

**Excellencies,
Honorable Guests
Distinguished Delegates
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentleman
A very good morning**

**Opening Speech for the GLOBAL FORUM
Skills for Work and Life Post-2015**

1. It is indeed a great honor and a pleasure to welcome you all to the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre here in Bonn, a beautiful city of Germany, where the UN and the Government work together in achieving sustainable development.
2. Allow me to welcome you all, 211 participants representing 123 agencies from 65 Member States of UNESCO. I welcome our distinguished partners from Germany especially from the BMBF, BMZ, German National Commission of UNESCO, Foreign Office, BIBB and GIZ; our partner agencies acting as a Working Group on Greening TVET and Skills; the Members of the UNEVOC Network and TVET community from the Member States; friends and partners from Germany and Europe; Representatives from various UN agencies in Bonn and UNESCO field offices across the world.
3. 10 years ago, at the time of formulating the targets of the Decade of ESD (DESD) and Education For All (EFA), UNEVOC Centres from all regions worldwide met here in Bonn. It was here where they highlighted the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and declared that-

“If Education is the key for development, TVET is the master key to unlock unemployment, to alleviate poverty and to advance sustainable development”.
4. 10 years later, 250 delegates from 70 countries are meeting today at a crucial time when we are all deeply engaged in the Post 2015 debate. Skills and TVET discussion is at the center stage.
5. On the heels of these developments, we are faced with important questions such as:
 - a. What do we see the key possibility of TVET in post 2015 scenario?
 - b. What needs to be done in advancing the debate for Skills for work and Life?

- c. What will be the new roles of UNEVOC network in meeting the challenges of the times?
 - d. How can we face the two major challenges of our times: Youth unemployment and achieving Sustainable Development?
 - e. What will be the new ways of working in the Post 2015 debate?
6. Some of you had the opportunity to attend the World TVET Congress in Shanghai, China in 2012, and may recall the high expectations on the UNEVOC Network. Similarly, UNEVOC was given the challenge to collect and disseminate evidences that will demonstrate the multiple and diverse policy approaches in transforming and expanding TVET.
 7. This Forum will serve as an opportunity to share and exchange such experiences in the light of post 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. We all know that partnership and networking will be the strategic edge and will give the maximum advantage in the Post 2015 scenario.
9. Today the world requires multiple and diverse forms of partnerships and synergy among key TVET players especially the private sector, NGOs and social partners.
10. This Forum will serve as an opportunity to debate on burning issues in education and training in the context of post-2015 agenda. It will open new levels of discussions and ideas in pursuing North-South-South cooperation and dialogue in TVET.
11. It will extend the reach of the efforts we have achieved so far with the UNEVOC Network of TVET institutions and Centres of Excellence and further share the lessons drawn from their experiences. In turn, they will learn from the breadth of knowledge and experiences of other non-traditional players in VET.
12. The Forum is designed to
 - contribute to and inform the global debate on the vital topics of youth, skills and greening TVET in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
 - engage multiple stakeholders in identifying concrete and coherent global directions, policy measures and programmatic interventions;

- share cross-regional, multi-stakeholder, multi-level perspectives and draw analysis from the progress to map a global TVET outlook beyond 2015; and
 - elaborate concrete future interventions through Network and partnership platforms.
13. Through this Forum, we hope we could foster new partnerships and build new synergies for action.
 14. We look forward to working with all of you together in the next 3 days. Let us collectively find our common ground and remain working there; synergize our strengths, build on what we have already been doing in our own small ways, individually and synergize efforts for more committed actions.
 15. We all know that the world is not hungry for words, resolution and recommendations alone; it is hungry for action, real actions on the ground to move forward.
 16. With this, I thank you all.