

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO (NATCOM)

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UNESCO

Background on UNESCO

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was founded in 1945.
- The purpose of the UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.



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Background on UNESCO cont....

- UNESCO has 195 Member States and 9 Associated members.
- UNESCO is governed by the General Conference, made up of its Member States, each with one vote for the adoption of its programme, policies and budget.
- The other governing body is the Executive Board, made up of 58 Member States, elected by the General Conference each biennium.
- Under the terms of Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution, each State that becomes a Member of the Organization undertakes to form a National Commission and ensure that it functions properly.



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The South African National Commission for UNESCO (Natcom)

- The Republic of South Africa re-joined UNESCO in December 1994.
- The South African National Commission for UNESCO was officially established in 1998 by a cabinet decision, which also approved its constitution.
- The commission is currently located at the Department of Basic Education.



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Functions

Basic Functions

- **Advisory:** provide expert advice on UNESCO and its programmes to the government and respective delegations to the UNESCO Governing Bodies.
- **Liaison and coordination:** provide permanent linkage between the UNESCO Secretariat and relevant government agencies, institutions, organizations, national affiliated partners, NGOs and individuals.



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Functions cont....

- **Participation:** in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat at and away from Headquarters, in the elaboration, execution and evaluation of the Organization's programme.



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Functions cont...

General Functions

- **Coordinate the Education, Natural Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information, and Social and Human Science sectors of the Commission.**
- **Facilitate the implementation of UNESCO programmes in Education, Natural, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information, and Social and Human Science.**
- **Convene national Commission meetings (at least twice a year)**



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Functions Cont....

- **Coordinate South Africa's participation in UNESCO's international meetings and conferences, i.e. the General Conference, Youth Forum, World Heritage Committee, etc**
- **Publicise and stimulate public interest in UNESCO objectives, projects and activities.**
- **Convene the biennial UNESCO national post-general conference stakeholder's report back meeting.**



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Functions Cont....

- **Manage the granting of patronage/endorsement to deserving events and projects in South Africa.**
- **Organise the annual Country Education for All public engagement.**

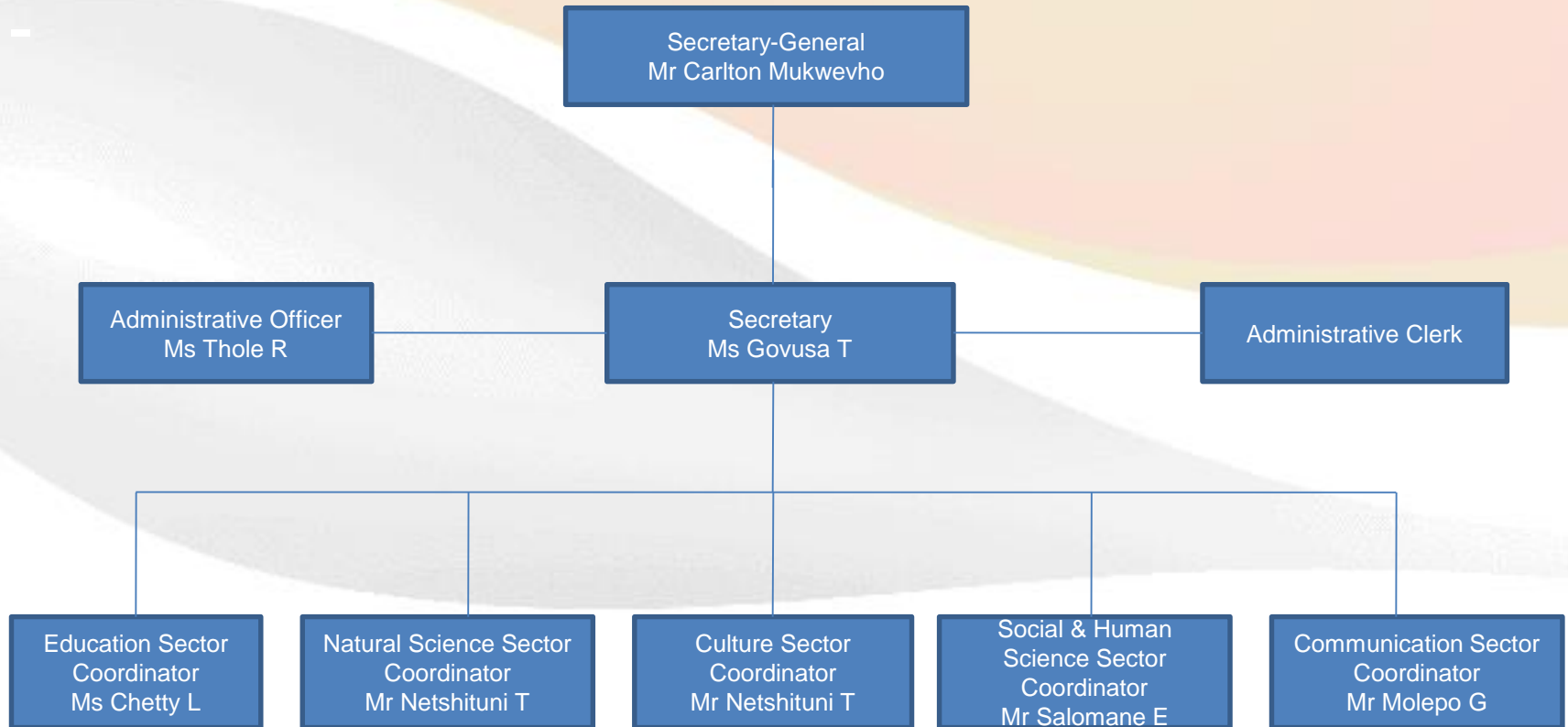


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NATCOM Secretariat structure



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Competency Departments and Institutions involved in UNESCO

- Department of Arts and Culture
- Department of Basic Education
- Department of Communication
- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Higher Education and Training
- Department of International Relations and Cooperation
- Department of Science and Technology
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Water and Sanitation
- Department of Women
- The National Youth Development Agency



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Challenges

- **Lack of operational autonomy**
- **Limited financial resources**
- **Limited human resources**
- **Limited outreach to partners**



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THANK YOU



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