

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR)
PRESS RELEASE

**NIGERIA'S AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO, HAJO SANI, PRESENTS
LETTER OF CREDENCE TO DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Nigeria's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO), Dr. Hajo Sani has presented her letter of credence to the Director General of the organization, Ms. Audrey Azoulay. Presenting the letter to the Director General of UNESCO recently in Paris, France, the Permanent Delegate reiterated the country's commitment to the ideals and goals of UNESCO.

Dr. Hajo disclosed Nigeria's willingness to explore ways of having a more productive relationship with UNESCO. The Permanent Delegate revealed Nigeria's resolve to maintain its active involvement in UNESCO programmes and conventions, stressing that it is in line with the country's commitment to "reinforcing the mutually-benefitting cooperation"

She expressed the country's resolve to ensure that UNESCO benefits from Nigeria's experts working in its various programmes and activities.

Dr Hajo expressed the country's interest in increasing Nigeria's representations in UNESCO by prioritizing the strengthening of its three centres namely; The International Centre for Biotechnology, (ICB) Nsukka, the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU) Abeokuta, and the Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM) Kaduna.

Hajo explained that the country should have a minimum of two and a maximum of six Nigerian citizens in the Geographical distribution of staff instead of the two it currently has.

She disclosed that the geographical distribution and presence of Nigerian citizens at UNESCO is of "great concern to the present administration".

In her remarks, the Director General commended Nigeria for its commitment to the work of UNESCO, especially in terms of assisting the organization to deliver on its mandate.

The Director General also applauded Nigeria for its leadership role of the International Coordinating Council of the "Man and the Biosphere Programme" (ICC-MAB), emphasizing that the programme is crucial to achieving sustainable development.

Ms. Audrey Azoulay thanked the Ambassador and Nigeria for the support she received for her work and second term bid in UNESCO.

She appreciated the country for agreeing to host the next session of the ICC-MAB, once COVID-19 permits

Ben Bem Goong
Director, Press and Public Relations
3rd June, 2021

