



unesco
Ghana
Commission for UNESCO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





BUILDING PEACE WHERE IT STARTS – IN THE
MINDS OF WOMEN AND MEN

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FOREWORD

2023 has witnessed notable achievements and contributions of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO in advancing the goals and values of UNESCO in Ghana, as well as promoting sustainable development.

Our accomplishments this year, as detailed in this report, reflect collective efforts to advance mutual knowledge and understanding of UNESCO's work towards the common welfare of humankind. We have made substantial strides in promoting quality education, an area we believe is the cornerstone of sustainable development. Our efforts to preserve our rich cultural heritage have ensured that our traditions continue to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The report showcases the Commission's involvement in various UNESCO programmes, such as the World Heritage Sites, the Memory of the World International Register, the Biosphere Reserves, and the Accra World Book Capital Network among others. The report also shows the Commission's commitment to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in quality education, gender equality, climate action, and peace and justice.

However, we are cognizant of the fact that our journey is far from over. As we forge ahead, our mission remains clear and unwavering. With determination, commitment, and resilience, we look forward to contributing our quota to creating a better Ghana, contributing to the Africa we want, and playing a lead role in UNESCO's efforts in fostering peace and international cooperation for sustainable development.

I commend members of the Commission for their support to the Commission's work. I further thank staff of the Secretariat of the Commission and Ghana's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out their mandate. Appreciation goes to the UNESCO National Office in Accra, and all our cherished partners and stakeholders for their support and collaboration.

We look forward to stronger collaboration in 2024.



DR. YAW OSEI ADUTWUM (MP)

**HON. MINISTER & CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMISSION**

INTRODUCTORY NOTE



Some of the highlights of our work in 2023 included:

Celebrating Accra World Book Capital 2023.

Fostering the development and application of science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development, especially in the fields of renewable energy, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence.

We also celebrated the passage of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO Bill, 2022, which provides a legal and institutional framework for our mission and vision.

These are just some examples of the many achievements that we are proud to share with you in this report. Of course, none of these would have been possible without the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our staff,

members, partners, and beneficiaries. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of them for their invaluable support and contribution to our mission.

At the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, we are committed to aligning our work in 2024 with the United Nations Declaration of 2024 as the International Year of Peace and Trust and UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2024-2029 and to contribute to their success and impact.

AMA SERWAH NERQUAYE-TETTEH (MRS)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The year 2023 was a challenging and rewarding year for us, as we faced the impacts of the climate crisis which threatened the sustainability of our planet and its resources, the rapid development of digital technologies posing new ethical and social dilemmas, and the misinformation and hate speech in our fields of work which undermined the foundations of peace and human rights.

In the face of these global challenges, UNESCO and its National Commissions remained steadfast in their commitment to building a more resilient, inclusive and peaceful world. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO played an active and constructive role in impacting and influencing the implementation of UNESCO's programmes and activities at the national, regional and global levels. We collaborated with various stakeholders, including government ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, private sector partners, and youth networks, to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT



**MRS. AMA SERWAH
NERQUAYE-TETTEH**
SECRETARY- GENERAL
sg@unescoghana.gov.gh

PROGRAM STAFF



**MR. RICHE-MIKE
WELLINGTON**
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS OF UNESCO
riche-mike.wellington@unescoghana.gov.gh



**MR. APOLLONIUS
OSEI-AKOTO ASARE**
NATURAL SCIENCES
apollonius.asare@unescoghana.gov.gh



**MS. JOAN
ACYEKUM NSOWAH**
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
joan.nsowah@unescoghana.gov.gh



MR. MOSES GEMEH
EDUCATION
moses.gemeh@unescoghana.gov.gh



**MR. KOFI
TAKYI KWAKYE**
EDUCATION
kofi.kwakye@unescoghana.gov.gh



**MR. CHRISTOPHER
WETCHER**
CULTURE
chris.wetcher@unescoghana.gov.gh

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



MS. MARIAN NORTEY
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS OF UNESCO
marian.nortey@unescoghana.gov.gh

MRS. EDITH ABABIO-AMOAH
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT
edith.ababio-amoah@unescoghana.gov.gh

TRANSPORT UNIT



MR. ABRAHAM LARYEA

SUPPORT STAFF



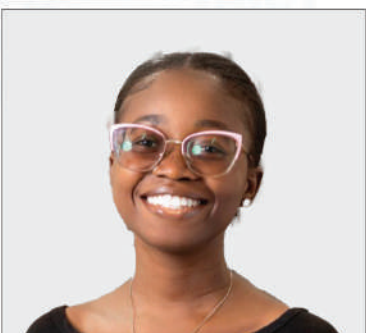
**MISS ODARKOR
ANKRAH-ADDISON**



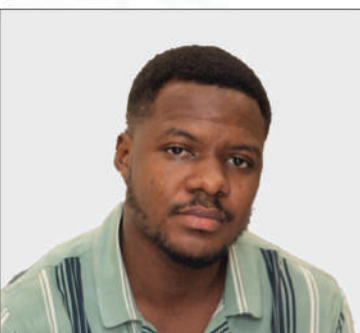
MISS ANITA NOAH



**MR. NASTA
QUARSHIE**



MISS NUNYA APETSI



**MR. ARAFAT
ABUBAKAR SUFYAN**



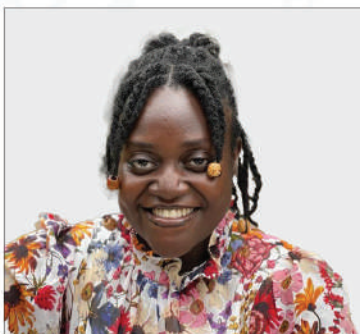
**MISS INNOCENTIA
ASHAI**



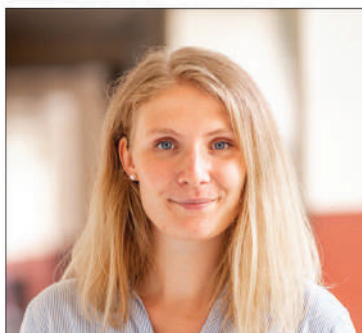
MISS DENISE ADDO



**MISS BENEDICTA
ARTHUR**



**MISS CHRISTABEL
ANGATE**



**MISS CHRISTIANA
GROB BOLTING**

Introduction

The 2023 Annual Report of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO details the activities undertaken by the Secretariat from January to December 2023, reflecting our commitment to UNESCO's mission in Ghana. It introduces the Commission, its functions, and its Programme Specialized & National Intergovernmental Committees. We are proud of our progress and grateful for the support from our team, partners, and the people of Ghana. We look forward to continuing our work towards a more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Outlook for 2023

In continuing with the implementation of the 5-year Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) of the Commission, the Secretariat sought to implement activities/programmes in the following six (6) major areas/themes for 2023:

- Coordination of national Intergovernmental Committees.
- Observation/commemoration of international days.
- Promotion of ASPnet/UNESCO Club activities (outreach programmes).
- Monitoring of UNESCO Standard Setting instruments.
- Contributing to UNESCO work and promoting multilateralism in UNESCO's fields of competence.
- Strengthening of the National Commission for effective delivery including focusing on activities to see to the passage of the Commission's Establishing Act by Parliament.

ABOUT US

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO is a specialized agency of the government with the mandate to foster multilateral relations between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its member states and Ghana. National Commissions are unique institutions found in all Member States of UNESCO.

The Government of Ghana recognizes UNESCO as a long-term strategic partner in support of achieving Ghana's national development plans and priorities.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO exists to localize the ideals of UNESCO in Ghana through UNESCO's five fields of competence to broker peace. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO works closely with a diverse range of partners – national and regional governments, ministries, departments, and agencies, other UN agencies, international and bilateral development partners, local and international NGOs, local civil society, academia, the media, and communities.

The Commission performs the following functions:

- ➔ Acts as an advisory body to the government in determining policies about UNESCO and its programmes.
- ➔ Serves as a liaison agency by involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in UNESCO activities for the advancement of Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication, with the aim of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of UNESCO's work towards the common welfare of humankind.
- ➔ Disseminates information from and to UNESCO.
- ➔ Exchanges information and experiences with its counterparts in Member States of the Organization.
- ➔ Fosters close co-operation between state agencies and services, professionals, and other universities as well General Conferences and other inter-governmental meetings convened by UNESCO, in the preparations of Ghana's position papers by preparing the contribution of Government to the work of these meetings.
- ➔ Participates in the search for candidates for vacant UNESCO posts financed under the regular programme or from extra- budgetary resources, and in the placement of UNESCO Fellowship holders.
- ➔ Participates in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO which are undertaken with the assistance of the United Nations in Ghana.

