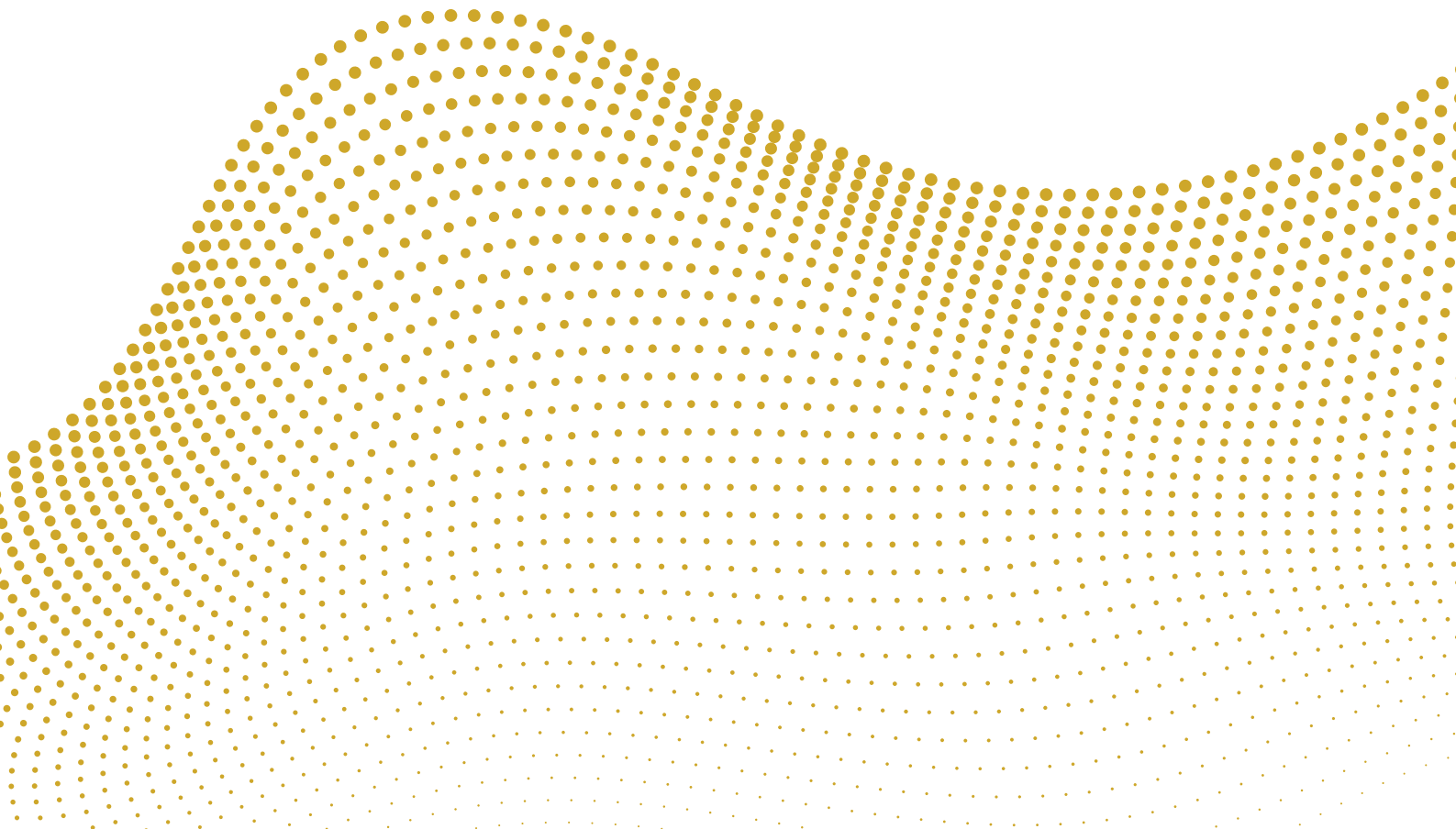


# 2022 Annual Report



**unesco**  
Ghana  
Commission for UNESCO



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## *Foreword*

As UNESCO's mandate continues to broaden, there is the need for the strategic positioning of Ghana's National Commission to align herself with the transformation agenda.

In this regard, there was the need to accelerate the work of the Commission to achieve its mandate. The Commission adopted a timely 5-year Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) in 2021, which was hinged on three (3) main priorities: Impact, Influence, and Institutional Strengthening.

The Strategic Plan maps out priorities and strategies to enable Ghana to maximize benefits from UNESCO while effectively contributing its quota to the achievement of the mission of UNESCO.

In realizing the objectives of the main priorities, the Commission continues to undertake various activities and programmes to have and make the needed impact and influence.

Reflecting on the year, I am grateful to all our partner ministries, agencies and institutions who supported and contributed to the work of the Commission in achieving the activities planned for the year.

I am overwhelmed by the successes chalked, especially the trailblazing nature of our staff who contributed immensely to the achievements, given the need for austerity measures.

Together with our partners, we will continue to deliver on our mandate towards achieving our vision of playing a lead role in UNESCO's efforts to foster peace and international cooperation for sustainable development.

We are confident that the ensuing year will be more prosperous and therefore welcome more collaborative efforts and contributions from our partners.

*Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum (MP)*  
*Minister for Education & Chairman of the Commission*



# *Introduction to Report*

Dear Partners/Friends/Cherished Readers,

We cordially welcome you to the Ghana Commission for UNESCO's Annual Report for 2022, a year in which the agency commenced the implementation of its 5-year Strategic Plan (2022 - 2026).

The implementation of the Commission's Strategic Plan kicked off in January, with a focus on making more impact and influence in its areas of competence as well as strengthening our institution's structures.

This report is structured in five (5) main sections: the opening content, report on activities on Institutional Strengthening, Impact, Influence and Outlook for 2023.

The Opening Content includes a Foreword by the Hon. Minister for Education & Chairman of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and a message from Ghana's Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary to France who is also Ghana's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. This is followed with the profile of the Commission; a staff page introducing the staff of the Commission and Ghana's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

The Section on Institutional Strengthening includes a report on team building and capacity-building activities, internal meetings, and the workforce of the Secretariat for 2022 and its new office space.

The Section on Influence showcases thematic platforms on which the Commission has been engaged as well as partnerships forged/strengthened within the year, both locally and internationally, furthering its UNESCO agenda.

Additionally, the report includes activities and programmes undertaken on the local scene in the various programme areas of the Commission - Education, the Sciences (Natural, Social and Human), Culture, Communication, and Information - through which the Commission made a huge Impact.

The report concludes with a snapshot of activities expected to be carried out in 2023. I am proud of my staff and the work we have done this year and look forward to an even more effective 2023.

In the hope of a fulfilling and prosperous 2023, I wish you an interesting and informative reading.



**Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh (Mrs.)**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

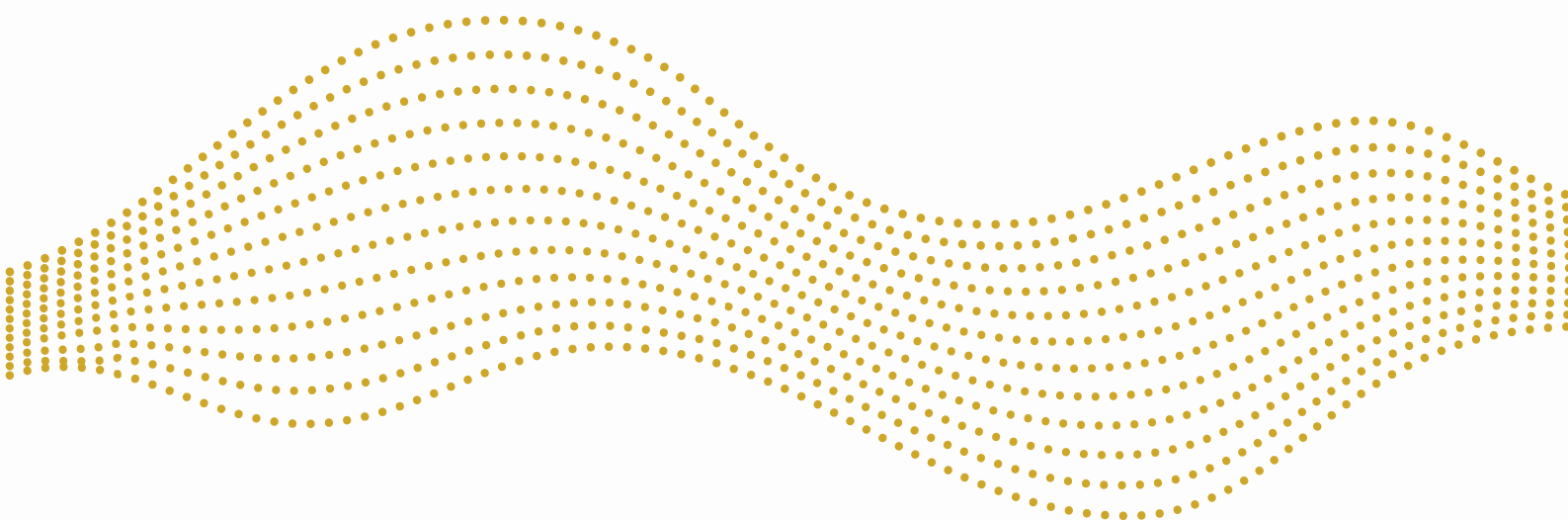
# *Profile of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO*

*“Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be built.”*

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO started as a Committee for UNESCO Affairs in 1953 when Ghana became an Associate Member of UNESCO. On 11th April 1958 when Ghana attained full membership of UNESCO, Cabinet approved the reconstitution of the National Committee under the new title ‘Ghana National Commission for UNESCO’.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO is an agency of the Government of Ghana that exists to broker peace by localizing the ideals of UNESCO and influencing policies in UNESCO’s five fields of competence.

