



## PAN-AFRICAN HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION – PACE 2018

### Bridging continental and global education frameworks for the Africa We Want

Nairobi, Kenya, 25-27 April 2018

#### CONCEPT NOTE

##### I. Background:

Since the inception of the first global education movement commenced at the World Conference on Education for All in 1990 in Jomtien in 1990, Education is recognised as a public good, a fundamental human right and the basis for the fulfilment of the human rights. In 2015, the international community, after an unprecedented and inclusive consultation process, endorsed the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprised by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education, a standalone goal in itself (SDG4), was also reiterated as a main driver of development in general and as such considered fundamental for achieving all the other SDGs. SDG4 aims to ensure equitable inclusive quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Additionally in 2016, the African Union, in the bid to support the new vision for development of the continent (Agenda 2063) and ‘to “create” a new African citizen that can be ‘an effective change agent of this drive’, endorsed, the Continental Strategy for Education in Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25). The strategy is the African response to own Education 2030, and shape and adapt them to the specific needs of the continent, building on lessons learnt from previous education strategies and plans. It aims at “Reorienting Africa’s education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, innovation and creativity required to nurture African core values and promote sustainable development at the national, sub-regional and continental levels.”

Nearly three years after the endorsement of the SDGs, and two years after the adoption of CESA 16-25, African countries are at different stages of progress in integrating/mainstreaming the internationally and regionally agreed targets and commitments into their national education policies, plans and practices. It is therefore important, in the pursuit of Education 2030 and CESA 16-25, to take stock of the progress made and to identify both the challenges and the opportunities in the further alignment of national education systems in view of ensuring a transformative education for Africa in a meaningful and significant way. There is also a need to understand and exchange on how this alignment is influencing current reform agendas, education legislation, policy, plans, financing and monitoring and information systems, as well as devised mechanisms for consultation, coordination, collaboration and reporting.

It is within this context, that UNESCO and the Government of Kenya agreed to convene a Pan-African High-level Conference on Education (PACE 2018), in collaboration with the African Union (AU) as well as other key partners including ADEA and the SDG4 co-conveners (ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UN Women and World Bank). PACE 2018 provides an opportunity to share progress, success stories, challenges and lessons learned by Member States thus far and to contribute to the ongoing discussions on the 2063 African Union vision *The Africa We Want*.

In addition, the event will allow Africa to reflect and prepare for two upcoming major global events, the Global Education Meeting (GEM, December 2018) and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF, July 2019) both intended as mechanisms for monitoring progress of the global education agenda. The HLPF are yearly events, reviewing in more detail the progress of specific SDGs. In 2019, under the theme - *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality* - SDG4 on Education will be reviewed along with SDG8 (Inclusive economic growth & Decent work), SDG10 (Inequality reduction), SDG13 (Climate Action) SDG16 (Peace and Justice) and SDG17 (Partnerships).

PACE will also allow countries to deepen their understanding of some key transversal issues and enable knowledge and experiences sharing for the advancement of the education agenda. Furthermore, it is expected that PACE 2018 will assist African governments and other stakeholders, to ensure that a transformative and transformed education contributes to the seven aspirations identified in Agenda 2063: a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance; an Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a peaceful and secure Africa; an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics; an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children; and Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.

## II. Objectives

Building on previous consultations in the Africa Sub-Saharan and Arab States regions<sup>1</sup> and other relevant regional meetings, which endorsed the call for action on Education 2030 and CESA 16-25, PACE 2018 aims at strengthening the partnerships in education and as such accelerate the implementation of Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 at country level, focusing on the following objectives:

1. Take stock of the progress made in aligning national plans policies and systems, including management and monitoring mechanisms with Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 targets and commitments to inform further priority actions at country, regional or continental levels.

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<sup>1</sup> Central Africa (Yaoundé, January 2016); West and Central Africa (November 2015), Southern Africa (Lusaka, September 2016); Eastern Africa (Dar es Salaam, February 2017); Arab region (Cairo, December 2015; Dubai, March 2017).

