

**Closing Remarks by Dr Jean-Pierre Ilboudo
Head of Office and Representative, UNESCO Windhoek
Office**

At the Occasion of

**Regional Capacity Development Workshop for National
Coordinators of the Associated Schools Project Network in
Sub-Saharan Africa**

and

**The International Orientation Session for new ASPnet
Coordinators**

Windhoek

29 June 2018

- Director of Ceremonies, Rev.Rod April
- Ms Soo-Hyang Choi, Director of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO HQ
- Mr Rod April, ASPnet National Coordinator and Secretary General of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO
- Ms Edda Bohn - Director of Programmes and Quality Assurance, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and Education Programme Commissioner
- Secretaries General of National Commissions of UNESCO and National ASPnet Coordinators
- UNESCO Staff Members,
- Invited Guest,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon

Once again, it is my pleasure to be here to thank you on behalf of UNESCO at the closing of this important Regional Capacity Development Workshop for National Coordinators of the Associated Schools Network in Sub-Saharan Africa and the International Orientation Session for new ASPnet Coordinators.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been informed that the 3-day event was very fruitful where not only participants, but also UNESCO has learnt a lot. The sharing of experiences and lessons learnt from different contexts allowed all of us to have new perspectives and think of innovative ways of implementing activities in our ASPnet schools.

The insights we have gathered throughout the 3 days will allow us, both UNESCO HQ and Field Offices, to better guide and support National Coordinators in their important work with schools.

Director of ceremonies, allow me to announce that UNESCO will prepare, a Summary Report to be ready by 15 July that will summarise the workshop proceedings and the way forward in our work in ASPnet, We will also prepare a webpage with all speeches and presentations, and a photo gallery and participation certificates which will be sent to all participants.

Ladies and gentlemen, with the Hainan Provincial Government Funding, UNESCO will organise a further Regional African training event in 2019, for principals or teachers. The modalities of this workshop will be decided in consultation with the National Coordinators. So as you can see, there is continued commitment from UNESCO and partners to maintain the momentum we have generated during this meeting.

I would like to remind all participants that as mentioned during the official opening, China is establishing a UNESCO Category 2 Center for ASPnet – the official signing by the UNESCO

Director General, Ms Audrey Azoulay and the Chinese Government is scheduled for next month. The center will complement UNESCO's efforts in supporting and developing ASPnet through research and training events, support for further IT tools to facilitate communication, regional and international conferences and student encounters

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to encourage you to focus on follow-up activities, stay in touch with UNESCO, particularly our colleagues from HQ, and keep up the excellent work that you are doing.

I would like to once again express our thanks to the Government of the Republic of Namibia (the UN partner of choice) for hosting this workshop. Our many thanks go to the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO for collaborating with UNESCO in organising this very important workshop and for giving our visitors a feel of the Namibian experience.

I would like to thank our colleagues from HQ for committing resources and time for the this workshop, colleagues from regional Offices and the Windhoek Offices, thank you very much for your contributions towards the success of this workshop.

To our translators and photographers and all those who made this workshop possible, I say thank you and keep up the good work.

To our international participants, I wish you a good final day in Namibia and a pleasant flight back to your respective countries,
Thank you.