



GHANA'S POLICY STATEMENT
TO BE DELIVERED BY **PROFESSOR NAANA JANE OPOKU-AGYEMANG**,
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ON THE OCCASION OF THE 38TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO
3RD – 18TH NOVEMBER, 2015, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, FRANCE

President of the General Conference,
Chairman of the Executive Board,
Director-General of UNESCO,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation, on behalf HE President John Dramani Mahama and the people of Ghana, brings you all greetings, and felicitations to UNESCO for 70 years of promoting world peace. HE was here in person on October 5, to join in the anniversary celebrations. No doubt the admirable leadership of its current Director General has played a significant role in bringing this organization this far. We congratulate the President of this conference as well.

UNESCO's global leadership in Education:

UNESCO ably led the world to make huge improvements in education under the MDGs, even if a lot of work remains to be done. We enter the SDGs with a lot of trust in the ability of our organization to continue to make a difference by continuing to work towards global peace through education. Ghana's post 2015 agenda on education will focus on four main policy thrusts in line with the agenda for Education 2030:

- Improve equitable access to and participation in Quality Education at all levels (SDG 4.1),
- Strengthen and rebrand Technical and Vocational Education Training to make it more responsive to the World of work (SDG 4.3 and 4.4),
- Improve quality of Teaching and Learning (SDG 4.7), and
- Improve management of Education service delivery with focus on efficiency.

Mr. President, Ghana's response to the growing youth unemployment is to reform Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and general skills development. Significant steps taken so far include:

1. Establishment of a broad-based governance structure which includes Statutory National Technical committees with wide stakeholder representation
2. Establishment of National TVET Qualifications Framework (NTVETQF) which is being operationalized



Second Draft:

3. Adoption of Competency-Based Training (CBT) model/concept with emphasis on linkage with industry which has been piloted and being rolled-out
4. Crafting of a National TVET Policy
5. Establishment of a National Apprenticeship Programme (NAP) to cater for the large informal sector in Ghana.

We look forward to collaborations and support in this critical area.

Promoting Environmental Sustainability within the context of 38 C/5:

Mr. President, the Ghana delegation appreciates the Man and Biosphere (MAB) strategy, which provides a framework to contribute to the global sustainable development goals. As chair of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves (AfriMAB), Ghana has enlisted other ecosystems on the world network of biosphere reserves, as model sites of excellence for sustainable development.

We recognize support by UNESCO and the Governments of Germany and Korea for the Green Economy in Biosphere Reserves (GEBR) project, being implemented in the Bia Biosphere Reserve in the Western Region of Ghana to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty.

We wish to urge UNESCO to further strengthen its programme in the water sciences, that is, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), as well as the intersectoral geopark programme.

Culture and Development:

Mr. President, the Ghana delegation applauds UNESCO's advocacy role in promoting cultural diversity and understanding between cultures in Member States. UNESCO has the merit of having called attention to the strong link between culture and development and continues to promote actions including research in this area. A survey sponsored by UNESCO and conducted by the Ghana National Commission on Culture on the impact of indigenous Ghanaian industries on the national economy revealed that, the wide cultural and creative sector is an enormous asset with a potential to create wealth in Ghana. In consequence, Mr. President, the Parliament of Ghana ratified seven (7) UNESCO cultural conventions to fully harness this linkage for socio-economic progress.

Mr. President, UNESCO and the Africa Union have made good progress at pushing forward the second phase of the General History of Africa Project - a project which the Government of Ghana is fully committed to, as it seeks to contribute to the renewal of the teaching of history in Africa by promoting mutual understanding, regional integration and peace.



Second Draft:

The project now requires the urgent mobilization of additional funds to guarantee its effective implementation and sustainability. The Government of Ghana will cooperate with others in this worthy cause.

Communication and Information within the context of 38 C/5:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in a world where technology is a key driver of development, Ghana is leveraging ICT to achieve our educational targets as captured in our National Education Sector Plan. Current focus is on ICT in Education and for Distance Learning.

We are also appreciative of UNESCO's continued support in the training of journalists in climate change reporting. The Africa University College of Communications in Accra (AUCC), has benefited from UNESCO's technical and financial support. The University College's course on Media and Gender, is now offered for all students in the Bachelor of Arts programme.

UNESCO's partnership with the National Youth Authority (NYA) and the Ghana India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT to train youth leaders in mobile applications development is proving very helpful.

Ghana looks forward to continuous collaboration with UNESCO in creating a world capable of rising above its current challenges and moving into an era of shared prosperity and lasting peace for all.

I thank you for your attention.