Programme Specialized Committees

There are six (6) Programme Specialized Committees which reflect the main fields of competence of UNESCO in Ghana, namely Education, Natural Science, Social & Human Science, Culture, Communication & Information and Legal & Administration. The members of each of the programme specialized committees are selected from government and non-governmental organizations. The Committees, comprising nine (9) members each, provide expert advice relating to their sectors and help the Secretariat to prepare draft briefs for the Ghana delegation to the UNESCO General Conference. The Programme Specialized Committees meet as and when necessary.

National Intergovernmental Committees

The National Intergovernmental Committees 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. They are responsible for advising the Government on UNESCO technical issues.

Intergovernmental Committee	Function
National Committee of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme	Handles environmental issues
National Committee of the International Oceanographic Committee (IOC)	Handles marine water issues
National Committee of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	Handles freshwater issues
National Bioethics Committee (NBC)	Handles issues on bioethics
National Heritage Committee (NHC)	Issues on natural and cultural heritage
National Committee of the Information for All Programme (IFAP)	Handles issues on communication
National Committee on the Management of Social Transformation (MOST)	Handles social issues
Memory of the World Programme National Committee (MoW)	Handles Documentary Heritage

SECRETARIAT

At the operational level, the National Secretariat is headed by a Secretary-General, who serves as the Secretary to the Commission and the main channel of communication between the Government of Ghana and UNESCO. There are programme officers in charge of the five areas of expertise as well as External Programme Matters and Administration.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

In line with the implementation of the strategic plan of the Commission, programmes and activities are carried out in three broad areas: Impact, Influence, and Institutional strengthening. These priority areas are in tandem with the objectives of achieving sustainable growth in all UNESCO areas of competence.

1.0 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1.1 2023 Kulturweit/Naturweit Voluntary Programme

Under the Kulturweit/Naturweit Voluntary Service Programme for 2023/2024, nine (9) volunteers were posted to the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and the three (3) UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Ghana (the Songhor Biosphere Reserve, the Bia Biosphere Reserve, and the Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve).

These volunteers support in administrative duties, planting of mangroves, monitoring of turtles, as well as other community support activities.

Some of the projects undertaken by the volunteers were the construction of a multi-purpose pitch for football, basketball and volleyball; a library; and donation of starter kits (containing honey presses, beehives, suit, smoker, chisel and bucket).

1.2 Implementation of UNESCO Participation Programme

For the 2022 – 2023 biennium, five (5) national and one (1) regional projects were submitted to UNESCO for consideration. Of these seven projects, the following were approved and executed successfully:

SN	Title Of Project	Implementing Institution	Status of Implementation
1	Informal meeting of African National Commissions to deliberate on UNESCO's Global Priority Africa Flagship programme	Secretariat of the NatCom	Fully implemented
2	Developing an implementation plan for Ghana's Multistakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework	Ghana Heritage Committee	Fully implemented
3	Ensuring sustainability through gender-supportive actions in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ghana (ESGA-GH)	National Committee for the Man and the Biosphere Programme	Fully implemented
4	Building the capacities of Memory institutions and developing statutes for the Ghana National Committee of the Memory of the World programme	National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme	Fully implemented
5	Media Capacity Enhancement Programme (MCEP)	Ministry of Information	Fully implemented

1.3 Meeting of National Commissions to UNESCO of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)

National Commissions for UNESCO of the Portuguese-speaking Community held a meeting to discuss issues related to the Global Priority Africa Programme, UNESCO Category II Centres and UNESCO Chairs. Participants further shared experiences and best practices bordering on UNESCO Recommendations. The meeting was held from 3rd to 4th May 2023, in Luanda, Angola.

The Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, participated in the meeting. She reported on the Regional meeting of African National Commissions for UNESCO held in Accra in September 2023 and participated in discussions on the format of the next meeting to be held in Luanda in June 2024.

1.4 The 216th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board

Ghana participated in the 216th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, which was held from 10th – 24th May 2023 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Ghana's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, H.E. Anna Bossman led Ghana's delegation to the Session. Her Excellency was supported by the Chief Director and Vice Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Mamle Andrews; Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah (Commissioner/Expert); Mr. George Sarpong (Commissioner/Expert); the Secretary-General of the Commission, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh; the Head of Multilateral at the Ghana Mission in France, Mrs. Vivian Asempapa; Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare (Chief Programme Officer); Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington (Chief Programme Officer) and Mr. Gilbert Dadzie (Research Officer).

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. Ghana took the floor to contribute to the policy debate in the morning of 16th May 2023, delivered by H.E. Anna Bossman, on behalf of Ghana's Representative on the Board and the Hon. Minister for Education.

1.5 The 217th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board

Ghana participated in the 217th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, which was held from 4th – 18th October 2023 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

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

The Commission further participated in the Traditional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO. The Ghana delegation seized the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the newly elected UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations (PAX), Mr. Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah – a Ghanaian.

Ghana's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, H.E. Anna Bossman, led Ghana's delegation to the Session. Her Excellency was supported by the Chief Director and Vice Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Mamle Andrews; Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah (Commissioner/Expert); Mr. George Sarpong (Commissioner/Expert); the Secretary-General of the Commission, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh; the Head of Multilateral at the Ghana Mission in France, Mrs. Vivian Asempapa; the Chief Programme Officer, Natural Science, Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare ; the Chief Programme Officer, Legal and Administrative Matters of UNESCO, Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington and the Research Officer, Mr. Gilbert Dadzie.

1.6 The 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference

Ghana participated in the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference from 7th – 22nd 2023 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Ghana participated in all plenary sessions of the Conference as well as meetings of the six (6) Commissions and scheduled side meetings. Ghana further participated in the side events organized on the margins of the Conference.

Ghana's delegation to the Conference was led by the Minister for Education and Chairman of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum. He was ably supported by H.E. Anna Bossman, Ghana's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Mrs. Mamle Andrews, Chief Director of the Ministry of Education and Vice Chairman of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, Secretary-General, Ghana Commission for UNESCO.

The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah, also participated in the meetings of the Communication and Information Commission.

The delegation was further made up of experts with diverse backgrounds in the fields of competence of UNESCO, Members of Parliament, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Reg. Integration, and Directors-General of the UNESCO Category II Centres of Excellence (IEPA & TCC).

Ghana's participation in this session was successful as Ghana was elected to serve on the Intergovernmental Committees of MOST, IHP, IPDC and ICPRCP. Ghana was also elected to serve on the Board of Management of the UNESCO Medical Benefits Fund (MBF).

1.7 2023 Bridge Workshop

The Bridge Programme is a project of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) to contribute to achieving SDG 4 by promoting accessibility to education for the underprivileged in Africa and Asia. The Programme is being implemented in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in its quest to join the Bridge Programme submitted a project concept papers for consideration in literacy and heritage. The Commission was privileged to be selected to participate in a three-day training workshop from 31st May – 2nd June 2023 in Seoul, Republic of Korea organized by the KNCU under the auspices of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea. The workshop aimed to improve the sustainability of the projects, project planning and implementation, and peer learning.

Ghana's focal person, Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare, Chief Programme Officer in charge of Natural Science, represented the Commission.

1.7.1 Feasibility Study for the heritage project proposal

The Commission was privileged to host the Secretary-General of the KNCU and two other officials in Accra from 4th – 6th December 2023 for a feasibility analysis towards the implementation of the Bridge Programme in Ghana.

As part of stakeholder engagements in Ghana, strategic meetings were held jointly by both Commissions with the ministries, departments and agencies involved in the implementation of the project.

The study was successful as it concluded with the buy-in of stakeholders and some adjustments to the project by stakeholders. A Memorandum of Understanding for the Bridge Project between the two National Commissions was signed.

1.8 Strategic Meeting with the French Embassy in Accra

The Commission, in its quest to strengthen bilateral relations with the French Embassy in Accra, paid a courtesy call on the Consul of the Embassy on 1st June 2023. The meeting discussed issues bordering on the implementation of joint activities/programmes in culture, the 2023 Accra World Book Capital with the Embassy, and the authorities of the city of Strasbourg, as well as actions to ensure the smooth and effective participation of delegations to UNESCO meetings.

1.9 Celebration of Africa Week at UNESCO

Ghana's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, together with other African Permanent Delegations, organized activities to mark Africa Week at UNESCO from 5th – 7th June 2023.

Among the activities undertaken were exhibitions, interviews, engagement with kids, etc. H.E. Anna Bossman, Ghana's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, led Ghana's delegation in the celebration.

