



## **Remarks**

**By**

**Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho**

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Representative**

**Opening Of the UNESCO Scoping Mission Validation  
Workshop for the Ministry Of Higher Education,  
Training and Innovation**

Hon. Dr. Becky R. K. Ndjoze-Ojo the Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Higher Education Training and Innovation

Dr. Alfred van Kent: Permanent Secretary Ministry of  
Higher Education, Training and Innovation

Ms. Sanet Steenkamp: Permanent Secretary Ministry of  
Education, Arts and Culture

Mr. Charles Kabajane: Vice Chairperson of National  
Commission of UNESCO and Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

Dr. Jean Pierre Illboudo: Director UNESCO Windhoek  
Office

Dr. Borhen Chakroun: Chief of Section Youth Literacy and  
Skills Development at UNESCO and Team Leader of  
scoping exercise

Ms. Hopolang Phororo the Director International Labour Organization

Ms. Gaudentia Kronhne: Her Worship the Major of Keemanshoop

CEO'S and Director Generals

Distinguished Senior Officials

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

I am pleased to be here with you today at this important event, where the findings from the review of Technical, Vocational, Educational and Training mechanisms in Namibia will be presented (TVET).

The purpose of the mission was to assist the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation in defining its policies and programs based on the review.

The study also considered the contribution of TVET mechanisms, and innovation, to Namibia's development goals.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

His Excellency the President has launched a War on Poverty, elaborated the Harambee Prosperity Plan and declared that 2016 is the year of implementation.

Also, in September last year, Members of the United Nations adopted 17 Development Goals that will constitute the global development agenda for the next 15 years.

The purpose of these goals is to eradicate poverty, and save the planet.

Goal four of the SDGs, on education, is relevant to the purpose of us being here today. SDG four strives to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and to promote lifelong learning.

As mentioned by Dr. Ilboudo, education is a key strategy to achieve development.

Education strengthens people's confidence in their ability to achieve goals. Educated people tend to have healthier children, and are more likely to educate them.

Schooling also directly equips people with competencies needed to increase their income.

On average, one year of education is associated with a 10% increase in wages. Education also helps to protect women and men from exploitation by increasing opportunities for secure contracts.

The more educated people are, the more likely they will be to start their own business.

For example, in Uganda, owners of household enterprises, who had completed primary education, earned 36% more than those with no education. Those with lower secondary education earned 56% more.

These statistics do not however indicate the actual earnings but it should be safe to say that these households may have escaped abject poverty but still live in poverty.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Scoping Mission also focused on youth and how to equip them with skills needed for the job market including on how to become entrepreneurs.

Socially marginalized young people, are more likely to leave the formal education system, and without options, they are likely to remain trapped in the cycle of poverty.

In Namibia more than 60% of the population are under the age of 30, with youth unemployment as high as 52%.

Namibia can learn from Latin America. Many young people who participated in 'second chance' programs gained the skills they needed to overcome marginalisation.

After completion of these programs, 42% of participants were back in formal education.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Goal five of the SDGs speaks to Gender Equality, and how empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development.

Education is a passport for women to enter the labor force. When women are paid for their work, they can afford health care and schooling for their children, thereby improving lives.

Education allows women to make more informed decisions about marriage, when to have their first child, and how many children to have.

As many as 3.4 million births occur before girls reach the age of 17 in sub-Saharan Africa and south and west Asia.

In these regions, early births would fall by 59% (from 3.4 to 1.4 million) if all women had secondary education.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In sum, education is the best tool for transformation and achieving the goals that we have set for ourselves as individuals, as a nation and as the world.

Maintaining strong partnerships with all sectors of government, civil society, academia and private sector are necessary if we are to meet these goals.

This Scoping Mission is an example of such a partnership in the education sector, between the Government and the UN, in our common quest to accelerate development and eradicate poverty.

And we in the UN, look forward to remaining your partner of choice, when it comes to the most important part of this exercise; implementing the Missions recommendations.

We look forward to working with you to educate and skill our young people in order that they may be the drivers of development in Namibia.

I thank you!