

Report

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

Version of 06/10/2017
Reported by the Secretariat (UNESCO Dakar)

Date: 29 September 2017

Time: 09:30 - 10:45

Modalities: remote meeting via Skype

Participants

UNESCO Dakar: Lily Neyestani-Hailu (representing RCG4-WCA Chair)

ANCEFA: Rosa Silva

FAWE: Houraye Mamadou Anne

CONFEMEN : Anne Marie Lacasse

UNICEF WCARO: Nicolas Reuge

Secretariat: Catherine Collin, Pangbenewende Carole Kabre, UNESCO Dakar

Absent: CAMES (Mamadou Sarr, representing CAMES, who met with the Secretariat on 29 September, shared the agenda items with the Secretary-General of CAMES for comments before the Steering team meeting).

Meeting objectives

In preparation for the next Plenary Group meeting scheduled for 10 October, the RCG4-WCA Steering Team met to discuss the following points:

- 1) Agenda of the next plenary group meeting
- 2) Budget and contribution modalities to the budget by members
- 3) Organization of the joint regional launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report 2017/8
- 4) Miscellaneous

1. Agenda of the next plenary group meeting

The next meeting of the plenary group was scheduled for 10 October, in agreement with the members present at the meeting on 6 July.

- The proposed agenda covers half a day, from 9am to 1:15pm. The time might be adjusted to enable remote participation of the Global Partnership for Education and of the African Union.
- The UNOWAS meeting room (same building as the UNESCO Office), if available, may be used for the meeting. However, UNESCO will not be able to finance water, coffee breaks or a possible lunch if the meeting were to start in the middle of the morning.

- As agreed on 6 July, the Working Group on Education in Emergencies for West and Central Africa was formally invited to participate in the meeting in order to discuss possibilities of collaboration between the two groups in accordance with their respective modalities.
- Presentation of the task teams on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE):
 - TVET: a meeting on the new version of the TORs is planned between the Secretariat and AfDB on 2 October
 - ECDE: UNICEF will inform the Secretariat whether or not this presentation is to be kept on the agenda and whether or not the task force should be maintained
- Subject to these possible changes, the members of the steering team validated the agenda, which will then be circulated to members.

2. Budget and modalities of contribution to the budget by members

Proposals for budget and budget contribution modalities by members, developed by the Secretariat, were discussed:

- Recognizing that currently, with the ad hoc support of some members, UNESCO is investing heavily in the group compared to others and that UNESCO and UNICEF are the only organizations to provide financial support, UNICEF stated that it could not continue to fund the group in this way and insisted on the financial participation of all agencies.
- UNICEF also suggested the possibility of recruiting a United Nations Volunteer to support the group coordination, and will inquire about the modalities.
- CONFEMEN announced that they would be able to cover coffee breaks and lunch for some plenary meetings and will check whether other budget items could also be financed.
- ANCEFA and FAWE will inform on financial capacities to contribute.
- Overall, participants agreed on the proposed budget and contribution modalities. In particular, taking advantage of this period of the year devoted for many to 2018 budget planning, these proposals will be shared by the steering team with the RCG4 members for them to announce indicative contributions.

3. Organization of the joint regional launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report 2017/8

As in 2016, UNESCO proposed that the RCG4 jointly organize the regional launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) 2017/8. UNESCO has developed a draft concept note that was discussed among members:

- Taking advantage of the presence in Dakar of one of the authors of the Report, the launch is proposed on 24 or 25 October. The date of 24 October may be chosen based on the opportunity offered by the communication campaign planned for the celebration of the United Nations Day in Senegal.
- UNESCO and UNICEF each raised US\$ 2,500 for the event.
- To reduce costs, it was proposed to organize the launch in the UNOWAS room. However, this room cannot accommodate a large number of participants and is not suitable for holding the press conference and refreshments. UNICEF will consider alternative venue options.
- Proceedings of the event:
 - Presentation of the GEMR 2017/8 followed by a question and answer session. In order to limit the duration of the presentation and make it more relevant, FAWE proposed to focus on issues relevant to the West and Central Africa (WCA) region
 - Coffee break and press briefing
 - Discussion panel on accountability for inclusive, equitable and quality education in WCA.

- A committee composed of CONFEMEN (Anne Marie Lacasse), FAWE (Houraye Mamadou Anne), ANCEFA (Rosa Silva - Teopista Birungi), and UNESCO (Laetitia Houlmann) was set up for the following stages:
 - Suggesting themes relevant to the region by Wednesday, 4 October.
 - Prioritizing, organizing, and sharing them with the RCG₄ members for comments
 - Based on the members' comments, selecting themes for the panel discussion by Friday 6 October.
 - Identifying panelists for the selected themes and a very good moderator
 - Preparing guiding questions and sending them to the panelists prior to the launch
- Themes already proposed:
 - Education systems management, including education financing
 - Underserved population - out-of-school
- With regard to inclusion, ANCEFA recommended Handicap International
- Member organizations are invited to mobilize to ensure the success of this event.

4. Next steps

Who	What	Deadline
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Contact GPE and AU for their availability at the proposed time for the 10 October Plenary Group meeting and revise the agenda if necessary	04.10.2017
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Check the availability of UNOWAS' room (10 October)	ASAP
UNICEF	Inform the Secretariat about the Early Childhood Development and Education Task Team	ASAP
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Share the revised agenda of the 10 October meeting with GRC ₄ members	ASAP
UNICEF	Learn more about the recruitment of a UNV to support GRC ₄ -AOC coordination	ASAP
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Share the proposals of operating budget and contribution modalities with the members on behalf of the steering team	ASAP
UNESCO (Secretariat)	Set a date for the GEMR regional launch	ASAP
GEMR Committee (CONFEMEN-FAWE-ANCEFA-UNESCO)	Suggest themes relevant to the region	04.10.2017
GEMR Committee	Prioritize and organize the themes to share with RCG ₄ members for comments	05.10.17
GEMR Committee	Based on the members' comments, select themes for the panel discussion	06.10.17
GEMR Committee	Identify panelists for the selected themes and a very good moderator Prepare questions to be sent to the panelists	From 06.10.17 to le 18.10.17