

# Jarida la KNATCOM

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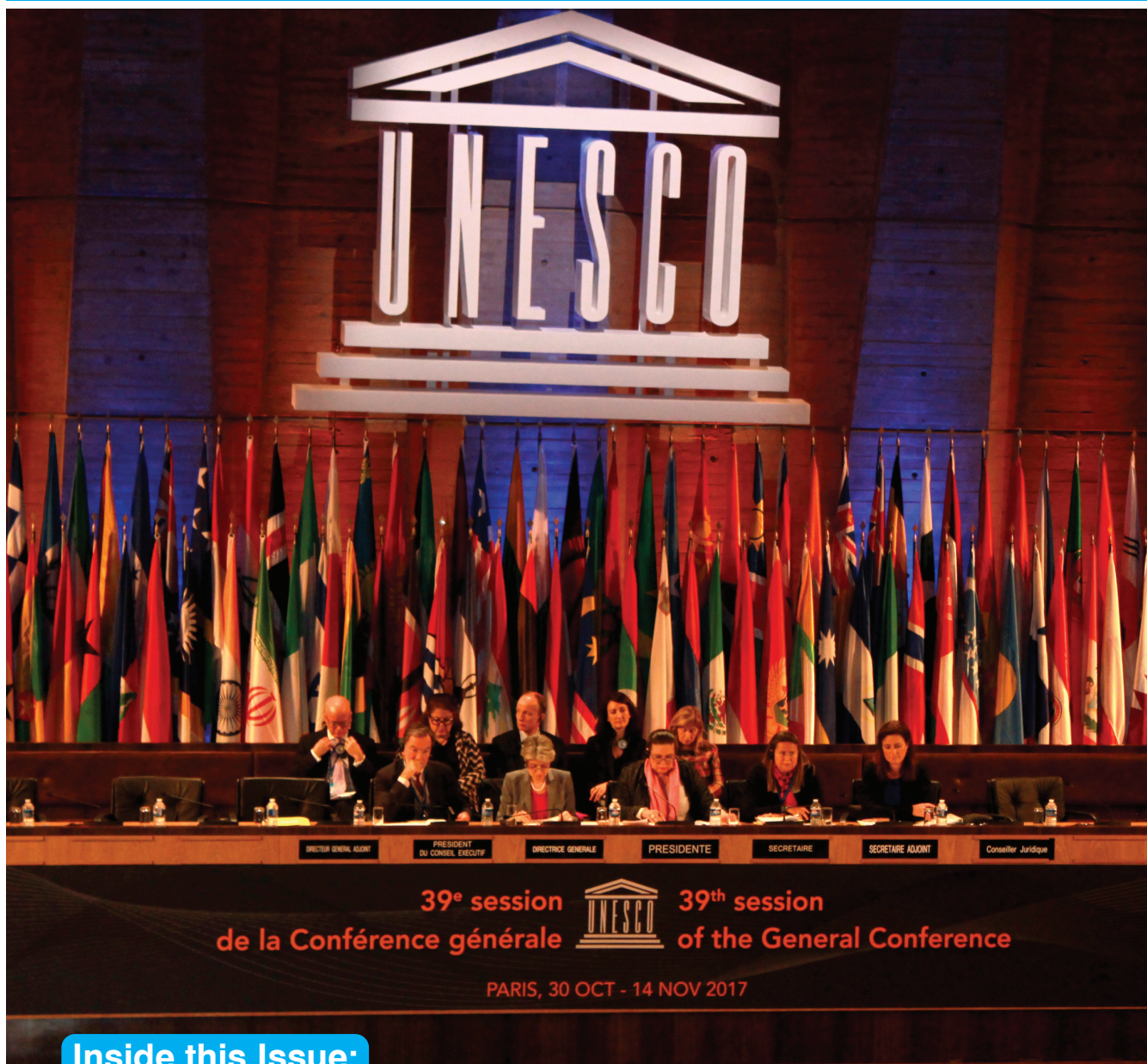


United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Kenya National  
Commission for UNESCO  
(KNATCOM)

*Promoting peace, sustainable development  
and intellectual collaboration*



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General

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# Partnerships is the way to go

Since its inception, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) has embraced cooperation, collaboration and partnerships with other development actors in a bid to fulfil part of her mandate to foster liaison between institutions concerned with education, the sciences, culture and communication & information.

Over the years KNATCOM has partnered and signed MOUs with a number of organizations and institutions from both government and non-governmental. It has joined hands with private sector enterprises to mobilize resources under the framework of Public Private Partnership initiatives.

This approach has ensured that KNATCOM continues to meet its obligations and mandate and has cast the net even further to targeting other NATCOMs as well as UNESCO institutions.

This year we also had the 39<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference at the organisation's headquarters in Paris, France where Kenya made an exemplary showing in not only the deliberations at the conference but also at the leadership levels at UNESCO. Kenya was successfully elected to five key committees for the period 2017 to 2021. It's worth noting that Kenya was voted in in all the committees that it vied. This goes a long way to demonstrate



Kenya's venerated standing in international arena.

Therefore, as a Commission we have done our best to ensure Kenya is well represented in UNESCO global organs and committees.

Lastly, on behalf of the Commission, I take this opportunity to congratulate the new UNESCO Director General Ms. Audrey Azoulay. Ms Azoulay is an experienced leader having served in various senior levels both in private and public sectors in France culminating into France's Minister of Culture and Communication. Her invaluable expertise and experience will no doubt catapult UNESCO to even greater heights. Indeed great times lie ahead.

For this and much more read on...

**Dr Evangeline Njoka, MBS**  
**Secretary General / Chief Executive Officer**  
**Kenya National Commission for UNESCO**

#### EDITORIAL TEAM

Secretary General / CEO	: Dr Evangeline Njoka
Ag Deputy Secretary General	: Ms Christine Maingi
Editor	: Mr. Anthony Ngare

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. John Omare	Dr. Reuben Nthamburi	Mr. Julius Mwachunga	Mr. Anthony Ngare
Ms. Orpha Nyakundi	Ms. Jacqueline Njeru	Ms. Emily Njeru	Ms. Nancy Wachira
Mr. David Looremata	Ms. Christine M'kwenda	Mr. Victor Soo	Mr. John Paul

*Jarida is a Swahili word for Newsletter*

# Audrey Azoulay

elected  
**UNESCO Director General**



## United Nations, Scientific, Cultural Organization has a new head at the helm.

**M**s. Audrey Azoulay was sworn in as the new Director-General of UNESCO on Monday 13 November 2017. Ms Azoulay takes over from Ms. Irina Bokova (Bulgaria) who served 8 years at the helm of the Organization.

Born in 1972, Ms Azoulay was France's Minister of Culture and Communication from February 2016 to May 2017. She occupied senior positions in France's public broadcasting sector and then served as rapporteur to France's public auditing authority, the Cour des compte, and as a European Commission legislative expert on issues of culture and the media.

Ms Azoulay served France's National Cinema Centre (CNC), first as Deputy Audiovisual Director, then as Director of Financial and Legal Affairs, and finally as Deputy Director-General. She is a graduate of the Ecole National d'Administration and the Paris Institut d'études politiques. Ms Azoulay also holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Lancaster (United Kingdom).

Invoking the challenges facing the Organization, she focused on the pertinence of UNESCO's mandate in her investiture speech. She noted that despite many limits and constraints, UNESCO has been able to demonstrate throughout its history a real capacity to bring creative responses to the challenges of the times.

Ms Azoulay highlighted the challenges posed to the world today by environmental degradation, terrorism, attempts to discredit scientific findings, attacks on cultural diversity, the oppression of women and the massive displacement of populations.

She further highlighted the need for concerted strategies in the framework of multilateralism to face these challenges, noting the collectively spirit that underpinned the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The new Director-General also spoke of the financial and political difficulties of the Organization stressing that it is more necessary than ever to support, strengthen and reform and be committed to UNESCO.

Ms Azoulay is the 11th Director-General of UNESCO and the second woman to occupy the position.

Ms. Azoulay's nomination was presented to the General Conference following an interview and election process conducted by the 58 members of UNESCO's Executive Board. Kenya is a Member of the Executive Board for the period 2015 to 2019.

Kenya also made a significant contribution to the election of Audrey Azoulay as the new Director-General of UNESCO, having been designated

by the 195-Member General Conference as a teller oversee and assure the voting process. Kenya was represented by Mr. Victor Soo of the Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO.