1.10 Premiere of the Mansa Musa play at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

In the quest to promote the teaching and learning of African history and heritage, UNESCO in partnership with Bambu Heritage Productions (led by Chief Abdul Moomen – Ghanaian playwright) launched the Mansa Musa World (a three-part epic theatrical production that tells the story of Mansa Musa – the legendary emperor of Mali and one of the most prominent figures in African history) at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on Africa Day – 25th May 2023.

The Commission, on 18th October 2023, facilitated the premiere of the play at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the margins of the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference. The play cast was 60 members (cast and crew) from Ghana.

1.11 The Ghana Commission for UNESCO Act 2023

Led by the Secretary-General, the Commission marshaled its resources, experts, and lobbying skills and got the bill passed. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO Act 2023 also establishes a National Fund for UNESCO, which shall be used to finance the activities and operations of the Commission and its committees. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO Act 2023 also provides for the appointment of a Director-General for the Commission, who shall be the chief executive officer and the secretary to the Board of the Commission.



EDUCATION



IMPACT

2.1 Education

2.1.1 Observation of the 2023 International Day of Education

On 24th January 2023, the International Day of Education was celebrated with a series of events. The first was an interaction with Class 91 FM where a representative from the Commission, Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh, and the Director-General for the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA), a Category II UNESCO Institute of Excellence, were present. In their presentations, they both called on the Government's total commitment to attaining the Transforming Education Summit presented by the president at the TES in September 2022 as well as other stakeholders to pay heed to their commitment to the education sector.

The second event for the day was a visit to selected schools in the Greater Accra Region by Mr. Divine Ayidzoe, Former Vice Chairperson of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Former Chief Director of the Ministry of Education alongside other UN Agencies (UN, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS), Development Partners, and the Ghana Education Service (GES). The schools visited were St. Thomas Aquinas, Osu Presbyterian Girls Basic School, Accra Senior High School, and Dzorwulu Special School. The underlying message received by students in each school was to take their education seriously and to take care of themselves to ensure that the investments being made in them will pay off soon.

The final activity for the day was led by Mr. Apollonius O. A. Asare, Chief Programme Officer of the Commission. A collaboration between Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Karpowership Ghana to sensitize students on IED was made. In attendance were Ms. Mawuse Nudeko Awity; Director-General for Ghana TVET Service, Ms. Sandra Amatikar; Communication Manager from Karpowership Ghana as well as the students of Accra Applied Technology Institute. Overall, the day was used to make a call for all stakeholders to encourage students to join the TVET train and make contributions to national development.

2.1.2 Sensitization on Media Information Literacy (MIL)

UNESCO promotes and supports the development of media and information literacy for all, to enable people's ability to think critically and click wisely. Response to disinformation and misinformation requires a combination of critical information, media, and digital competencies.

The MIL sensitization program aims to increase media and information literacy and strengthen the resistance of the youth; particularly between the ages of 10 and 19, to online hate speech, disinformation, and propaganda. The Communication and Information sector educated the BOD and Rangoon students on the verification of news and information, engaging in ethical interactions

in online spaces, and the risks involved with indulging in cyber bullying and the dissemination of fake news on the internet.

2.1.3 Sensitization on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

According to a recent UNESCO research, bullying affects more than 30% of the world's students, with severe implications for academic achievement, school dropout, and physical and mental health. Due to recent cases of school-based violence and bullying in public pre-tertiary institutions in Ghana, there has been an ever-increasing need to create a tolerant and safe school environment through UNESCO's Global Citizenship Education (GCED) programmes. These programmes aim to empower learners of all ages to assume active roles, both locally and globally, in building more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, and secure societies.

In this regard, Ghana Commission for UNESCO resolved to explore opportunities that sought to train students to fight Violence and Bullying at School Including Cyberbullying in schools and communities. One component of the forum is to build the capacity of students and teachers for them to deal with the menace of intolerance, violence, bullying, and cyberbullying in schools from the perspectives of social-emotional learning. Thus, students from the respective schools were educated on how socio-emotional skills help us understand and manage our emotions, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Students took part in discussions that hinged on the five core competencies of SEL, which are self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

The Australian High Commissioner, Berenice Owen-Jones, in collaboration with the Assemblyman of the Cantonment Electoral Area, Alhaji Bashiru Mahama, donated some football kits to BOD Basic School and Rangoon Basic School in Accra. Students from both teams played a 30-minute football match before the donations. The Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO was present at the football and donation event to address the students and stakeholders, including the MP for the constituency, the municipal chief executive, and the Director for the GES Municipal office. As part of the program line-up, the Communication and Information and Education sectors of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO collaborated with Alhaji Mahama, the Assembly Member of the Cantonment Electoral Area, to sensitize students from both schools on Media and Information Literacy and Social Emotional Learning.

2.1.4 Forum on Social and Emotional Learning

Ghana Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with Ms. Inaya Bashir, M. Ed., held a forum on Social and Emotional Learning for students, teachers and teaching assistants at the McCarthy Hill School on Friday, 10th February 2023.

Session with Students: Students shared various meditation practices, including music, art, and solitude, as a way of making learning easy in a sustainable manner. They suggested noise reduction and environmental protection as community mental health strategies that should be adopted.

Session with Teachers: Approximately 40 staff members, including teachers, teaching assistants, and caregivers, attended a session where the Commission's roles were introduced to them. Key terms such as wellness, mental health, mindfulness, social-emotional learning, and emotional literacy were defined and discussed with the attendees. The three-tier approach to mental health, including prevention and promotion, early intervention, and specialized care, were also discussed.

2.1.5 UNESCO-PRADA Project Coordination Meeting

Due to massive disruptions in global education caused by COVID-19, UNESCO made a call for partnerships to build back better. One such partner is PRADA.

PRADA is currently a member of the Global Education Coalition and has instituted projects in Ghana and Kenya. The project seeks to ensure continuity of learning by girls. The UNESCO-Prada Project, when implemented will expand locally driven girls and youth-led initiatives in favor of girls' education due to the existence of disparities in gender and the widening digital divide.

The project will improve girls' attendance through STEM skills and technology. As such, school kits, provision of Guidance and Counselling Services, training on re-entry guidelines, training on the use of ICT resources and devices, building the capacity of youth-led women organizations, among other things are some of the expected outputs of the project.

A meeting was held on the 22nd of February 2023 to educate all stakeholders about the roles to be played. In attendance were representatives from Child Online Africa, Ghana Education Service (GES), and International Child Development Programme (ICDP) including Country Representative and officers from UNESCO, Accra Office.

The project was implemented in the following districts: Lower Manya, Biakoye, and Atwima Kwawoma. The activities undertaken were back-to-school campaigns, distribution of relevant school kits, giving of psychosocial support, re-entry guidelines workshop, and organization of STEM clinics for girls.

2.1.6 Observation of Greening Ghana Day

In a bid to imbibe the ideals of global citizenship in learners, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO has since 2021, brought together members of Associated Schools and Clubs for UNESCO, to participate in the Greening Ghana Initiative by the President of Ghana.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, through its outreach organ (the UNESCO Clubs & Associated Schools) participated in the Greening Ghana Day on Friday, 9th June 2023. The outreach team, led by Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh, led students at the Accra College of Education and its Demonstration School and Ring Road East 1 Basic School to plant trees on their campuses.

It is satisfying to note that 80% of the total trees planted at Accra Technical Training Center, Accra College of Education, and its Demonstration School, Ring Road East 1 Basic School and La-Nkwantanang cluster of schools have survived since 2021.

2.1.7 70th ASPNET Celebration in Schools in Ghana

The 70th anniversary of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) was celebrated to illustrate the history of ASPnet as incubator of peace and sustainable development through education. The Global theme for the anniversary is 'Fostering a culture of peace and sustainable development'.

ASPnet connects more than 12,000 schools in 182 countries with a common goal to build peace in the minds of children and young people. The anniversary started from the 6th of November to the 13th of December 2023. Four ASPnet schools in Ghana commemorated the anniversary with a series of activities. These schools include Regentropfen Basic School, The Dorian Montessori, Bechem Presby SHS, and The McCarthy Hill School.

2.1.7.1 REGENTROPFEN BASIC SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

On November 24, 2023, Regentropfen School celebrated the ASPNET 70th Anniversary with a cultural festival and debate competition. The event, themed “Culture promotes Unity”, began at 9:00 am and featured music, dance, and drama performances by twenty selected students from the upper primary and junior high school.

