

UWC Waterford Kamhlaba  
Africa Week - July 2015

*Africa Rising*

Remarks by Sir John Daniel  
Chair, UWC International Board

Good morning to you all: Members of the Governing Council, Members and staff of the School, Alumni, Parents, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a special pleasure to be with you at UWC Waterford Kamhlaba for Africa Week for several reasons.

First, since taking up my volunteer role as Chair of the UWC International Board nearly three years ago I have tried to take advantage of suitable opportunities to visit all the institutions - all the colleges and schools - that make up the UWC network.

I am delighted to say that with this visit to UWC Waterford Kamhlaba I have completed my tour of what will soon be 15 UWC institutions. I visited the construction site of our newest member, UWC Changshu in China, earlier this year and will be back there for its formal opening in November.

Waterford is as old as the UWC movement itself. Founded in 1963, just one year after Atlantic College, it joined UWC in 1981 as the sixth institution in the system. For 52 years this school has been a beacon for in the struggle for racial equality in Southern Africa and its founding principle of equality retains all its resonance in today's troubled world.

I have devoted my own career to openness and equality in higher education so for me coming here is a pilgrimage. Thank you so much for your welcome.

Second, it is good to be back in Swaziland. I was last here exactly ten years ago, although I'm ashamed to say that I did not come to Waterford on that visit. At the time I was president of COL, the Commonwealth of Learning, and I came here to meet the Minister of Education, visit the University, and meet colleagues at the AIDS Support Centre where COL was involved in work on AIDS prevention just as you are today.

Third, I am thrilled to be here with our new Executive Director of the UWC International Office, Jens Waltermann. This is only his fourth week in office but Jens comes to the job with enormous and varied experience of the UWC movement. He is an alumnus of UWC Pearson College of the Pacific in Canada; he has chaired Germany's UWC National Committee for a number of years and is the co-founder of UWC Robert Bosch College in Freiburg, one of the two new UWCs that opened last year. This is a unique combination of UWC experience and we expect great things of his leadership of UWC International.

You will have gathered from what I have said that the UWC movement is in a phase of growth: two new colleges opened last year, one this year, and several other potential institutions are in the pipeline, including, possibly, another UWC in Africa, which would be wonderful.

UWC Waterford Kamhlaba will be an inspiration to these aspirant institutions, not only because of the way that you uphold UWC values but also because of the whole school model that you have here. Most other UWC institutions are two-year colleges. You were the second institution, after UWC South-East Asia in Singapore, to be both a school and a college. I suspect that in the coming years some of the new institutions that we shall welcome into the UWC movement will also be whole schools and also that some of the existing colleges may convert to your whole-school model, which has many advantages.

Waterford Kamhlaba's model is a little example of Africa showing the way to a more sustainable future for the UWC movement.

I conclude these remarks by broadening my focus to your theme of Africa Rising.

I well remember when The Economist newspaper used that title for a cover story in 2011. It followed a decade when six of the world's ten fastest-growing countries were African. The commodities boom was partly responsible because from 2000 to 2008 around a quarter of Africa's growth came from higher revenues from natural resources.

But favourable demography is another cause. Half of the world's increase in population over the next 40 years will be in Africa. The growth also has a lot to do with the manufacturing and service economies that African countries are beginning to develop. The big question, asked The Economist, is whether Africa can keep that up if demand for commodities drops.

Certainly the tailing off of the commodities boom is hurting some African countries badly, but the tone of this year's Africa Progress Report remains upbeat. Its title, *Power, People, Planet*, highlights the challenges and the opportunities.

On **power**, the challenge is that two out of three Africans, over 600 million people, have no access to mains electricity. The opportunity is that renewable energy is at the forefront of the changes sweeping Africa, which is registering some of the most remarkable advances in solar, geothermal and wind power.

On **people**, the challenge is to equip people with the education and skills needed for the next phase of Africa's development. The opportunity is that whilst there are large numbers of unemployed young Africans, many enterprises in Africa struggle to fill open positions. In South Africa the situation is extreme. There are 3 million young people in not in employment, education or training and 600,000 unemployed university graduates, yet 800,000 jobs are unfilled. Moreover, the mismatches between skills and employment are greater as African countries grow wealthier.

On the **planet**, with world leaders due to meet in Paris in December to settle on a new global climate change deal, Africa has a chance to show the way to a low-carbon future – while putting in place the policies needed to reduce its vulnerability to the effects of climate change. As Kofi Annan has said, 'the global climate moment is also Africa's moment'. I urge you all to seize the moment.

Let me say again what a pleasure it is to be here with you for Africa week - thank you for inviting me!