



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 14 November 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 third meeting of the year at SAQA House, Hatfield in Pretoria on 14 November 2018.
2. The members agreed that three ESC meetings will be held in 2019. They are scheduled for 19 March 2019, 25 June 2019 and 17 September 2019.
3. A Calendar of 2019 UNESCO Education Events will be drawn up, as soon as the dates have been finalised, and will be posted on the NATCOM webpage.
4. The Department of Higher Education (DHET) reported that:
 - a. They participated in a *regional workshop for TVET, governance and funding*. Ten DHET representatives visited two TVET colleges in Durban;
 - b. They sent a representative from the DHET to attend the *Southern Africa Regional Experts group meeting on Capacity Professional Development for Teachers*, scheduled for 14-15 November 2018, in Maputo, Mozambique;
 - c. Ratification of the *Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States* has been placed on the agenda of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for its final approval;
 - d. SA NATCOM partnered with the German NATCOM for UNESCO on a project on entrepreneurship. DHET nominated the Director responsible for entrepreneurship in

- higher education to participate in a closing ceremony on 31 October at the University of Limpopo;
- e. Mr Joe Samuels will represent South Africa at the *Experts Working Group on the Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications* taking place in Paris from 5-7 December 2018.
5. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) reported that:
- a. Dr Stephen Taylor supported the DBE Education Attaché in Paris, Mr Yousuf Gabru, at the *UNESCO SDG4 Steering Committee meeting* that took place on 12 and 13 September 2018 in Paris;
 - b. The Secretary-General supported the South African Permanent Representative to UNESCO at the *205th Session of the Executive Board (EXB)*, held from 4 to 17 October 2018 in Paris;
 - c. South Africa participated at the 2018 annual meetings and the *11th Policy Dialogue Forum of the UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers* in Montego Bay (Jamaica) on 5-9 November 2018. The country was represented by the DBE Director-General, Mr HM Mweli, and Mr Enoch Rabotapi, a Chief Director in the DBE. The theme of the forum was: *“Strengthening Teacher Education: A prerequisite for quality teaching and learning”*, a core concept in the provisions on *Teachers in Education 2030 Agenda* and the *Teacher Target of the Sustainable Development Goals*;
 - d. The DBE represented the country at the *UNESCO Transformation Strategy Meeting of the National Commission of the Southern Africa Region* held on 7-9 November 2018 at Ezulwinin in Eswatini;
 - e. The DBE’s Ms Kulula Manona is representing the country at the *Southern Africa Regional Experts group meeting on Capacity Professional Development for Teachers*, scheduled for 14-15 November 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique;
 - f. The SA NATCOM will host a *UNESCO Chairs Seminar* on 16 November 2018, at the DBE conference facility;
 - g. The Minister of Basic Education received an invitation to attend the *UNESCO Global Education meeting 2018* to be held on 3-5 December 2018, in Brussels. The country will be represented by Ms Palesa Tyobeka and Mr Yousuf Gabru.

6. The Secretary General (SG) reported on the 205th UNESCO Executive Board meeting that was held from 14-17 October in Paris. The ESC noted the Board decisions, which are accessible on the following link: <https://en.unesco.org/executiveboard/currentsession>.
7. The SA NATCOM meeting took place on 27 September 2018 and was attended by Professor Veronica McKay and Mr Letlhogonolo Lefoka. The SA NATCOM noted the activities of the ESC.
8. The ESC accepted the resignation of the ESC representative from the Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy. A process of finding a replacement will start immediately to ensure that this sector is represented on the ESC.
9. The meeting noted the *UNESCO Regional Consultation Meeting for Anglophone and Lusophone countries in Africa “The role of quality assurance in higher education: Challenges, developments and trends”*. This meeting will be preceded by the launch of Component 3 of the *UNESCO/ Shenzhen Funds in Trust Project: Strengthening Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa*. The meeting takes place from 19-21 November 2018 in Johannesburg.
10. According to the calendar, the ESC programme of work is as follows:
 - a. On 14-15 November 2018: DHET and DBE is representing the country at the *Southern Africa Regional Experts group meeting on Capacity Professional Development for Teachers* taking place in Maputo, Mozambique;
 - b. On 16 November 2018 the SA NATCOM will host a *UNESCO Chairs seminar* at the DBE conference facility;
 - c. On 19-21 November 2018 the *UNESCO Regional Consultation Meeting for Anglophone and Lusophone countries in Africa* takes place in Johannesburg;
 - d. On 26-27 November 2018: Mr Joe Samuels and Ms Coleen Jaftha will participate in the *World Reference Levels Experts Group* meeting taking place in Paris;
 - e. On 1 December 2018 World Aids Day is celebrated and the Minister will be requested to make a statement to pledge support to the initiatives in place in South Africa;
 - f. On 3-5 December 2018 Ms Palesa Tyobeka and Mr Yousuf Gabru will attend the *UNESCO Global Education meeting 2018* to be held in Brussels;

- g. On 5-7 December 2018: Mr Joe Samuels will represent South Africa at the *Experts Working Group on the Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications* taking place in Paris;
- h. On 10-13 December 2018: UNESCO draws attention to *the right to education of refugees*. SAQA will send a copy of the draft *Addendum on the Recognition of Qualifications of Asylum Seekers and Refugees* that it has been working on.

11. The next ESC meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19 March 2019 from 9 to 11am.

Statement by the ESC of the South African NATCOM for UNESCO

14 November 2018