

First draft
Nairobi Pledge for Action

The role of UNEVOC Centres in furthering the Second Decade of Education for Africa TVET Plan of Action, Nairobi – Kenya, 13-16 December 2011

Preamble:

The Second Decade of Education for Africa Plan of Action was launched in September, 2006 in MAPUTO – MOZAMBIQUE. It was also expected that intra-continental support for the poorest countries by wealthier African countries would become institutionalised as regular practice. It was also expected that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) would pool countries' efforts to foster intra-regional collaboration, facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action and monitor progress.

In accordance with the new UNESCO strategy for TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC has repositioned its role and function as the UNESCO's lead agency for worldwide service in TVET development, with the unique mandate to promote and assist countries implement a holistic vision of TVET, which encompasses the notions of education and training in an equal manner, which is lifelong, and accessible to all.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre fosters the UNEVOC Network among UNESCO Member States. It is an international network in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This network is made up of UNEVOC centres, which are endorsed for registration as National Centres by the National Commissions through the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn.

In line with its role and mandate, UNESCO-UNEVOC with the help of the RECs and the UNESCO Regional Office and other UNESCO Field Offices made a critical look at what the first half of the Second Decade has achieved from 2006-2011, with regards to the implementation of the TVET Plan of Action.

In this connection, UNESCO-UNEVOC in Bonn, with the support of UNEVOC Centres, organised a 4-day workshop from 13-16 December 2011 in Nairobi. The objectives of the meeting were the following:

1. To analyse TVET priorities at national level;
2. To make an assessment of the progress made by the participating countries in realising the priority intervention areas of the TVET Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education in Africa;
3. To analyse the alignment between individual countries, their national priorities and TVET plans and the AU Plan of Action;
4. To consider the linkages between training provision and the labour market needs in participant countries;
5. To consider the present role of the UNEVOC centres in these priority intervention areas and the role UNEVOC centres should play in these areas as well as the capacity that is needed to achieve them; and

6. To share experiences with participants from other countries on good practices in different parts of Africa.

This meeting built on on-going initiatives in TVET by the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT), spearheaded by UNESCO BREDa with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) also supported by UNESCO. The meeting also provided an opportunity for UNEVOC International Centre Bonn to share with the UNEVOC Centres the repositioning of UNEVOC and the new UNEVOC Network strategy.

Participants from Botswana, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda were directors or representatives of UNEVOC Centres, particularly Ministries of Education, Governmental Divisions and national TVET bodies. The UNESCO Regional Office (BREDa) and other UNESCO Cluster Offices in Africa (Accra, Harare, Nairobi present; Yaoundé represented), as well as the Representatives of SADC and ECOWAS participated in the meeting.

Country presentations and group work enabled the sharing of good practices, the identification of capacity-development needs, and the opportunities or urgent measures to be taken to improve the efficiency of the UNEVOC Centres and TVET systems.

Commitment:

The 31 participants from 15 African countries, the present UNESCO Specialists from the Regional Office and 3 other Cluster Offices, including directors and policymakers representing UNEVOC centres pledged commitment to the following:

- Assist in a national policy dialogue and to review TVET policy development;
- Advocate for the establishment of the required data base for TVET;
- Produce information and knowledge needed at national and sub-regional level;
- Enhance the visibility of the UNEVOC centres;
- Strengthen communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- Organise national and sub-regional network activities on TVET issues, and actively participate in events organised by the UNEVOC Network;
- Lead at the sub-regional level on specific themes;
- Identify and share good practices through various portals.

All participants commit themselves to taking the following national, regional and international actions:

1) NATIONAL ACTIONS

1.1) UNEVOC CENTRES

- To organise in the countries an activity piloted by their UNEVOC Centre, aiming at sharing with the maximum of relevant stakeholders the synthesis of the work undertaken during the regional Nairobi in the frame of the mid-term review of the AU Second Decade for Education in Africa. This activity will have to be as much as possible undertaken before the Third World Congress on TVET (Shanghai, May 2012).

- To increase their visibility at national level by revamping the TVET national network and taking an active part in promoting and scaling up good practices at national and regional levels.
- To gather information on national TVET policies, systems and good practices, national needs regarding the development and strengthening of TVET, and innovative approaches that could be documented, disseminated, transferred and adapted within the transnational cooperation process.
- To make a better use of the UNEVOC online services and share information with the other UNEVOC Centres, the national and regional institutions on topics raised at the Nairobi meeting.
- To contribute to UNESCO publications and data bases by providing examples of good practices, national initiatives and other activities carried out or collected by the Centre.
- To update relevant data concerning the UNEVOC Centres.

1.2) STATES

- To establish at least one UNEVOC Centre in each country having none.
- To support the strengthening of the UNEVOC Centre(s) in every country and to provide them with the capacity necessary to function as a national Centre that promotes a holistic vision of TVET, taking into consideration the national policy, curriculum, teacher education and the follow up / assessment of the outcomes.
- To adopt and apply appropriate policy and legal frameworks that will enable the UNEVOC Centre(s) to scale up the existing good practices in TVET.
- To prepare the national plans, the guidelines, and/or the strategies for TVET and strengthen the partnership with the civil society to support the full implementation of the policy through the UNEVOC Centres.
- To develop or update their TVET curriculum, the methodology and the assessment tools that build the knowledge and the positive attitudes on TVET.
- To strengthen the capacity of directors, curriculum developers and implementers (teachers/trainers/teaching and learning material developers) to address major national TVET issues.
- To promote cooperation and effective communication within and among the stakeholders (such as all ministries involved in TVET, the National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO BREDAs and the other UNESCO Offices, and other development partners).
- To mobilise and/or allocate more resources for TVET, including public and private sectors and the other development partners.

2) INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIONS

We call on

UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn and UNESCO Offices

- To distribute to all Member States in Africa the Nairobi Pledge for Action and the Final Report of the Consultative meeting and monitor progress of agreed actions.
- To assist the UNEVOC Centres by providing them with basic resources needed to effectively play their role at national and regional level.
- To disseminate more information on UNEVOC and the online services and develop capacity at different levels for the use of these services through the issue of additional instructions.
- To assist countries in standard setting, quality assurance, policy dialogue, teacher education and the development of materials and assessment tools on TVET.
- To facilitate networking and cooperation among TVET stakeholders within the Africa region and with other regions through information and experience exchange, study visits, North-South-South cooperation.
- To promote the Africa Community of Practice (AfCoP) in UNEVOC Centres and the dedicated Mailing List on the UNEVOC Network portal as a platform to facilitate policy and social dialogue and collective action on education, training and curriculum issues linked to TVET.
- To engage in advocacy and awareness raising related to TVET through meetings, the use of ICTs and other channels as well as at the Third International Congress on TVET (Shanghai 2012).