



Welcome remarks delivered by

Ms Edda Bohn

at the

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

and

International Orientation Session for new ASPnet Coordinators

HOTEL SAFARI

Windhoek, Namibia

26 June 2018

Director of Ceremonies,

Ms Soo-Hyang Choi, Director of the Division of Peace and Sustainable Development, together with her staff:

Ms Sabine Detzel (International UNESCO Associated Schools Network) and
Ms Fouzia Belhami (Unit for ASPnet);

Ms Veno Kauaria, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mo EAC, and Deputy Chairperson of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO;

Dr Jean-Pierre Ilboudo, Head of UNESCO Windhoek Office and his staff;

Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO;

UNESCO staff from the Regional Offices:

Ms Saba Bokhari, UNESCO Office, Nairobi, Kenya;

Mr Uloko Shadrach: Abuja, Nigeria;

Mr Abdoul Coulibaly: Regional Office for Southern Africa: Harare,
Zimbabwe; Windhoek, Namibia;

National Coordinators;

Ms Brodie, Waldorf School and Mr Mbeeli, David Bezuidenhout Secondary School;

Media

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning!

It gives me tremendous pleasure to welcome you to Windhoek, Namibia, The Land of the Brave. This welcome is extended on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, as well as the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, (who is also the Chairperson of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO).

They, together with the Permanent Secretary, are attending Cabinet today, and give you their fondest greetings.

Namibia is humbled, but also proud, to host you at this Regional Capacity Development Workshop for National Coordinators of the Associated Schools Network in Sub-Saharan Africa. A perfect opportunity is granted by the ASPnet Unit in the Division of Peace and Sustainable Development, at the Paris Headquarters, together with the support from the Hainan Provincial Government, People's Republic of China, to not only build your capacity, but also lay the foundation for networking. A strong network of ASPnet Schools is critical in the present challenges that we face in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Last year during the UNESCO General Conference I have noted the praise many Member States have given to the work of the ASPnet across the programmes, namely in education, social sciences and culture. ASPnet is therefore a powerful vehicle to bring about change, and you are in a very special position to be the facilitators of this transformation. I believe that the efforts of the ASPnet could also enhance the mission of UNESCO in the new strategic transformation towards effective programme delivery, efficiency and partnerships.

In this regard, many thanks are in advanced expressed towards Ms Soo-Hyang Choi for her leadership, together with the facilitators, Ms Detzel, and her team who will take you through various themes. The support by the staff in the Windhoek Office with the collaboration of the Namibia National Commission is applauded.

In addition, ladies and gentlemen, appreciation must be expressed towards our family members in the ASPnet from across the Sub-Saharan region for attending. For some of you this visit might be the first to Namibia. Therefore, enjoy firstly the interaction and talks as an ASPnet family at this workshop, and make the most of your time after the session on Thursday afternoon to explore the beauty of Windhoek.

Again, thank you very much for coming, and may you have an enriching experience.

Welcome!