## UNESCO's New dawn

The 39<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference elected Audrey Azoulay as Director-General of UNESCO, succeeding Irina Bokova. She took office on 15 November for a four-year term.

A graduate of France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration and of the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques, she holds a diploma in Business Administration from the University of Lancaster (UK).

Having worked in the sector of culture since the start of her professional career, Audrey Azoulay has notably focused on the funding of French public broadcasting and on the reform and modernization of France's film support system. She has also served the European Commission providing her expertise on issues concerning culture and communication.

In 2014, as an advisor on culture to the President of the French Republic, she notably initiated the development of a protection plan for heritage in danger, which she was able to implement in 2016 as Minister of Culture

and Communication. She has also prioritized improving children's access to culture with the launch of artistic and cultural education school programmes "Création en cours" and created innovative cultural outreach programmes for people in remote and vulnerable areas "Microfolies".

With a longstanding commitment in favour of intercultural and intergenerational dialogue to advance education for all and the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge, she is determined to maintain this commitment as the head of UNESCO.

She will spare no effort in ensuring that UNESCO fulfils its universal mandate fully in promoting values of humanism and openness and serving as a driving force in the United Nations system. The Organization is to achieve this by serving as an intellectual forum for the world of tomorrow, and as a standard-setter that will help society advance, as well as serving as an expert agency contributing to the dissemination of knowledge to the greatest number of people worldwide.

According to Audrey Azoulay, "none of the major challenges facing the world today can be met by any one country on its own without relying on the fundamental pillars of science, education and culture. Thus, UNESCO can and must fully participate in a world order based on multilateralism and humanist values."



L-R: Ms. Audrey Azoulay, in-coming Director-General, Mr. Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, out-going Director-General and Amb. Zohour Alaoui, President of the 39th General Conference of UNESCO.

# KNATCOM, ICM in a pact

By Julius Mwachunga

Since its inception, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) has embraced cooperation, collaboration and partnerships with other development actors in a bid to fulfill part of her mandate to foster liaison between institutions concerned with education, the science, culture and communication & information.

Over the years KNATCOM has collaborated/partnered and signed MOU's with a number of organizations and institutions from both government and non-governmental. It has joined hands with private sector enterprises

to mobilize resources under the framework of Public Private Partnership initiatives.

This approach has ensured that KNATCOM continues to meet its obligations and mandate and has cast the net even further to targeting other NATCOM's as well as Category 2 Centers under the auspices of UNESCO. One such achievement was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and the International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement under the auspices of UNESCO (ICM).



*The Secretary General KNATCOM Dr. Evangeline Njoka and her ICM counterpart KIM, Si Hyun display the signed Memorandum of Understanding*

The MOU was signed on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Jeju Island in the Republic of Korea on the sidelines of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement under the auspices of UNESCO ICM was established pursuant to the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO regarding the International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement under the auspices of UNESCO" concluded on 1 December 2016.

The main objective of the Centre is to contribute to youth development, leadership and community engagement through martial art education and training involving martial arts philosophies, cultural values and techniques that train the mind, body and spirit for young man and women from 195 UNESCO Member States and 10 Associate Members.

The purpose of the Memorandum is to facilitate collaboration between the Parties in the matters of common interest to them and to establish the working arrangements necessary for the implementation of the establishment of African regional Martial Arts Network and of this Memorandum.

The Parties hereby agreed to join forces and maintain a continuous working relationship for the achievement of their common objectives within the limitations of their respective resources, allocated budget, mandates and policies. To this end, the Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth, endeavor to cooperate on matters of common interest and formulate and implement joint work programmes for the execution of joint activities.

Areas of potential cooperation between the Parties may include the following:

- The promotion of partnerships, networking activities and sharing of both International and Regional experiences to strengthen knowledge
- The exchange of pertinent information related to the activities of each Party
- The conducting of consultation meetings to exchange relevant information of activities of common interest between ICM and KNATCOM
- The organization of conferences and seminars to disseminate the mandates of the Parties and the undertaking of efforts to promote their activities in both Korea and Kenya
- Each Party's support and technical assistance, within the range of possibility and scope, for training programs developed by each Party, and
- Other activities not described herein after being duly agreed upon by both Parties.

With the signing of the MOU, it is hoped that Kenya's bilateral cultural cooperation with the Republic of Korea will not only be strengthened but will also see Kenya's youth benefit immensely from the programmes and activities foreseen by the MOU. Within the provisions of this MOU, KNATCOM plans to take advantage of the cooperation to instill onto Kenya's youth knowledge and skills that will directly contribute to their wellbeing and improve their quality of life.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Culture Programme.*



## Communication Commission's GC deliberations

By Anthony Ngare & Christine M'kwenda

The deliberations of the Communication Commission at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.

A number of items were on the table for deliberations by member states during the three day CI meeting at the General Conference.

The representative of the Director-General, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI) Mr Frank La Rue, outlined the various activities carried out under the Communication and Information (CI) Programme as well as the CI Sector's contribution and intended role in light of the challenges faced by the world that were quite relevant to CI's mandate.

The reports on the activities of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and by the Information for All Programme (IFAP) were presented by Ms. Albana Shala, Chair of IPDC and Ms. Chafica Haddad, Chair of the IFAP respectively. They also thanked Member States, donors and UNESCO for supporting their work.

During the ensuing debate, Member States including Kenya took the floor and voiced their support for the draft document 39 C/5 including the two main lines of action under major programme V (CI), noting the importance of the CI programme as it related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Member States highlighted the important role of freedom of expression, media development, access to information and knowledge, the role of ICTs and media, online and off-line and the need to address the digital divide, the role of the IFAP programme in addressing violent extremism and the crucial role of the IPDC programme. Support was also expressed for Internet universality and the ROAM principles, as well as the development of Internet universality indicators.

They commended the Secretariat for its work and called for more attention to be given to media development, media pluralism, media diversity, and the themes under Main Line of Action 2, strengthening of the Memory of the World Programme and greater inter-sectoral collaboration within UNESCO and multilateral cooperation with the United Nations.

They welcomed UNESCO's leadership in strengthening the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and asserted that UNESCO's work in monitoring the achievement of SDG Target 16.10 was crucial. The World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Report was cited as good example of UNESCO's work that should be continued.

Concern was expressed over UNESCO's budgetary situation with a call for member states to meet their financial commitments as well as non-earmarking of extra-budgetary contributions to allow UNESCO to implement the programme.

In his reply, the ADG-CI, Mr Frank La Rue appealed to Member States to consider providing additional voluntary contributions, as more activities could be carried out with additional funding.

Another major aspect discussed at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference is strengthening UNESCO's leadership in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the issue of Impunity.

In his introduction of this item, ADG/CI spoke about the Multistakeholder Consultation on Strengthening the Implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which included both an online consultation and a face-to-face meeting in Geneva in June 2017.

He emphasized that the outcome document of that consultation presented a series of options for action. ADG/CI highlighted UNESCO's focus on the "three Ps" approach of prevention of, protection against and prosecution of attacks against journalists.

Many member States including Kenya expressed their support for UNESCO's strengthened leadership in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and welcomed the proposed resolution and outcome document of the multi-stakeholder consultation. One Member State suggested that it be complemented by a more strategic document to assist stakeholders in implementation.

Member States reaffirmed their countries commitment to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists and underlined that focus should be placed on translating the progress achieved at the international level into national policies and practices.

Delegates noted that increased cooperation on Safety of Journalists, both within and beyond the United Nations system, was necessary, including through the informal Groups of Friends that had been set up in Paris, New York and Geneva and



through the newly announced United Nations focal points.

Research and monitoring on the safety of journalists were deemed important, including through monitoring SDG indicator 16.10.1 and through academic networks.

Several member states also expressed their condolences following a terrorist attack on a television station in Afghanistan.

Member States called for more emphasis in addressing specific threats to the safety of women journalists, both online and offline given the rise in sexual harassment and attacks on women journalists.