2. Exchange on key issues and innovative practices in the continent for knowledge sharing, peer learning and prioritization in view of accelerating the implementation of the Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 Agendas at country, regional and continental levels.
3. Review existing mechanisms for coordination and monitoring of the Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 agendas at sub-regional and regional level with a view of strengthening synergy and articulation between global, continental and regional education frameworks.
4. Agree on key recommendations for developing Africa's human and social capital through an education and skills revolution emphasizing science and technology within the context of the implementation of Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 to contribute to the realization of Agenda 2063 vision of a prosperous and more equitable Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

### III: Expected Results

1. Improved understanding on key issues for the development of education in Africa, including a commitment for enhanced collaboration and sharing of best practices among countries;
2. An agreed process and framework for the alignment of national education plans with Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 along with adequate investments and financing mechanisms Adoption of proposed joint mechanisms for monitoring progress and reporting on Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 at national, regional and continental levels. Enhanced support and commitment for improved coordination and articulation at sub-regional and regional levels for the implementation of Education 2030 and CESA16-25 by countries and international and regional development partners;
3. An endorsed Ministerial outcome document.

### IV. Event Preparation

#### 1. Event structure

PACE 2018 will proceed in two different segments: Technical and Ministerial.

The Technical component will be held on 25 and 26 April during the first two days preceding the Ministerial gathering. It will be attended by senior country representatives and other education stakeholders on the continent. Issues will be presented by panelists in plenary and parallel sessions, followed by discussions and the formulation of key recommendations. The proceedings of these sessions will then be presented in plenary sessions for endorsement and inclusion in the report to be presented to the Ministerial segment for deliberation and adoption.

The Ministerial component will be organized on 27 April and will be attended by Ministers of Education or designated Heads of Country Delegations. The meeting format will be comprised of a series of roundtables wherein recommendations from the technical segment will be reviewed for approval and final adoption in the PACE 2018 Outcome Statement.

Two major thematic areas will guide the deliberations in both the Technical and Ministerial Segments:

**Theme I:** *Building skilled African citizenry as agents of change through leveraging the Demographic Dividend in Africa.*

While Africa still faces many substantial challenges with regard to education and development, there is also a tremendous opportunity. Education is central to realizing the potential of technology and innovation for economic growth, peace, equality and eradication of poverty. In terms of the demographic profile, the continent of Africa is the youngest in the world. This means that if all of Africa's young talent is invested in, mentored, developed and coached, there is huge potential return—and huge potential loss if they're left behind.

Accordingly, PACE 2018 will address the following issues:

- i. Advancing Inclusion, gender equality, teaching and learning through a life-long learning approach to address the unfinished Education for All Agenda;
- ii. Relevance of education to foster resilient, prosperous, sustainable and peaceful societies in Africa in an interconnected global world focusing on building an adequate skills set of young people and adults for work and life and living together;
- iii. Leveraging 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies for the advancement of education systems as well as societies and economies in Africa;
- iv. Towards knowledge-based societies through the advancement of higher education, science, technology and innovation in Africa with special focus on research and STEM education.

**Theme II:** *Building a conducive environment for education transformation in Africa: promoting good governance, leadership and accountability in education management.*

Applied to education, governance and management refers to the processes, mechanisms and structures, by which governments implement and monitor policy decisions and that affect the finance and delivery of education services to citizens, and include monitoring of outcomes and accountability arrangements to regulate and steer the educational system. Within the context of the SDG Agenda 2030 and CESA 16-25, there are specific governance and management arrangements that governments in concert with other stakeholders are expected to make.

Accordingly, this component of PACE 2018 will address the following issues:

- i. Financing education: meeting domestic and international commitments focusing on increasing innovative investments in education as well as the efficiency of education financing;
- ii. Monitoring & reporting: strengthening information systems for evidence-based and accountable education policies and strategies;

- iii. Towards life-long and system-wide policies and strategies: fostering sector-wide articulation and inter-sectorial collaboration;
- iv. Strengthening mechanisms for effective partnerships and coordination at national, regional and continental levels.

