

SA MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION, DR BLADE NZIMANDE, ADDRESS AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON INCLUSION AND MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION HELD ON THE MARGINS OF THE 40TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 14 NOVEMBER 2019

Chairperson

Participants

Good afternoon

Thank you very much to UNESCO for focusing on this all important question for us to share and learn from each other!

In the case of South Africa, we are addressing the very stubborn legacies of apartheid education. It is because of this reality that we have identified our higher education transformation goals as that of seeking to address the following six key contradictions:

No exclusion based on: socio economic status

Race

Gender

Age, focusing on youth, whilst creating conditions for lifelong learning for all - hence our focus on not just higher education on inclusion on all of post-school education and training

Inclusion of the disabled

Addressing the urban rural divide

Our government has made huge strides in reversing the impact of past discrimination, such that 25 years since our transition to democracy the majority of university and TVET college students are black and women (58,5% and 57% respectively). We are indeed proud of these achievements

Though we have put a lot of measures, students with disabilities are still significantly under represented and we have to focus on improving access in this regard.

We are strongly of the view that inclusion and mobility must not only include physical access, but must include epistemological access through relevant curricula and appropriate pedagogical methodologies.

We regard the Sustainable Development Goals as important in addressing inclusion and progression.

We are also putting special measures to confront gender discrimination and gender based violence in broader society, including in our education institutions.

One of the measures we have adopted has been to deliberately strengthen teaching and research in Humanities and Social Sciences as these are important to properly understand, inclusion and mobility in society generally, and in higher education in particular.

I thank you