One delegate maintained that it could not be overlooked that though there was an increase in women journalists killed, the wide majority of journalists killed were men in countries experiencing armed conflict. However, some



*The Outgoing DG Ms Irina Bokova makes her remarks*

There was a lot of debate on the definition of “journalist” as used in the draft resolution. Some Member States stated that they did not support the expanded interpretation of the term “journalist” with Russia stating that “social media producers” could not be equated with the status of real journalists. A majority of the Member States however argued that the language used in the draft resolution was consistent with previous UNESCO decisions.

member states from the Group of Friends for Safety of Journalists asserted their support for the safety of all journalists regardless of gender and deemed it inappropriate to make a comparison between the number of woman journalists and the number of men journalists killed.

In response to interventions made by delegates, the representative of the Director-General clarified that the Outcome Document was not a new Plan of Action, but rather an evolving

suggestion of options for those actors that wish to implement the UN Plan.

He emphasized that safety should be applied across the board for all journalists and that investigations into crimes against journalists must be carried out without prejudice. ADG/CI stated that the definition of “journalist” used in the draft resolution was consistent with previous decisions of the Executive Board, including Decision 5.1.1 adopted by the 201<sup>st</sup> Executive Board held in spring 2017.

Regarding the draft resolution, a consensus text was agreed upon on a particularly contentious paragraph concerning various categories of journalists as follows: “Strongly condemning all attacks against journalists, media workers as well as social media producers who generate a significant amount of journalism, online and offline, and recognizing the need to improve safety conditions for journalists in all situations, including armed conflict.”

On the Conclusions of the Youth Forum two young change makers, Monika Aksentievskaya and Mortaza Behboudi, spoke about matters that arose during the Youth Forum. These included proposals to facilitate linkages between media and youth organizations in order to generate content on key issues, as well as to connect young experts on specific themes with youth that have technological capacities to develop apps or games and with private sector actors who could provide training in this regard.

They also called for UNESCO to support a series of webinars produced by youth for youth, to be followed by a face-to-face event, and they noted the relevance of including in these efforts the participation of experienced journalists,

representatives of civil society and international organizations working in the field of the safety of journalists.

Several Member States including Kenya took the floor and welcomed the outcomes of the Youth Forum and acknowledged youth as “agents for change” and partners for achieving the SDGs.

The ADG/CI stated that it would be better to have more time for the Youth Forum for young people to interact with UNESCO’s Sectors and Member States. Stressing that young people are the key actors in achieving sustainable development, he announced that regional meetings would follow the Youth Forum.

The Commission agreed to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the Resolution, marking the completion of its work.

Other items discussed by the Communication Commission at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference included Establishment in the Republic of Korea of an International Centre for Documentary Heritage as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, Report on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) beyond 2015, Quebec’s Call for Action: Internet and the Radicalization of Youth and Desirability of a standard-setting instrument on international collaboration in the field of Open Educational Resources (OER).

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*The writers are KNATCOM’s Deputy Director at Communication & Information Programme and First Secretary at the Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO respectively.*

# Kenya soars at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference

By John Paul Oluoch and Victor Soo

The Nominations Committee began its work by electing its Bureau composed of its Chairperson, H.E. Ms Samira Al Moosa (Oman) and 4 Vice-Chairpersons (Azerbaijan, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal).

The Nominations Committee approved the recommendation of the Executive Board to elect H.E. Ms Zohour Alaoui (Morocco) as President of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference.

- Education Commission (ED Commission) - H.E. Amb. Prof. George GODIA (Kenya)
- Natural Science Commission (SC Commission) – Sudan
- Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS Commission) – Slovakia
- Culture Commission (CLT Commission) – Italy
- Communication and Information Commission (CI Commission) - Australia
- Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme support and



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*Kenya's representation to the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference led by Amb George Godia and Christine Mkwenda, first secretary at the Permanent delegation*

On recommendation of the Executive Board, the Nominations Committee also approved the Heads of Delegations of 36 Member States for the posts of Vice-Presidents of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.

Following the recommendations of the Executive Board, the Nominations Committee approved the following nominations for the Chairpersons for the commissions and committees of the General Conference:

- External Relations (APX Commission) – El Salvador
- Legal Committee (LEG Committee) – France
- Credentials Committee (CRE Committee) – Dominican Republic

Kenya was also a member of the General Committee (Bureau) of the General Conference, having been elected Chairperson of the Education Commission. The General

Committee is composed of the President of the General Conference, 36 Vice-Presidents and Chairpersons of the commissions and committees of General Conference. Kenya was also elected Rapporteur of the Legal Committee during the 39th session of the General Conference.

Kenya was successfully elected to the following five key committees for the period 2017 to 2021:

### 1. Legal Committee

The Legal Committee considers proposals for the amendment of the Constitution and of the related rules of procedures or regulations. It also considers agenda items referred to it by the General Conference, appeals submitted by sponsors of draft resolutions to the General Conference that have been considered inadmissible by the Director-General, legal questions submitted to it by the General Conference or any of its organs.

The Legal Committee also considers the reports relating on conventions or recommendations transmitted to it by the General Conference.

### 2. Headquarters Committee

The Headquarters Committee coordinates with the Director-General the management policy of UNESCO's Headquarters and gives the Director-General all guidelines and recommendations that it deems useful.

The Committee meets whenever necessary to treat questions relating to Headquarters submitted by the Director-General or by one of the members of the Committee. The Committee reports to the General Conference on the work carried out and the programmes to be planned for the future. Kenya served as Vice-President of the Headquarters Committee from 2015 to 2017.

### 3. Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)

The IGBC is the Intergovernmental Body composed of 36 Member States. It examines

the work of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and takes decisions on issues regarding UNESCO's actions with regard to Bioethics. The IBC is a body of 36 independent experts that follows progress in the life sciences and its applications in order to ensure respect for human dignity and freedom. It promotes reflection on the ethical and legal issues raised by research in the life sciences and their applications.

Further to the election to the IGBC, Kenya was also elected Vice-President of the IGBC for the period 2017 to 2021.

### 4. International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable. Its World Network of Biosphere Reserves currently counts over 600 sites of which six are in Kenya.

The election to the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) were highly competitive with seven Africa Member States vying for 3 seats. Kenya was elected with the highest number of votes (115 votes). Also elected were Côte d'Ivoire (92 votes) and South Africa (90 votes).

### 5. UNESCO Staff Pension Committee

The UNESCO Staff Pension Committee is a key body responsible that supports the administration of Pension and Retirement Benefits, Interpretation and enforcement of the

United Nations Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) regulations and rules to member organizations, Investments of member contributions for eventual payment and the provision of inability payments for staff affected with sickness, accidents while in service of the UN.

Kenya continues to be a Member of the following committees until 2019:

- 1. Executive Board of UNESCO:** The Executive Board is a powerful decision-making body consisting of 58 Member States. It examines the programme and budget of UNESCO and provides guidance on their implementation. The Executive Board is also responsible for interviewing and nominating a candidate for the position of Director-General of UNESCO.
- 2. The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)** a key programme that supports countries build capacity in the sustainable management of water resources
- 3. The Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformation's Programme (MOST)** which aims to support poverty eradication, youth empowerment and social development programmes.

Other matters examined by the Nominations Commission include replacement of the United States of America in the executive board of UNESCO and election of the external auditor of UNESCO.

In the context of elections of the Members of the Executive Board the Nominations Committee considered a draft resolution submitted by Portugal on behalf of the Member States of the

Electoral Group I (Europe and North America), related to the replacement of the United States of America in the Executive Board of UNESCO upon the withdrawal of this Member State from UNESCO effective 31 December 2018.

The scope of the discussion extended to broader governance issues. Member States drew attention to the need to review the representation of different Electoral Groups at the Executive Board in the event of the admission or effective withdrawal of any Member State.



*Kenya's Victor Soo of Kenya Permanent delegation to UNESCO helps out during one of the Nominations Committee session*

The Nominations Committee adopted the draft resolution as amended. It was subsequently submitted to the plenary meeting of the General Conference for its consideration. In light of absence of consensus, the draft resolution was not adopted by the Plenary of the General Conference.

On the issue of the External Auditor, the Nominations Committee elected the Auditor General of Canada, as the new External Auditor of UNESCO for the period 2018 – 2021.

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*The writers are officers with permanent delegation of Kenya to UNESCO*

# Empowering the Youth with Mobile Apps Development Skills



By Wanjiru Kang'ara

Kenya's mobile ecosystem is vibrant with a rich history. In 2010, Omidyar Network and Hivos were among the first organisations to launch a technological hub "iHub", the city's first local nexus of all things tech. Today, the community hosts over 14,805 members, over 152 companies and employs 1128 people. More incubators and working spaces have followed, such as 88mph which operates in Nairobi, Lagos, and Johannesburg. With hosted hubs and a stable wifi connection, it's here that young entrepreneurs, technologists, and designers connect and branch out to the international venture capital community.