Several crosscutting issues will be considered where relevant throughout the technical discussions including the following primary crosscutting issues:

- a) Gender issues and equality
- b) Youth, and
- c) Teachers

## 2. Participation of Countries

Each country is encouraged to designate a delegation of four persons headed by the Minister of Education. In view of the agenda, the delegation may include a senior Education Official, a senior Finance Ministry Official and a representative from Civil Society. In countries where more than one Ministry is responsible for Education (and Training), the country will indicate which Minister will lead the delegation. In those cases, the other Ministries are advised to send one senior representative per Ministry. Two members of the delegation will be provided with transport and accommodation support by the event organizers. Countries are encouraged to fund the participation of the remaining members of the delegation or seek support at country level from education development partners to facilitate their participation.

In advance of PACE, countries will be encouraged to respond to a brief questionnaire to ascertain their status regarding alignment of their education policies, plans and strategies of both the SDG4 and CESA 16-25 frameworks. Selected countries will prepare short presentations on best practices in certain thematic or organizational areas, as reflected in this Concept Note. This work will be coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Offices in Africa and the Beirut Office in the Arab Region and compiled for presentation at the vent.

## IV. Venue and details

Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, 25 to 27 April 2018.

## V. Expected Participants

1. Ministers of Education from the 54 African Members States
2. Senior Technical Officials from Ministries of Education/SDG4 focal points and other relevant Ministries representatives in particular from Finance, Planning, Development, Labour
3. Africa Union Commission for Human Resources, Sciences and Technology
4. Pan-African Parliament
5. Pan-African Universities and Research Institutions
6. Regional Economic Communities (RECs: CEEAC, EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA)
7. Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
8. African Development Bank (AfDB)

9. Education 2030 co-convenors (ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and World Bank).
10. Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
11. Inter-governmental Organizations (CONFEMEN, Commonwealth, CPLP/PALOPs, LAS (League of Arab States), ALECSO, ISESCO, etc.)
12. Regional and international civil society representatives
13. Youth organizations Representatives
14. Private Sector Representatives
15. Development Partners Representatives
16. UNESCO Regional Offices in Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa , UNESCO Institutes (IBE, IICBA, IIEP, UIL and UIS ) and HQs Education Divisions
17. National and International press and media

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

DAY 1 - TECHNICAL MEETING: Harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa through quality education		
TIME	ITEM	
07:30-08:30	Registration	
08:30-08:50	<b>Plenary Session 1:</b> Welcome addresses by:	
08:50-09:10	<b>Keynote address</b> –What quality, relevant and inclusive education and life-long learning systems for a prosperous more equitable Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development	
09:10-09:20	Introduction to Meeting Objectives, Agenda and Structure	
09:20-10:00	<b>Plenary Session 2:</b> <b>Introduction to Parallel Sessions Day 1 :</b> Building skilled African citizenry as agents of change through leveraging the Demographic Dividend in Africa	
10:00-10:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK – Press conference</b>	
10:30-12:30	Four parallel sessions consisting of Panel presentations followed by discussions and drafting of recommendations for Ministerial Segment.	
	<b>Parallel Session 1:</b> Advancing inclusion, gender equality, teaching and learning through a life-long learning approach to address the unfinished Education for All Agenda	Inclusion and gender equity
		Teaching and learning
	<b>Parallel Session 2:</b> Leveraging 21st century technologies for the advancement of education systems as well as societies and economies in Africa	Digital technologies in education
		Role of education in the development of 21st century African economies
	<b>Parallel Session 3:</b> Relevance of education to foster resilient, skilled, prosperous, sustainable and peaceful societies in Africa	Providing adequate skills for work to young people and adults
		Providing of skills for life and for living together
	<b>Parallel Session 4:</b> Towards knowledge-based societies through leveraging quality higher education, sciences, technology and innovation in Africa to address continental challenges and increase global competitiveness	Higher Education and research
	Sciences, Technology and Mathematics education	
12:30-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
14:00-16:00	<b>Parallel Session Thematic Area 1 (cont.)</b>	
16:00-16:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	

<b>16:30-18:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session 3</b> — Presentation of Parallel Session findings and recommendations for discussion and consideration of the Ministerial Segment
<b>End of Day 1</b>	