We work closely with a diverse range of partners – national and regional government, ministries, departments and agencies, UNESCO and other UN agencies, international and bilateral development partners, local and international NGOs, local civil society, academia, the media and communities.



## THE COMMISSION

The Commission has 35 experts drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana who advise government on UNESCO affairs.

The Commission meets in plenary session at least twice a year. Below is the current list of members, ten of whom form the Executive Committee:

The Minister for Education  
Chairman of the Commission  
Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum\*

Chairman, Natural Science Programme Specialized  
Committee  
Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah\*

The Chief Director, Ministry of Education  
Vice-Chairman of the Commission  
Mr. Divine Ayidzoe\*

Chairman, Social and Human Science Programme  
Specialized Committee  
Dr. Wilhelmina Quaye\*

H.E. The Ambassador to France  
Permanent Delegate of Ghana to UNESCO  
Ms. Anna Bossman\*

Chairman, National Committee of the International  
Hydrological Programme (IHP)  
Mrs. Adwoa Paintsil

The Secretary-General  
Ghana Commission for UNESCO  
Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh\*

Chairman, National Committee of the  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
Prof. Mike Atweneboana

Chairman, Legal and Administrative Specialized  
Committee  
Mr. George Sarpong\*

Chairman, National Committee of the Information for  
All Programme (IFAP)  
Mr. Prince Sefah

Chairman, Education Programme Specialized  
Committee  
Prof. Yaw A. Ankomah\*

Chairman, Ghana Heritage Committee  
Prof. Kodzo Gavua

Chairman, Culture Programme Specialized Committee  
Mr. William Boateng\*

Chairman, National Committee of the Memory of the  
World Programme (MoW)  
Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan

Chairman, Communication and Information  
Programme Specialized Committee  
Dr. Kweku Rockson\*

Chairman, National Committee of the Man and the  
Biosphere Programme (MAB)  
Mr. Henry K. Kokofu

\* Denotes Members of the Executive Committee

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM

Ministry of Justice & Attorney-General's Dept.  
Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration  
National Commission on Culture  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Vice-Chancellors Ghana  
CHRAJ  
National Media Commission  
Ghana National Association of Teachers  
Ghana Geological Survey Authority

Ministry of Communication & Digitalisation  
Ministry of Information  
Parliamentary Select Committee on Education  
Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences  
Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Ghana Library Authority  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Ghana Education Service  
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social  
Protection  
Ghana Tertiary Education Commission

## Our Vision

To ensure that Ghana plays a lead role in UNESCO's efforts to foster peace and international cooperation for sustainable development.

## Our Mission

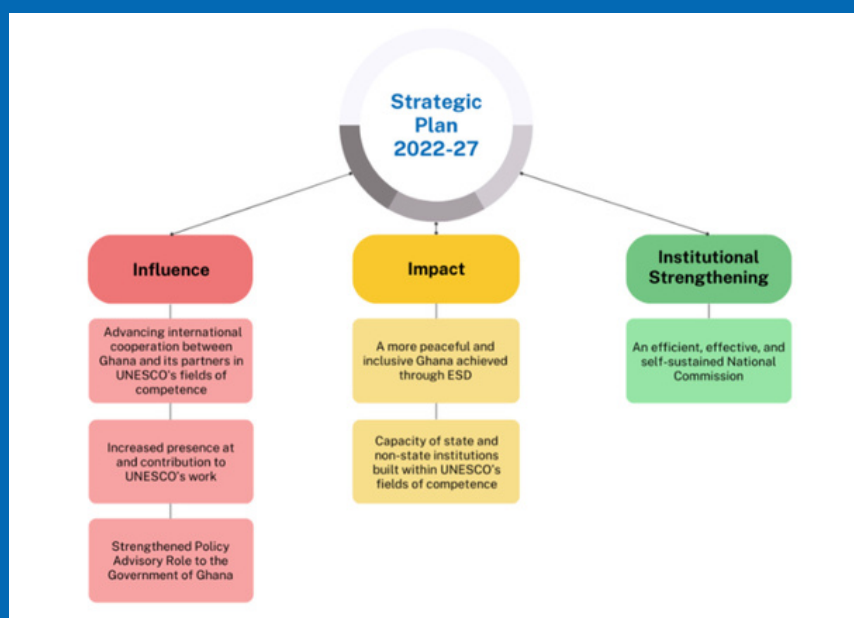
We promote and coordinate Ghana's contribution to UNESCO's effort to foster peace and international cooperation through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication, and Information.

## Our Values and Principles

The Commission applies the following PIC operational values. These core values underpin all behaviour, policies and practices and are holistic in that they apply to the Commission's internal mode of operation and externally in relation to the stakeholders of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO:

- **Professionalism** – We display the highest professional standards of ethics in all our contact with individuals and organisations. Our work is dynamic and of highest quality.
- **Integrity** – Integrity is the key to our value system; opening doors to all our other values. We aim to be role models leading Ghanaians in terms of personal and institutional ethical conduct.
- **Commitment** – We are committed to changing and improving society through our dedicated work in promoting peace, international cooperation and promoting sustainable development.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO developed a 5-year Strategic Plan (2022-2027) to enable the Commission to position itself strategically to derive the needed benefits from UNESCO. The three (3) Strategic Priorities that are important for implementing our vision and to fulfil our mission determine the structure of this Annual Report. The strategic priorities and their outcomes are illustrated below:



## *Staff of the Secretariat*

The Secretariat is the physical presence of the Commission here in Ghana. Our offices are located within the Ministry of Education on Starlets 91 Road, where we work across the programme areas with a dedicated support team. As a small team, we rely on National Service persons and interns to further augment our work. Below is the profile of staff for the year under consideration.



**Mrs. Ama Serwah  
Nerquaye-Tetteh**  
Secretary General



**Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto  
Asare**  
Chief Program Officer & Officer of  
Natural Sciences



**Mr. Riche-Mike  
Wellington**  
Chief Program Officer, Legal &  
Administrative Matters of  
UNESCO



**Ms. Joan Agyekum  
Nsowah**  
Officer in Charge of Communication  
& Information



**Mr. Kofi Takyi Kwakye**  
Officer in Charge of Education



**Mr. Christopher  
Wetcher**  
Officer in Charge of Culture



**Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh**  
Principal Programme Officer,  
Education



**Ms. Marian Nortey**  
Officer in Charge of Administration



**Mr. Frank G. Hotor**  
Officer in Charge of Accounts



## *Message From Her Excellency Ms. Anna Bossman, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Ghana to UNESCO*

Serving as Ghana's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, I must admit that I have had the unique opportunity to lend my ears to numerous ambassadors, representatives and UNESCO officials throughout the year who have all admitted their resounding admiration for Ghana's involvement in UNESCO. UNESCO is at the crossroad of peoples and cultures, but also positions and opinions, and yet, at the heart of all these, is a unanimous recognition of Ghana's contribution, as if the world had endorsed the work produced by Ghana through both the Ghana National Commission and the Permanent Delegation. The two consecutive visits of His Excellency President Nana Akufo Addo within a space of a month only definitely attest to this!

Hence, I cannot overemphasize the importance of ensuring that Ghana continues to occupy its rightful seat at UNESCO to secure and advance the educational, scientific, cultural and informational rights of our people.

On this note, I wish to specifically commend and express my appreciation to the Ghana National Commission for their herculean task in the midst of an eventful year from the Transforming Education Summit to the MONDIACULT Conference for Cultural Policies, as well as the UN Ocean Summit in Lisbon. The Permanent Delegation has enjoyed its leadership and support. Ayekoo!

### **Ghana's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**

The Permanent Delegation is the official Government representation to UNESCO in Paris. Ghana's Ambassador to France is the country's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Our permanent offices are in the Bonvin Building at Miollis, 75015, Paris.



**H.E. Anna Bossman**  
Ghana's Ambassador to France  
& Plenipotentiary



**Mrs. Florence Akunor**  
Head, Multilateral



**Mr. Gilbert Dadzie**  
Research Officer



**Ms. Maureen Kinda**  
Secretary

# *Institutional Strengthening*



## **INTERNAL MEETINGS**

Throughout the year, the Secretariat has held over fifteen (15) in-house meetings for staff to engage on the roll-out of the work plan of the Secretariat for the year and issues bordering on staff welfare. Apart from the in-house staff meetings of the Secretariat, the Commission has held Executive Committee and Commission meetings.

