



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, HIS EXCELLENCY  
CDE. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

**AT THE**

**HIGH LEVEL SUMMIT ON TRANSFORMING EDUCATION**

**UNITED NATIONS: NEW YORK**

**19 SEPTEMBER 2022**

On behalf of the people and Government of Zimbabwe and indeed on my own behalf, I express my gratitude for my country's participation at this High Level Global Summit on Transforming Education.

My Government values inclusive, equitable and quality education as one of the strategic vehicles for sustainable socio-economic and cultural development. Furthermore, my Administration strongly asserts our children and people's right to affordable and quality education as stipulated in our national Constitution. This has seen Zimbabwe being recognised as one of the countries with the highest literacy rates on the African Continent.

To consolidate the gains achieved in the education sector, my Government has embarked on curriculum reforms to realise a seamless education system that builds lifelong learning and entrepreneurship skills as well as nurturing a culture of hard work, production and productivity. This is anchored on the Competency Based Curriculum and Heritage Based Education 5.0 Philosophy. In addition, we also envision realising a knowledge driven economy as outlined in our National Development Strategy and Vision 2030. This is enabling us to ably respond to and meet the dictates of the ever-changing and emerging global realities.

Through this education ecosystem, we are churning out talented, competent and skilled young boys and girls capable of producing goods and services, which meet our country's current and future needs. Riding on this national education ecosystem, characterised by deployment of science, technology and innovation as well as harnessing our rich heritage, we are surely progressing towards the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 4.

Regrettably, the advent of COVID-19 brought about disruptions in the education sector. In order to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic, my Government had to build resilience and adaptive capacities. This saw the introduction of blended teaching, adoption of the phased learning approach, compressing syllabi for basic education, establishment of community education centres and digital learning platforms, among other initiatives.

To strengthen these interventions, my Government also pooled its internal resources towards the production of personal protective equipment and medical oxygen, among other critical accessories to fight the pandemic. In the same vein, my Administration remains grateful to the progressive countries in the comity of nations and development partners who came to assist in the fight against the pandemic.

In re-imagining the education sector, my Government is exploring sustainable education financing mechanisms, among other critical areas. Our education sector remains largely Government funded with Ministries of Education accounting for more than 6 percent of GDP and approximately 17 percent of public expenditure. This is in line with the UNESCO agreement that education funding must be at the level of 4 to 6 percent of GDP or 15 to 20 percent of public expenditure.

We have also adopted and operationalised other strategies to increase domestic financing of education. These include facilitating the establishment of innovation and industrial parks as well as self-sustaining commercial ventures, among others. These initiatives are reducing the cost and burden of education on our communities, while seeing us progressively providing universal, free and compulsory basic education.

My Government is also working on other key enablers to accelerate the education transformation agenda. These interventions include: implementation of inclusive education policies, strengthening of Technical and Vocational Education and Training skills, as well as capacity development of teachers in science and technology related learning fields.

In all this and in line with implementing development programmes and projects that leave no one and no place behind, my Government is mainstreaming cross-cutting issues relating to children, orphans, the youth, women and persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups.

Finally, my Government remains determined to play its part towards the realisation of the objectives and critical areas of the Global Education Transformation Agenda. We, thus, stand ready to support the outcomes of this important summit.

**I thank you.**