



2nd Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education (FAPED II)

5- 6 May 2009, Dakar, Senegal

•FINAL DECLARATION OF FAPED II •

We, African Parliamentarians, members of the Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education (FAPED), met in Dakar on the 5th and 6th May 2009 at the invitation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Convinced of the importance of the achievement of Education For All (EFA) as a basic and enabling human right and an essential condition for economic growth, poverty reduction and for inclusive and sustainable human development;

Recognising the intrinsic link and mutually reinforcing interrelationship between education and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to poverty and hunger eradication, gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, fighting HIV/AIDS and disease and ensuring environmental sustainability;

Acknowledging that the primary role of the members of the FAPED is to defend the right to education and pursue the attainment of the six EFA goals by 2015;

Considering the significant progress accomplished in expanding access to primary education in the African region on the one hand, and the entrenched inequalities and associated challenges to governance that nonetheless jeopardise the timely achievement of the six EFA goals, on the other hand;

Aware of the threat of a reversal of the gains of the last decade, as a consequence of the global economic downturn;

Persuaded that in times of economic crisis, parliaments should not abandon their commitments to the attainment of educational goals but, on the contrary, defend human development gains and prioritise counter-cyclical investment in education that protect the poorest and most vulnerable groups;

Reaffirming our commitment to the internationally agreed education goals, and in particular to the realisation of the six EFA goals by 2015, and recalling our following previous commitments as embodied in:

- The Dakar Framework for Action, World Education Forum, 2000,
- The Millennium Declaration, UN Millennium Summit, 2000
- The Declaration of Dar-es-Salaam, FAPED General Constitutive Conference, 2002;

Welcoming the joint endeavours of UNESCO and the FAPED, as well as other EFA partners in the region, to address the challenges of realising the EFA goals in Africa and the associated efforts to enhance cooperation in education at inter-parliamentary level

With a view to ensuring the achievement of the six EFA goals by 2015, we pledge to:

Uphold our commitments to provide political support to EFA, and facilitate the mobilization of adequate and effective financing for its achievement by 2015.

Promote and defend the right to education, and act to ensure **compulsory and free basic education and universal access to and completion of primary schooling**;

Support funded strategies in relation to **gender equality** in educational access and achievement

Improve the environment for **quality teaching and learning**, by ensuring the elaboration and implementation of appropriate teacher policies, as well as monitoring learning outcomes;

Strengthen our efforts to combat and eradicate illiteracy through increased funding of **literacy** programmes, adult education initiatives, stronger partnerships with non-formal education providers, more effective programme delivery, and the promotion of literate environments;

Adopt integrated inter sectoral approaches to **remove barriers**, within and outside the education sector, that keep children out of school, including child labour, malnutrition, ill health and disability;

Ensure that national education plans and strategies address **national priorities** and needs comprehensively, and are integrated into wider **poverty reduction** strategies that link education to poverty reduction, health, nutrition and the environment;

Foster national policies and financing strategies aimed at **reducing inequalities** in education, by facilitating access to early childhood care and education, and by setting "equity targets".

Encourage initiatives to address learning needs of young people and adults through the affordable provision of **post primary learning opportunities**, including secondary education and skills development programmes as well as **life long learning**.

Support the development of targeted **social programmes** aimed at protecting the educational progress of the last decade and providing adequate support to the most vulnerable social groups in the context of the current global economic crisis.

Enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation between our countries, and strengthen our collaboration with the five EFA convening agencies (UNESCO, World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA), regional partners, multilateral institutions, bilateral donors, non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations in Africa;

In view of our beliefs and obligations,

We affirm to pursue the above vision and strategies with renewed vigour and commitment by pledging our complete and strong endorsement to the present declaration of the Second Session of the Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education on 6 May 2009 in Dakar, Senegal