The Commission is the highest decision-making body and meets in plenary session twice a year. The Minister of Education is the Chairman of the Commission and the Chief Director acts as the Vice-Chairman. The National Commission approves the main lines of work as well as the budget of the Secretariat. The Commission also supervises the work of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in the administration of the work of the Commission.

The Executive Committee supports the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in the running of the affairs of the Commission.

The Commission's work is further supported by the Programme Specialized Committees, which are the Commission's resource of experts drawn from various governmental and non-governmental agencies. They are involved in projects implemented by the Commission either as implementers or advisors. The Committees meet twice in a year to discuss matters of importance to the Commission.



## TEAM BUILDING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat held two onsite retreats in February and July to set objectives for the year and to assess its performance mid-year.

Activities included presentation of reports from various programme sectors as well as the programme execution support section (administration) on achievements for the first half of the year and strategies for the remaining half of the year. The retreat also witnessed the consideration of the Staff Welfare Statutes.

Our staff remain our key to the achievement of the Strategic Plan, and they undertook diverse professional development this year, particularly in project management to improve upon ourselves.

## ADDITIONAL WORKFORCE: NATIONAL SERVICE AND KULTURWEIT/NATURWEIT

The Secretariat is privileged to have worked together with 16 young persons. Six (6) persons are under the mandatory Ghana National Service Scheme (NSS). They comprised five (5) females and a male. The Secretariat also worked with four (4) young females who undertook internship with the Secretariat for a period of three (3) months.

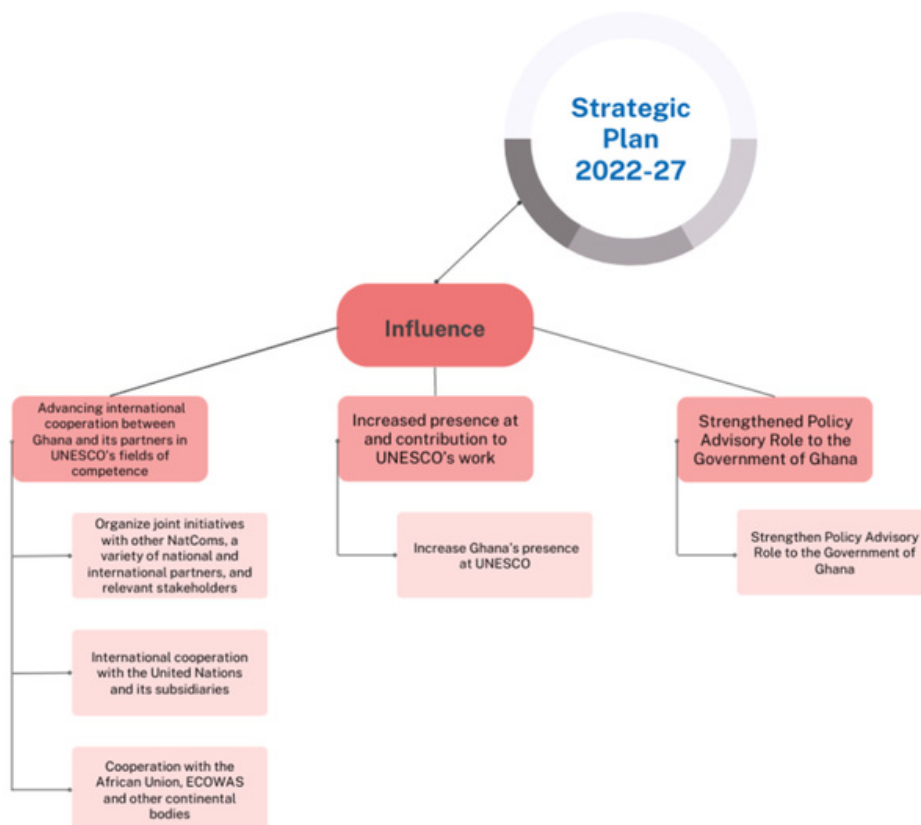
The Commission is cooperating with the German Commission for UNESCO in a volunteer exchange programme – the Kulturweit/Naturweit Voluntary Service Programme for 2022/23, six (6) volunteers were posted to Ghana: 1 to the Commission; 1 to the Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve; 2 to the Songor Ramsar Site and Biosphere Reserve and 2 to the Bia Biosphere Reserve.

## NEW OFFICE SPACE

To accommodate the growing workforce at the Secretariat, a new office room, that can hold three officers, was refurbished. The Secretariat has also provided staff with a kitchenette.

# Influence

The Strategic Priority Influence looks at working to advance international cooperation between Ghana and her partners in UNESCO's fields of competence, and influence UNESCO's global agenda through increased presence at and contribution to UNESCO's work. The objective of this priority is to increase Ghana's presence at UNESCO by 5% year-on-year for the next five years. There are three (3) outcomes to this priority which are achieved through multiple pillars (how). They are summarised as follows:



- **Outcome 1** – International cooperation between Ghana and its partners in UNESCO's fields of competence advanced.
  - **SP 1 Pillar 1:** Organize joint initiatives with other NatComs, a variety of national and international partners, and relevant stakeholders.
  - **SP1 Pillar 2:** International cooperation with the United Nations and its subsidiaries.
  - **SP 1 Pillar 3:** Cooperation with the African Union, ECOWAS and other continental bodies.
- **Outcome 2** – Presence at and contribution to UNESCO's work increased.
  - **SP 1 Pillar 4:** Increase Ghana's presence at UNESCO.
- **Outcome 3** – Strengthen Policy Advisory Role to the Government of Ghana
  - **SP 1 Pillar 5:** Strengthen Policy Advisory Role to the Government of Ghana

# REGIONAL MEETING OF AFRICAN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

*We convened, this September, with the kind support of the National Commissions of Germany, Canada, Azerbaijan, France, UNESCO and the African Union, the 1st African National Commissions meeting to have been organised in over a decade.*

Convened under the leadership of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, the meeting was an initiative by the Government of Ghana, UNESCO, and partners to strengthen relevance, effectiveness, and the overall strategic positioning of the Global Priority Africa Programme towards addressing Africa's contemporary challenges.

The meeting was attended by about 120 participants, from 44 African Member States together with sister National Commissions from Europe and the African Union. Its overall goal was to converge the common strategic priorities of National Commissions for UNESCO in Africa and outline a clear agenda for Africa to contribute to implementing the Global Priority Africa Programme as elaborated in the new Operational Strategy (2022 – 2029), adopted by the General Conference at its 41st Session.



UNESCO and partners' pursuit to strengthen collaboration at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to implement the Global Priority Africa Programme, as well as improve the understanding and relevance of the Programme amongst national and international development community, culminated in this leadership role demonstrated by the Government of Ghana to address the challenges of Africa. It was also to contribute towards the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations as well as the African Union's Vision 2063 towards "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena".

The meeting, convened in both Plenary and Breakout sessions, discussed topical issues of concern to Member States. The issues emanating from the six flagship programmes of Global Priority Africa, related to Member States' progress on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4) targets; biodiversity conservation for peace and development in Africa; the application of emerging technologies and in particular Artificial Intelligence and its appropriateness in an African context; rethinking heritage management and media pluralism for peace and development of the continent.

The Accra meeting, which Member States resolved to make it a biennial activity to be hosted voluntarily by the countries, concluded with an Accra Declaration on Global Priority Africa. The full report of this meeting can be accessed [here](#).

## GHANA AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board is one of the three constitutional organs of UNESCO consisting of 58 Member States with a four-year term of office and elected by the General Conference. Acting under the authority of the General Conference, the Board examines the programme of work for the Organization and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the Director-General. Ghana is currently a member of the UNESCO Executive Board; a role and position we see as pivotal to our Influence agenda.

Ghana participated in the 214th and 215th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, which were held from 30th March – 13th April 2022 and 5th-9th October 2022 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris respectively.

Ghana participated in the Commission meetings of the Finance and Administrative (FA), the Programme and External Relations, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations as well as the Joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions.

Having served on the UNESCO Executive Board since 2019 under the leadership of Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, Minister for Education, Ghana will end her tenure of office on the Executive Board at the 42nd General Conference to be held in November 2023. The country hopes to achieve maximum benefits in the educational, scientific, and cultural space through bilateral and multilateral partnerships with Member States of the organisation.

Ghana had the opportunity to address Member States during the 214th and 215th Sessions of the Board. The 215th Session witnessed the visit of H.E. The President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as special guest. In his remarks, he called for Member States' urgent and concerted efforts towards rebuilding education after COVID-19 and during these difficult times of the Ukraine crises. Find the President and Minister's speeches in the appendix.



# POLICY SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## Strengthening Policy Advisory Role to the Government of Ghana

We also set ourselves a clear target to influence Policy in alignment with UNESCO's norms and standards. This year, we involved in the reviews of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education Policy, the Inclusive Education Policy, the National Youth Policy, the National MAB Action Plan, the STI for SDG National Road Map and the National Culture Policy. We are also closely involved in efforts leading to the organisation of activities for the Accra World Book Capital 2023.