2.1.7.2 BECHEM PRESBY SHS ACTIVITIES

To commemorate the 70th ASPnet anniversary, the school conducted a two-day event. On November 17, 2023, a drawing and painting competition themed ‘Best ways to manage waste’ was held at Presby Senior High School, with five students recognized for their outstanding work. The following day, students participated in a campus clean-up to emphasize the importance of a clean environment.

2.1.7.3 THE DORIAN MONTESSORI ACTIVITIES

On December 4, 2023, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO’s Education sector visited Dorian Montessori. The visit aimed to collaborate with students, staff, and management to plant flowers, learn about the environment, and discuss climate change education. This was part of the ASPNET 70th anniversary activities themed ‘Ghana’s Role in Fostering a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development’. The team led a flower planting session, providing students with guidance on plant care.

The UNESCO team thanked the school and donated Legos to enhance the students’ critical thinking and creativity. The day concluded with a photo session involving the students, school management, and staff.

2.1.7.4 THE MCCARTHY HILLS SHOOOL ACTIVITIES

On 30th November, 2023, The McCarthy Hill school organized a program titled “We Grow What We Eat” on the theme “Nurturing innovative and sustainable ways to grow our own food in spite of climate change’ in commemoration of the ASPnet 70th Anniversary.

2.1.8 Digital Skills and Reproductive Health Training for Teachers in Ghana (Eastern Region, Koforidua)





According to UNESCO, most young people in Ghana still do not have access to comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education regarding access to safe abortion, sexual violence, among others as they are not into the curriculum of schools. SDG Target 3.7 which is ‘universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies must be ensured by 2030.

Also, as the world is becoming increasingly digital, the number of jobs requiring digital skills in Africa would be expected to increase in the coming years. SDG 4 Target 4.4 states that ‘By 2030, there should be a substantial increase in the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

It is for this reason the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO KFIT in collaboration with GNAT held a three-day training session from the 4th to 6th of April 2023 with teachers in the Eastern Region, Koforidua on Reproductive Health, and Digital skills. In the end, a realization was made that many teachers in Koforidua were not really equipped with digital skills to enhance their teaching.

2.1.9 2023 UIS Survey on Formal Education

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) held a training for selected officers from the PBME, EMIS and SRIM directorates of the Ministry of Education to strengthen national capacities in transferring national data into international data and statistics for global, regional, and national monitoring of SDG 4 indicators. The training was held on 8th June 2023 via virtual mode and coordinated by the Secretariat of the Commission. This training enhances the respective directorates’ capacity in completing the 2023 UIS Survey on formal education.

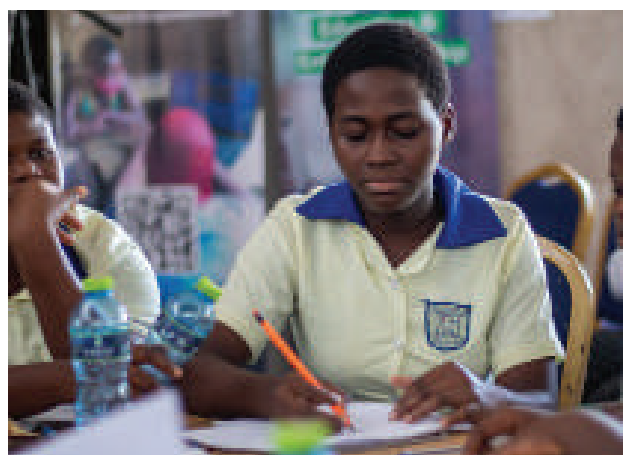
2.1.10 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)-NET 2030 Global Meeting

As part of the global ESD-Net 2030, UNESCO organized a global meeting for member states and stakeholders to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and mutual learning in Tokyo from 18-20

December 2023. Overall, eighty representatives from 60 Member States and 122 representatives of 87 partner organizations participated in this event, with 215 in-person attendees

The sessions that took place were ESD for 2030 and Country Initiatives, ESD in Japan – Learner-centred practice through a whole school and community approach, ESD for 2030 for all – Parallel sessions on ESD Priority Action Area such as ‘Sprinting towards the Future of Education: Advancing and Advocating ESD and Lifelong Learning’, ‘From whole-school approach to green schools - what works?’, organized by the Foundation for Environmental Education, Teaching for transformation: ESD capacity development initiatives’, organized by The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, Intergenerational approaches to ensure meaningful youth inclusion on Education for Sustainable Development’, organized by youth representatives, and Catalyzing local actions: Bridging communities and education for a sustainable tomorrow’, organized by UNU-IAS.

The Principal Programme Officer for Education at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO participated in a panel discussion on the topic “Enhancing ESD in Curriculum Design” specifically focusing on “Digital Tools, Frameworks and Innovations for Designing, Monitoring and Evaluation.” Stefania Giannini, UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General of Education, in a closing remark, rallied the audience for a unified voice and a transformative approach to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).





COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION (CI)

IMPACT

2.2.1 Internet for Trust Conference

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO participated in UNESCO's Internet Trust Conference held online and in person from the 21st to 23rd of February 2023. The conference brought to the table stakeholders including governments, independent regulators, digital companies, academia, the technical community, and civil society.

The issues that came up during the conference included the transparency of more platforms and ensuring that content governance policies and practices adhere to human rights standards. Other issues embodied finding a balance between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human moderation and encouraging greater participation by civil society, young people, influencers, and other actors in the creation of the Internet of trust. The conference discussed the draft global guidelines for regulating digital platforms and safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information.

2.2.2 Celebration of World Radio Day

On 13th February 2023, a symposium was held with persons from the media, the National Peace Council, GJA and GIJ at UNIMAC-GIJ. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Radio and Peace'. The rationale was to spread the word about promotion of peace on radio. Panelists discussed issues related to the theme 'forging peace, civility, and addressing incitement to violence; the role of radio'.

Among the suggestions and discussions that came up during the symposium were the penalization of persons who incite violence on radio, censorship of defaulting media houses, reiterating journalistic standards and ethical values, providing a level of training for journalists and the strategic ways through which journalists can be streamlined without infringing on press freedom. Ghana Commission for UNESCO along with other partners delivered solidarity messages at the event.

2.2.3 Launch of UNESCO Media Development Indicators

UNESCO's International Program for Development of Communication (IPDC) seeks to promote and improve media development in developing countries like Ghana. It is as part of the program that UNESCO introduced the Media Development Indicators to assess the efficiency of a country's media system. The Media Development Indicators (MDIs) are also being used in the definition of a UN common approach to media development and good governance at the country level.

On 20th April 2023, a team of Ghanaian media experts researched and curated a publication that was officially launched by a representative of the Minister of Information. The lead consultant for the project was Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo who briefed the audience on the details of the publication and research findings that the team made during the coalition of MDIs.



The publication focuses on 5 categories of media development in Ghana. They are:

Category 1: A system of regulation conducive to freedom of expression, pluralism, and diversity of the media.

Category 2: Plurality and diversity of media, a level economic playing field, and transparency of ownership.

Category 3: Media as a Platform for democratic discourse

Category 4: Professional capacity building and supporting institutions that underpin freedom of expression.

Category 5: Infrastructural capacity is sufficient to support independent and pluralistic media.

2.2.4 Observation of 2023 World Press Freedom Day

3rd May 2023 marked 30 years since the inception of World Press Freedom Day and celebrated yearly by UNESCO member states. This year's celebration was targeted at defending freedom of expression and having the theme of the year as 'Shaping the future of rights, Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights.'

The rationale behind the celebration is to remember and honour journalists who lost their lives while chasing and sharing the news and serves as a way of creating awareness of the need for press freedom in our society and the world.

This year's celebration in Ghana was organized by the Ghana Journalists Association in collaboration with the Ghana Police Service and ADB Bank with an event held at the Ghana International Press Center. As part of the celebration, there was a public lecture by the Appeal Court Judge, Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei on the theme, 'Freedom of expression, a driver for all human rights for Ghana's development'.

In attendance were dignitaries from the diplomatic community as well as members and leaders of the Ghanaian media fraternity. Former GJA president, Madam Gifty Afenyi Dadzie, current GJA president, Mr. Albert Dwumfuor, UNESCO country representative, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Information, UN in Ghana, and EU in Ghana were invited to deliver solidarity messages. UNESCO Ghana Country representative, Abdourahamane Diallo, admonished participants to reaffirm their commitment to defending press freedom, protecting the rights of journalists and media workers, and working together to build a more equitable society where the press is free to report on issues that matter most, without fear of prosecution or retaliation.

The ceremony was climaxed with a flag hoisting ceremony and a book exhibition.

