UNESCO Director-General meets Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in Nairobi

On 27 August, UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, participated in the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi, Kenya. The Director-General spoke at the afternoon plenary session devoted to “Promoting social stability for shared prosperity”, co-chaired by United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Maged Abdelaziz, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ms Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. In her intervention, the Director-General stated that young people must be empowered to make the most of the incredible wealth of the continent. The Director-General also urged for greater cooperation for the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a starting point for promoting human rights and dignity for every African woman and man. She underlined that education is not only about teaching skills for jobs but also about learning values for citizenship, stability and security.

On 28 August 2016, UNESCO

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Director-General, Irina Bokova, met with President of Kenya, HE Uhuru Kenyatta on the sidelines of the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Nairobi, Kenya. During the meeting, President Kenyatta expressed his appreciation for the effective support provided by UNESCO to Kenya. He underscored the long partnership with UNESCO and the support which dovetails Kenya’s own priorities, and underlined his commitment to further deepen Kenya’s collaboration with UNESCO.

The Director-General congratulated President Kenyatta for a very successful hosting of the TICAD VI Conference and underlined the importance she also attaches to the long cooperation with Kenya in the areas of competence of UNESCO. She reiterated UNESCO’s readiness to deepen its support to the Government of Kenya. The audience took place in the presence of Dr Fred Okeng’o Matiang’i, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Ambassador Godia, Permanent delegate of Kenya to UNESCO and Mr. Mohamed Djelid, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa.

The Director-General also met with the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Ambassador (Dr) Amina Mohammed. The Director-General congratulated the Minister for Foreign Affairs for a very successful and well-organized Conference. She also thanked the Minister for the support provided to the Multisectoral regional office for Eastern Africa, highlighting UNESCO’s strengthened presence in the field. The Minister warmly thanked UNESCO for the excellent cooperation with the Nairobi Office and the projects being implemented under the various programme sectors, underlining the need for further capacity-building in policy development in some specific areas. She also expressed her satisfaction with the Memorandum of Understanding in the area of ICT signed in Paris last April during President Uhuru Kenyatta’s visit to UNESCO Headquarters. She reiterated the President’s commitment to provide one laptop per child in at least 50% of schools across the country, starting in September 2016, with the aim to reach all schools by March 2017.

UN Women Kenya and Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization Launch Gender Training Manual

On 1st September, 2016, UN Women Kenya in collaboration with Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO), officially launched the Gender, Policing and Gender Related Crime Training Manual during the 18th EAPCCO Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Kigali, Rwanda. The launch brought together stakeholders from the EAPCCO Governments, Police, CSOs, development partners and UN agencies.

The Annual General Meeting of EAPCCO, a regional platform that fight transnational and organized crime in 13 countries (Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) was officially opened by H.E the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Paul Kagame who emphasized the need for continuous and stronger partnership and collaboration among the member countries when it comes to battling insecurity in the region. He encouraged Police Chiefs to have deliberate debates, share their expertise and experiences and strategies on fighting transnational crime that would benefit the region.

Since October 2014, UN Women Kenya has been working closely with INTERPOL Regional Bureau and EAPCCO, providing technical support
UNOPS East Africa Hub recently completed the construction of the Baidoa Regional Police Headquarters. This facility will serve as a dispatch point for the police and also serve as the premises where persons under arrest can be taken in for further questioning and investigation. In addition, it also acts as an administrative and logistical hub for all police stations within the Baidoa region. UNOPS will hold the handover ceremony to the Minister of Security of Southwest state of Somalia in late September 2016 as scheduled.

Funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented by UNOPS, the construction consisted of two phases where phase one included a two-storey office block, demolition of dilapidated buildings and new external works including boundary walls, generator/transformer room, guard posts, watch
towers, parking, water and drainage systems. Later on, phase two included the construction of a kitchen and dining hall; a community policing post building; rehabilitation of the existing administration building and existing officer’s accommodation.

All the major project components including the 475m solid concrete wall, the two storey main building block, generator room, and guard houses had been completed in early July 2016. This milestone allowed for construction of the watchtowers to commence. It is anticipated that the drive-way and parking area will be completed in the beginning of September 2016.

UNOPS provided project management, including design and implementation as well as daily site supervising services. Despite the large scale and complexity of the project of its kind in Somalia, the Baidoa Regional Police HQ is set to be completed ahead of schedule and within budget, while upholding the highest international standards for safety practices.

The construction of these offices will standardize the police service which will help it to provide equal justice amongst the community.

The Experts Group Meeting

Over 40 experts representing aviation and city constituencies agreed to explore ways of strengthening collaboration and cooperation between airports and urban areas. The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) was co-convened by UN-Habitat and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) at the United Nations Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya from 29-31 August 2016.

Participants included airports and metropolitan representatives from Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and other International organizations. Participants shared experience on airport planning, development and management in relation to urban development.

During the opening session of the meeting Mr. Augustine Masinde, the Director of Physical Planning at the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning-Kenya made a statement that underscored the urgent need to integrate the development of airport facilities in urban planning; by bridging the inter-institutional changes to coordinate and alleviate conflict between airports and urban areas.

Mr. Barry Kashambo, the Regional Director of ICAO in the Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Office applauded the collaboration between ICAO and UN-Habitat, as an innovative project that will unleash synergies between airports and urban development.

