

## UNESCO signs a MoU with CRAN

**Windhoek, 19 March 2018:** UNESCO and the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a close collaboration between the two organizations within the scope of their mandates.

The partnership will explore the co-operation between CRAN and UNESCO in the following areas:

1. Regulations of the code of conduct for broadcasting service licensees;
2. The promotion of community broadcasting services in Namibia focusing on community radio forums;
3. Conducting audience research for the purpose of improving community radio listening standards and numbers;
4. The celebration of UN recognised days such as the World Radio Day, Girls in ICT Day, World Press Freedom Day, etc; and
5. Finally, enabling and monitoring a sector reform in respect to Cyber Security, convergence, Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Over-the-Top (OTT) services.



*Dr. Jean Pierre Ilboudo (Left) and Mr. Festus Mbandeka (right), sign the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and CRAN.*

In his welcoming remarks, the UNESCO Representative to Namibia Dr. Jean Pierre Ilboudo said, “Media regulatory authorities, such as CRAN, play an important role in creating the media environment in every country in the world.”

He stressed the importance of having more community radios in Namibia stating, “Community radios play an important role in supporting active participation of communities in development issues by promoting the voice of the disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.”

The CEO of CRAN, Mr. Festus Mbandeka expressed the importance of World Radio Day as vital platform to celebrate radio as a medium, to improve international cooperation between broadcasters, and to encourage major networks and community radios alike to promote access to information, freedom of expression, pluralism, and gender equality over the airwaves.

Dr. Ilboudo concluded, “The MOU that we are about to sign is to formalize collaboration between our two institutions, collaboration that began a long time ago and has proceeded smoothly and fruitfully. We are, therefore, pleased and encouraged by this momentum and we are committed to taking it forward.”

UNESCO’s obligation is to support the Government of Namibia in achieving its own National Development Plan in line with the Agenda 2030, Vision 2030 as well as the Harambee Prosperity Plan. **SDG 17 ‘Partnership for the Goals’**