2.2.5 Launch of a report on the state of the Ghanaian Media

Led by Dr. Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin, the Department of Communication at the University of Ghana conducted research on the State of Ghana's media. The research results were collated into a comprehensive document that can be used to assess Ghana's media development.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO was invited to participate in the launch of report of the State of Ghanaian Media. The launch served as a platform for the discussion of issues pertaining to media practice and media professionals in Ghana. The Director of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Amin Alhassan, presented some challenges faced by the media and suggested recommendations to help improve Ghana's media



landscape.

Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo, the lead researcher, took the audience through the report's findings and subsequent discussions based on the segments of the reports she shared. Mr. George Sarpong, Executive Secretary, National Media Commission together with Dr. Ekow Spio-Gabrah, officially launched the report.

2.2.6 Validation Meeting for the Statutes of the Ghana National Memory of the World (MoW) Committee

UNESCO set up the MoW Programme in 1992 with the objectives of safeguarding the documentary heritage, facilitating access to it, and raising public awareness of its significance and the need to preserve it. The MoW Programme requires that every country set up a national committee to oversee and forward the objectives of the programme. The Ghana National MoW Committee was set up in June 2021 and is still undergoing its formation processes, including the drawing of statutes for the running of the committee and organisation of workshops for key stakeholders.

As part of the setting-up process of the Ghana National Memory of the World Committee, the 9-Member committee held a meeting at CSIR-STEPRI to assess and validate the statute of the committee. The statute was developed by a legal practitioner, who was present at the validation meeting to effect suggestions made by the committee members. The Chairperson of the committee, Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan, led the validation process.

2.2.7 Memory of the World Documentary Heritage Workshop

The Memory of the World Program has been established to raise awareness among memory institutions in Ghana as well as to strengthen the capacity of memory institutions for the identification and preservation of documentary heritage materials. As a requirement for the program, individual nation-states were to compile a national register of documentary heritage originating from their countries.

A two-day documentary heritage workshop was organized on the 20th and 21st of June in Accra, Ghana, to sensitize memory institutions in Ghana on the Memory of the World Program, and the identification and preservation of documentary heritage. Participants were also sensitized on the identification and preservation of documentary heritage materials and brought to light the various challenges that their organizations faced in relation to the preservation of heritage documents and archival materials. During the meeting, they shared sustainable methods with which they have been preserving their documentary heritage materials bringing it to a successful conclusion.

2.2.8 Women in Media Summit (Wimen Summit)

The Women in Media Education Network (WiMEN) Summit was implemented over a span of three days from September 15-18, 2023, in collaboration with the German Commission for UNESCO, with a series of activities designed to empower and educate female media students in Ghana. The participants were mainly female journalism students from journalism training institutions in Ghana, such as the University of Media, Arts, and Communication. Day one featured three inspiring speakers who shared their expertise: Dr. Theodora Dame Adjin Tettey, a renowned lecturer from the University of Ghana Department of Communication Studies, who spoke on 'Ethical Journalism & Compelling Storytelling,' Brigitte Dzogbenuku, C.E.O of Mentoring Women Ghana, and Shamima Muslim, convener of the Alliance for Women in Media Africa focused on 'Opportunities for Women in Ghanaian Media.'

Day two continued with a focus on other topics: Mary Ama Bawa from the Ghana National Cyber Security Authority talked about 'Safeguarding Yourself



Against Cybersecurity Threats, imparting essential knowledge for digital safety and discussing practical methods of guarding against cyber threats and combating cyber-attacks. Jerry Sam, the Executive Director of Penplusbytes, discussed the art of 'Fact-Checking,' emphasizing the importance of truth in media and journalism. The discussion was followed by a practical session where participants were made to identify fake news and judge news items based on some rubrics to detect what was misinformation, disinformation, and Mal information.

The summit was climaxed with mentorship sessions led by Oheneyere Gifty Anti, a women's rights advocate, and a leading Ghanaian media practitioner with over 17 years of practice, and Portia Gabor, Ghanaian Journalist of the Year 2022, where both imparted guidance on 'thriving as women in Ghana's media landscape'. The summit concluded with closing remarks from Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, the Secretary General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO.

2.2.9 Esiama Kundum Festival (MIL Sensitization)

UNESCO conducted an educational session for over 100 students from both basic schools and the Nurses Training College in Esiama, focusing on Media and Information Literacy. The workshop delved into crucial topics such as fact-checking, the impact of cyberbullying, and best practices for ensuring a safe online environment. By addressing these key areas, our aim was to equip students with the necessary skills to critically evaluate information, navigate the digital landscape responsibly, and understand the consequences of cyberbullying. This initiative is part of our broader commitment to promoting a media-literate community and fostering a secure online experience for all participants.

2.2.10 Launch of Media and Information Literacy Club in UniMAC – IJ

The University of Media Arts and Communication- Institute of Journalism (UniMAC-IJ) which was formally known as Ghana Institute of Journalism, on Friday 20th of October 2023 inaugurated the media and information literacy club. This is the first media and information literacy club in Ghana. The idea to establish an MIL club at UNIMAC-IJ began four years ago. This club's mission is to promote Media and Information Literacy and empower youth with essential media literacy skills, fostering critical thinking and responsible media consumption. Representatives from Dubawa, Penplusbytes, DW-Akademie and faculty members at UNIMAC-IJ were present at the event.

2.2.11 Global Media and Information Week

The celebration began from 23rd to 31st of October and was launched with an opening ceremony in Kumasi, Ashanti Region. The day's event included a formal opening of activities for the week. As part of the launch, there was a panel discussion on topics like the difference between misinformation and disinformation, fact-checking, and the role of NCCE in Media Information Literacy (MIL) interventions.

A new research report on interventions in MIL space was also outdoored. There was a media awareness campaign aimed at reaching people with a variety of MIL fun facts with the hashtags [#SpotTheFake](#) and [#ThinkCritically #Click Wisely](#) on the 23rd of October. With a newly produced radio drama series of 3 episodes by Penplusbytes, the public were engaged on radio stations such as Ultimate FM and Abusua FM both based in Kumasi on the need to be media literate. The drama highlights everyday Ghanaian experiences with cyberbullying/trolling, misinformation spread during elections and via WhatsApp. On social media, visualized content was distributed on all our social media platforms and our partners social media platforms as well.

The climax of the week's activities was a tour to some selected UNESCO Club senior high schools in the Kumasi enclave. This was done to set the pace for our idea of introducing MIL clubs into second cycle schools as extracurricular activities. It also served as a prelude to work with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to educate the public, particularly first-time voters, on

the need to be circumspect about their news consumption and publication during an election period. During the tour, the students were introduced to the basics of MIL, the AACRA principle, simple ways of verification such as the 5Ws and 1H, source and content verification amongst others.

2.2.12 Media Capacity Enhancement Programme

Through a UNESCO Participation Programme, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO supported the Ministry of Information to successfully implement phase two of the Media Capacity Enhancement Programme (MCEP). The Media Capacity Enhancement Programme (MCEP) is a training initiative that aims to equip journalists in Ghana with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their work and ensure quality and effective reportage. The programme is organized by the Ministry of Information in collaboration with the University of Media, Arts and Communications (UniMAC) and other media stakeholders.

The overall objective of the MCEP is to enhance the capacity of media practitioners in Ghana to safeguard Ghana's democracy with verifiable news content and support quality as well as timely information to aid decision making at all levels.





CULTURE

IMPACT

2.3.1 ICH Training-of-Trainers Workshop

Intangible Cultural Heritage Project seeks to build the capacities of experts in Ghana to aid in training of more experts, inventorying to create a list that will take stock of Ghana's ICH and above all safeguard Ghana's living heritage.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO as part of its monitoring role in the project, participated in the 10-day workshop at the Royal Cockpit Hotel, Accra from 7th to 16th February 2023.

The workshop began with an opening ceremony and an address by the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey. There was an international facilitator in the person of Ms. Deidre Prins Solani who took participants through the essentials of the ICH as well as the work that needed to be completed over the year.

2.3.2 International Mother Language Day

On the 21st of February 2023, the International Mother Language Day was held to celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity to promote peace and cooperation.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO partnered with the School of Languages to organize a Symposium for the International Mother Language Day at the Maison Française Conference room situated in the University of Ghana.

In attendance were the Provost of the College of Humanities, Deans and Professors from the various departments, as well as Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO Office in Accra.

The celebration in Ghana was held to come up with ideas on how Ghana can address the problem of shelving our local languages and rather make use of it to benefit all citizens.