## Complementary Education Agency and Ghana Commission for UNESCO collaboration - Validation Workshop



The Commission sourced from the UNESCO Participation Programme Scheme seed funding for the Complementary Education Agency (CEA), to develop guidelines for the harmonization of complimentary education literacy delivery in Ghana. The guidelines are expected to provide clear directions and focus to ensure consistency among all stakeholders engaged in the implementation of literacy interventions for out-of-school children (OOSC), adult non-literates, and lifelong learning.

The Guidelines have successfully been validated and finalized.

## Meeting with the National Development Planning Commission

The Commission also facilitated a meeting between the Reform Secretariat, the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to discuss, among other things, better collaboration in the preparation of National Documents on SDG4 especially for the Voluntary National Report on the SDGs that Ghana will deliver at the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations in New York in 2023.



## National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF)

Under the auspices of the Attorney General's Department of the Ministry of Justice, a committee was constituted with respect to "National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-ups" (NMRF) of the Universal Periodic Review, on which the Commission is represented.

As its Terms of Reference, the Committee drafted Ghana's report which is expected to be delivered at the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council in January 2023.



## Consultative Workshop to Review the National Anti-Doping Bill



The Commission participated in a consultative workshop organized by the Ministry of Youth & Sports and the National Anti-Doping Committee to review the National Anti-Doping Bill. The workshop was attended by 90 representatives from various institutions. The purpose of the workshop was to review the draft anti-doping bill and to establish a national anti-doping agency in Ghana.

The Chief Director of Ministry of Youth & Sports disclosed that Ghana, in 2007, endorsed the 2005 UNESCO Convention on doping in sports. He also noted that the anti-doping bill, when passed into law, would not only stop unfair competition in sports but would also make Ghanaian athletes meet the international standards set by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) - the worldwide agency steering doping-free sports.

## Meeting with the Minister for Youth & Sports



In February, the Secretary-General of the Commission and the officers in charge of Social & Human Sciences met with the Honourable Minister for Youth & Sports to discuss the Commission's strategic position within the Ministry's operations. The meeting also discussed the setting up of an Anti-doping agency in Ghana and the Ghana Youth Policy. The Honourable Minister assured the Commission of his support in the delivery of its mandate.

## Meeting With the Chief Director of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, And Culture

The Secretary-General and Programme Officer for Culture at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO paid a visit to the office of the Chief Director of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture. The visit was in line with the Commission's mandate to keep all Ministries working within UNESCO's fields of competence informed of the Commission's programmes and activities for the year. This is to ensure that the Commission works closely with these Ministries and their agencies in our collective efforts in promoting sustainable development through UNESCO's fields of competence. Critical issues on the management of the country's diverse heritage resources particularly, the World Heritage Sites in Ghana were discussed. In addition to this were discussions on how Ghana's Intangible Cultural Heritage such as music, dance, practices, and cuisines could be given international recognition and protection by inscribing them on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Most importantly, the Secretary-General engaged the Chief Director in a discussion on the implementation of the recently developed Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework for Ghana. The Secretary-General intimated that a successful implementation of the Framework will address issues and challenges that have affected the heritage, culture, and creative sectors.

## Meeting With the Minister for Information



The Secretary-General of the Commission and the officer in charge of Communication and Information met with the Honourable Minister for Information to discuss the Commission's strategic position within the Ministry's operations. The meeting discussed the importance of using the experts on the intergovernmental committees - the Memory of the World Committee (MOW) and the Information for All Program (IFAP) - to carry out some of the Ministry's duties. The Honourable Minister assured the Commission of his support in the delivery of its mandate.

# GLOBAL INFLUENCE THROUGH OUR SECTORS

## Influencing Education Globally

### World Higher Education Conference (Barcelona, Spain)

The Commission led preparative activities towards Ghana's participation on the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference 2022 that was held in Barcelona, Spain in May 2022. The Ghanaian team of experts joined other representatives from around the world to debate and create a roadmap for higher education for the next 10 years. The Commission supported Ghana's delegation through consultative and reporting processes during the Conference under the theme Reinventing Higher Education for a Sustainable Future.



### World Early Childhood Education Conference (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)



The Deputy Minister for Education led a team of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) experts to attend the Second World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The conference aimed to encourage all stakeholders to recommit to and invest sufficient financial resources in effective worldwide, high quality, and inclusive ECCE which is concerned by SDG 4.2. The Commission was also represented in the Ghana delegation and took part in presentations and meetings. As part of participation outcomes, the team initiated to be part of the International Human Right to Education Technical Group as the first African country. The team also reached an agreement between the Ministry of Education and the German Commission for UNESCO on implementing a new Volunteer Exchange Programme in the area of Sports for Sustainable Development with the support of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO.

## The Transforming Education Summits (Paris, France)



In June, UNESCO hosted a Transforming Education Pre-Summit that preceded the Transforming Education Summit scheduled for September. The Pre-Summit was held in Paris, France, from 28th to 30th June. The Pre-Summit aimed to prioritize quality education as a global public good, just like clean air and water, health, and safety. Education ministers and vice-ministers of 154 countries and nearly 2000 participants came together at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to discuss transforming education, inspired by the rallying call from young people. Ghana's team included the Deputy Minister in charge of General Education and youth delegate, Ms. Ida Naa Tei.

On the occasion of the Transforming Education Summit, which was held from 16th to 19th September, led by the UN Secretary-General, UNESCO rallied world leaders around actions to achieve the global objective of quality education for all by 2030 (SDG4), while adapting education systems to tackle the main challenges of the century through peace education, climate education and digital education. Ghana's President, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo as well as the Minister for Education, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, were in attendance and contributed to discussions on high-level panels.

## Global Citizenship Education



Working hard to make ensure that Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are mainstreamed in Ghana's curriculum, the Commission worked with the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA), and the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA) to hold workshops for teacher educators. We worked closely with the local GCED network and are collaborating with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) on a manual on anti-bullying and human rights. We also took part in the international conference on GCED. Next year, we intend to further this agenda.

A revised version of the "1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" was presented to participants.

# Influencing Culture Globally

## Mondiacult 2022- Regional Consultations



From January 31st to February 2nd, the Commission facilitated the participation of Ghana in Regional Consultations towards the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies (Mondiacult) to be held in September 2022. The Ghanaian delegation was led by the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey. The Africa Regional Consultation aimed at consensually identifying critical priorities across the continent with a view to formulate recommendations for the Conference in September. Priorities expressed at the Regional Consultation for Africa were intended to be translated into a regional report, which will be subsequently consolidated with the outcomes of the regional consultations across the 5 world regions and summarized into a synthetic document to be examined by UNESCO Member States at the 214th session of the Executive Board in April 2022.

## Ghana Commission for UNESCO Meets with the EU-Culture Delegation

On Tuesday, 1st Feb 2022, the Commission, led by the Secretary-General, had a meeting with a team from the European Union Delegation in Ghana to discuss ways through which both organizations can collaborate to promote and develop Ghana's culture, creativity, and heritage sectors. The virtual meeting discussed amongst other things the implementation of the ratified UNESCO culture Conventions in Ghana, the preservation and protection of Ghana's diverse heritage resources, a review of Ghana's World Heritage Tentative List, and the promotion of Ghana as a Culture Hub in the West African Sub-Region.

## Climate, Culture and Peace Conference 2022

On 28th February, the Commission facilitated the participation of Ghana in a global conference under the theme: Climate, Culture, and Peace. The Ghanaian delegation was led by Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts, and Culture. The Minister discussed the negative impact of climate change on heritage sites, particularly, the World Heritage Sites in Ghana. He further proposed that strategic actions and mechanisms that are culturally sensitive should be adopted to help address the impact of climate change on heritage sites around the globe.

## Steering Committee Meeting for The Sankofa Project



The Commission, on March 9, partnered with the French Embassy and other stakeholders to review the Sankofa Project. At the meeting, the Secretary-General presented the importance of the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework (MSHSF) developed by the Ghana Heritage Committee. The Sankofa Project was coordinated by the Embassy of France in Ghana within the framework of Higher Education, Research, Heritage, and Tourism. The project is in line with the action plan of the Embassy to establish relations with various stakeholders regarding the higher education, research, heritage, and tourism sectors in Ghana. The project sought to reinforce the skills of heritage and tourism professionals, to better explore heritage tourism as an agent of economic development, and to create conditions for sustainable heritage tourism in Ghana.

# Influencing Communications & Information Globally

## Global Media and Information Literacy Week in Abuja



The Global Media Information Literacy (MIL) Week in October 2022 focused on trust and solidarity as it relates to people, media, digital platforms, governments, private sector, and non-governmental organizations under the theme: Nurturing Trust: A Media and Information Literacy Imperative.

The Programme Officer for Communication and Information participated in the Global MIL Week in Abuja. At the opening ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria's Minister for Information and Culture, in his remarks, noted that the theme for this year's event was apt and timely as the world and its leaders contend with the challenge of identifying what is true and what is false in media content. He expressed optimism about the outcomes of the week-long event which will be geared towards building trust among societies and individuals through the use of MIL.