Mobile application development in Kenya continues to grow tapping heavily into the vast pool of young tech entrepreneurs by offering training. Experts predict that mobile applications will be the next big thing in five years. Initiatives like I lab, mLab East Africa and several others by Nokia has seen Kenyans benefit from fully-sponsored trainings on creation of mobile apps and how best to launch them into the market, revealing a growing interest in the sector.

In addition, the uptake of mobile services by Kenyans continues to grow. As of January 2016, Kenya had 37.8 million active mobile phone

numbers with the Internet-cum-data market registering 21.6 million users. By September 2017, the number of mobile subscriptions stood at 41.0 million up from 40.2 million reported during the preceding quarter, marking a growth of 1.9 per cent. Subsequently, mobile



*One of the groups present their App to the rest of the class and the judges*

penetration rose by 1.7 percentage points to reach 90.4 per cent from the previous quarter's 88.7 per cent.

This is according to the quarterly sector statistics report by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA).

The impact of mobile phones is therefore key in Kenya's development agenda. For the past two years, KNATCOM has been empowering the youth who have a passion in mobile applications development. This Initiative is implemented by the Communication and



*The winning group present their security app at the workshop*

Information Programme, and it builds on the experience of many worldwide initiatives that introduce young people to computer science programming (learning-to-code) and problem solving (coding-to-learn). It also seeks to build on experiences targeting young women who are vastly underrepresented in this field. Finally it builds on the consideration that for millions of young people, the smartphone in their pocket is a very powerful computer, it will be their only computer, and they use it for nearly every aspect of their lives: communicating, learning, taking pictures, and playing games.

With this initiative KNATCOM strives to provide young people with the high-level skills and confidence to develop, promote, and sell locally relevant mobile apps that solve local issues of sustainable development and provide employment.

KNATCOM'S most recent training in mobile Apps training was carried out in December, 2017. A total of 21 students from 16 universities across Kenya were trained. The five day training was conducted by eMobilis Mobile Technology Institute. The students were expected to

develop an app that would address an issue that was SDG related. They were clustered into four groups for the hackathons and developed apps ranging from agricultural to health.

The winning group developed “G~LINDE” is mobile app that enables a user to report any case crime either to next of kin (friends) or the nearest police. It also enables a user to call for emergency services such as for fire-brigade or an ambulance. The objective of the App is to protect life and property by enabling a user to seek for help when he/she needs it.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) is cognizant of the power of the mobile phone in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and appreciates the talent in the youth and will continue to support them. At a time when the world is looking for new ways to build peace and sustainable development, encouraging innovation and creativity of youth of the world will be vital in effectively addressing these challenges.

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*The writer is a deputy director at KNATCOM  
Communication & Information Programme*

# Linking academia and theatre arts practice

By Emily Njeru

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) partnered with Kenyatta University and Kenya International Theatre Festival to organize a two day theatre conference and festival that brought together academia, policy makers, industry players and students. The main objective of the workshop was to promote intellectual dialogue between academia, policy makers and industry players with a view to influence and shape policy as well as enhance the link between education and creative sector. The theatre conference and festival took place at Alliance Francaise Nairobi between 16th to 19th November 2017. The theme of the conference was “Linking Academia and Practice”.

In line with KNATCOM’s main mandate of promoting UNESCO’s ideals on protection of culture, heritage and creativity, the commission has prioritized promotion of culture and creative industries through undertaking partnerships with stakeholders and facilitation of intellectual dialogue between universities, policy makers and industry players. The idea of the conference and festival was in response to the current disconnect between the practice in theatre industry and academia.



*Dr. Mbayi of KU presenting*

It has been observed that while many Kenyan universities have embraced theatre arts as part of the courses offered from undergraduate to doctorate levels, there is a disconnect and majority of industry practitioners have honed their skills through talent and practice based mentorship. This affects quality and standards of creative products and services at national level. Arts education is a key factor for the growth and development of the sector. Skills development is a prerequisite for quality production of cultural goods and services and hence courses offered at universities need to be relevant professional needs of the sector. Further, artists need to be encouraged to seek training to acquire skills that support production and dissemination quality cultural products and services that are attractive at local, regional and international markets.



*KU Theatre Troupe Performing at the conference*



Participants of the conference were drawn from a variety of stakeholders that included; paper presenters from local and international universities and local theatre practitioner's as well foreign practitioners from South Africa and Uganda. Other participants were theatre managers, producers, media, policy makers, experts and students. Local Universities that participated were; Kenyatta University, KCA university, Technical University of Kenya and Moi University.

Papers presenters drawn from both academia, practice and media presented wide range of papers guided by the conference topical issues such as; *Business of Theatre in Kenya*, *Pedagogy of Theatre in Kenya*, *Theatre Industry Trends in the Kenya*, and *Theatre for Social Change*.

KNATCOM Deputy Director in charge of Arts shared the contents of the 2005 UNESCO

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the 1980 Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist, while the National Officer for Culture, Nairobi UNESCO Regional Office for East Africa shared UNESCO Culture Programme for East Africa.

The Report of this conference hopes to shape and influence policy interventions by government and universities and other training institutions to develop and implement interventions that will result to relevant and current industry skills needs to support and foster a dynamic creative and cultural sector producing high quality goods and services.

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*The writer is KNATCOM's Deputy Director at Culture Programme.*



participants at the conference

# Getting it right in PE

By Orpha Nyakundi

Physical education, that is commonly referred to as P.E, has always been fun for many school going pupils and students without serious understanding that, from quality physical education, sustainable development of societies based on safe, healthy and well-educated children is attained.

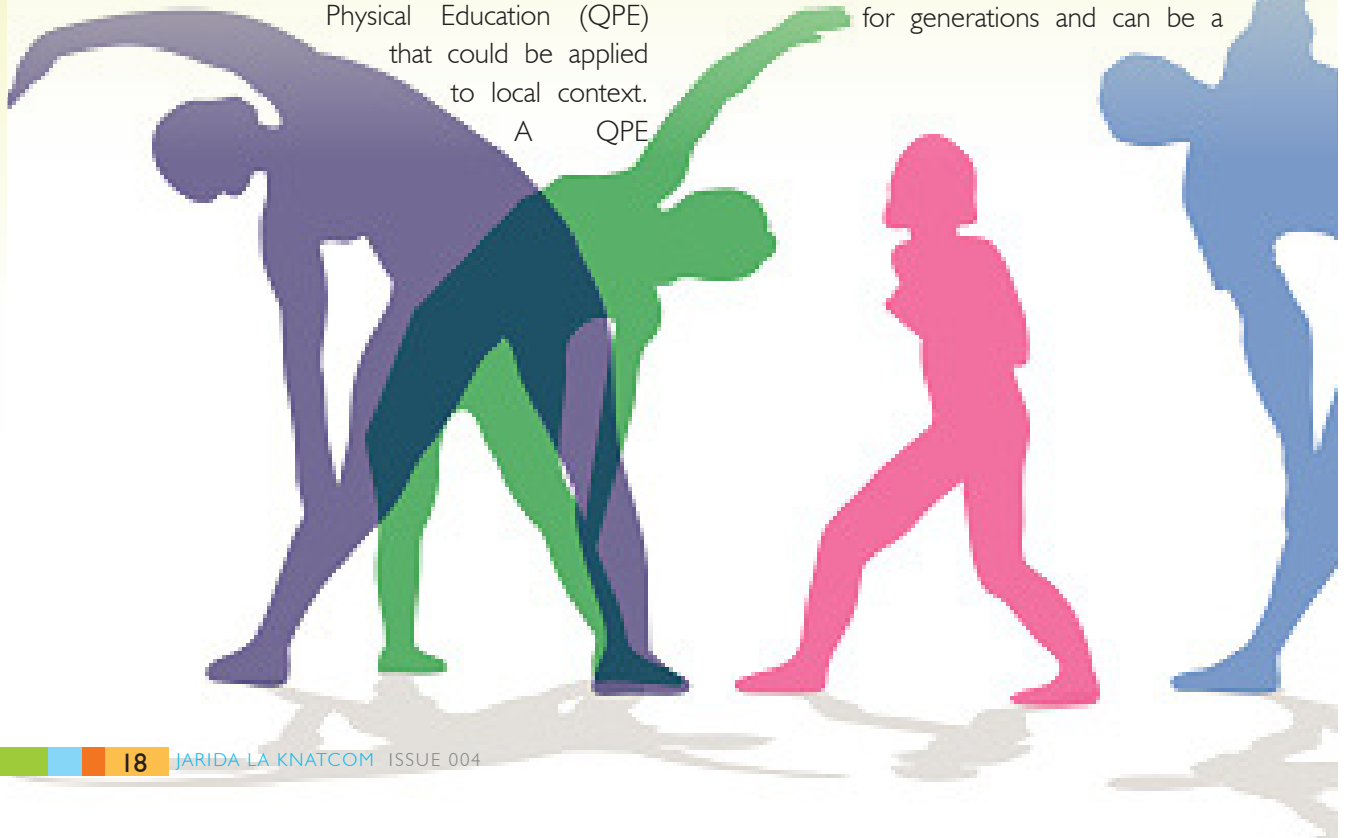
The influence of sports in safety, good health, successful education and an inclusive society is an important factor that cannot be overemphasized. Further to that, there are a number of benefits incurred from engaging in quality sport that include; physical support of children, life style adjustment, social, affective and cognitive development.

