

**Conference on the Integration of African Languages and Cultures into Education  
(Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 20-22 January 2010)**

**DRAFT COMMUNIQUE**

**PREAMBLE**

We, Ministers and representatives of Ministers of Education participating in the African Conference on the Integration of African Languages and Cultures into Education held in Ouagadougou, 20-22 January 2010, co-organized by the Ministry of Basic Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) with support from the Education Program Development Fund (EPDF) of the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) and the GTZ (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) representing the government of the Federal Republic of Germany,

- Conscious of the commitment of Heads of States and Heads of Government of the African Union to make education a priority sector for the development of our continent;
- Affirming that education is both a fundamental human right and an investment in human capital which reinforces in all people the knowledge, values and competencies which are needed for them to make choices and to determine their future all the while enabling the conditions leading to socio-economic development;
- Convinced that recourse to local African languages and cultures contributes to facilitating access of all people to education and to significant improvements in the quality of the teaching/learning process and outcomes;
- Recognizing that the promotion of African languages and cultures is a factor of social cohesion at the national level and integration at the regional and continental levels;
- Re-affirming our commitment to the ideals of the African Union contained in the Linguistic Plan of Action for Africa and the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance both adopted by the Heads of States at the African Union summit of January 2006 in Khartoum;
- Considering the Action Plan of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015);
- Re-affirming our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to Education for All (EFA);
- Considering the Recommendations of the Eighth Conference of Ministers of Education of Members of African States (MINEDAF VIII) to change and improve the status of African languages within a well thought-out language policy grounded in a legal framework;
- Recognizing that the transformation of African societies with the view of attaining just, sustainable and balanced, cultural, social and economic development cannot go without the integration of African languages and cultures in the educational systems of African states;

make the following Recommendations:

Actions to be undertaken by governments

- Ensure ownership of the contents of the Policy Guide – developed and adopted at the African Conference on the Integration of the African Languages and Cultures into Education - and their dissemination to the various decision-making and consultative bodies at country level;
- Implement the guidelines of the Policy Guide in each country;
- Facilitate the organization of partnerships with researchers, the education community and between the public and private sectors in order to promote the integration of African languages and cultures into education;
- Draw the attention of EFA partners – including the High-Level Group – to the priority that should be given to the integration of African languages and cultures into education;
- Establish Inter-Country Quality Nodes (ICQNs) on Multilingual Policies in Education;
- Mobilize the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) to assist in the implementation of the Policy Guide and the elaboration of a strategy for promoting cross-border languages;
- Include in the agenda of the next session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF) the issue of the integration of African languages and cultures into education;

Actions to be undertaken by ADEA, UNESCO (UIL and BREDA) and the Ministry of Basic Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso

- Ensure follow-up of the recommendations of the conference;
- Steer implementation of the provisions of the Policy Guide through the mechanisms of the Inter-Country Quality Nodes (ICQNs);
- Follow-up and monitor implementation of the Policy Guide by countries in collaboration with ACALAN, UIL and the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA);

Actions by technical and financial partners

- Participate in the implementation of policies aiming at integrating African languages in education systems as well as the operationalization of the provisions of the Policy Guide;
- Mobilize resources to that end.

**Ouagadougou, 22 January 2010**