



**EMBAIXADA DA REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU MOZAMBIQUE
PARIS**

**Statement by the Delegation of Mozambique on the occasion of the
202nd session of the Executive Board of UNESCO**

**Excellencies,
President of the General Conference,
President of the Executive Board
Director General of UNESCO
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me at outset to join other speakers who preceded me, in commending Madam Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, for the able leadership and for the excellent work she did during 8 years at the service of our Organization.

The Mozambican delegation is particularly delighted to take the floor at this 202nd session of the Executive Board in view of the added responsibilities reposed up on it, since, according to the agenda, this Executive Board will be called to make important decisions that will greatly matter for the future of the Organization.

In Mozambique, UNESCO stands an indispensable partner in its areas of competence, in complement to our efforts at national level within the framework of all-embracing the Five Year Economic and Social Programme under implementation in the Country. UNESCO's participation, together with other development partners in the field of education, has allowed us to move steadfast in the up-dating and modernization of our education system.

UNESCO is providing support to Member States to develop their own education systems, with a view to promoting quality and a more inclusive education, an action that we very much welcome. CapEd Programme symbolizes a vivid example of UNESCO's engagement in assisting and reinforcing the capacity of Member States to undertake evidence-based national education reforms. *We acknowledge here the support that UNESCO has given, during the last four years, to African countries to develop their education systems, especially, in reviewing their education policies in order to integrate the lifelong learning perspective.*

In Mozambique, our efforts to address cross-cutting issues in our education system aim at ensuring that we can gradually lay the necessary solid foundations across the Country, in order to tackle the needs of the ever increasing number of students in the whole spectrum of education, especially in the rural areas where we continue to experience a deer need of quality education. The quality of education also relies on the quality of teaches, and to this end, the overall education system is giving a special attention to teacher's training. We welcome the fact

that, the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, in coordination with SADC, has organized regional meetings to produce a Regional Framework for Teachers Standards and a Plan of Action, which in our view, will undoubtedly benefit the countries from the region, including my own.

Cognizant of the important role that education plays in the process of poverty reduction and subsequent sustainable development, the Mozambican Government has set up a National Authority for Professional Training under the supervision of the Prime Minister with the aim of ensuring a better Technical and Scientific training.

Notwithstanding the resource constraints, the Government of Mozambique remains committed to implement the gender mainstreaming programmes such as the “Better Education for Africa’s Rise’ (BEAR), the CAP EFA and TVET, among others. We reiterate our considered hope that the effective implementation of the Operational Strategy for Africa 2014-2021 as well as the of the 39C/5 Programme, will soundly contribute in the ongoing efforts for the sustainable development.

Mr President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique gives a particular attention to the impact that natural disasters have in children, youth and in the education system. Studies on disaster trends and the likely consequences of climate change indicate that each year 175 million children are likely to be affected by natural hazard related to disasters alone. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the need to “upgrade education facilities in order to provide a safe and effective learning environment” as part of Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 4a).

Under the UNESCO-VISUS Programme, Mozambique is engaged in building a culture of safety and resilience at all levels of society through the Safe School Facilities Project, which in our view will contribute for the substantial reduction of disaster risk in the education system.

In the Culture Sector, tangible and encouraging results are being achieved in the culture-policy framework and strategies targeted to specific areas. This sector moves steadfast in the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, the intangible cultural heritage and cultural industries.

Finally, I have the singular honour to announce that the historical Mozambique Island, by its real name, Ilha de Moçambique, in September next year, is celebrating its 200 years of existence as an entity. Ilha de Moçambique was the first capital of the territory known today as Mozambique. By the historical dimension of its importance, Ilha de Moçambique has been declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991. To celebrate the bicentenary of this historical heritage, preparations are already underway, and UNESCO and other stakeholders are welcome to join.

Thank you your kind attention!