

Report

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

Reported by the Secretariat (UNESCO Dakar)

Date: 10 December 2018

Time: 14h00-15h30

Location: UNESCO Dakar

Modality: In-person and remote meeting via telephone

Participants

UNESCO Dakar: Gwang-Chol Chang (RCG4-WCA Chair)

ANCEFA: Teopista (phone)

CONFEMEN: Ludovic Levasseur

FAWE: Houraye Mamadou Anne

Secretariat: Catherine Collin, Chelsea Lavalée, Louis-Rodrigue Lauzer (UNESCO Dakar)

Absent: CAMES, UNICEF WCARO

Meeting objectives

The Steering Team (ST) meeting was held to prepare for the Plenary group retreat scheduled for December 13th, 2018. The agenda contained the following items:

1. *Discussion on the Steering Team proposition;*
2. *Discussion on the RCG4-WCA's future activities and perspectives;*
3. *Presentation and review of the agenda for the Plenary group retreat.*

1. Discussion on the Steering Team proposition

The Secretariat presented an amended draft of the [Steering Team proposition](#) updated with members' feedback from the September 20th, 2018 Plenary group meeting regarding ST membership:

"The composition of the Steering Team should consist of one chair (UNESCO) and focal points from six member organizations representing the RCG4-WCA constituencies as follows:

- *One chair, UNESCO (permanent),*
- *African Union (AU) (permanent member),*
- *One UN organization,*
- *One multilateral organization*
- *Two civil society organizations, and*
- *One representative of the following constituencies: higher education networks, the research community, teachers' unions, and youth organizations.*

Each constituency will determine its representative to the Steering team."

The Chair discussed the AU's participation with the Education Division Director, Beatrice Njenga, who indicated that the AU does not have the capacity to be a ST co-Chair, but they could become a permanent member. It was agreed that ADEA could represent the AU when the AU is unable to participate.

FAWE asked whether ADEA was consulted and requested that the role of ADEA be clarified. The Chair indicated that the AU and ADEA would need to determine a workable arrangement. The Chair will contact ADEA directly to invite them to the Plenary group retreat.

Additionally, FAWE requested more information on how the constituencies were decided. The Secretariat explained that the proposition was updated based on members' consensus during the last Plenary group meeting in September. Though members had discussed adding economic communities and youth organizations to the ST, these were not included as there was no mutual consensus, and additionally, these organizations are not well represented in the Plenary group. The Chair indicated that the involvement of these constituencies could be tabled at a later date.

The ST members agreed on the proposition, as well as next steps:

- The Secretariat will update the proposition placing each member organization in its appropriate constituency.
- The proposition will be tabled at the retreat for final commentary and modification.
- Once accepted, each constituency will conduct an internal consultation to determine their ST representative.

2. Discussion on the RCG4-WCA's future activities and perspectives

A. Publication of a report on the state of education in Africa

The Chair participated in discussions between the African Union, the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) Team and UNESCO about the publication of a joint report on the state of education in Africa. The aforementioned parties have agreed in principle to conduct the joint report, but the details and process should be discussed with RCG4-WCA members, particularly regarding whether the RCG4-WCA is interested in participating and whether they should develop a report for all of sub Saharan Africa or focus on West and Central Africa. The AU and UNESCO are scheduled to meet in February 2019 to continue discussions.

FAWE commented that ADEA had produced a similar continental and regional report on education management and policy in the past. To ensure that resources are utilized effectively, ADEA should be consulted. Determining the geographical focus will depend on whether the joint report is intended to feed into the GEM or the AU reporting processes because the data will be different. The RCG4-WCA could however establish a data bank in this region.

The Chair suggested that the RCG4-WCA could provide value added through case studies or thematic reports on subjects pertinent to the region. In terms of the AU and ADEA reporting processes, Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director of the Multi-Sectoral Office in Nairobi for East Africa, has spoken with the African Union Commission (AUC) and they have agreed to combine the Special Technical Committees (STC), (which preside over the AU's Education, Science and Technology reporting processes in conjunction with 10 Ministers from African countries) with the Pan-African High Level Conference on Education (PACE), which is scheduled to occur in Morocco in 2020.

If the Plenary group agrees to the idea, 1 to 2 regional topics should be identified, for example learning, inequality, gender etc. Once the topics are determined, a call for funding can be developed. If learning is a chosen topic, there could be funding from the GPE.

B. Resource mobilization

In November, FAWE requested that the GPE present on the KIX mechanism at the Plenary group retreat. Unfortunately the GPE is unavailable and has indicated that the KIX mechanism is still undergoing changes, and therefore a more concrete presentation could be given at the subsequent Plenary meeting in March/April 2019.

The Chair indicated that the RCG4-WCA should prepare concrete project documents if it hopes to secure external funding, especially if KIX becomes a funding possibility. Currently KIX is set to expend 70% of its funding at the regional level across 6 categories: learning assessment systems, data systems, early childhood care (ECC), gender equality, teaching and learning and equity and inclusion. The Plenary group should sit together and develop concrete concept notes, which would entail consulting stakeholders and setting concrete deadlines.

Secondly, the Secretariat highlighted an additional topic to discuss at the retreat: the [“Members’ Contributions” document](#) that was circulated and later finalized in February 2018. Some member organizations have contributed and others have not. Some contributions have been executed; others will be executed in 2019. In response, the Chair stated that developing concrete project proposals requires resources. To do so, the RCG4-WCA needs a consultant to prepare the documents. The group should prepare a budget for 2019, this is the ideal moment.

CONFEMEN suggested that a document including concrete activities and budget line items could be presented internally, as well as to its member States. The Chair added that other agencies may be willing to do the same.

The Chair concluded the discussion with a list of suggested next steps:

- The Secretariat will post the recorded [KIX webinar](#) and accompanying [Powerpoint presentations](#) on the platform and share the link with members. Though it is focused on learning, it does contain general information on KIX. Next, Task teams could target funding areas that align with their theme. Task teams should start preparing now as the KIX funding deadlines will be tight.
- The idea of developing concept notes for external funding should be discussed at the retreat.
- The Secretariat will develop a budget proposal corresponding to concrete activities to be carried out by the RCG4-WCA. This should be developed as soon as possible so member organizations can present it to their internal funding committees.

The Secretariat added that funding proposals should also include a percentage or amount to help fund the work of the Secretariat. The Chair indicated that a concrete list of activities conducted by the Secretariat is needed. The budget should include operating costs, including the Retreat and the quarterly Plenary meetings.

3. Conclusion

The Secretariat presented the [agenda](#) for the Plenary group retreat. The Chair asked Steering Team members to volunteer for certain tasks during the retreat. FAWE will present and lead a discussion on the Steering Team proposition. FAWE also stressed the importance of explaining the time

commitment involved in becoming a member of the Steering Team so that the incoming Steering Team will function properly. CONFEMEN, as a participant in the Global Education Meeting (GEM) in Brussels, will give a 15 minute overview of the event, the discussions that occurred and how the GEM was unique.

FAWE added that the Plenary group retreat agenda had more substance and focused less on administrative issues, which is a welcome change and will hopefully continue to urge members toward stronger participation in Plenary group meetings. Additionally, the retreat could be a fitting occasion to remind members what it means to be a member of the RCG4-WCA. It is important to acknowledge that the Plenary group focal point is a representative of his/her organization and therefore membership in the RCG4-WCA involves not only the participation of the designated focal point, but of the entire organization.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to prepare an updated “Commitments” document based on the document that was signed by the members who were present at the inaugural meeting in 2016.