On 26th February 2023, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO collaborated with the Neyram Language Center in a virtual session known as Story Time. It was a night dedicated to sharing individual experiences of the wisdom and beauty of the mother tongue. Speaking at the programme were the Secretary-General of the Commission, Abena Richardson, students of the Neyram Language Center, Founder of Abibitumi, Obengfo Obadele Akanbon, Prof. Henry Nii Adjiri Wellington and many others.

2.3.3 Information Meeting on the World Heritage Convention

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, as part of its role of ensuring the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Ghana, held an information meeting with Prof. Raymond Atuguba, Dean, University of Ghana School of Law, and Prof Michael Okyerefo, Department of Sociology at the Dean's Office on UG campus to brief them on how the Convention is applied and to examine and ascertain how the University of Ghana's original site can be listed as a National Heritage Site and subsequently, a World Heritage Site.

2.3.4 Observation of Ghana Culture Day (12th edition)

On March 14, 2023, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO 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: "Culture, Technology and current trends - making the youth the centre of transformation."

The event was divided into two sessions, an Official Opening of the Symposium, and a 3rd National Delegates Conference at the Kofi Annan Center in Accra.

Present at the Official Opening of the Symposium were the Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Nana Fredua Agyeman Ofori-Atta, Board Chair, National Theatre of Ghana, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, Head Office, UNESCO Office in Accra, Mr. Asare Konadu, and Mr. Kobby Graham - Keynote Speaker.



2.3.5 Commemoration of World Poetry Day

The celebration of this day was held on 21st March 2023, and it was commemorated through a series of programs and activities including a round table discussion on E-tv. The discussion featured Mr. Moses Gemeh, Principal Programme Officer for Education, Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Dr. Wale Okediran, Secretary-General of the PAN African Writers Association, and Poets, Oswald Okaitei and Ben Oku.

The talk among others focused on how poetry could be used as a tool to promote socio-economic development and as a way of doing that more funds need to be invested into getting communities to be part of the World Poetry Day in Ghana.

2.3.6 Meeting on UNESCO Fashion Survey on African Fashion, Textile and Accessories

The Fashion industry is currently the second largest sector in Africa after agriculture and poses the potential to create more jobs. As part of its commitment to the diversity of Cultural Expressions and fostering creative industries in developing countries, the Secretariat on the 2005 Convention of UNESCO, conducted a survey that would feed into the Report on the African Fashion, Textile and Fine crafts sector. The purpose of this survey was to have a holistic understanding of the sector in Africa.

On 6th April 2023, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO together with the National Commission on Culture as the Chair of the Committee, set up a national committee with stakeholders from different parts of the Fashion Industry in Ghana who made use of research and filled in the survey on behalf of the country.

2.3.7 ICH Assistance Meeting

The Living Heritage Entity organized three information sessions to present the aim of the International Assistance mechanism, as well as the modalities and processes for applying to the fund. Furthermore, the meetings aimed to explain the changes related to international assistance that were made to the Operational Directives by the 9th session of the General Assembly last July.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO on this day, 14th April 2023, together with the National Folklore Board (Focal Organization) and the National Commission on Culture participated in the trainings over the different dates given. Each training lasted for an hour with a question-and-answer session on each day promoting freedom of expression and access to information.

2.3.8 International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) engagements

As part of ensuring that Projects submitted for the IFCD addresses the Outcomes and Goals of the 2005 Convention, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO met with the Founder for Fashion Forum Africa, Ms. Makeba Boateng virtually to discuss their project and how they can better position their project within the framework of the IFCD.

2.3.9 ICH Cultural Mapping Workshop

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO as part of its monitoring role in the project, participated in the 1-day workshop at the Miklin Hotel in Accra on 10th May 2023. The workshop brought together stakeholders and regional experts from all over the regions in Ghana to assist in practically mapping out the ICH areas to be worked on for inventorying. The workshop was facilitated by the local facilitator, Mr. Christopher Wetcher, who introduced the stakeholders to what ICH was and explained in detail what Cultural Mapping is about and what was expected of these experts.

The stakeholders and regional experts were grouped after the facilitators session and began the mapping out of the 8 border districts selected for the ICH Mapping and Inventorying.

2.3.10 Stakeholders Validation Meeting on Delineation of Boundaries and Buffer Zones for World and National Heritage Sites

The Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MoTAC), with funding from the International Development Association is implementing the tourism sector development project across the country. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve the performance of tourism in targeted destinations in Ghana.

The Ghana Tourism Development Project aims to develop a National Heritage Register, review, and update the World Heritage Tentative List, and delineate boundaries and buffer zones for World Forts and Castles World Heritage Site.

The Ghana Museums and Monuments Board facilitated a stakeholder validation meeting on 11th May 2023 which brought stakeholders up to speed on the Ghana Tourism Development Project. Representatives from the Ghana Tourism Authority, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, the Ghana Heritage Committee, the University of Ghana, Forestry Commission, and the UNESCO Accra Office.

2.3.11 State Parties Meeting for the 1970 Convention

UNESCO held a meeting for State Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property from 30th - 31st May this year.

The Focal Agency in charge of this Convention, the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), participated virtually in this meeting with 5 experts.

The meeting was held in a hybrid mode with Ghana's Permanent Delegation, represented by Mrs. Vivian Asempapa, Head of the Multilateral Section at Ghana's Embassy, participating in-person in close consultation with the experts from the capital.

2.3.12 Ninth Conference of Parties (COP) to the 2005 Convention

The Ninth Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is the platform where State Parties examine the state of the implementation of the Convention worldwide and the major challenges facing the cultural and creative sectors in the post Covid-19 pandemic context.

The ninth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was held online from 6th to 8th June 2023.

During this session, the Conference of Parties determined the strategic orientations that will underpin the future activities of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for the 2024 – 2025 period. The Committee elected 12 new members and examined a concrete proposal aiming to rationalize the periodic reports' submission cycles and a proposed revision to the Rules of Procedure.

There were also side events that were held including the film screening within the framework of the "UNESCO-Nara Film Residency Programme". Through the coordination of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Ghana joined the session to contribute to the discussions on the various agenda items.

Ghana's delegation was made up of representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, National Folklore Board, National Commission on Culture, Creative Arts Agency, National Film Authority and Natcom.

2.3.13 International Jazz Day

UNESCO launched a call for applications for the Global Host City for the 2024 and 2025 International Jazz Day celebrations. This is an annual global celebration that aims to raise awareness on the role of jazz as an educational tool and as a force for creativity, dialogue, and intercultural exchange. Ghana as a UNESCO Member state qualifies for the application.

The meeting was a 1-hr virtual meeting. In attendance was the representatives from the UNESCO



Office in Accra, Mr. Ahuma Bosco from MUSIGA, Constant Boty and other members of the Jazz Society of Ghana.

A brief presentation on engagements that have been done so far was shared. Followed by the approving of a management team that would look to complete and meet all requirements of the application.

2.3.14 Launch of the Implementation Plan for the MSHSF

The Ghana Heritage Committee as part of its mandate, is to ensure the Development of an Implementation Plan for the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework. The implementation plan will put into action the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework for Ghana, a national strategic blueprint that aims to manage and promote our diverse heritage resources for sustainable development. This Implementation Plan was developed after a series of meetings and consultations by experts with input from the Lead Institutions for the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework.

An event was held at the Ghana Shippers' Authority auditorium to launch the implementation plan for the MSHSF. The Guest of Honour, the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts & Culture, Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey, speaking on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Tourism, highlighted the his excitement at the fact that the unique multi-dimensional approach of the MSHSF came at a really good time. He also congratulated the Ghana Heritage Committee, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and all the Ministries, Departments & Agencies that participated in developing the Implementation Plan.

2.3.15 Ghana Heritage Committee meeting and Validation Workshop

The Ghana Heritage Committee as part of its mandate, is to ensure the Development of an Implementation Plan for the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework. This meeting was a consultative meeting with the Technical Committee members towards the Development of the Implementation Plan for the Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework.

In 2021, Ghana Launched its Multi-Stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework aimed to harmonize and create synergies among the different ministries and agencies to in protecting and promoting Ghana's Heritage. There was a need for an Implementation Plan to be drawn in order to allow for an effective roll-out of the MSHSF. The stakeholder validation workshop aimed to bring together the different agencies and ministries involved in the implementation of the Framework to validate and help streamline the Strategic Actions outlined in the Draft Implementation Plan.

The one day validation workshop was held at Ellking Hotel and was chaired by the chairman of the Technical Committee, Prof. Kodzo Gavua. Stakeholders were welcomed by the GHC Secretary, Nana Otuo Owuahene Acheampong, which was followed by the Chairman's opening remarks.