UNESCO undertook a global survey and literature review on the situation of physical education in 2013 which resulted in a Quality Physical Education (QPE) that could be applied to local context. A QPE

Agenda that is grounded in an equality of opportunity for all students to access a well-balanced peer-led and inclusive curriculum was then initiated.

The sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sports (MINEPS VI) held in Kazan, Russia in July 2017, came up with an action plan in which sports is discussed as greatly contributing to the promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and good health . This therefore, makes QPE a necessary document for a country to possess. In the MINESPS VI meeting, Kenya was recognized as one of the countries that has greatly tried to uphold integrity in sports. Kenya was represented by an officer from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and the Arts and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO.

Failure to invest in basic child rights can lock individuals and families into cycles of poverty for generations and can be a



barrier to future social and economic progress. Considering that, an engagement in QPE has been recognized as vital, since it can help to break that cycle. Every human being has a fundamental right to physical education, physical activity and sport without discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation.

Coming up with a physical education policy for the learners in our country would create more interest in the teachers and learners towards physical education. It could also attract stakeholders' support in enhancing physical education activities in the learning institutions. Unlike other subjects in schools, physical education seems to have been taken for granted because it is not an examinable subject at the basic education level and yet, it is very essential for reasons mentioned above. It is important to note that, even though it is included in the curriculum, physical education still has a perceived lower status in comparison to other subjects.

It is due to this background that the Kenya National Commission

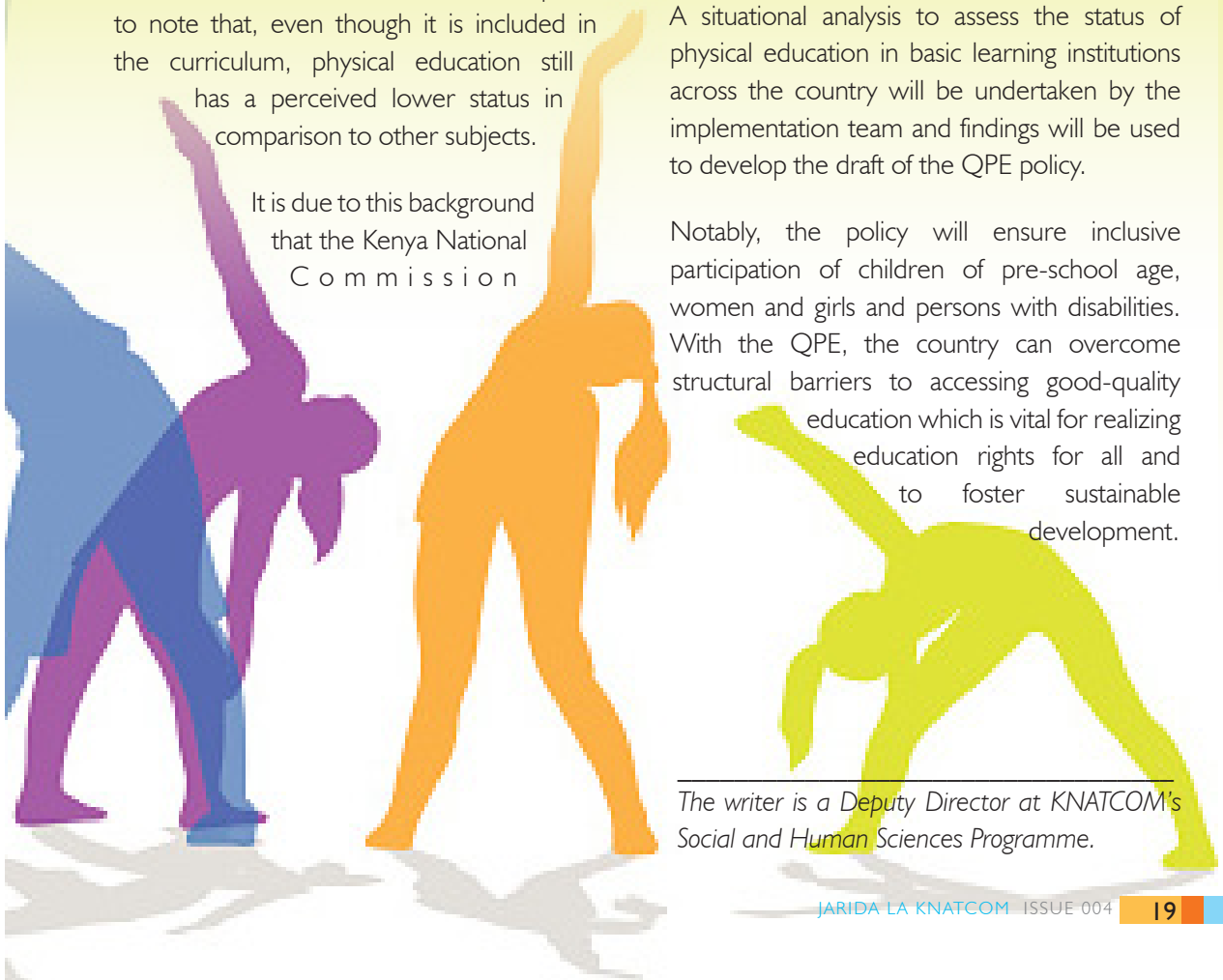
for UNESCO proposed to support the development of a physical education policy – in partnership with the Ministry of Education – to guide all programmes of physical education in basic learning institutions in Kenya.

At the beginning of the month of October, representatives of the Ministry of Education met with staff of the Social and Human Sciences (SHS) programme, KNATCOM to discuss and agree on the steps forward. In order to develop a broad policy considering all important aspects, the Technical Working Group (TWG), the group to design the policy, has been formed. It is composed of representatives of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Sports and the Arts, Ministry of Health, Anti-Doping Agency Kenya and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO.

A situational analysis to assess the status of physical education in basic learning institutions across the country will be undertaken by the implementation team and findings will be used to develop the draft of the QPE policy.

Notably, the policy will ensure inclusive participation of children of pre-school age, women and girls and persons with disabilities. With the QPE, the country can overcome structural barriers to accessing good-quality education which is vital for realizing education rights for all and to foster sustainable development.

*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Social and Human Sciences Programme.*



# KNATCOM's achievements under TVET

By Nancy Wachira

The Education 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals which include **SDG 4: “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”** on Education was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.



As a state corporation with international visibility, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) is the principal link between the national priorities of Kenya and the multilateral agenda of UNESCO.

The Commission is at the fore front of supporting the ongoing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) reforms as TVET is a major player in achieving economic development. In Kenya, KNATCOM is convinced and contented to note that TVET is one of the pathways to achieve Vision 2030.

Towards this end, KNATCOM has undertaken a number of initiatives that contribute to TVET's overarching objective.

The following are the some of the KNATCOM's major accomplishments under TVET.

## **i. Improving quality of education through Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)**

Created in 1953, ASPnet is a large and unique global network of schools committed to promote the principles and values of UNESCO through developing innovative educational

contents, pioneering new teaching and learning methods and approaches at the school level and linking millions of teachers and students across the world.

