



Bureau de Dakar

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



DRAFT Concept Note

Regional consultation and dialogue on Education 2030 Framework for Action for West and Central Africa: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all

**Dakar, Senegal
23-25 November 2015**

Background

The World Education Forum 2015 (WEF 2015), which was organized by UNESCO together with the EFA co-convening agencies: UNICEF, the World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women and UNHCR and hosted by the Republic of Korea, was held in Incheon, from 19 – 22 May 2015. At this occasion, 120 ministers, heads and members of Government delegations from 160 countries, heads of international agencies, multi- and bilateral organizations and representatives of civil society, the teaching profession, academia, youth and the private sector adopted the [Incheon Declaration](#) on 21 May 2015. The Declaration reaffirms the vision of the worldwide movement for Education for All, initiated in Jomtien in 1990 and reiterated in Dakar in 2000. Countries and the global education community committed with a sense of urgency to a single, renewed education agenda that is holistic, ambitious and aspirational, leaving no-one behind. This new education agenda 'Education 2030' is fully captured in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4), ***“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”*** and its corresponding targets. The Declaration represents a collective commitment of the education community to implement the Education 2030 agenda. It affirms the principles of education as a public good, a fundamental human right and a basis for guaranteeing the realization of other rights and inspires bold and innovative action.

The heart of Education 2030 lies at the national level. Country-led action will drive change, supported by effective multi-stakeholder partnerships and financing. Countries are expected to translate the global Goal and targets into achievable national targets based on their educational

priorities, national development strategies and plans, the ways in which their education systems are organized, their institutional capacity and the availability of resources. At regional level, regional collective efforts are critical to successfully adapt and implement Education 2030 at both the national and regional levels. Regional cooperation should build on existing partnerships, frameworks and effective and efficient mechanisms, as well as forging new ones to ensure strong regional collaboration, cooperation, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the education agenda. Specific roles and activities of regional mechanisms could be carved out in 2016, drawing on the outcomes of the regional ministerial conferences on the post-2015 education agenda.

In September 2015, the 17 SDGs which include SDG 4 on education that succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in New York. Following the adoption of the SDGs, the Education 2030 Framework for Action *“Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”* will be adopted at a high-level meeting in November 2015 alongside the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The [Education 2030 Framework for Action](#) (FFA) serves as the overall guiding framework for the implementation of Education 2030 and outlines how to translate into practice the commitment made in Incheon at global, regional and national level. It aims at supporting all countries to realize their own vision and ambitions for education within the framework of the global SDG 4 and its targets and proposes ways of implementing, coordinating, financing and monitoring Education 2030 to ensure equal education opportunities for all.

To kick start the implementation of the renewed education goal, the UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar, Abuja, and Yaoundé in partnership with UNICEF and other EFA partners, is organizing a regional consultation and dialogue on the **Education 2030 Framework for Action for West and Central Africa on 23-25 November 2015 in Dakar, Senegal**. This consultation will bring together officials of ministries of education from the 26 Member States in the West and Central Africa region¹, as well as other actors and stakeholders in education in order to discuss how to translate global Education 2030 commitments into practice at the national and regional levels.

Overarching objective:

To build a common understanding of the new Education 2030 agenda, and to prepare for and support its implementation at regional and national level with countries and partners.

¹ Central Africa includes 10 countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe. West Africa includes 16 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Although Mauritania does not belong to West Africa region in the UNESCO classification, it is considered to be West Africa in the UNICEF classification.

Objectives:

1. Build a common understanding of the new Education 2030 agenda, the global education goal and its corresponding targets;
2. Start discussions on the identification of national priorities in the implementation of Education 2030 based on the context, needs, and resources and national development strategies and plans as well as on contextualized strategies for achieving national targets including setting intermediate benchmarks (e.g. 2020 and 2025);
3. Discuss and develop proposals for regional coordination and collaboration, partnership, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, building on existing mechanisms, frameworks and strategies to the extent possible to support national implementation;

Expected Outcomes:

1. Countries in West and Central Africa and education partners built a common understanding of the new Education 2030 agenda, the global education goal and its corresponding targets;
2. Education stakeholders are mobilized and initiate the discussion on the identification of national priorities in the implementation of Education 2030;
3. Implementation proposals are discussed and developed regarding regional coordination and collaboration, partnership, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to support national implementation.

Preparation:

A meaningful participation of Member States and other partners in the regional/national meeting is the basis for a good preparation and future successful implementation. Member States would ideally organize national-level exchanges, for instance within the Local Education Group, to ensure fruitful discussion during the Regional Consultation with contributions reflecting the diversity of perspectives of national stakeholders on the SDGs.

We encourage countries to make use of the national EFA and post-2015 consultation reports supported by UNESCO and other partners (please see key documents below).

Participants:

Translating Education 2030 at the regional and national level will need to be an inclusive process, with full transparency and accountability, engaging all the stakeholders highlighted in the FFA, ensuring broad ownership and common understanding.

The sessions will be of a technical nature, requiring technical experts. Representatives of Member States would ideally be Directors of Planning, as well as officials working on the

coordination of the new education agenda and on monitoring and statistics. UNESCO will sponsor the participation of planning directors of ministries of education of participating countries while other partners may provide financial support for additional national participants.

The EFA co-conveners (UNICEF, WB, UNHCR, UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA) as well as multi-stakeholder financing platforms for education, such as GPE, will be involved in this process at all levels from the onset to develop a consolidated implementation support in a long-term perspective.

Date and Venue:

The consultation will take place in Dakar, Senegal from 23 to 25 November 2015. The location of the meeting will shortly be communicated.

Working languages:

The Conference's working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided throughout the conference, and all the written documents will be available in either or both of these languages.

Meeting documents:

Key documents:

- Incheon Declaration [<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002338/233813m.pdf>]
- Framework for Action Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all (Revision 19 July 2015)
- Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Interim Reference Guide to UN Country Teams. [<https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-UNDG-Interim-Reference-Guide-to-UNCTs-7-October-2015.pdf>]
- Outcome document of the Regional Ministerial Meeting on education post-2015: Kigali Statement [<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002321/232153e.pdf>]
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E]
- Technical Advisory Group Proposal: Thematic Indicators to Monitor the Post-2015 Education Agenda
- Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good? [<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002325/232555e.pdf>]

Background documents:

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E]
- Sustainable Development Begins with Education: How education can contribute to the proposed post-2015 goals [<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002305/230508e.pdf>]
- Report of the national consultation in preparation for the sub-Saharan Africa Regional Conference on the Post-2015 Education Agenda
[<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/dakar/education/education-for-all-in-africa/sub-saharan-africa-regional-conference-on-education-beyond-2015/national-post-2015-consultation-reports/>]
 - The Gambia, Niger, and Senegal
- National Education for All Review Report
[<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/dakar/education/education-for-all-in-africa/sub-saharan-africa-regional-conference-on-education-beyond-2015/national-efa-2015-reviews-for-sub-saharan-african-countries/#c1470983>]
 - Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon
 - Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Mali, Niger, and Senegal
 - Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, and Togo