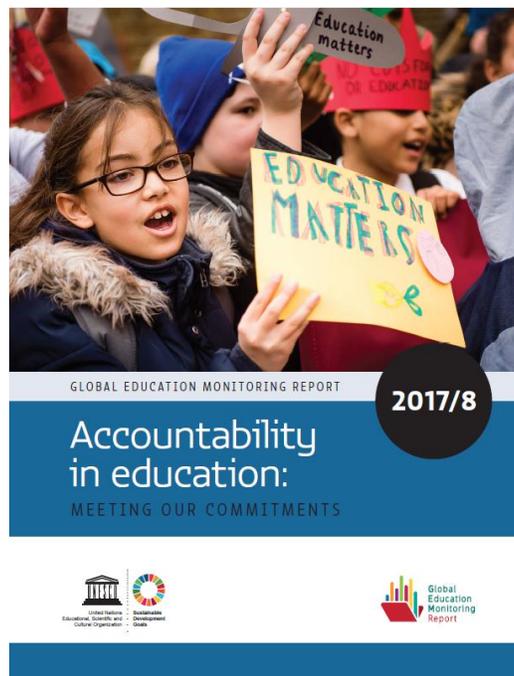




South African National Commission for UNESCO



Summary of Deliberations: Meeting of the Education Sector Committee (ESC) of the South African National Commission (NATCOM) for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held on 3 July 2018 at SAQA House, Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa.



1. The Education Sector Committee (ESC), of the South African National Commission (NATCOM) for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held its first meeting of the year at SAQA House, Hatfield in Pretoria on 3 July 2018.
2. The ESC followed up on the actions from its previous meeting and was informed that the NATCOM had established a web page where all NATCOM activities will be reported. This web page is part of the website of the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The meeting noted that the DBE had organised a stakeholder meeting to discuss inputs into the

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) Country Report, after which the report was finalised for submission to the United Nations. It was agreed that the ESC will compile an annual UNESCO calendar so that ESC activities can be organised around the education events contained in the calendar. The ESC participated in the *International Literacy Day* event held at the University of South Africa (UNISA) where a committee member, Mr Steven le Roux, delivered an address focusing on literacy and technology. The ESC also advised the Minister on a statement about the *2017 International Teachers Day*.

3. The ESC Chairperson reported on the *39th General Conference of UNESCO* that was held in Paris from October to November 2017. He highlighted all the resolutions passed by the General Conference. The ESC committed to:
 - a. Circulate the resolutions to the various stakeholders represented by the ESC members including the DBE, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);
 - b. Build into its plan of action all the relevant dates that events are scheduled and where feedback is required. For example the *Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications* has a consultation process that should have started in January 2018. The ESC should play an active role in monitoring and ensuring that there is South African input into the process. South Africa should also consider nominating a person to be part of the Committee working on a final draft *Global Convention* document that should be submitted to the *40th General Conference*;
 - c. Consider making recommendations to the DBE and DHET on a number of matters relating to the resolutions. For example South Africa should participate in the reporting on UNESCO's 1974 recommendation on *Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*;
 - d. Consider how it will promote and monitor South Africa's progress against the various resolutions. For example the ESC needs to actively promote participation in the *SDG4* and the launching of the *Global Education Monitoring Report in South Africa*.
4. The Secretary General (SG) on behalf of NATCOM, organised the launch of the *Global Education Monitoring Report in South Africa (2017-2018): Accountability in Education: Meeting our Commitments*. The launch took place in Limpopo in November 2017.
5. The SG also reported on the decisions taken by the April 2018 Executive Board at its 204th session in Paris. His report centred on two key aspects: Progress on the draft *Global*

Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications and the stages of UNESCO's strategic transformation. The SG also reported that the NATCOM will be reviewed and that a process was in place to appoint an independent researcher to conduct the review. He further informed the ESC that the new Chairperson of the NATCOM was Prof Ihron Rensburg and the Education Attaché, based in Paris, is Mr Yusuf Gabru.

6. The DHET representative informed the ESC that the DHET submitted the instrument of the *Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States* to Parliament. The meeting noted that a proposal to adopt the *Addis Convention* will soon be made to the Speaker of Parliament. The DHET also received a letter from the *UNESCO Institute for Lifelong learning (UIL)* to name a focal person for the *Global Report on Adult Learning and Education*. The DHET nominated Dr Bheki Mahlobo. DHET was invited to nominate representatives to attend a conference on *Education Statistics and Work-based Learning*. The DHET has nominated two people to represent South Africa at these two events.

7. The ESC agreed that it will have two meetings for the rest of 2018. These meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:
 - a. Tuesday 18 September and
 - b. Wednesday 14 November.

Statement by the ESC of the South African NATCOM for UNESCO

3 July 2018