

Ms Anna Arzhanova
President
World Underwater Federation (CMAS)
Viale Tiziano 74
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Italy

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**Culture Sector
Culture and Emergencies**

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Dear Ms Arzhanova,

On behalf of UNESCO, we would like to extend our gratitude to the World Underwater Federation (CMAS) for its valuable cooperation during the recent training in scientific diving for underwater archaeology in Kemer, Türkiye, for Arab and African students.

This training programme represented the first action under the collaborative agreement signed between UNESCO and CMAS in June 2023, by which we pledged to work together in projects focusing on education, training, information dissemination, and raising public awareness related to underwater cultural heritage.

This first capacity-training, facilitated by Akdeniz University, marked a significant milestone for underwater archaeology because it brought together 16 young professionals from 11 African countries for comprehensive training over ten days. The participants covered essential aspects such as underwater diving safety, hyperbaric chamber usage, and the application of advanced technological tools like remote-operated vehicles for documenting underwater archaeological sites. Additionally, we are pleased that the participants received training in 3D modelling using photogrammetry and were introduced to CMAS's new standard signs for the protection of submerged cultural heritage. This offered a very good foundation and training material to learn and practise diving at all levels in a safe and reliable way.

This initiative is aligned with UNESCO's ethical code for the protection of underwater cultural heritage and reflects the commitment of UNESCO and CMAS in the safeguarding of submerged cultural properties.

UNESCO is looking forward to strengthening further its cooperation with CMAS.

Yours sincerely,



Krista Pikkat
Director

cc: Francisco Lacase, Head of Scientific Committee, CMAS
Hakan Öviz, Professor, member of Scientific Committee, CMAS