Also in attendance was the Honourable Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey who addressed the house and encouraged members of the various agencies and ministries to commit to the development of our cultural heritage.

2.3.16 Inauguration of Reconstituted Committee for the Review of the 2004 Cultural Policy

The objective of the Committee is to undertake a comprehensive final review of Ghana's 2004 Cultural Policy and propose recommendations to align with contemporary needs, technological advancements and sustainable cultural development practices. As well as adhere to international commitments, such as UNESCO's Cultural Conventions.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture therefore saw the need to reconstitute the committee to enable them to form the above role and be held accountable for their work.

The Hon. Deputy Minister urged committee members to identify innovative approaches and strategies that can help the improvement of the policy particularly in the preservation, promotion and utilization of cultural heritage , not forgetting gender representation and inclusion.

2.3.17 IFCD Pre-selection Panel Meeting

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a multi-donor Fund established under Article 18 of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The purpose of the IFCD panel meeting is to evaluate project proposals according to the

IFCD annotated guidelines and select highly qualified applicants from Ghana for further endorsement.

A meeting of the Panel took place in the GES Conference room, attended by 9 panel members and an intern who acted as the meeting's rapporteur. The Chief Programme Officer of Natural Science opened the meeting on behalf of the Secretary General. The panel then reviewed each applicant's submission based on the IFCD selection criteria. After deliberations, one application out of seven was chosen to represent Ghana.





NATURAL SCIENCE

IMPACT





2.4.1 Establishing UNESCO Chairs

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in a bid to launch a comeback in establishing UNESCO Chairs in tertiary and research institutions in Ghana, held a meeting with Polytechnique Montreal, a UNESCO Chair in Canada, where chairs will be established better since the issues of chairs were not well established in the past.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

Establish UNESCO chairs at the University of Ghana, Geo-Science department;

Establish formal relations between the Commission for UNESCO in Montreal, Canada, and the Commission for UNESCO in Ghana.

The two institutions have established contacts and are working towards the development of nomination dossier for the Department of Geological Science of the University of Ghana.

2.4.2 World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

The celebration of World Engineering Day is about promoting engineering as a career and how it is an opportunity to ensure that our people and planet are safe, especially achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals in countries where support is most needed and to ensure that everyone has access to clean water, sanitation, reliable energy, and other basic human needs.

This year's celebration was in two folds: students outreach and seminar. The activities were co-organized by the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Karpowership Ghana, College of Engineering of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the Kumasi chapter of Ghana Institute of Engineering and the Ghana Engineering Students Association (GESA)

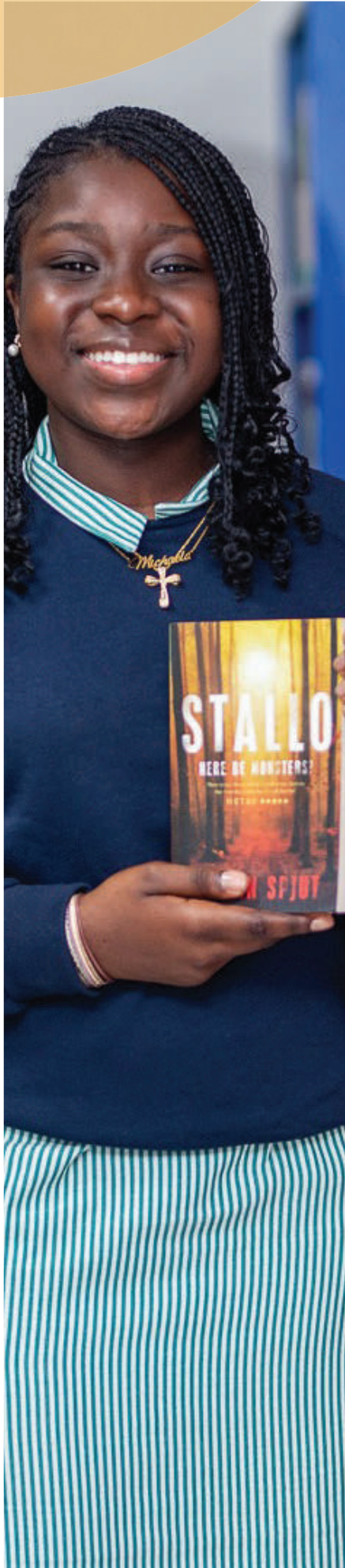
Prior to the observation of the Day, Staff and students at the College of Engineering of the KNUST engaged students six (6) Senior High Schools, four of which are girls' schools, in the Ashanti region. On February 18th, 2023, three schools participated in career opportunities focused on engineering, which was led by the Innovation Center (College of Engineering). The activity included demonstrations of engineering concepts and principles. The remaining three schools participated on February 25th, 2023.

The selected Schools were:

Kumasi Girls' Senior High School

Kumasi Wesley Girls' High School

Afia Kobi Ampem Girls' Senior High School



Serwaa Nyarko Girls' Senior High School

Ejisuman Senior High School

KNUST Senior High School

The activities were climaxed by a seminar on the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development on March 4, 2023, at the Kumapley Auditorium at the College of Engineering, KNUST.

The KNUST Engineering students Association used the occasion to launch the 360 Engineer Project. The project comprises initiatives such as Innovation 101 under which students will get the opportunity to bring their innovations to light through targeted support, training, and funding. The package includes a work and study programme for the Entrepreneurship Hub programme which will expose bright students to workspaces in and around campus as well as funding support for student entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses respectively.

2.4.3 Operationalization of Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) Category II Agreement

The National Commission has successfully assisted KNUST through engagement to fully work towards the operationalization of TCC Category II status.

Through the technical support, the following has been achieved:

The formation of the governing Board of the new Category II centre. Chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the University, the board has met twice this year.

Recruitment of Director-General of the Centre: the Commission assisted in the placing of advertisements for the Director-General and was fully involved in the selection process of the Director-General who has since assumed duty and Director responsible for administration.

The Commission has further requested the Vice Chancellor to transfer some administrative staff to the Centre to enable it to optimize its operations.

2.4.4 International Day for Women and Girls in Science

As part of activities for observing the International Year of Basic Science for sustainable development, the Commission partnered with Inspire, You Expire Global Foundation, founded by the youth representative of the Commission, Ms. Adjoa Amponfi, to observe the 8th International Day for Women and Girls in Science. The activity was held at PAMO International School, Breman Asikuma in the Central Region.

The activity's purpose was to promote the learning of the basic sciences in schools, particularly for young girls. The meeting, which involved over seventy students, predominantly girls drawn

from 7 public and private basic schools in Breaman Asikuma had accomplished women in science from the district and other guests talked to the young girls, mentored them, and answered question that bothered the participants concerning science. The resource persons were women medical practitioners, science educationists and other science professionals.

2.4.5 Meeting with Karpowership and Ghana Commission For UNESCO

Ms. Zeynep Harezi, Managing Director at Karpowership Ms. Sandra Amankwah, Communications Manager at Karpowership, provided an overview of the extracurricular activities undertaken by Karpowership to benefit society. She emphasized that Karpowership's field site is in Takoradi and highlighted their commitment to education as a priority area of social investment. Karpowership has awarded scholarships to female students pursuing engineering studies in Takoradi, especially on International Women's Day. Furthermore, they have collaborated with agencies like fisheries, providing support to fish mongers in Tema and Takoradi, including insulators.

As a part of their corporate social responsibility, they have initiated tree planting projects in Dodowa. Karpowership expressed an interest in obtaining research assistance from the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, particularly in the areas of natural science, focusing on water bodies and forestry. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO presented an overview of its roles and responsibilities. Additionally, details of the activities conducted during the previous year's World Engineering Day were shared.

The meeting served as an informative session to explore potential collaboration between Karpowership and the Ghana Commission for UNESCO. Both parties expressed their willingness to work together on areas of mutual interest and benefit to society.



SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCE

IMPACT

2.5.1 Training Workshop on UN Toolkit on Sport, Development and Peace

UNESCO participated in a two-day training workshop on the UN Toolkit for Sport, Development, and Peace (SDP). Ghana has the honor to be the first country to receive training on the United Nation's toolkit for sport, development, and peace. After a series of preparatory workshops held in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda, the toolkit was validated in Zimbabwe in November 2022. Ghana was purposefully chosen as the first country to have this workshop due to the country's preparedness to host the 2023 Africa Games so that lessons learnt could be used as part of the Game's legacy. Experts identified Sport, development and peace policies and programs, Skills training, volunteerism, employability, and mentorship; Physical education, physical activity, and sport; Safeguarding, integrity, and human rights; Values, social inclusion, and role modelling; Awareness, advocacy and social; and Monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs as areas that needed attention and had to be resolved.

