

Report

Meeting of the RCG4-WCA Steering Team Regional Coordination Group on SDG4-Education 2030 in West and Central Africa

Version of 26/05/2017

Reported by the Secretariat (UNESCO Dakar)

Location: UNESCO Regional Office, Dakar

Date: 18 May 2017

Time: 14:30 - 16:30

Participants

UNESCO Dakar: Lily Neyestani-Hailu (representing RCG4-WCA Chair)
ANCEFA: Teopista Birungi Mayanja and Robert Agnanamba Badji
FAWE: Houraye Mamadou Anne
CAMES : Mamadou Sarr
CONFEMEN : Anne Marie Lacasse
UNICEF WCARO: Nicolas Reuge
Secretariat: Catherine Collin, Laetitia Houlmann, UNESCO Dakar

Meeting objectives

Following the meeting of the plenary group on 6 April and in preparation of the next meeting to take place on 6 July, the RCG4-WCA steering team met to discuss the following points:

- 1) Implementation of group's work plan
- 2) Update on new and imminent TTs
- 3) Extension of the group towards ESA
- 4) Platform and communication
- 5) Next plenary group meeting (6 July)
- 6) Contributions of organizations to the functioning of the Group

1. Implementation of group's work plan

- Many items have been transferred to TTs work plans
- Main items of plenary work plan: web portal, regular meetings, ad hoc events

Action points

- Re-send updated work plan to steering team members
- Next plenary meeting: take stock of upcoming International Days and discuss how the RCG4 can support organizing members.

2. Update on new and imminent TTs

- Following the last plenary session where the AU, AfDB and GPE participation was constrained due to their limited connectivity, the Secretariat followed up with them.
 - The AU is ready to partner with the RCG4 for the operationalization of its thematic clusters in support of CESA implementation, and together with AfDB and GPE welcomes the possibility of the RCG4 expanding SSA-wide. Annexed to this report is a summary table of linkages between the AU education clusters and RCG4 task teams.
- TVET:
 - AfDB accepted the proposal of the Plenary group to lead the TT on TVET
- Higher education (CAMES):
 - about 20 members have been identified and will be contacted
 - a proposed steering committee for the TT to be established for coordination purposes
- Early Childhood Education (UNICEF):
 - ToRs will be presented during the next plenary session
- Peace education:
 - If the RCG4 becomes continent-wide, the lead could be UNESCO Harare
 - Another option would be to approach ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Peace Education

Action points

- The Secretariat informs the AU that the TVET Task Team now has an identified lead (AfDB) and welcomes them to take part as well as consider merging if a proposed lead of their corresponding thematic cluster has not been confirmed
- The AU will be invited to merge their proposed clusters with RCG4 TTs where they do not yet have an active cluster (for instance education planning and systems' task team). This topic will be on the next plenary meeting agenda
- UNICEF will approach ADEA to check possible synergies with ICQN on Peace Education
- UNICEF will share the ToRs of the ECE-TT before the next plenary meeting
- CONFEMEN will propose adjustments to the ToR Guidelines for task teams to better define the main roles of the lead and co-lead of the TTs, to then be shared with the task team Leads

3. Extension of the group towards ESA

- In the discussions with the AU, AfDB and GPE, they were supportive of having a single continental-wide coordination mechanisms for SDG4
- Steering team members are favorable in principle with the group's extension.
 - UNESCO would accept to expand the Secretariat and Chair of the RCG4 SSA-wide
 - UNICEF will carry out further discussion with relevant regional Directors and is already working on a continental approach with ADEA.
 - CAMES raised the issue of the limited geographical scope of some task team leads, and suggested to engage dialogue with the Association of African Universities if the RCG4 is expanded to ESA, given that CAMES covers only francophone countries
 - FAWE insists on the importance of taking the necessary steps to make an informed decision on this matter

- Likewise, ANCEFA and CONFEMEN would be favorable to an expansion pending an analysis of the implications of such an extension
- While CODESRIA shared with the Secretariat some guidance on the process of extension (decision of previous plenary group), an analysis of the pros and cons was not provided. For more informed decision-making of the Steering team and Plenary group, a certain number of elements would need to be analysed and taken into account including the group's architecture, governance, logistics & language implications, cost, etc

