**Partners’ consultation meeting in preparation for the**

**“Pan-African Conference on Education:**

**Bridging continental and global education frameworks for the Africa We Want”**

**Summary report**

**Date and venue:** Wednesday 31 January - Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar, Senegal

**Participants:** Representatives ofCONFEJES, CONFEMEN, FAWE, Save the Children, UNICEF and UNESCO, Kenya

**Co-chairs:** Mr. Jordan Naidoo, Director, Division for Education 2030 Support and Coordination, UNESCO HQs

Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director, UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi

**Objective of the consultation**

To prepare for the Pan-African Conference on Education (PACE 2018) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 25 to 27 April 2018. In particular, the consultation aimed to share information regarding the conference, collect partners’ feedback on the agenda and discuss collaboration to ensure the success of the conference.

**Welcome Remarks and main points discussed**

The co-chaired welcomed partners, and thanked them for their presence and continued cooperation.

They summarized the context of PACE 2018, including its purpose, and presented the outlines of the draft agenda, which was discussed with the participants, as well as the preparatory steps and the partners’ expected contributions in the process.

**Purpose of the Pan-African Conference on Education (PACE 2018)**

PACE 2018 will aim to:

* Develop a common understanding on the status of the process for alignment of national policies and plans with the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda and CESA 16-25, implementation and monitoring, including identification of challenges and experience sharing.
* Allow the African countries to reflect and prepare for two upcoming major global events: the Global Education Meeting (Dec. 2018) and the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HPLF, that will PFL will review in detail the progress of SDG-4 along with five other SDGs, July 2019) both intended as mechanisms for monitoring the progress of the education agenda. Recommendations from the Pan-African conference will feed into these two events.

**Proposed agenda of PACE 2018**

* The Conference will start with a two-day technical meeting focusing on two main themes:

1. Harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa through quality education
2. Translating Education 2030 and CESA 16-25 Agendas into practice

* Each theme will address four sub-themes in parallel workshops.
* Recommendations of each workshop will be presented for discussion and consideration at the one-day ministerial meeting that will follow the technical meeting.
* An Outcome Statement on the implementation of SDG4 and CESA 16-25 will be presented for adoption by the Ministers.
* In a former consultation, UNHCR requested to emphasize the issues faced by **refugees** which is a pertinent topic in Africa.
* Participants made the following comments on the proposed agenda:
* The Gender Equality & Inclusive Education task team of RCG4-WCA[[1]](#footnote-1), including FAWE, Save the Children and UNESCO, insisted on the emphasis of **gender issues** in the agenda as the subject is highly relevant to the region. This could be part of the workshop on “Advancing*Inclusion and learning to address the unfinished Education for All* Agenda” under theme 1. Under the umbrella of the demographic dividend, the task team also proposed to address issues such as school-related gender based violence (SRGBV) that are obstacles to gender equality. The task team is very much willing to support this process and plans to support countries on gender issues, looking for an opportunity to present some tools to countries and get their feedback, including interest in piloting the tools.
* **Youth** issues shall also be emphasized, including youth participation in the dialogues and monitoring process.
* **Out-of-school children, non-formal education**,and, based on the results of the two previous ADEA Triennale, **value education** and the **relevance of curricula** have also be mentioned as relevant to the region.
* Although the proposed issues could be addressed in specific workshop, they are also cross-cutting. It is thus necessary to ensure that they are connected from different perspectives (policy, financing, etc.).
* More time could be spent sharing countries’ experiences over the last 6 years and how they see these parallel processes between UN/UA, etc.
* There must be a workshop on higher ED, given the high focus on it in CESA.
* It will be necessary to develop and put together a concept paper for each workshop.

**Regional synthesis report**

* A synthesis report combining information from all sub-regions shall be presented to the ministers.
* Considering the remaining time is short, information from countries shall be collected through a questionnaire that could be inspired by the HLPF reporting template. Summary reports from UIS data and the GEM report could also feed into the report.
* A consultant will be hired to analyze information and draft the synthesis report. A sub-regional report has already been produced for East and Southern Africa.
* Furthermore regarding this report, a strategy shall be put in place to ensure regular reporting on progress in education (including challenges, recommendations, experiences, etc.) in the region.

**Partners’ expected contributions**

* The host country will provide in-kind contribution and financial support, including full support of one Minister per country.
* UNESCO has committed to support the participation of one technical person per country.
* UNESCO counts on partners’ support to help prepare and organize this conference. **In particular, partners are expected to:**
  + Provide further comments on the agenda: one week will be given to provide comments that will be incorporated in the draft agenda, to the extent possible, while considering that it cannot deviate from the original concept note, and that the conference cannot cover all aspects. In that regard, key issues will have to be prioritized; some strategic decisions will have to be made.
  + Inform the group where they would like to take responsibility in the conference, including proposing sub-themes among their priorities, which they would like to develop, offer to be a member of the panel or a discussant, etc.
  + State their commitment to support other country delegates.
  + Contribute to the identification of champion countries that could share good practices in parallel workshops.
  + Contribute to the elaboration of the regional report.
  + Continue to participate in the aftermath of the conference.

Co-chairs strongly encouraged the Education 2030 co-convenors, i.e. UNFPA, ILO, World Bank, UNWomen, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO to engage in that process. All partners are encouraged to work together for a successful pan-African conference.

1. Regional Coordination Group on SDG4-Education 2030 for West and Central Africa [↑](#footnote-ref-1)