The ASPnet aims to contribute to improving the quality of education in practice in pursuit of peace and sustainable development and is often promoted by UNESCO as a powerful tool to achieve its goals and to increase the Organization's visibility on the ground equally in all Member States. ASPnet Institutions should be *navigators for peace* and *agents for positive change* in their respective communities.

ASPnet students and teachers live and interact on a daily basis in a school environment where education goes beyond transmitting literacy, numeracy and basic life skills to empower young generations to foster their social competences and personal development, and to contribute to social cohesion as conscious and active citizens. As such, ASPnet reaches out to this wide range of related quality elements in education, which in the ASPnet Strategy 2014-2021 is further re-affirmed by the focus on applying a 'whole-school' approach.

At the individual level, ASPnet students should acquire essential life skills, which include teamwork, solidarity, intercultural learning and respect for differences; capacity to conduct research, think critically, analyse results and draw conclusions; adaptability, flexibility, credibility, creativity and lifelong learning; language learning, development and use of their own talents and imagination; and effective use of information and communication technologies.

At the school level, ASPnet staff, and teachers in particular, should contribute to sustained innovations in team teaching, interdisciplinary approaches, more relevant content, production and testing of new educational resource materials and the enhancement of the learning

building workshop for Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Patrons in 50 TVET Institutions in 33 Counties. The institutions have been doing commendable work. The induction workshop held in March 2017 at the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development was the first group to be trained under tertiary category, in this case TVET under ASPnet.

The main objectives of the workshop was to share historical background of ASPnet, to equip ASPnet patrons with skills, knowledge and attitude empowering them to manage ASPnet institutions, to assist ASPnet patrons identify appropriate activities and flagship projects for their schools and to create networking platform for ASPnet Patrons.



process. ASPnet teachers are encouraged to be facilitators in empowering students to become the real actors in the learning process.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) through its Education programme carried out an induction capacity

## ii. **Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) and TVET**

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in liaison with the State Department of Vocational and Technical Training and UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa has been doing preliminaries for the onset of the

project on Better Education for Africa's Rise II (BEAR II). Major focus of the project will be on quality, relevance & attractiveness in TVET.

There was a scoping mission that was carried out in May 2017 and the report of the scoping mission was validated in September 2017. The purpose of the scoping mission was to identify the possible thematic areas for the project.

The project will run from 2017 to 2022 and will focus on TVET Institutions. It is funded by the South Korean Government through UNESCO to TVET Institutions in five Eastern African Countries, Kenya included. The first BEAR I project was successfully completed in selected countries in the Southern Africa region.

### iii. Green TVET Champions Training

Green TVET Champions training was carried out on 4th -6th October 2017 at the Rift Valley Technical Training Institutions, which is one of the UNEVOC Centres under UNESCO. The aim was to train Champions from selected TVET Institutions who will later be Trainers to the other TVET Institutions on Greening TVET. The training was officially opened by the Principal Secretary, State Department of Vocational and Technical Training, Dr. Dinah Mwinzi, MBS accompanied by a representative of the Director General of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and the Secretary General of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO.

### iv. Establishment of UNESCO UNEVOC Centres in Kenya

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO has also facilitated the establishment of UNESCO UNEVOC Centres which means International Centre for Vocational Education and Training abbreviated as UNEVOC and the Headquarter is in Bonn Germany. The UNESCO-UNEVOC



International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training acts as part of the United Nations mandate to promote peace, justice, equity, poverty alleviation, and greater social cohesion. The Centre assists Member States develop policies and practices concerning education for the world of work and skills development for employability and citizenship, to achieve: access for all: high quality, relevant and effective programs: learning opportunities throughout life. Currently in Kenya, KNATCOM has facilitated the establishment of the following UNEVOC Centres, Rift Valley Technical Training Institute, University of Eldoret, Ministry of Education (Department of Technical Education) and Technical Vocational Education and Training Authority.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Education Programme.*

# Reshaping cultural approach

By Emily Njeru

UNESCO recognizes culture as a key pillar of development and is convinced that no development can be sustainable without a strong culture component.

To that effect UNESCO has several cultural conventions and instruments that provide a unique global platform for international cooperation and establish a holistic cultural

implementation is coordinated through the Ministry of Sports and Culture and the Arts. The 2005 Convention is a legally binding instrument that obligates member states to put in place and implement measures and policies for fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions at national level.

During the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity



governance system based on human rights and shared values to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage and to support creativity the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors.

The main Convention on the promotion of culture and creative industries is the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Kenya ratified this convention in 2007 and its

of Cultural Expressions held on 12-15th December 2017 in Paris France, the Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay, together with Annika Markovic, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Sweden to UNESCO launched the 2018 Global Report, Re| Shaping Cultural Policies. The 2018 Global Report, Re| Shaping Cultural Policies tracks progress made by countries four main goals related to implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity

of Cultural Expressions: support sustainable systems of governance for culture; achieve a balanced flow of cultural goods and services and increase mobility of artists and cultural professionals; integrate culture in sustainable development frameworks; promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Report, monitors how countries around the world are designing policies pursuant to the UNESCO Convention. During the launch

especially the Global South, Ms Azoulay called for affirmative action to address a major funding gap in culture. “She observed that despite the well-established importance of the creative economy as a driver of growth and employment, the share of development aid and budget spent on culture today at its lowest level in over a decade.

Member states were urged to promote the creative and cultural sector, and focus on issues



*The UNESCO Director General Ms Azoulay at the event*

ceremony, the UNESCO Director General Ms Azoulay “underlined, the fact that Diversity remains a battle and observed that culture is not a commodity as it carries values and identities, gives markers to live together in a globalized world. She called upon member states to encourage, question, collect data, to understand and energize creative channels, to encourage the mobility of artists, to stimulate a rapidly changing sector in the new digital environment,”

While acknowledging the increased integration of culture in national development plans and policies by governments around the world,

of capacity development, governance, public policy and to strengthen human and institutional capacities to steer forward the sector.

The 2018 Global report findings is highlights key strategic issues that cultural policies should prioritise to address various challenges faced by creators and artists and to promote and foster a dynamic cultural and creative sector.

*The writer is a deputy director at KNATCOM's Culture Programme.*



# The basics of Bioethics

By Orpha Nyakundi

Ethics is a philosophical discipline pertaining to notions of good and bad, right and wrong or moral life in community. Bioethics is the application of ethics to the field of medicine and healthcare. Ethicists and bioethicists ask relevant questions more than provide sure and certain answers.

Concerns about the social, cultural, legal and ethical implications of human progress have created great concern among nations and institutions in the world. Advances of science

This calls for consideration of ethical aspects of scientific research. Great concern has however risen over the coming up of issues that are not ethically acceptable regarding scientific research and technology advancement. Establishment of common values for all countries and promotion of ethical principles and standards to guide scientific progress and technological development have become increasingly acute. UNESCO member states have therefore, been given an option to establish bioethics committees at the national, regional or local levels given the magnitude of ethical concerns at hand. The United Nations Educational,



*A past capacity building workshop on bioethics*

and technology will take place within the framework of universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms as expressed in Article 1 of UNESCO's constitution.

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established the Bioethics movement in 1993 in response to negative impact to human life in the course of advancement of science and technology.

All over the world the issue of Bioethics becomes more and more important. The African continent has to deal with a lot of ethical topics, such as biotechnology, research, animal experimentation, research dealing with human subjects such as clinical trials by international Pharmaceuticals as well as unequal sharing of benefits accruing from research.

Bioethics has support in the Laws of Kenya. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 Chapter Four on the Bill of Rights provides for recognition

In respect to issues of ethics, UNESCO has given guidelines to its member states to establish National Bioethics Committees. Kenya established a National Bioethics Committee (NBC) in 2009 through an Act of parliament under National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation. A bioethical committee is typically composed of a range of experts, is usually multidisciplinary in nature and its members employ a variety of approaches to work towards the resolution of bioethical issues and problems. It addresses issues of



and protection of human rights and vulnerable persons. Furthermore, it concentrates on issues like social responsibility as well as fundamental freedoms to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and promotion of social justice and the realization of the potential of all human beings. In addition to that, the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights states that , it is necessary and timely for the international community to state universal principles that will provide a foundation for humanity as response to the ever-increasing dilemmas and controversies that science and technology present for humankind and the environment.

