

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER STATE FOR EDUCATION AND

SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION)

HONOURABLE JOHN CHYSESTOM MUYINGO AT THE 41ST

SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED

NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL

ORGANISATION (UNESCO)

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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS, (HIGHER EDUCATION) HON. JOHN C. MUYINGO AT THE 41st SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE ON 11th NOVEMBER 2021.

Hon. Musingo John Chrysostom is my name, Minister of State for Education representing the Minister of Education in the Republic of Uganda.

President of the General Conference,

Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Madam Director General of UNESCO,

Your Excellences, Ministers, Ambassadors,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you upon your election to chair the 41st Session of the UNESCO General Conference. My Delegation wishes you well in this important assignment.

Mr. President, Uganda is committed to the achievement of all the 17 sustainable development goals and this commitment is manifested in our zeal to advance the Education for Sustainable development goals through supporting the implementation of the ESD 2030 framework. As a country we have mainstreamed ESD into the National Development Plan III, and the Education Sector Strategic Plan. We have also put in place our own ESD 2030 National framework because we

recognize that all the SDGs are hinged on the ideologies of Education for Sustainable Development.

Uganda like many countries has not been spared by the devastating effects of the Corona Virus for close to 2 years now. Learning at all levels has been affected with close to fifteen million learners out of school. The ripple effects of this pandemic are only starting to show and they include increased teenage pregnancies and early marriages. Tourism, performing arts and other programmes have been slowed down due to the pandemic. Our government is now focusing on prioritizing key stakeholder's engagement to build trust, shape perceptions of risk, and improve responses to Government policies in preparation for reopening of Schools early next year. This will entail adopting flexible and blended learning and delivery approaches that will support inclusive education at all levels.

Mr. President, my delegation appreciates UNESCO's support towards the continuity of learning through the refurbishment of the ICT infrastructure of three Teacher Training Institutions (TTIs) to support online teacher training, and building the capacity of 130 teachers from 23 TTIs on the use of the Teacher Educator E-Learning System (TEELS) to provide remote assistance and electronic assessments of students learning from home.

In line with UNESCO's Biannual Expected Result 5, UNESCO has supported Uganda to develop and implement the National teacher policy and strategies which have set the platform and context for sharing of knowledge and enhanced donor coordination; this will improve learning through a motivated and skilled teaching workforce, and consequently lead to the realization of SDG4 2030 Agenda.

Uganda has been supported to implement the STEM programme for girls and women through mentorship of Secondary School Science Teachers in the best approaches for teaching science subjects.

In fulfilment of UNESCO's Priority Gender flagship, SDG 5 and our National Gender Policy, Uganda is implementing a Participation Programme in Uganda focused on the promotion of gender responsive conservation and empowerment of women in the two Biosphere Reserves in the Country namely Mt. Elgon and Queen Elizabeth National Parks.

Uganda appreciates UNESCO's support to peace building that has led to an initiative to consolidate peace building amongst the post war communities of Northern Uganda. The National Committee of the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) has been tasked to undertake the preparation of a Regional Policy Paper on the participation of Youth in the affairs of Member States under the theme: ***"Youth, Peace and Security"***.

Mr. President, In the area of Culture, Uganda has ratified 3 out of the 6 conventions. (1972, 2003, and 2005). Uganda appreciates UNESCO's support towards revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Elements listed on the Urgent Safeguarding List and Introducing ICH in undergraduate academic programmes in universities. Uganda is currently engaged in capacity building for Local Government Authorities to mainstream the culture function in their development plans in addition to strengthening the film sector. We affirm commitment to the continued conservation and safeguarding of heritage in all its manifestations as we work towards the completion of the restoration of **The Tombs of Buganda Kings at**

Kasubi to ensure its removal from the list of “*World Heritage in danger*” by the end of year 2023.

Information and Communication are central in building knowledge societies. In view of this, Uganda has promoted access to information through Community Multimedia Centers (CMCs) and advocated for the Safety of Journalists, particularly safety of female journalists basing on the UN Plan of Action

Mr. President, your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to conclude by thanking the Director General for her oversight role and management of the organization through innovative means during the Global pandemic and for supporting Uganda in all UNESCO ‘s fields of competence for the enhancement of sustainable Development. I wish her a very successful second term in office.

For God and My Country