



## Nigeria

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**Minister of Education**



*Hajiya Aishatu Jibril Dukku was born on December 18 1963. She holds a B.Ed degree in English and French from Bayero University, Kano. Her working career spans over several years including being a Principal in some high-ranking schools to later becoming a Federal Inspector of Schools. She became the Minister of Education in 2007. She has been involved in promoting girl-child & women empowerment through her NGO, Centre for Development and Partnership (CEDEP). She has also received awards for her contributions to education and community development. She is married with children. She loves reading, writing, farming and speaks Hausa, English and French.*

### **Inclusive education: Public Policies**

It gives me great pleasure to deliver this message on behalf of our President, His Excellency, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR, and the entire people of Nigeria at this occasion of the 48th Session of the International Conference on Education (ICE).

Let me acknowledge the Council of the ICE for proposing the theme for this Conference: "Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future" and the wisdom of the Executive Board and the General Conference in approving it. It is an all-encompassing theme that deals with the future of Education in our society.

Our priority in Nigeria is very clear. In our educational plans and programmes, we ensure that no citizen is neglected. In order to achieve this, factors that lead to exclusion are identified and appropriate structures and programmes are put in place.

This approach, over the years, has given rise to a number of innovative programmes and strategies such as the nomadic education, the girl-child education and the non-formal education programmes for the out-of-school youths. Other disadvantaged members of the society are also offered opportunities for continuing and life-long education through the adult and non-formal education programmes. A school feeding programme is equally used to attract the participation of some otherwise excluded groups in the rural areas.

The task is daunting but nevertheless, we will continue to pursue the goal of inclusive education doggedly and relentlessly. We have come here to share experience with other member states. It is our hope that the ensuing deliberations will yield proposals and suggestions for consideration that will help each nation to face the tremendous responsibility of catering for their needs.

I wish the Conference fruitful deliberations.