Important to say that implementation of bioethical structures in Kenya are inevitable.

moral or bioethical dilemmas. The NBC has in turn accredited Institutional Review Ethics Committees (IREC). Currently they are twenty eight in number and are established in hospitals, research institutions and higher institutions of learning.

KNATCOM plays a great role to support the work of NBC and IRECs. Among others, KNATCOM held capacity building of the members of the IRECS and also had an Ethics Teachers Training Course (ETTC).

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Social and Human Sciences Programme.*

# Media sector, stakeholders holds regional conference

By Anthony Ngare

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), through the Communication and Information Programme in partnership with various media stakeholders' under the auspices of Kenya Media Sector Working Group organized a regional training conference on UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity on 13th and 14 November 2017 in Nairobi Kenya.

The UN Plan of Action is a new UN-wide initiative, coordinated by UNESCO to provide an overarching framework for the UN system to work together with all relevant stakeholders,

producers and also to combat impunity for crimes against them.

The Plan of Action aims at creating a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, both in conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide. Its measures include, among other undertakings, the establishment of a coordinated inter-agency mechanism to handle issues related to the safety of journalists as well as assisting countries to develop legislation and mechanisms favourable to freedom of expression and information, and supporting their efforts to implement existing international rules and principles.



UNESCO's Ann Therese delivers herremarks at the event

including national authorities and the various national, regional and international organizations in order to create a safe environment for journalists, media workers and social media

The overall objective of the training was to promote a free and safe environment for journalists with a view to creating an informed citizenry that is capable of strengthening peace, democracy and development in Kenya.

The workshop drew Media Council of Kenya accredited journalists from various media houses working across the country as well as foreign journalists from the neighbouring countries namely Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia.

It was structured around diverse thematic elements to impart to the participants knowledge, skills and attitudes contained in the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the issue of impunity.

The regional workshop's opening session saw remarks from a number of high level delegates.

The Secretary General of Kenya Union of Journalists Mr Eric Oduor noted that there was need to work together. KUJ also reiterated that the biggest threat and harassment was coming from political players. It was noted that political class should not coerce journalists by compromising the independent of journalism and press freedom.

Another notable speaker was director for DefendDefenders. The NGO according to Hassan Shire seeks to strengthen the work of HRDs throughout the region by reducing their vulnerability to the risk of persecution by enhancing their capacity to effectively defend human rights. DefendDefenders focuses its work on Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia (together with Somaliland), South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

DefendDefenders, according to Mr Shire acts as the secretariat of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, which represents more than 78 members across the sub-region, and envisions a region in which the human rights of every citizen as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are respected and upheld.

At the conference, DefendDefenders used the opportunity to launch their report 'Do not shoot the messenger'.

It was noted that journalists are guardians of freedom of expressions and intimidations from government organs ultimately leads to self-regulation, which could to some extent curtail access to information and knowledge.

The representative of Swedish Embassy noted that right to information is an inalienable human rights issue. He also reiterated that when press freedom is not curtailed there is low level of corruption and high level of public confidence.

He also pointed out that there can be no freedom of expression without ensuring safety of journalists. In the era of social media, it was stated there is a need to establish a mechanism for fact finding before going live with news. It was stated that rule of law is central to a country's development.

The Director in charge of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa Ms Ann Therese welcomed the workings of KMSWG in the fields of Journalists safety and security saying it was important to create synergies and reduce duplication of duties that could otherwise lead to loss of resources.

UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa Ms Ann Therese makes her remarks at the conference.

The director reiterated UNESCO's commitment for journalists' safety in the region. She noted that not every can be a journalists simply by carrying a pen and a notebook as journalism is a profession with strong work ethics just like any other.

She also maintained that UNESCO is determined to help the countries in the region to develop national mechanism addressing journalists' safety.

She however decried the fact that 9 out of 10 perpetrators of crimes against journalists go unpunished. This need to be reversed. 'Justice is the cornerstone of every society'

She reiterated that in ensuring safety of journalists, the industry and all stakeholders must embrace the three Ps: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution of cases against journalists.

The MCK CEO Mr David Omwoyo averred that impunity if tolerated becomes systemic not just for journalists but for the society at large.

He pointed out that MCK was working hand in hand with media stakeholders to drive the media sector forwards as we as uphold the journalistic ethos.

He noted that safety of journalists remains a paramount tenet if freedom of expressions and social development are to be realised in the country as well as regionally.

The keynote speaker at the conference, Cabinet Secretary for ICT Hon Joe Mcheru pointed out that Kenya media sector is one of the most dynamic and robust in Africa despite pressure from political players.

He pointed out that Article 34 of Kenya Constitution guarantees press freedom but cautioned that every right comes with a responsibility. He noted that his Ministry ensures that the provisions in the Bill of Rights are adhered to.

He also noted that the Ministry of ICT had reviewed the media legislations to enable better environment for media business as well as its independence. It was stated that information flow fuels the engine of development and therefore Kenya keen for development promoted press freedom. He also pointed out that Kenya was an active member of UNESCO and had ratified the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity.



*CS for ICT Joe Mcheru makes his official opening remarks at the Regional Conference held at Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi.*

He noted that journalists safety goes hand in and with the subject that is being covered and therefore there is need to exercise due caution where it calls for precautions in certain situations.

He also welcomed the efforts of KMSWG and reiterated that the caucus should continually liaise with the ministry in order to secure journalists safety. He also asked the participants to talk and discuss on safety of journalist and encouraged them to have a legacy.

He pointed out that he was looking forward to the report on the regional conference's deliberations. In his conclusion the CS expressed hope that by the end of the workshop participants would have acquired the knowledge contained in the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and that together as a country they would work towards promoting a free and safe environment for journalists with a view to creating an informed citizenry that is capable of strengthening peace, democracy and development in Kenya as well as regionally. He then declared the workshop officially open.

## The UN Plan of Action on Safety of journalists and issue of impunity

The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was endorsed by the UN Chief Executives Board on 12 April 2012. It was developed during the 1st UN Inter-Agency meeting convened by the Director General of UNESCO at the request of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), and was endorsed by the UN Chief Executive Board.

The Plan of Action aims at creating a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, both in conflict and non-conflict

raising campaigns on a wide range of issues such as existing international instruments and conventions, the growing dangers posed by emerging threats to media professionals, including non-state actors, as well as various existing practical guides on the safety of journalists.

It is worth noting that KNATCOM in its five year Strategic Plan 2014-2018 has planned for national campaigns to create awareness on the safety of journalists. As an organization, in collaboration with Media Council, we will therefore be training members of the Fourth Estate in various counties as we continue promoting the safety of journalists through our various activities.



situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide. Its measures include, among other undertakings, the establishment of a coordinated inter-agency mechanism to handle issues related to the safety of journalists as well as assisting countries to develop legislation and mechanisms favourable to freedom of expression and information, and supporting their efforts to implement existing international rules and principles.

The Plan recommends working in cooperation with governments, media houses, professional associations and NGOs to conduct awareness

As the fourth pillar of democracy along with judiciary, executive and legislature, media today has a key role in society to act against the injustice, oppression and partiality of our society. Media also plays a role in creating and shaping of public opinion and strengthening of society. The safety of journalists as they work is therefore crucial. However, this should be done responsibly.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Communication & Information Programme*



## Prioritising youth and empowerment

By Jacqueline Njeru

Youth represent the most abundant asset in Kenya as noted by numbers reported by the United Nation's Population Fund Report (2015) which indicates that there has been a swell in the global population of the youth to numbers slightly less than 1.8 billion in a world population of 7.3 billion.

The emergence of a large youth population can have profound effects on any country. Unfortunately the decisions of today's policymakers and the response by duty bearers to the needs of the young people, this large and still-growing segment of the population is and continues to present and face the challenges linked to development especially where the government capacities and resources are strained.



To-date addressing the challenges of youth and their empowerment are top government priorities. Many non-governmental and governmental youth serving organizations have committed themselves to various youth empowerment initiatives such as establishing a series of youth programmes targeting the youth, skills development for the youth; enhancement of youth specific affirmative action and employment creation for youth, tax breaks, grants and loans to the youth.

Despite all these initiatives by youth serving organizations the youth in Kenya are still face the challenges of unemployment, under-employment, involvement in crime, vulnerability to HIV and AIDs, involvement in drug abuse, vulnerability to of radicalization, civic apathy and hopelessness. To concretely address these challenges the National Youth Policy was developed in 2006. The policy envisaged that through adequate strategies and networks it was tangible and possible to significantly address the challenges of youth empowerment comprehensively.