**DAY 2 - TECHNICAL MEETING:  
Translating Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 Agendas into practice**

TIME	ITEM												
<b>08:30-09:30</b>	<b>Plenary Session 4:</b> Stocktaking status of alignment to SDG4 and CESA 16-25: a review at country, regional and continental levels, including coordination, monitoring and reporting mechanisms ( <i>Synthesis report</i> ) <b>Q&amp;A</b>												
<b>09:30-10:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session 5:</b> <b>Introduction to Parallel Sessions Day 2:</b> Building a conducive environment for education transformation in Africa: promoting good governance, leadership and accountability in education management												
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>												
<b>10:30-12:30</b>	Four parallel sessions consisting of panel presentations followed by discussions and drafting of recommendations for Ministerial Segment. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><b>Parallel Session 1:</b> Financing education: meeting domestic and international commitments</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Increasing innovative investment in education as a continuum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Increasing efficiency of Education financing</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Parallel Session 2:</b> Monitoring &amp; reporting: strengthening information systems for evidence-based and accountable education</td> <td>Improving monitoring and evaluation of national Plans, SDG4 &amp; CESA16-25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Promoting accountability of Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Parallel Session 3:</b> Towards lifelong learning and system-wide policies strategies and practices: fostering sector-wide articulation and inter-sectorial collaboration</td> <td>Improving Sector wide coordination to support lifelong learning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fostering Inter-ministerial and cross sector collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Parallel Session 4:</b> Strengthening mechanisms for effective partnerships and coordination at national, regional and continental levels</td> <td>Strengthening coordination partnerships at national, level</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strengthening coordination partnerships and monitoring at regional and continental levels</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Parallel Session 1:</b> Financing education: meeting domestic and international commitments	Increasing innovative investment in education as a continuum	Increasing efficiency of Education financing	<b>Parallel Session 2:</b> Monitoring & reporting: strengthening information systems for evidence-based and accountable education	Improving monitoring and evaluation of national Plans, SDG4 & CESA16-25	Promoting accountability of Education	<b>Parallel Session 3:</b> Towards lifelong learning and system-wide policies strategies and practices: fostering sector-wide articulation and inter-sectorial collaboration	Improving Sector wide coordination to support lifelong learning	Fostering Inter-ministerial and cross sector collaboration	<b>Parallel Session 4:</b> Strengthening mechanisms for effective partnerships and coordination at national, regional and continental levels	Strengthening coordination partnerships at national, level	Strengthening coordination partnerships and monitoring at regional and continental levels
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<b>12:30-14:00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>												



14:00-16:00	<b>Session 5: Parallel Sessions</b> (cont.)
16:00-17:00	<b>Session 6: Plenary</b> Presentation of Parallel Sessions findings and recommendations for discussion and consideration of Ministerial Segment
17:00-17:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK &amp; Finalization of Technical Meeting Report</b>
17:30-18:00	<b>Session 6: Plenary</b> Presentation and approval of Technical Meeting Summary for the Ministerial segment
18:00-18:30	Closing of Technical Segment
19:00-20:30	<b>RECEPTION</b> by the Government of the Republic of Kenya Launch of the GEM Gender Review Report in Africa
<b>End of Day 2</b>	

**DAY 3 - MINISTERIAL MEETING:  
Harnessing Africa's Demographic Dividend through Quality Education**

08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	<b>Opening ceremony</b>
09:30-09:45	<b>Keynote address</b>
09:45-10:00	Technical Segment Summary
10:00-10:30	<b>GEM Report – Accountability in Education in Africa</b>
10:30-11:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00-12:30	<b>Ministerial Round Table (4)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policy debate/views on Harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa through Education</li> <li>2. Policy debate/views on Building conducive environments for Education</li> </ol>
12:30-14:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14:30-15:30	<b>Presentation of Draft Outcome Statement for discussion</b> Qualifying recommendations made by Ministers round table and results of Technical Segment Summary
15:30-16:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
16:30-17:00	Adoption of the Outcome Statement on the implementation of SDG4 and CESA 16-25 and closure of Pan African Conference on Education
17:30-18:30	International Press Conference
19:00-21:00	<b>GALA DINNER</b> hosted by the Republic of Kenya