UNESCO's Assistant Director-General of Communication and Information, emphasized the significance of the MIL Week by saying: "We do not want the new digital pipeline to be destructive for societies; we need to ensure that digital technology is used for public benefit." The Abuja Declaration on Financing Media and Literacy brought the international event to a close.

## West African Regional Forum on Global Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development (World Press Freedom Day)

The UNESCO Dakar Office and its country offices in the West African sub-region organized a regional forum for West Africa as part of celebrations to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, which is celebrated globally each year on the 3rd of May. The regional forum, held online on the 5th of May 2022, emphasized solely on the Global report by the UNESCO World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development which examined the situation of media freedom, pluralism, independence, and journalist safety during the last five years. The report raised concerns about the alarming loss in press freedom levels around the world: data and original analysis show that 85 percent of the world's population had seen a decrease in press freedom in their country over the last five years. The Forum was graced by ministers from countries including Nigeria, Mali, and Senegal who addressed the challenges and opportunities facing the media sector with an emphasis on the notion of journalism as a public good.

## 5th African Martial Arts Congress



In the quest to contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 and 5, the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement (UNESCO ICM) organized a 5th session of the African Martial Arts Congress in the Republic of Korea, from 25th – 28th October 2022. The platform created served to engage participants to provide clear goals and resolutions for the UNESCO ICM-Africa long-term cooperation and the development of martial arts in Africa. The delegation comprised the Secretary-General of the Commission, the Director of the Sports Directorate of the University of Ghana and the Liaison Officer of the UNESCO ICM Martial Arts Congress at the Commission.



# Influencing Science Globally

## First UNESCO-India Africa Hackathon



At the end of November 2022, a group of 17 students from 5 public universities in Ghana participated in the first-ever UNESCO-India Africa Hackathon. The UNESCO-India Africa Hackathon aims at encouraging the youth to play a major role in solving mainstream problems by tackling the common challenges faced by their countries and serving as facilitators for cultural amalgamation. It further aimed to provide opportunities to African students to pursue innovation and higher studies in India.

This Hackathon convened than 600 African innovators with young Indians to showcase their ideas and to come up with solution to our common challenges.

# Impact

The second Strategic Priority, Impact (SP 2), considers making an impact with our work through peace promotion and capacity-building of partner institutions. The objective is to build sustainable partnerships with state and non-state actors, multilateral and bilateral organisations by December 2025. For Impact, there are two (2) outcomes that need to be realized:



- **Outcome 1** – A more peaceful and inclusive Ghana achieved through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
- **Outcome 2** – Capacity of state and non-state institutions built within UNESCO’s fields of competence.
- These outcomes are achieved through multiple pillars (how) as summarised as follows:
  - **SP 2 Pillar 1:** ESD
  - **SP 2 Pillar 2:** Foster partnership and promote heritage and culture for sustainable development
  - **SP 2 Pillar 3:** Foster partnerships and collaborate to deliver projects in Social and Human Science
  - **SP 2 Pillar 4:** Foster partnerships and collaborate to deliver projects in Natural Sciences
  - **SP 2 Pillar 5:** Foster partnerships and collaborate to deliver projects in Communication & Information

# Local Impact Through Insector

Our work is to make sure the work of government agencies, civil society organizations and individuals align with UNESCO's ideals and standards.

We started the year with a visit to the Chief Directors of the Ministries within UNESCO's fields of competence and apprised them of our workplan and how we can support them to achieve their mandates. In the course of the year, we worked hard to do just that: disseminating information, performing advocacy, supporting preparations for international meetings, performing capacity-building and providing sensitization on International Days and cyclical reporting. Below are some highlights that happened in the different sectors of the Commission: Education, Culture, Social and Human Science, Natural Science, and Communication and Information.

## Education

Education is one of the key principles to achieve UNESCO's mission to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development, and intercultural dialogue. Ghana supports UNESCO's aim for a holistic and humanistic vision of quality education worldwide, the realization of everyone's right to education, and the belief that education plays a fundamental role in human, social and economic development. Below are activities undertaken in the Education Sector.

### Workshop for ASPnet and UNESCO Club Coordinators



Outreach and monitoring programmes aim to revive dormant UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools as well as to reach out to interested schools to enrol in these programmes. The Commission, through its outreach wing, provided training to new coordinators during a two-day workshop organized in partnership with Techfarm Hub on 30th and 31st May 2022.

## Operationalization of the Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) of KNUST



Education is one of the key principles to achieve UNESCO's mission to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development, and intercultural dialogue. Ghana supports UNESCO's aim for a holistic and On 6th April 2022, the Government of Ghana, represented by H.E. Anna Bossman, signed a tripartite agreement with UNESCO to operationalize the Technology Consultancy Centre as a UNESCO Category II Centre of Excellence in Ghana. H.E. Anna Bossman signed the agreement on behalf of Ghana while Professor Ellis Owusu-Dabo, Pro Vice-Chancellor, KNUST signed on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of KNUST.

The Centre, which is one of the five centres in the world, will train a new generation of African engineers and technology researchers, especially women. This agreement thus makes KNUST the first University in Africa to host this important Centre of Innovation in Engineering and Technology.

vision of quality education worldwide, the realization of everyone's right to education, and the belief that education plays a fundamental role in human, social and economic development. Below are activities undertaken in the Education Sector.

### Extending the ASPnet Schools and Clubs for UNESCO

In the year under review, we have worked hard to revive and extend the ASPnet and Clubs for UNESCO. The aim is to teach all learners knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. This is achieved through ESD and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development on GCED and ESD of SDG4 – Education 2030.

This year, we added 30 schools to the network, bringing Ghana's number to 40 from 10 in 2020. Below are some activities of the ASPnet and UNESCO Clubs.

## Greening Ghana Day



The Commission, in its bid to contribute its quota to the SDG 13, secured from the Forestry Commission about 120 seedlings which included seedlings of the flamboyant tree, rain tree, acacia, tree of life, orange, coconut, and virtual pine. These seedlings were distributed to a number of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO on the Green Ghana Day – 10th June – and were planted by students and facilitators.

## Trash Hacking

Different activities were organised by the Ghana Commission for UNESCO to engage the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO. To raise awareness on waste pollution and methods of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, students from the UNESCO Clubs were invited to the Accra Technical Training Centre on 12th May to undertake a Trash Hacking activity. The aim of this activity was to generate ideas on how to create tools from trash that contribute to a sustainable future.



## Play-Based Approach to Teaching

In August, the Commission liaised with the Lego Foundation to train Coordinators from selected Associated schools. The training was organised to introduce a play-based approach to teaching using Legos.

## Promoting SDG 2

The McCarthy Hill School, a member of the ASPnet family, started an outstanding gardening project throughout all grades. In commemoration of the Farmers' Day, the school invited stakeholders to participate in the event: "We grow what we eat". The main event was a competition where every class had to present their gardening project and reflect on the benefits of growing their own food in connection with SDG 2.

## The National Education Week (NEW), 2022

The Commission participated in the 2022 National Education Week (NEW) held from 10th to 14th October. During these five days, the Commission achieved a high level of engagement with the visitors to our stand. In highly interactive activities, the Commission gained about 50 new potential partners from various backgrounds and organisations.



## Launch of the Imagine Learning Platform



Ghana hosted an experience-sharing workshop on the newly established Sub Regional Learning Platform: ImagineLearningAfrica. The platform helps teachers to perform distance and blended learning, with the aim of leaving no learner behind, while also strengthening sub-regional capacities. In times of Covid-19 and remote schooling, this learning platform is expected to provide the necessary knowledge for teachers to adapt to and master the technical challenges of the 21st century. The Deputy Minister in charge of General Education launched the platform.

## Technology-Enabled Open Schools for All Project

The Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) motivated a team of young Ghanaians in the IT business to develop the iBox system which is part of the Secondary Education Improvement Project (SEIP) supported by the World Bank. This world-class technology is offline, but it has surfing capabilities (i.e. does not require internet connectivity), compatible software, and eContent in four formats (text, audio-visual, interactive practical, and questions & answers) for offline classrooms without internet costs. The usability of the system as a platform for the provision of digital and remote learning in Ghana was assessed. The Commission made sure that the project is carried out in accordance with government policy, particularly the Education Strategic Plan 2018–2030.



## Translate a Story Initiative

Ghana has over the years been promoting the use of mother tongue as the language of instruction in our basic schools 1-3. The Translate a Story Initiative aims to produce and provide early grade reading resources in the twelve approved Ghanaian Languages of study in public pre-tertiary schools. The children should be able to read in the languages they speak at home. A Committee, of which the Commission is duly represented, was constituted to ensure the successful implementation of the project in Ghana.

## Meetings with Ghanaian NGOs and Foreign Governments to Forge New Collaborations

This year, the Commission met with several potential partners to discuss possible areas for collaboration.

The Commission started discussions with North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, focusing on understanding the mandates of UNESCO and exploring possible areas of support, especially in the area of Media and Digital Literacy.

The Commission also engaged with OneSeed, a non-profit organisation that focuses on sustainable teacher training and development, menstrual health education for female students, raising awareness on human trafficking, and cultural exchange between Ghana and the USA in December.

