



## **Annual information meeting on the UNESCO's Communication and Information Programme to strengthen partnership**

**20 September, Windhoek:** The annual information meeting on the UNESCO's Communication and Information Programme, hosted by UNESCO Windhoek Office and the National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), took place on 20 September at the UN House. It convened actors in the field of media in Namibia to discuss the implementation of the Communication and Information Programme, stipulated in the 39 C/5 approved programme and budget 2018 - 2021.

Rod April, the Secretary-General of the NATCOM chaired the meeting and outlined the importance of finding a synergy between the UNESCO Windhoek Office, the NATCOM, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (MICT) and all relevant stakeholders in the field of media to drive the agenda.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Jean-Pierre Ilboudo, Head of UNESCO Windhoek Office emphasised UNESCO's mandate, as being the UN agency with a specific mandate to promote freedom of expression and alluded to UNESCO's activities, mission and vision. Dr. Ilboudo also outlined the key partnership with the NATCOM and underscored the importance of a strong partnership with all relevant stakeholders being present here.

Hon. Engel Nawatiseb, the Deputy Minister of MICT, delivered remarks on behalf of the Hon. Stanley Simataa, the Minister of MICT. He outlined that the focus of MICT is to stimulate sustainable socio-economic development and to promote a knowledge based economy as envisaged in the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP). He assured that the Ministry will fully participate and render support to the prioritised programmes for Communication and Information.

Tjiuai Kamboo, the Director of Print Media Affairs at the MICT, outlined the mission of the ministry as being a catalyst for an informed and inclusive ICT smart Namibia. She gave a presentation about the six main activities of MICT, which are the following: the implementation of the access to information bill; the establishment of the community media framework; the implementation of daily media monitoring and analysis; the translation of the Namibian constitution; the implementation of capacity building trainings and the promotion of national media awards.

Subsequently, Dr. Ilboudo gave a presentation about the global UNESCO Information and Communication Sector Programme and Activities. He elaborated on the Plan of Action for Major Programme V and gave insight into the UNESCO C/I Sector Activities: The celebration of UNESCO observances; Media and Information Literacy (MIL); Advocacy of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Support of Community Radio Stations; Youth-Mobile Applications for Sustainable Development; Memory of the World Programme; and Information for All Programme.

An interactive discussion took place following the presentations and participants identified the way forward. The relevance of this meeting is mainstreamed in the UN's partnership with the Government, the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2014- 2018. The Institutional Environment Pillar spotlights the importance of transparency, strong institutions and human rights.

Additionally, the programme priorities of the Communication and Information Sector contribute to the attainment of all Sustainable Development Goals, but particularly highlight SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions", specifically target 16.10, as it emphasises press freedom and the right to access information.