



**Welcoming Remarks by Dr Jean-Pierre Iboudo
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

26 June 2018

- Director of Ceremonies, Rev. Rod April;
- Hon Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture;
- 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 morning,

It is my pleasure to address you and deliver UNESCO remarks at this 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.

First of all, I want to welcome all the participants and I wish to express special thanks to the Government of the Republic of Namibia (the UN partner of choice) for hosting this workshop. I also want to particularly acknowledge the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO for collaborating with UNESCO and for its leadership and commitment towards the ASPnet's activities in Namibia

Ladies and Gentlemen, ASPnet has emerged as one of UNESCO's most successful long-term initiatives and longest running programmes. ASPnet has become a unique network committed to reinforcing the humanistic, ethical, cultural and international dimensions of education whilst ensuring the sharing and exchange of good practices nationally and internationally.

An evaluation of ASPnet schools found out that the programme has demonstrated its effectiveness for improving the quality of education in practice by putting innovative teaching and learning approaches into practice at the grass roots level.

When intra-or cross-sectoral cooperation successfully occurred, such as in the case of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and in the framework of flagships such as World Heritage Education, Sandwatch, and Transatlantic Slave Trade, the ASPnet effectively fulfills its potential as a channel for disseminating UNESCO's educational resources and for applying innovative teaching and learning practices, in addition to being a vehicle for international exchange and collaboration.

Director of ceremonies,

I call upon of us to utilise ASPnet programme, with the aim to improve the quality of education in practice.

Recognized as one important mechanism for UNESCO in facilitating Member States in implementing the holistic and inclusive SDG4-the Education 2030 Agenda - such as through developing, testing and applying innovative educational material, as well as pioneering new teaching and learning approaches such as related to Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development, or through adhering to global and regional flagship initiatives on priority topics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASPnet Schools in Africa are doing fairly well despite various challenges ranging from significant decrease in human and financial resources dedicated to international coordination. The resilience of the programme and its continuity owes to the firm commitment of its stakeholders and the continuous engagement for implementation of activities at the national and at the school levels. In particular, when a whole school approach is applied or where individual stakeholders act as 'multipliers', ASPnet initiatives demonstrated sustainability not least through their potential for replication. The establishment of partnerships with all stakeholders in the local community, such as private enterprises or the civil society should be encouraged in

order to maintain ASPnet schools' contribution towards the achievement of SDG 4 and its targets.

Mr le Maitre des cérémonies,

Conformément à son mandat, le bureau de l'UNESCO Windhoek est entièrement disposé à appuyer les projets et les activités du réseau en Namibie, à travers un partenariat fort et effectif et ce, en étroite collaboration avec la commission nationale de l'UNESCO pour la Namibie.

Nos deux institutions ont toujours travaillé dans le passé ensemble pour la mise en œuvre des camps du réseau des écoles associées de l'UNESCO ainsi que pour la réalisation d'autres initiatives du même type.

Permettez-moi alors de saisir l'occasion que m'offre cette session, pour exprimer à chacun de vous, toute ma gratitude pour votre engagement aux activités du réseau, à l'instar de cet atelier de formation et pour vous encourager à participer activement aux discussions et aux délibérations et surtout à partager plus tard avec les collègues et partenaires de vos différentes institutions qui n'ont eu ni le privilège ni l'avantage d'être ici à Windhoek, de partager avec elles et avec eux, disais-je, les résultats de cette importante session.

Au nom du bureau de l'UNESCO Windhoek, je voudrais vous souhaiter à toutes et à tous un atelier plein de succès et j'espère (en fait j'en suis convaincu) que ce que vous allez apprendre ici durant ces trois jours, va contribuer immensément à vos pays respectifs et globalement au programme du réseau des écoles associées de l'UNESCO.

Puisse nos écoles unies à jamais contribuer à l'éducation au développement durable, à l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, à l'éducation au changement climatique et au partage des bonnes pratiques.

Puissent-elles être unies dans cette dynamique associative pour la paix dans le monde.

Je vous remercie.