Mr. Raf Tuts, speaking on behalf of UN-Habitat, underscored the importance of enhancing the collaboration between aviation and city stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 9 - Industry, innovation, infrastructure; and Goal 11 - Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, particularly in relation to targets affordable housing, access to transport, preventing sprawl, enhancing resilience, reducing environmental impacts and strengthening Urban Rural Linkages.

The pilot project on synergies between airports and urban development was jointly initiated by Dr Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Dr Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO and will be featured at the IWAF2016 and the 39th ICAO Assembly in Montreal as well as at Habitat III in Quito.

The two organizations will initial the MOU on 26th September 2016 during the IWAF2016 event and sign it on 17th October 2016 at Habitat III Conference in Quito.
Nairobi pledges to support youth centre on International Youth Day

This year’s International Youth Day was marked in Nairobi with song and dance as the County Government pledged to re-establish the UN-Habitat founded One Stop Youth Resource Centre.

“I am making the commitment here that the Nairobi City County Government will from this financial year ensure that the One Stop Youth Resource Centre is empowered to give the young people of Nairobi opportunities to explore their talents,” the Executive in charge of ICT and Youth Anne Lokidor said.

During the colourful event, guests were entertained by various youth groups drawn from various parts of Nairobi with a culture troupe Marimba Dancers taking the lead. “The performances here show that the youth in this city have talent. It is this talent we want to nurture so that the young people are allowed to develop their full potential. As a county government we see the centre as a social entrepreneurship which is a very good idea,” she said.

Youth leading sustainability

August 12 is International Youth Day which is celebrated worldwide in recognition of the role of young people in providing community solutions hence contributing to the overall development. In Kenya, the overall theme of this year was “The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption.” With the following specific theme: Youth leading sustainability.

According to the organisers, this year’s Day was about turning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into reality. “All activities therefore, will be focusing on the leading role young people play in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development through sustainable production and consumption.”

Speaking on the same occasion the leader of UN-Habitat’s Youth Unit Doug Ragan assured the youth present of the agency’s commitment to the ideals that saw it spearhead the formation of the One Stop more than ten years ago.

“UN-Habitat feels honoured to work with the youth of Nairobi and Kenya in general. We will continue with this partnership to give the young people a chance,” he said.

Ragan said Kenya was fast gaining world recognition in the field of Information Technology, a development that could be exploited by the young people. He said the establishment of an IT hub in Nairobi was proof of the advancement the country had witnessed in the sector.

In her speech, Project Officer with the Kenya Red Cross Ms. Faima Mohammed asked the young people of Nairobi to join her organization’s many programmes specifically tailored for them. “Every Saturday our volunteers are engaged in community work and this is one area where we want as many young people as possible to take part in,” she said.

The OSYC coordinator Wainaina Muiruri appealed for more support from donors in order to expand the programme’s reach among Nairobi youth.
In support of the State Party of Kenya’s implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was ratified by Kenya in 2007, UNESCO is sponsoring the sixth edition of Kenya’s innovative Slum Film Festival. This first ever film platform is featuring stories from slums, about slum realities and made by film-makers from the slums in Africa – and beyond. The Slum Film Festival 2016 edition is taking place throughout the month of August 2016 and comprises a film competition, a Filmmaker Lab (including capacity-building workshops and Master Classes), panel discussions, media engagements, film screenings in the slums as well as in central locations in Nairobi, and an awards ceremony on the evening of 26 August 2016.

As part of UNESCO’s support, UNESCO’s Regional Office for Eastern Africa participated, together with a representative from Kenya’s Department of Culture as well a representative from the British Council’s new East African Arts Programme in a capacity building workshop on 9 August 2016 at the PAWA254 Maguezi Theatre during one of the Filmmaker Labs. The workshop featured a presentation on Kenya’s new draft National Policy for the sustainable development of the creative industries as well as a presentation on the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and its International Fund for Cultural Diversity. The Head of the British Council’s Arts Programme for Kenya and East Africa also shared information on the various programmes, including travel grants and capacity building, which the British Council is running with support from the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) following their 2015 study ‘Scoping the Creative Economy in East Africa’. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants, including writers, visual and theatre artists, filmmakers, poets, and storytellers as well as youth and indigenous groups and media specialized in the arts. A screening of the film “Best of Luck”, produced as part of the Slum Film Festival workshops, opened the workshop, and a question-answer session followed, which was moderated by Ms. Daisy Okoti, a writer from ArtMatters.

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UNIC at Work
in Kibera celebrating:

Youth from the local university painting a primary school in Kibera, 12 August 2016
Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

Youth painting one of the doors of Imani School; 12 Aug 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

UNIC Nairobi staff donating and presenting paints to Kibera Librarian, Ms. Mary Kinyanjui on International Youth Day, 12 August 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

Youths planting trees during the International Youth Day in Kibera Hope Academy, 12 August 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

UNIC Nairobi and Kibera library staff with youth during the painting exercise; 12 August 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

Painting one of the school’s doors in Kibera; 12 August 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

Youth painting one of the doors of Imani School; 12 Aug 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi

UNIC Nairobi staff donating and presenting paints to Kibera Librarian, Ms. Mary Kinyanjui on International Youth Day, 12 August 2016. Photo by Tirus, UNIC Nairobi
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