In December 2022, the Ghana Reads Initiative Foundation also reached out to the Commission to discuss possible areas of collaboration in the field of literacy development in Ghana.





## Celebrating International Days Observed at UNESCO

### International Women's Day

This year's celebration of International Women's Day was organized by the Commission in partnership with St. Louis College of Education, Asante Professionals Club, and ObaaGoGetter. This year's celebration was under the theme: Break the bias.

The day was graced by seasoned speakers from KNUST (Dr. Mrs. Mercy Badu and Dr. Mrs. Ivy Abu), Kessben TV/FM (Ms. Adwoa Yerewaa), ObaaGoGetter (Mrs. Josephine Amankwah-Boateng), and the special guest of honour (Mpasaaso Hema). The programme also witnessed an interactive mentoring session with the invited guests.



### International Day of the Girl Child

The International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October was under the theme Our time is now – our rights our future. It is an annual and internationally recognized day that focuses on empowering girls and amplifying their voices. This day is designated to eliminate gender-based challenges that little girls face around the world. In Ghana, Marie Stopes International (MSIG) organized an event that took place at the St. Leo International School, South Suntreso, Kumasi in collaboration with the Ghana Commission for UNESCO.



## **International Day against Violence and Bullying at School Including Cyber-bullying**

On 10th November 2022 – the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School Including Cyberbullying – the Commission invited about 100 teachers, school counsellors, and teacher trainees from the Colleges of Education to partake in a 2-hour online forum. The Commission organised a panel discussion involving speakers from the Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service Guidance & Counselling Unit (GES G&C), The University of Cape Coast (UCC), and National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA). Under the theme Not on my watch: the role of teachers in curbing bullying and school violence: key findings and recommendations, experts shared opinions on varied questions about school violence in Ghana and the role of teachers in preventing and addressing school violence and bullying. Portals for reporting school violence, handbooks, and manuals on School-Based Violence were made available to the plenum.

## **Accra World Book Capital 2023**

Ghana will begin the celebration of the city of Accra as the UNESCO World Book Capital from April 2023. The one-year celebration of books and its impact on socio-economic development in Accra is under the theme Connecting minds for social transformation. The Ministry of Education has put in place a comprehensive programme involving key stakeholders like the Ghana Book Development Council, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, the Ghana Writers Association, the Ghana Publishers Association, relevant ministries, agencies, and departments, to stage a magnificent display of how Ghana has evolved in its development process through books. A legacy project, Accra Reading and Writing Village, is envisaged to be constructed to promote reading and writing as well as other literary works involving the Ga culture and heritage. The celebration is expected to end in April 2024.

## Culture

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO is mandated to promote UNESCO's fundamental objective of Fostering Culture Diversity, Intercultural Dialogue, and a Culture of Peace in the Ghanaian society.

This year, the Commission leveraged on a range of partnerships, dialogues, forums, conferences, projects, and the celebration of national and international days, to influence decisions and actions of change, to make significant impacts on the local and international cultural spheres, and to sustain the implementation of the two main lines of action pertaining to culture.

1. Protecting, conserving, promoting, and transmitting culture heritage, and history for dialogue and development
2. Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries.

### Jamestown – Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow: An Exhibition on Ga Mashie Boxing Heritage

In January, the Commission partnered with the Imagining Ghanaian Futures Team to launch the maiden exhibition of Ga-Mashie Boxing Heritage. The nine-day exhibition was opened by Hon. Fritz Baffour, former Minister for Information, at the Museum of Science and Technology in Adabraka, Accra. The Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO in her speech lauded the Imagining Ghanaian Futures Team for the maiden edition of the Exhibition on Boxing. She further pointed out that the exhibition is not just a walk down memory lane but is also a very insightful exhibition that will teach a lot about the history of Ghanaian boxing. The exhibition showcased objects, sound, audio-visuals, performances, and textual narratives that vivify boxing beyond its recreational, commercial value as means by which life is negotiated and transformed positively in the Ga-Mashie community.



## Highlife Stakeholders Conference



In March 2022, the Commission partnered with the National Folklore Board, Ghana Culture Forum, and the Ministry of Tourism to organize a conference on the importance of Highlife Music and how it could be promoted and safeguarded. The Conference took place at the Accra Tourist Information Center. In attendance was the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey, who spoke on how he was particularly interested in the growth of Highlife music in Ghana. He further called for Highlife music to be inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Mr Chris Wetcher, Programme Officer for Culture, who spoke on behalf of the Secretary-General, shed light on how highlife music formed a part of the intangible cultural heritage of Ghana and the various funds available, both with the 2003 and 2005 Conventions to boost and support projects in the music and creative industry.

## 11th Ghana Culture Day Celebration

On March 14, the Commission partnered the Ghana Culture Forum and its affiliate institutions to organize a symposium to observe the Ghana Culture Day. The symposium was organized under the theme: Strengthening the Cultural and Creative Industry for Socio-Economic Development. The event was divided into two sessions, an official opening of the symposium and a panel discussion. The keynote speaker for the event was Mr. Mike Amon-Kwafo, a Creative Art Consultant. Present at the Official Opening of the Symposium were Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Abla Dzifa Gomashie, Former Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture.

## The Ghana Heritage Committee Meeting



The Ghana Heritage Committee was set up as a seminal response by Government to protect Ghana's Heritage resources. The meeting was arranged to discuss the way forward for the implementation of the Heritage Strategic Framework.

In attendance were members drawn from all the relevant agencies within the Cultural Sector sharing views on how the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategy Framework could be implemented.

## International Fund for Cultural Diversity

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a multi-donor fund established under the 2005 Convention to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention. Different Organizations and Governments from Developing Countries are eligible for this fund and must ensure that their projects are in line with the fund's requirements. The Commission held meetings to help organizations and government agencies to discuss how they can ensure their projects fall in line with the IFCD. The Commission also convened a meeting with members of the preselection panel to formally critique and preselect the proposals best aligned with Ghana's priority in the cultural sector. This is in line with the IFCD requirements for all National Commissions to preselect submitted proposals and present four of them in a bid to win the fund.

## Celebrating International Days Observed at UNESCO

### World Day for African and Afro-Descendant Culture



The Commission recognizes the diversity of cultures in Africa and the African diaspora, as well as the role of every culture in promoting sustainable development and peace. On 24th January, the Commission partnered with the African Network of Cultural Promoters and Entrepreneurs (RAPEC), the Association of African Universities (AAU) Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and its agencies to observe and celebrate the World Day for African and Afro-descendant Culture. The symposium provided a platform for the discussion of relevant issues including the Incorporation of African History and Culture in Education/Curricula and the Creative and Cultural Industries.

### World Poetry Day



The Commission joined in the celebration of World Poetry Day in March. The day was commemorated with a panel discussion on Adoa TV featuring the Secretary-General of the Commission, the Head of the UNESCO Office in Accra, and Professor Lade Wosornu, a renowned Ghanaian poet. The discussion centered on how poetry could be positioned as a tool to promote linguistic diversity and to foster socio-economic development.

The Zongo Experience was another major activity included in the celebration. Students from Kawukudi in Accra were invited to the Community Youth Center to share and recite poems.

## Social & Human Science

Social & Human Science supports issues concerning the youth, sports, women empowerment and gender equality through gender mainstreaming, child right promotion and protection, social protection/development, combating domestic violence and human trafficking. Because of the sector's cross-cutting nature, various Ministries, Departments and Agencies work towards achieving the objectives of the sector.

UNESCO, through the Social & Human Science sector, has engaged academia in Ghana to conduct various research in the areas of social integration, governance, poverty reduction and gender.

### Sensitization on the Prevention of Violent Extremism



In July 2022, the Commission organized a sensitization programme for about 120 students at the St. Thomas Aquinas Senior High School on the prevention of violent extremism. The students were taken through the causes of violent extremism, its effects on them, and their development. The objective of the programme is to make the youth conscious of their role in causing violent extremism and the effect it has on them and the development of the country. Speaking at the event was Nana Dr. Sadiq Adu-Twum, the Active Director of Institute for Intelligence and Strategic Security (IISS), who emphasized the need for the youth to be reined in for the development of continent.

# Celebrating International Days Observed at UNESCO

## International Youth Day



The 2022 International Youth Day was organized by the National Youth Authority at the Anagkazo Bible and Ministry Training Centre at Akwapim Mampong, under the theme Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages. The objective of the programme was to recognize the efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society and to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding the youth and to promote ways to engage the youth in making positive contributions to their communities.

Hon. Pius Enam Hadzide, CEO of the National Youth Authority, stated the importance of the celebration and called for the support and involvement of all. The day was commemorated with the launch of the new youth policy, the maiden National Youth Conference, and the Star of the Youth of Ghana Award. The President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, was the special guest of honour. He launched the youth policy and, in his address, referred to the policy as a statement of the government's understanding and involvement in the solutions to the myriad of challenges the youth face.



## Natural Science

The Natural Science programme contribute to UNESCO's work in Ghana by advancing and promoting science in the interests of peace, sustainable development, human security and well-being.

