



By

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

- HON. MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION, DR. ITAH KANDJII-MURANGI;
- HON. MINISTER OF BASICA EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE
- DEPUTY MINISTER MHETI
- PERMANENT SECRETARY MHETI
- UNESCO RESIDENT COORDINATOR
- PARTNERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION
- INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS
- MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Good Morning,

I am very pleased to be with all of you today at this important event, where the findings from the review of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training mechanisms in Namibia will be presented.

The purpose of the scoping mission was to assist the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation in defining policies and programmes related to the three pillars of the Ministry by assessing the current status of TVET.

The study was also aimed at identifying strategic priorities and proposing alternative interventions, responding to those priorities; and to consider the contribution of TVET, higher education and innovation, to overall development goals; such as poverty eradication as highlighted in the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations through UNESCO will support the definition and implementation of evidence-based policies, aligned with the country's context and development strategies as well as the international development frameworks, particularly the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In September this year, Members of the United Nations adopted 17 Development Goals that will constitute the development agenda for the next 15 years; 'to ensure that we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Member states of the UN, including Namibia, signed off on this ambitious agenda, to set us on a transformative path towards ending poverty and saving the planet.

Goal four of the SDGs is about education and strives to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning.

As mentioned by Dr. Ilboudo, Education is a key strategy to achieve development. Schooling directly equips people with competencies that increase their income.

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

Many of the poor work as daily labourers or run micro-enterprises. The more educated they 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 UESCO Scooping mission also gave special focus to the youth and how they can be equipped with the skills needed for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship; whilst

also underpinning inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Socially marginalised young people are more likely to permanently leave the formal education system, thereby perpetuating the cycles of poverty.

In Namibia more than 60% of the population are under 30 of which xxx are poor. Between 50 and 60 percent of grade ten learners drop out of school.

Namibia can learn from the 6 countries in Latin America, where many young people who participated in second chance programs gained the skills they needed to overcome marginalisation.

After completion, 42% of the 19,600 participants were back in formal education.

Education strengthens people's confidence and belief in their ability to achieve goals and make the necessary changes to their lives. Most of all, educated people tend to have healthier children.

Parents who have attended or completed school are more likely to educate their children.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Education becomes 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, improving all lives.

Education allows women to make more informed decisions about child marriage, when to have their first child, how many children to have based on how much they can afford.

As many as 3.4million 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.

And note, here we are not even talking of the empowerment that women can gain if they had tertiary education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Education is the best tool for transformation and achieving the goals that we have set out for ourselves as individuals, as communities, as nations and as a global unit.

We will have to maintain strong partnerships with all sectors of government and society if we wish to meet our Global Agenda for 2030 and in particular, Namibia's Vision 2030.

Education, at whatever level is the driving force behind achieving our goals. In this instance we are targeting higher levels of education, the skills necessary to drive these, as well as innovative methods to improve our economies.

This Scoping Mission is an example of the UN system at work in a sector that amplifies all sectors, necessary to accelerate development and eradicate poverty.

I thank you!