The policy recognized the importance of strong and coordinated responses from all the stakeholders including the youth themselves. This multi-sectorial

approach would ensure that programs and activities to empower and create employment opportunities for the youth are mainstreamed across all sectors.

Nonetheless, the challenges of Kenyan youth in 2006 still remain the same in 2017. All stakeholders agree that investment in youth empowerment is critical to ensure that the youth have the capabilities and opportunities to define their future and to spur innovations needed for sustainable development. Also, that as a pivotal segment of the society, the youth are social actors of change and progress and through an interdisciplinary collaboration, the youth, state and non-state institutions should work together address and review the implementation of youth empowerment policies in Kenya.



It is in light of this and the prominence given to youth empowerment in all spheres of life by the SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063 and Kenya Vision 2030 that KNATCOM embarked on a purposive rapid assessment study to understand the challenges faced in implementation of youth empowerment policies in Kenya. This was undertaken between November and December 2017. Analysis of the feedback from targeted respondents is still ongoing and preliminary findings indicate that:

i. There is urgent need to address attitude and value systems and beliefs among the youth and towards the youth to inculcate positive mind sets for progressive participatory partnerships development and nation- building;

ii. Youth empowerment is slow but incremental and it is complex with multiple actors, interests and therefore it requires innovative solutions founded on strategic leadership and resource commitment;

iii. Whereas youth mainstreaming has been given prominence in state institutions, there is need to decisively allocate adequate resources to the Directorate of Youth Affairs to increase its effectiveness not only at the national level but equally in counties;

iv. The National Youth Policy is the main policy for youth in Kenya and it is currently being reviewed. None the less other policies in all sectors which include components on youth empowerment should be aligned to the National youth Policy to minimize on fragmentation and to enhance coordination of youth empowerment initiatives and programmes; and

v. The National Youth Council Act should be reviewed and aligned to the Constitution of Kenya and other international targets. NYC should be supported and adequate resources allocated to its secretariat to fulfil its mandate across all sectors in Kenya.

Overall it is clear that continuous and purposed youth empowerment is required for peace and stability in Kenya as well as address the widening economic inequality gap.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Social and Human Sciences Programme.*





By Jacqueline Njeru

**R**enowned American spiritual teacher, author and lecturer Marianne Williamson once noted that as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with Kenyatta University kicked off the implementation the Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) in Embu County on 28th November 2017.

This is a youth empowerment programme that aims at imparting entrepreneurial and business management skills to the youth that was developed by the Leuphana University (Germany) in collaboration with Makerere Business School. The STEP modules are tailored

# Step Set for youth

Up

to demystify and actualizes business ideas into actual businesses and transforms the youth belief system to 'yes they can'. The research-based training helps to create a positive mind-set towards self-employment,

contributes to poverty reduction, and fosters the core idea of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The STEP training is evidence-based as the training content draws on established theoretical models in entrepreneurship and empirical evidence. It builds on current scientific knowledge on entrepreneurship and training methodologies. The trainees learn how to start and run a new business based on action-principles that have been derived from the current scientific literature on entrepreneurship, management, and psychology.

STEP thus presents an opportunity to contribute to the socio-economic development of the Kenyan youth and contributed to the country's realization of Sustainable Development Goal 1 - no poverty, SDG 4 – quality education and Sustainable Development Goal 8 - decent work and economic growth.

This is in line with KNATCOM's commitment to youth empowerment in Kenya and the recognition that the greatest opportunity for prosperity and progressive, sustainable development in Kenya rests with the youth of our country as well as UNESCO's prioritization of youth vide the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth 2014- 2021 .

The UNESCO Strategy on Youth states that youth are drivers of change for improved conditions in their communities and the respect for human rights and freedoms. The strategy is founded on the following Axes:

- i) Axis 1: Policy formulation and review with the participation of youth
- ii) Axis 2: Capacity Development for the transition to adulthood
- iii) Axis 3: Civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation

The UNESCO Strategy should be applied to promote a rights based approach, gender equality and non-discrimination, a focus on reaching vulnerable and marginalized youth, youth participation in the development of initiatives affecting them, inter-generational dialogue and youth-adult partnerships and foresight and anticipation approaches.

The STEP programme applies a rights based approach, gender equality and non-discrimination principles in the selection of youth to undertake the training. A total of 100 youth are selected from out of school youths with the minimum entry qualifications. To meet the selection criteria the candidate must be a youth

as prescribed by the Constitution of Kenya 2010, that is a person between 18- 35 years and should be able to speak and write English which is the language of instruction for STEP. In addition, the 2/3 gender rule is applied as well as inclusion of persons with disability. Youth must also be drawn from all the wards in a county as far as is possible. KNATCOM in collaboration with KU engages county governments to provide low- interest loans to STEP graduates with business plans. This approach has resulted



in a full-circle opportunity for youth where they acquire not only knowledge and skills but also financial support in the form of loans to actualize their dreams into plans and income generating businesses. In addition KNATCOM is in discussions with the Youth Enterprise Fund (YEDF) to facilitate access to loan facilities to STEP graduates with suitable business plans.

Further, two KNATCOM officers Ms. Jacqueline Njeru and Mr. David Otiato were trained as STEP trainers by experts from Leaphana University that were training lecturers from Mt. Kenya University as the second university in Kenya to receive the tailored STEP training to cascade to in and out of school youth in Kenya.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Social and Human Sciences Programme.*

# Getting stuff for staff done

By David Looremata

The Department of Human Resources is pleased to reflect back on its 2017 achievements. As always, the main object of the Department of Human Resources is to contribute to the success of KNATCOM and its employees through leadership, service and excellence in human resource management.

As a Department, we have continued to advance KNATCOM's mission by thinking and acting in the best interests of the organization and the workforce in particular, when developing policies and programs and delivering services.

We have continued to be dedicated to quality, excellence and continuous improvement in order to ensure the Commission remains competitive in its human resources management policies and practices by actively seeking and developing best practices, methods and approaches.

One of the most notable accomplishments that will have a transformative impact on the future of this Commission this year has been the successful completion of the Job Evaluation Exercise which marks the biggest step ever towards repositioning and aligning the Commission on its rightful trajectory towards harmonization of terms of service with other likeminded international agencies.

In addition, we have also continued to follow our strategic plan for 2014-2018. In doing so, we maintained our course and we are set to achieve all that was projected in that plan. Within the plan we had three strategic themes that guided our activities. These themes included: employee resourcing, management of career progression, and compensation and benefits enhancement.

To support and facilitate the realization of the above themes, we have also focused on modernizing business processes and service delivery; developing and enhancing programs; providing clarity and direction through policy and protocol enhancement; modernizing the work environment; enhancing HR technology systems to better serve our clients; developing strategic initiatives to support KNATCOM; and ensuring accountability through policy and reporting.

The department is pleased to report it has made significant progress and as a result, we are now in a more effective and efficient place. I am proud of the work and accomplishments of the Human Resources team and sincerely thank them, as well as our partners within the Commission. We are able to accomplish so much because of their work, dedication and support.

Finally, to ensure the continued sustainability of the KNATCOM pension scheme into the future, the Department will oversee the final transition of the Pension scheme into the hands of its Trustees. Much progress has been made over the past year since its inception and the new team will be able to work on the good foundation laid and improve on it to steward it to greater heights.

In 2018 and beyond, we look forward to our continued journey of change and service enhancement. As always, we remain committed to working collaboratively with our clients throughout KNATCOM as we continue on our journey of change and transformation.

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*The writer is KNATCOM'S Human Resources Manager*

## Our Vision

To be a leading organization in the advancement of peace, sustainable development and intellectual collaboration

## Our Mission

To promote building of peace, eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intellectual dialogue through education, sciences, culture, communication and information

*Building Peace in minds of Men & Women*



**MALENGO**  **YA MAENDELEO ENDELEVU**



Email :sg@unesco.go.ke | info@unesco.go.ke  
Website :www.unesco.go.ke  
Facebook :Kenya National Commission for UNESCO  
Twitter :@NatcomUnescope

National Bank Building, 16th Floor,  
Harambee Avenue,  
P. O. Box 72107-00200,  
Nairobi, Kenya.  
Tel: 020 2229053/4