The sector promotes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with emphasis on Knowledge in the basic sciences, engineering, Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation, fresh water, and Ocean Management.

### National Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Forum



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which hosts the Ghana MAB National Committee organized the Third National Forum on Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Centre for Coastal Management of the University of Cape Coast (UCC). The forum was held on 3rd November 2022 at the School of Medical Sciences Auditorium on the UCC campus, Cape Coast. The National Forum is to facilitate knowledge exchange and serve as a platform for stakeholders to have discourse on issues relating to sustainable resource use and development. This year's edition was held to also mark the first International Day for Biosphere Reserves designated by UNESCO to be observed on 3rd November every year.



## Launch of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development



In October 2022, the International Year of Basic Sciences for Development was launched in Ghana at the Ghana Atomic Energy Hall. The celebration was led by the Ghana Academy of Arts and Science, in collaboration with the Ghana Commission of UNESCO with the objective of prompting Ghanaians to leverage on open science to ensure that science is more inclusive, more collaborative, more transparent, and more accessible.

The Year was designated by the UN to promote the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development by convincing stakeholders that a basic understanding of nature will lead to more effective actions for the benefit of all since Basic Sciences have been instrumental, especially in the fighting of the covid- 19 pandemic. More information on the Year can be accessed via <https://www.iybssd2022.org/en/home/>

# Celebrating International Days Observed at UNESCO

## World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development



The third edition of this celebration was organized by the Faculty of Engineering of KNUST and the Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) of KNUST, a Category II Centre of Excellence under the auspices of UNESCO. Ghana's participation was both at the International Level and the local level.

This activity was organized to achieve the objective of Promoting Science, Mathematics, and Technical Education in Schools, particularly for Girls.

The Faculty also organized a lecture at the Brew-Hammond Hall for over a thousand students in secondary schools in Kumasi as well as students in KNUST to mentor them on the importance on pursuing a profession in the field of engineering. Faculty members, graduate students and the Engineering Students Association at KNUST also embarked on school visits in Kumasi to mentor students to pursue STEM and engineering.



## International Day of Light 2022

On the 20th of May 2022, the Commission in partnership with the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board and PM STEAM academy, InvoTech STEM Center, Internet of Things (IOT) Network Hub and Makerspace organized and observed the celebration of the International Day of Light at the Museum of Science and Technology with a science picnic which consisted of activities that showcase the application of light to improve our livelihoods through the basic sciences. The celebration was dedicated to observing two United Nations International Years – The Year of Basic Sciences for Development and the International Year of Glass.

## Communication & Information

The Overarching objective of UNESCO in the area of communication and information is 'Building Inclusive Knowledge Societies through Information and Communication'. The focus is on:

- Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions.
- Enabling universal access and preservation of information and knowledge.

### Media and Information Literacy Week in Accra



The Commission collaborated with Penplusbytes, DW Akademie Ghana, the UNESCO Office in Ghana, University of Ghana-Department of Communication Studies, Ghana Institute of Journalism, to organize and facilitate various public events to commemorate the 2022 Global Media Information Literacy (MIL) Week in October 2022. The week-long celebration kick-started with an opening ceremony and launch of the MIL Week in October 2022 in Accra; followed by an online awareness campaign using the hashtags #ThinkCritically #ClickWisely.

Youth Agenda Forums (Virtual and Face-to-Face) were also organized during the week and a Market Road Show climaxed the week-long activities. Activities to commemorate 2022 MIL Week also featured people with impairments, particularly the deaf, to ensure inclusivity.

The theme for this year's celebration was: Nurturing Trust – A Media and Information Literacy Imperative.

## Strengthening the Capacities of Judicial Actors in Ghana on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists

This training, held in June, was aimed at fostering the achievement of the SDG16, which seeks to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels”. The training was organized jointly by the Commission, the UNESCO Office in Ghana, the Japanese Embassy in Ghana and the Judicial Training Institute, Ghana.



The Minister for Information, at the opening ceremony, requested judges to punish people who attack journalists severely irrespective of their social status and political affiliations. He also called on them to increase the pace at which they delivered justice to journalists in such circumstances.

## Capacity Building for Journalists on Facts-Checking and Effective Use of Social Media

The main objective of the training was to enhance and develop journalists’ capacity in producing and reporting factual and right news, which in turn will help solve some problems faced by the media in connection to them being harassed by the government. It is further envisaged to deepen the cohesion between traditional media and news media and social dialogue by strengthening the capabilities and knowledge base of the social partners.

The capacity-building for journalists on Fact-checking and effective use of social media was a two-day programme at the seminar hall of the Ghana Institute of Journalism in April 2022. We had 20 journalists from community radio stations in Accra participating.



## National Cyber Security Awareness Month (National Cybersecurity Challenge)



To create awareness on cybersecurity best practices for students, encourage them to stay safe online and sensitize them of career opportunities in cybersecurity, the Commission participated in the National Cybersecurity Challenge event organized by the Cyber Security Authority as part of the National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM). This challenge was organized to ensure online safety for children and young people. The event brought together students to compete in a cybersecurity quiz and problem-solving exercises to demonstrate practical online safety topics on the theme: Cyber Safety and Protection-Our Collective Responsibility. The Presbyterian Boys Senior High School, Legon emerged as winners of the 2022 maiden edition of the National Cybersecurity Challenge.

## First Annual Impact Round-table Discussion and Robotics Competition

To promote practical and advanced teaching and learning of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Ghana, the Commission participated in the First Annual Impact Roundtable Discussion (AIRTAD) and Robotics Competition 2022 as part of the Yamoransa Model Labs Programme. The Yamoransa Model Labs Programme is an organization which is providing each region in Ghana with an ultramodern ICT facility. The two-day event was organized by IMPLEMENTERS and funded by the Helping Africa foundation. A robotic competition, a quiz between the 11 labs and an award ceremony to climax the two days event was organized.



## Capacity-Building to Counter Disinformation in the Bono Region



This capacity-building project was in partnership with the German Commission for UNESCO and Dubawa Ghana. Two towns participated in the training: Techiman and Sunyani. The four-day workshop was aimed at training about 100 Journalists from local media houses, Information Service Officers and RTI Officers on fact-checking and the need to avoid disinformation, misinformation, and all other forms of information disorder in the dissemination of news. They were further educated on the Right to Information Act and the ways they can utilize it to improve on their work.

## Celebrating International Days Observed at UNESCO

### International Mother Language Day

In February, this year, the day was marked with several events including a free online class, and a Durbar. The online class took place in collaboration with the Nayram Language Centre and the Ghana Commission for UNESCO. The class saw about 50 people joining four different classes to learn any of the five local languages: Asante Twi, Ewe, Ga, and Nzema.

Another event was organized in Tamale, the capital city of the Northern Region of Ghana, under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the Northern Regional Coordinating Council in collaboration with the Bureau of languages, the Ghana Commission of UNESCO, and the UNESCO Office in Ghana. This year's theme was Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities and it focused on how to advance multilingual education based on the potential role of technology and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.



## World Radio Day Forum

The Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ), the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) and the Ghana Commission for UNESCO jointly held a forum to mark this year's World Radio Day (WRD) at the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ) auditorium, North Dzorwulu in February 2022.

Proclaimed in 2011 by the Member States of UNESCO and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day, 13th February became World Radio Day (WRD).

The 11th edition was marked on the theme Radio and Trust which is a call on stakeholders to examine trust levels of radio content among audience.



## World PR Day

The Commission participated in the Second Annual World Public Relations (PR) Day organized by Global Media Alliance in July at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Accra. PR professionals, students, media professionals, and other members of the media and communications community constituted participants at the event. The theme for this year's celebration was Truth, Trust, and Transparency. The Deputy Minister for Information, Fatimatu Abubakar, delivered the keynote address at the event. She urged the PR fraternity to uphold professionalism in the discharge of their duties.



## International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

The Commission joined the United Press for Development Network (UPDN) at GH Media School to commemorate the day with a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. After the memorial for the two French journalists - Claude Verlon and DuPont Ghislaine, who were killed in Mali - the United Nations designated 2nd November as a day to commemorate the end of impunity for assaults on journalists worldwide, which condemns all forms of violence against journalists and media professionals. Without press freedom, it will be impossible to regulate political power, have transparency, fight corruption, end impunity, or have effective governance.



## International Day for Universal Access to Information

The Commission participated in a public lecture organized by the Right to Information (RTI) Commission to celebrate the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). This year's IDUAI celebration is themed: Artificial Intelligence, E-Governance and Access to Information. This is aimed at encouraging institutions and individuals to appreciate the use of technology to enhance easy access to information in a bid to push for greater participation of the public in our governance system.

The Chairman for the RTI Commission, Justice K. A. Ofori-Atta, in his opening remarks, implored participants to make good use of technology despite the challenges one may face in adapting to the technological world. IDUAI offers a befitting platform to join hands with the rest of the world, under the auspices of the United Nations Organization, to commemorate the right of access to information.

The Executive Secretary of the RTI Commission implored the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into school curricula to equip future generation since estimates suggest that, by 2065, 65% of children in primary school will work in positions that have not yet been created. He further indicated that, persons with disability are mostly disadvantaged. However, with the use of AI, they stand to benefit greatly in the governance process.





