

Concept Note

UNESCO Windhoek Participation in International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Outapi

Background

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has ratified the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is part of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Annually, Namibia commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on the 9th of August. In the past, the Division Marginalized Communities of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication & Social Welfare has organized commemorative events in different regions to celebrate this day with indigenous communities. The upcoming International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in 2023 will be hosted in Outapi, Omusati region.

UNESCO Windhoek's Participation and Workplan

UNESCO Windhoek Office has been cordially invited by the Ministry to participate in the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Outapi. The purpose of UNESCO's participation is to contribute to the event by discussing and presenting information that is relevant to culture, languages, and indigenous knowledge, all of which align with the theme of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

This event is an exceptional opportunity to engage with a diverse and extensive audience. The objectives for UNESCO's participation are as follows:

- Disseminate information on indigenous knowledge and promote the subject.
- Enhance UNESCO's visibility and create awareness of its initiatives and programs.
- Introduce UNESCO's involvement in indigenous issues, including the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and upcoming efforts to support the development of an action plan, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) policy development, and the UNESCO Chair in Digital Technology Design with Indigenous Peoples.
- Strengthen connections and network with stakeholders, facilitating future stakeholder consultations and workshops, and knowledge exchanges

To achieve these objectives, UNESCO staff will carry out the following activities:

- Deliver a speech on behalf of UNESCO to highlight its initiatives and projects related to indigenous issues
- Prepare a human interest article showcasing the event and stories from the indigenous communities with a youth focus