lever for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome UNESCO's commitment in supporting African countries through building capacities in the integration, coordination and monitoring of SDG4-Education.

Kenya is pleased to collaborate with UNESCO and the Africa Union towards the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan African High-level Meeting on SDG 4 in March 2018. The meeting will review the progress made and challenges faced by African Member States in the implementation of SDG 4.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water is central to fulfilling the transformative agenda that is encompassed in the SDGs. Kenya appreciates the role of the International Hydrological Programme in supporting Member States achieve SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation. It is incumbent upon us to consolidate the enormous potential of the UNESCO Water Family in the advancement of the SDGs. Kenya also appreciates the support by UNESCO towards the monitoring and reporting process of SDG 6.

The African Network of Biosphere Reserves plays an important role in the promotion of regional co-operation and sustainable development.

It is in this regard that Kenya and Ghana are submitting to the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference, a draft resolution which aims to establish a fund that will facilitate sourcing for extra-budgetary funding to address the conservation and capacity-building challenges facing Biosphere Reserves in Africa. We appreciate the support that Member States will give to the draft resolution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNESCO has a strong convening power and a unique interdisciplinary competency which should be leveraged towards developing innovative solutions to the global challenges. Enhancing the interface between science, policy and society is vital to the implementation of such solutions. Kenya welcomes the leadership role of the MOST Programme in this regard.

Sport is a valuable tool for fostering social cohesion through the promotion of values such as inclusion, respect, tolerance and solidarity. Kenya welcomes UNESCO's role in supporting Member States harness the transformative power of sports especially through the development of relevant policies and school curricula.

The 10<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum is a prime opportunity to renew UNESCO's engagement with youth as partners and key stakeholders of the Organization. The youth represent a formidable resource that can provide solutions for sustainable development. Youth participation in the design and delivery of UNESCO's programmes should therefore be fostered.

Kenya has put a lot of effort in empowering girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) in particular through STEM camps of excellence that targeted around 800 girls.

Kenya also hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> TeachHer Regional Training for Africa in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the United States to UNESCO, UNESCO Secretariat, the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) and the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education for Africa (CEMASTE). Over 80 educators from 10 African countries were trained in inspiring and imparting STEAM skills to students, notably girls.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Kenya would like to appreciate your leadership in effectively steering our work in the Executive Board. We also wish to thank the Director-General for her efforts to reform UNESCO despite the challenges. We wish you both the best in your future endeavours.

**Thank you**