# Operations of National Committees

## Reconstitution of National IHP and IOC Committees

As part of strategies to strengthen National Committees in the Natural Sciences, the Commission sought seed funding from the UNESCO Participation Programme to reconstitute the Committees to become active through the implementation of projects.

In the light of that, the dormant National Committee for the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) was reconstituted under a new host, the Water Resources Commission (WRC) and the National Committee for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) also undertook a project on cleaning our oceans to be relevant.

A new secretariat for the IHP has therefore been established at WRC, with a Coordinator and four (4) support staff.

## National Committee for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

The National Committee for the IOC had its first meeting on 12th April 2022 to consider activities that the committee and its stakeholders can undertake in line with the observation of the United Nations Decade for the Ocean for Sustainable Development.

It also discussed the launch of the decade in Ghana. In attendance was the coordinator of IOC-Africa, Prof. Mika Odido who joined the meeting online.

## National IFAP Committee meeting

The National Committee for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) held their first meeting of the year in March 2022 in virtual mode to introduce the new Administrator/CEO of the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), who is also the current Chair of the National IFAP Committee. The new Chair assured members of his support to carry on the activities of IFAP.

## Outlook 2023

We are quite looking forward to 2023. It represents Year Two of our 5-year strategic plan, and we intend to carry on with our institutional strengthening, our Influence and Impact agenda. Despite the freeze on recruitment, we intend to work hard with the available workforce to achieve our collective aims.

The Secretariat envisages carrying out the following activities, among others:

- Participation in Intergovernmental meetings
- Monitoring the management and conservation of World Heritage Sites in Ghana, including those on the UNESCO Tentative List
- Facilitating Ghana's participation in 216th and 217th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board and the 42nd General Conference of UNESCO
- Hosting of the 41/4 and 42/1 NatCom meetings
- Annual Staff Retreat and Capacity development for staff
- Development of Memory of the World Register for Ghana
- Facilitation of the development of an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) National Register
- Operationalization of the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework (MSHSF) for Ghana
- Facilitation of the submission of proposals under the UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)
- Establishment of an Education for Sustainable Development Committee
- Facilitation of the Nomination of Biosphere Reserve (Kyabobo National Park)
- Operationalization of UNESCO Standard-setting instruments (surveys and questionnaires)
- Increasing the number and effectiveness of UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools
- Implementation of an Anti-Bullying project with selected stakeholders
- Observation of Selected International days

Once again, we will be counting on you, our cherished partners, to help us achieve our aims in 2023.

# PARTNERSHIPS

In alignment with their liaison and coordination role, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO had the privilege to work together with the following partners throughout this year's activities:



## APPENDIX

### ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, AT THE OPENING OF THE 215TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, ON MONDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2022, IN PARIS, FRANCE.

It is always good to be back in Paris, and to the headquarters of UNESCO. I thank the Secretary-General for the opportunity to deliver these remarks at the two hundred and fifteenth (215th) session of the Executive Board of this organisation, arguably, the most outstanding global agency to have emerged out of the formation of the United Nations.

We, in Ghana, continue to be proud of our membership of UNESCO, and I do not hesitate to stress that, just as we were the first country, south of the Sahara, to gain our independence, Ghana's distinguished diplomat, the late Patrick Seddoh, was the first African to be elected chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO in 1983. We were also the first African country to have a female representative on the Executive Board, in the person of another distinguished diplomat, the late Mrs. Therése Striggner-Scott. I am confident that this positive association with UNESCO will continue to flourish.

Indeed, a month ago, we reaffirmed her commitment to the work of UNESCO, when Ghana played host to the Africa Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO. This meeting, the first of its kind in a decade in Africa, sought to converge the common strategic priorities of National Commissions for UNESCO in African Member States, with the overarching goal being to enable the continent to implement the Global Priority Africa Programme, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 41st Session.

Today, as you may know, the dynamics of the Global Priority Africa Programme have changed, both in their continental aspirations and in their strategic focus. This is because our world continues to change with new and complex challenges, and, as such, we believe that Global Priority Africa must respond strategically to the needs of the changing times. I am delighted that UNESCO has made Africa a Global Priority, and I see UNESCO's flagship programmes, such as the dissemination of the general history of Africa and its pedagogical use in African schools, the sustainable benefits of technological advances including the deployment of artificial intelligence, and the preservation of Africa's rich cultural heritage, including the restitution of stolen artefacts during colonial occupation or resulting from illicit trafficking of cultural properties, as being relevant to achieving the objectives of the Africa Union's Agenda 2063, i.e. "The Africa We Want".

Excellencies, when I took my turn to address the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, some three (3) weeks ago, I urged the world to step up efforts at addressing the many socio-economic challenges that confront our world. Likewise, with its wide fields of competence, UNESCO is also, today, expected to respond to the diverse challenges confronting the world, especially in Africa, and I hope this meeting of the Executive Board will provide you with the opportunity to discuss how UNESCO can employ its unique competencies, expertise and networks to tackle critical issues buffeting the world at this point in time.

As though that was not enough, our international order, today, is under severe strain, since the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Like many, I have bemoaned the effects of this conflict on the economic advances of Africa and her peoples. It is not just the dismay that we feel at seeing such deliberate devastation of cities and towns in Europe in the year 2022, we are feeling this war directly in our lives in Africa. Every bullet, every bomb, every shell that hits a target in Ukraine, hits our pockets and our economies in Africa. This is evidence, if any more was needed, of the interconnectedness of our world today, where the effects of this conflict, and any crisis for that matter, reverberate throughout the entire world.

We do not have the luxury to pick and choose which crises we want to fix. At this moment, we cannot pick and choose between funding guns and education. We cannot pick and choose between the interests of the present generation and the future of our girls and boys. We cannot choose geopolitical concerns over preserving our cherished cultural heritages, lest we perish universally.

Unfortunately, due to global instability, education has become one of many competing priorities of domestic budgets. Development aid to the education sector is seriously under pressure. Indeed, countries reduced their spending on education after the onset of the COVID-19, and, at the same time, direct aid to education by bilateral donors fell by some three hundred and fifty-nine million dollars (\$359 million), which is not compatible with the objectives of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing sustainable development and the goals of the SDGs. We are further informed that prospects for reaching funding target, through voluntary contributions, are uncertain as several long-term donors have already reduced significantly their voluntary contributions to UNESCO due to a change in development cooperation priorities, thereby significantly impacting our planned programme implementation.

In spite of these challenges, I commend UNESCO for the lead role it played in ensuring the success of the Transforming Education Summit, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Necessitated by the seminal “Futures of Education” report from UNECSO, this summit, and, indeed, the pre-summit held here in Paris, have been extremely successful in getting the world to reflect deeply on the trajectory of educational systems, and how to addresses the challenges of our time.

As the recently appointed Domestic Financing champion of the Global Partnership for Education, I seek your cooperation and support to work towards developing sustainable homegrown financial solutions, so we can develop the educational system for the future we want in our various countries. We must strive, as Member-States, to ensure that education remains a priority in our common development agenda.

Excellencies, I also seek the collective commitment of UNESCO to win the fight against Climate Change. With our planet heading towards a dangerous tipping point as a result of climate change, our determination to protect nature and the environment has not yielded the desired dividends globally. We find ourselves in a race against time.

Nonetheless, I commend UNESCO for the effort to strengthen the “Man and Biosphere Programme”, whose goal is to help protect nature and biodiversity loss globally, through the Biosphere Reserve Concept. I urge UNESCO Member States to strengthen measures, at their respective national levels, that recognise formally the contribution of Biosphere Reserves, and designate more biosphere reserves and geoparks as a sure way for solving the climate crisis.

The holding of the Mondiacult Conference on Cultural Policy and Sustainable Development, in which the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture of Ghana participated in Mexico City, is worthy of commendation. The Government of Ghana recognises culture as a lever for sustainable development, socio-economic development, peace, social justice, human rights and gender equality. It is key to the attainment of our mutually agreed upon sustainable development goals. It is in this regard that the propagation of culture has been mainstreamed in Ghana's National Development Plan. I wish, therefore, to add my voice to the call that the World UNESCO Conference should be organized every four years under the auspices of UNESCO, as a means of providing an idiosyncratic global platform for countries to interact and brainstorm on good practices and approaches for the development of our respective cultures.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to inform you that Accra has been named the UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, making our vibrant city part of the prestigious World Book Capital Cities Network. This is an acknowledgement of the giant strides Ghana and Africa are making in developing our book and creative arts industry, and we thank you for your diverse contributions that made this possible. The year-long programme to celebrate this honor done us by UNESCO will commence from 23rd April 2023, which is celebrated globally as the World Book and Copyright Day. I wish to use this opportunity to invite you all to join Ghana in this year-long celebrations.

As I indicated at last year’s 75th anniversary celebration of UNESCO, we must continue for the next seventy-five (75) years to deepen our co-operation even further in the areas of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information to achieve the future we want, and leave no one behind.

I wish you a successful session, and I thank you for your attention.