Action points

- A small committee composed of FAWE, UNICEF and UNESCO was put in place to analyse the implications and technicalities of the extension, to be validated by the Steering team
 - By 15.6: discussion among the three organizations to come up with a draft analysis
 - 15.6: draft to be sent to the steering team for comments and suggestions
 - 22.6: deadline for comments
 - 22.6-26.6: consolidation of the document by the Secretariat
 - 26.6: document to be circulated among the plenary group members
- The results of the analysis and the Steering team's recommendation will be presented at the next Plenary meeting on July 6th for a decision regarding the expansion of the RCG4 SSA-wide

4. Platform and communication

- Quick update on the platform and other communication issues
- Next steps :
 - discussion in smaller group (UNESCO, UNICEF and CONFEMEN) about the test version of the site (not yet public)
 - platform to be launched before the 6 July meeting
 - FAWE will send some proposals in terms of logo and banner

5. Next plenary group meeting (6 July)

- Given the important strategic decisions that will need to be taken during the next plenary, including substantive exchange on the new task teams (H.E, ECE and TVET), their orientations based on the SDG4 and CESA vision, their potential composition and link with other (sub) regional mechanisms etc, it was decided to hold the plenary meeting over an entire day.

Action points

- UNICEF to check availability of conference space to host the meeting
- UNESCO to check availability of conference space in case UNICEF's room is not available
- New TT leads to be contacted to present proposed ToR and prepare orientations for exchange and discussion during the plenary meeting
- Invitation/reminder to be sent shortly together with the report of the steering team meeting and updated TT-ToR Guidelines

6. Contributions of organizations to the functioning of the Group

- Include ad hoc contributions to TTs activities (for example support to the organization of a specific event)
- Important to undertake individual follow-up with member organizations to ensure their involvement
- It was suggested to carry out reflections on the financial management of the group (where the money goes, financial mechanisms, approval of the budget, accountability etc.) to ensure monitoring and encourage members to contribute financially

Follow up table

Who	What	Deadline
CONFEMEN	Propose adjustments to the ToR Guidelines for task teams to better define the main roles of the lead and co-lead of the TTs	26.5.2017
CONFEMEN, UNICEF	Provide support to the secretariat for web platform development	May-June
FAWE	Send logo and banner proposals to the Secretariat	By end of may
FAWE, UNICEF, UNESCO	Analyse the implications and technicalities of the extension, to be validated by the Steering team	Before 6 July
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Check availability of conference space in case UNICEF's room is not available	ASAP
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Re-send updated work plan to steering team members	24.5.2017
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Follow up with AU regarding the modalities of their involvement in the task teams	30.5.2017
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Contact TT-leads to present proposed ToR and prepare orientations for exchange and discussion during the plenary meeting	30.5.2017
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Send invitation to plenary group members to 6 July meeting	30.5.2017
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Undertake individual follow-up with member organizations to ensure their involvement	ongoing
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Explore the possibility of establishing a mechanism to manage the financial contributions to the Secretariat	
UNICEF	Check availability of conference space to host the meeting of 6 July	ASAP
UNICEF	Contact ADEA to check possible synergies with Peace Education ICQN	Before 6 July
UNICEF	Share the ToRs of the ECE-TT	Before 6 July

ANNEX: summary table of linkages between AU education clusters and RCG4 task teams

AU thematic clusters in support to CESA implementation		RCG4 task teams in support to SDG4 implementation	
Thematic clusters	Status	Task Teams	Status
Education Planning	<i>Not yet launched</i> <i>Lead: Education Observatory</i>	Education Systems' Strengthening	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: UNESCO</i>
Women & Girls Education	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: CIEFFA</i>	Inclusion and Gender Equality	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: Save the Children</i>
Teacher Development	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: UNESCO-IICBA</i>	Teaching and Learning (TALENT)	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: UNESCO</i>
Higher Education	<i>Not yet launched</i>	Higher Education	<i>Underway</i> <i>Lead: CAMES</i>
		Early Childhood	<i>Not yet launched</i> <i>Lead: UNICEF</i>
Peace Education	<i>Not yet launched</i>	Peace Education	<i>Not launched yet</i> <i>Potential leads: UNESCO (Harare)¹ or ADEA ICQN</i>
TVET	<i>Not launched yet</i> <i>Potential lead: NEPAD Agency</i>	Post basic education and TVET	<i>Not launched yet</i> <i>Lead: AfDB</i>
ICT in Education	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI)</i>		<i>Partly covered in TALENT</i>
STEM in Education	<i>Active</i> <i>Lead: African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)</i>		<i>Partly covered in TALENT</i>
School Feeding	<i>Not yet launched</i>		

¹ Provided the RCG4 extends towards ESA.