

**Speech of the Hon. Prof. Joyce L. Ndalichako, Minister of Education, Science and  
Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNESCO, to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
General Conference of UNESCO, Paris, France - 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017**

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

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, I feel greatly honoured and privileged to address the General Conference of UNESCO. I would like to congratulate Madame President of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of UNESCO for being elected and to commend the outgoing President of the 38<sup>th</sup> session for the exemplary work he has shown during his term of service.

**Madame President**

This General Conference is going to witness a change-over in leadership. The current Director General Mrs Irina Bokova is completing her tenure after serving this competently and diligently for 8 years. On behalf of my Government, I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Bokova for her remarkable services and for her strong commitment in supporting developing countries to meet their challenges within UNESCO's fields of competence.

I would also like to congratulate the new Director General who was nominated by the Executive Board this year. The United Republic of Tanzania would like to assure you our support, as it has always been the case.

**Madame President**

The attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 4, Quality and Inclusive Education will be realized if UNESCO continues to take a leading role in this regard. All Member States should see it as a priority to provide girls and boys with knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes required to bring development of their nations. We know that girls are still facing some obstacles in attaining quality education. Our schools also need to create friendly environment for Children with special needs so that all children get access to quality education.

The United Republic of Tanzania is committed to attaining Sustainable Development Goals. We are providing free basic education, from early childhood education to grade 12. The Government has also embarked on a special programme of upgrading school and learning facilities for children with special needs. We are doing so to ensure that girls and boys with special needs enjoy their right to quality education. The Government has been working hard to improve teaching and learning environment through expansion and modernization of learning facilities, improving teaching of science as well as providing professional development training for our teachers. Over the past two years a total of 68,799 Teachers participated in professional development courses aimed at improving their capacity to develop foundational skills for early years of schooling, strengthening teaching of science and mathematics, and improving the quality of teaching for children with special needs. We will continue

investing in education as we believe that quality education for all boys and girls is crucial for our national development.

**Madame President,**

The government of United Republic of Tanzania is committed for conservation of World Heritage Sites. Approximately one third of the our land is conserved. While being proud of that, it should not be forgotten that the government remains with the responsibility of addressing challenges for her people and bringing them with the needed development. In the course of doing this, we have been using our own national resources, which some of them are found in conserved areas. Thus we need to strike a balance between conservation and development.

**Madame President**

United Republic of Tanzania acknowledges and greatly appreciates UNESCO's initiative on the potential of Internet for fostering sustainable human development and building inclusive knowledge societies, and also for enhancing a free flow of information and ideas throughout the world. We all know that peace building, and human solidarity are linked to the quality of the information environment and the values transmitted. The new wave of extremism and terrorist-attacks which persist in many regions of the world underline the importance of media and information literacy competencies for the information environment. UNESCO should strive to bridge the information and knowledge divide by strengthening the *Communication and Information Sector*. Additionally, efforts should be made to find means to combat unethical use of internet and the rising cyberspace crime.

**Madame President,**

I would also like to highlight that the United Republic of Tanzania is committed to embed the importance of protecting and safeguarding cultural heritage as one of the focus of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The United Republic of Tanzania is implementing various initiatives towards this endeavor including the '*Roads to Independence in Africa: The African liberation Heritage Programme*' which is implemented in collaboration with UNESCO. Through this Programme, which aims at recognizing, protecting and preserving the history on how Africans collaborated and united during liberation struggle, The United Republic of Tanzania has among others, identified and documented more than 140 liberation heritage sites.

**Madame President,** let me conclude by assuring UNESCO the Commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania towards the realization of UNESCO's mandate and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

**Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you for your attention**