2.5.2 Ghana Natcom for UNESCO Youth Network

The Ghana Natcom for UNESCO Youth Network is an in-house initiative organized in collaboration with the NATCOM Youth Commissioner, Miss Adjoa Amponfi. UNESCO issued a call for application seeking Ghanaian youth leading impactful projects or organizations in their communities and received an overwhelming response with over 150 applications, but 43 candidates were shortlisted based on youth age range, a proven record of initiative, self-started organizations, and underwent virtual interviews. A virtual orientation and onboarding meeting for the participants was organized for the 26 exceptional individuals selected. Participants were briefed on suggested bimonthly webinars, focusing on potential topics, speakers, and timing. Dr. Patricia Ananga, a lecturer from the University of Cape Coast, delivered an insightful presentation on leadership styles and their impact on youth-led organizations. Covering topics such as effective communication, emotional intelligence, decision-making, and team collaboration, the presentation featured real-world case studies. A Q&A session facilitated direct participant engagement, with feedback received being highly positive. The webinar successfully fostered knowledge exchange and set a positive tone for future sessions.

2.5.3 International Youth Day

International Youth Day is celebrated in August each year to raise awareness about the importance of youth and their contributions to society. We partnered with TechFarm Hub to celebrate this year's International Youth Day under the theme, 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'.

A conference and exhibition were held on 11th August at Koforidua Technical University and partnered with them on 12th August for the e-dialogues program; an annual webinar to discuss youth-related matters on International Youth Day each year. The Keynote Speaker for the event was the Secretary-General for the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh. She encouraged the youth to be the driving force for climate action in Ghana and around the world.

The guest speaker, Mr. Michael Tuffour spoke on the need for climate action and the ways in which we can equip the youth with Green Skills, and individually clean our carbon footprints for a sustainable world. A panel of 5 guests from GIZ, Plan Ghana, Challenge Ghana, and two start-ups, shared ways by which their organizations are incorporating eco-friendly methods and systems in their operations. The panel discussion was led by Mr. Longdon Adomadzi, C.E.O of TechFarm Hub.

2.5.4 Multistakeholder Dialoguing Conference

As part of the inception and celebration of Ghana's first National Youth Month, the National Youth Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports organized a 2-day Multistakeholder Dialoguing Conference for actors within the youth development ecosystem. The conference was held under the theme; 'Breaking barriers; a stronger youth development ecosystem.'

The conference was opened with a keynote address by the Chief Director of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr. William Kartey. The discussions that followed were centered on four (4) thematic areas; youth unemployment, substance abuse, youth peace and security, collaborative framework among state youth agencies.

Dr. Peggy Asiedu Ekremet from the Mental Health Authority addressed the issue of substance abuse among an estimated 75% of the youth population in Sub-Saharan Africa out of which 4,811 have been diagnosed with psychotic disorders from substance abuse. The National Youth Authority addressed the issue of unemployment among Ghanaian youth. They presented statistical data demonstrating an approximate number of 1.7 million unemployed Ghanaians as of 2022. The 2nd session was used for breakout sessions, where participants were grouped to undertake discussions and proposed solutions to youth challenges.

INFLUENCE

3.1 Africa Regional ESD-Net Meeting

UNESCO organized an Africa Regional meeting of the Education for Sustainable Development-Network (ESD-Net) from 3rd – 4th May 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Among other things, the meeting aimed to take stock of the progress on ESD for 2030 Country Initiatives in the region and share planning, and implementation experiences that reflect region-specific needs and approaches for ESD for 2030, provide technical guidance and support to the Member States on the way forward, share good practices on ESD in the region, and bring together MoEs and strategic partners at regional and national levels to strengthen synergies of existing projects and initiatives and invite other countries to develop Country Initiatives and join ESD for 2030 and its activities.

Ghana was represented in this meeting by Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh, Principal Programme Officer in charge of Education at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO.

Participants were encouraged to question whether what people learn in schools is relevant to them, to societies, and the total development of society. UNESCO Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, Mr. Chris Castel informed participants to consolidate practice on UNESCO's ESD especially because the past years 2005-2014 was the UN Decade on ESD. While excited that 17 African countries out of the 54 countries have submitted country initiatives, he hoped that the others will follow suit. Speakers reiterated the fact that Africa is not making advancements when it comes to education and to spur more progress towards that, the AU Theme for Year 2024 will be devoted to Education.

In developing the Country Initiatives, representatives of countries, key national implementing partners were encouraged to engage in national and local initiatives based on collaborative consultations. In addition, the country's initiatives were expected to be crafted with recourse to a national scope from diverse stakeholders.

Globally, the ESD-Net is made up of 81 countries with 21 in Africa. Member States who have not submitted their country initiatives are expected to do a mapping of the ESD landscape, form a country ESD Committee, receive training and fill the ESD Country Initiative template. This will allow Member States to be admitted into the ESD Net thereby paving the way for them to participate in the global ESD Net meeting scheduled to take place in Tokyo in December 2023.

Ghana is expected to set up the ESD intersectoral Country Team, organize a one-day restitution and working meeting to elaborate the Country Initiative, organize a one-day ESD Country Initiative Validation meeting and submit the ESD Country Initiative to UNESCO before 28th July 2023.

3.2 Intergovernmental Special Committee Meeting on the Revision of the 1974 Recommendation.

Education plays a vital role in achieving the 2030 sustainable developmental goals. Hence, education systems must be transformed to achieve the full potential of this goal. Long before the notion of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) were coined, the 1974 Recommendation called on Member States to ensure that their education policies were guided by a global perspective and a commitment to international solidarity.

Today, the goals of the Recommendation align closely with Targets 4.7, 12.8, 13.3, and 16 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development that promotes ESD and GCED. With the significant expansion of educational research and technological developments, the field of education has also evolved.

The preparatory meeting was held online on the 4th of May 2023, via zoom and hosted a peak of 220 participants. It was moderated by Ms. Cecilia and was grouped into 4 subsections with each being led by a resource person, namely, Introduction and History by Ms. Jeanini, Overview of the Revision by Mr. Chris Castle, Organization of meeting by Ms. Lydia Rupercht and lastly, a Q & A session that lasted for 30 minutes. In ensuring that Ghana participates effectively in the Intergovernmental Special meeting of the Revision of the Recommendation, the Commission also held a preparatory meeting on 26th May 2023 with Ghana's Permanent Delegation and experts to strategize into the meeting.

The Special meeting was held from 30th May – 2nd June 2023 in-person at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. Ghana was represented by H.E. Anna Bossman, Ghana's Ambassador to France and Plenipotentiary. Ghana's Representative was supported by Mr. Gilbert Dadzie (Research Officer at Ghana's Permanent Delegation), Rev. Prof. Kankam Boadu (University of Cape Coast), Dr. Sylvia Adusu (Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department) and Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh (Principal Programme Officer, Education).

3.3 Regional Meeting of African Focal Points for Periodic Reporting

All Member States of UNESCO that have ratified the 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage are expected to provide a periodic report on the implementation of the Convention in their respective countries.

In the light of this, the Regional Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRESPIAF), a category 2 Centre under UNESCO, hosted a workshop for focal points from 25th – 29th April 2023 to enable them effectively to report on the implementation of the Convention. The Periodic Reporting exercise will generate data on safeguarding living heritage in Africa systematically, feeding into the Global Report on Cultural policies, adopted by Ministers of Culture during the MONDAICULT 2022 meeting.

Ghana's representative to this meeting was the Executive Secretary of National Folklore Board (Focal Organization), Mrs. Bernice Ann Deh-Kumah, who participated in the meeting in-person in Algeria. She was supported by the Assistant Programme Officer for Culture at the Commission, Ms. Noah, via online mode. The workshop covered matters on participatory methodologies for data collection, stakeholder participation in the reporting process, and the use of the online form.

3.4 Strategic meeting with EU-culture Delegation

On Tuesday, 2nd May 2023, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO led by the Secretary-General and the Assistant Program Officer for Culture had a virtual meeting with the Officer from the European Union Delegation to allow the Commission present the newly established Committee of Fashion Experts in the country as well as remind the delegation to keep the Commission well-informed on available grants and ongoing activities of interest to Ghana to promote Ghana's culture, creativity and heritage.


CONCLUSION





We wish to extend to the Chairman and Vice Chairman our gratitude for supporting the work of the Commission.

We thank Commissioners for their contributions towards the growth of the Commission.

To the Permanent Delegate and staff, accept our profound gratitude for enormous support.

A note of appreciation to all staff of the Secret



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