



## **REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

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National Commission of Angola for UNESCO

# **MESSAGE OF HER EXCELLENCY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF ANGOLA FOR UNESCO, AT THE 41st SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE**

PARIS, NOVEMBER, 2021



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- **Excellency Mr. President of the UNESCO General Conference;**
- **Excellency, Mr. President of the UNESCO Executive Board;**
- **Excellency, Madam Director General of UNESCO;**
- **Excellencies, Gentlemen and Heads of the Different Delegations**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola and its people, whom I have the honour of representing in this majestic Assembly, I greet you and express congratulations to the President of the UNESCO General Conference for his election, just as I express my felicitations to the General Director of UNESCO for her re-election.

### **Excellencies**

Today, more than ever, the world faces challenges, that may harm the survival of Human kind and institutions, requiring all nations to commit and perform responsible actions in defense of the human being and sustainable development of peoples.

Education and Teaching, Science, Technology, and Innovation are appropriate resources through which a better world can be built in respect of life and the nature.

Despite the constraints of a conjuncture nature, Angola has been implementing in the most diverse areas of its social and economic life, a set of programs to achieve the *Sustainable Development Goal 17*. It does so by focusing on reducing regional asymmetries,

gender inequalities and ensuring universal and quality education for all children, promoting social inclusion, and vigorously combating any kind of discrimination. This includes the Integrated Intervention Program in the municipalities that is prompting the significant increase in the number of classrooms and the consequent reduction of students outside the education system.

Thus, in the field of education, students returned to school after the didactic-pedagogical, biosafety and skills-enhancing conditions of teachers were successfully guaranteed. All consistent with the formative needs and the role of schools in the " new normal " imposed by COVID-19.

In the field of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, we have been working on a training program for Angolan staff with high performance and academic merit. Aided by the support of some of the best universities around the world, we have managed to enroll 433 students abroad, in addition to the granting of 190 doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships to higher education teachers.

It is necessary to mention the *Science and Technology Development Program*, co-financed by the African Development Bank, has had 25 financed projects out of the 45 planned. Being in the same scope, the creation of the National Agency for the Financing of Science, Technology and Innovation, whose purpose is the integration of research institutions and technological development institutions and higher education institutions in international scientific research networks.

Special attention is being given to secondary school girls, by encouraging them through 250 annual scholarships in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The

objective is to reduce the existing gender deficit, in addition to strengthening self-development skills through women's empowerment programs, combating poverty, protecting, and promoting children's rights and valuing the family.

In this perspective, digital literacy is included with the 7 million internet users and the manipulation of varied information and communication systems. Such systems are mostly used by the younger generations in the country which compose 2/3 of the country's population.

The Republic of Angola, therefore, supports initiatives, programs and projects that benefit African countries, and here we would like to highlight *UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Africa Priority 2022-2029*, as it reflects the aspirations of the African Union's 2063 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

We also consider the need to add efforts to register new "*Africa Sites*" on the World Heritage List, as well as the preservation of the Sites already registered through scientific, technological cooperation and the mobilization of funds for the further development of actions carried out by the Africa World Heritage Fund.

## **Excellencies**

The Republic of Angola has submitted its application to the Executive Council, so we request the Member States and in particular the African Group, to support our intention.

This year Angola and UNESCO hold the II Edition of the Luanda Biennial, Pan-African Forum for Peace Culture, in a hybrid format, with thematic forums of interest, so the participation of all is welcome.

On this occasion of UNESCO celebration 75th anniversary of its existence, we join our voice to the other members, congratulating the Organization on its work in favor of Education, Science and Culture expressing on behalf of my country the interest of strengthening our partnership in order to the common good and sustainable development, local and regional.

Thank you so much for your attention.