



Press Release

For immediate release

Oley Dibba-Wadda is Appointed Executive Secretary of ADEA

Tunis, July 1st 2014. Oley Dibba-Wadda, ADEA's newly appointed Executive Secretary, assumes function as Head of the Secretariat of ADEA today, July, 1st, 2014.

Oley Dibba-Wadda is a strategic analyst and expert in international development policy and programming whose work has focused more particularly on education and gender equality in Africa.

She brings to ADEA her extensive experience in strategic policy development, organizational and program management, policy analysis and leadership management.

Prior to joining ADEA, she was Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), working to advance the cause of women, peace and security in Africa and before that, Executive Director of the Forum of African Women Educationists (FAWE), crusading for girls' education in Africa. Oley Dibba-Wadda has also worked as Global Programme and Policy Adviser for Oxfam and she has held senior management and advisory roles with the Commonwealth Education Fund, Concern Universal and the European Development Fund.

Mrs. Dibba-Wadda sits on several Advisory Boards and is a Global Ambassador for 10X10 and Concern Universal¹.

In 2012, she was awarded "Inspiring Woman of Excellence" in The Gambia and in 2013, "Women Leadership Award" in Mauritius.

"Africa is rising and as such, we need to ensure that the right investments are made in education." Mrs. Dibba-Wadda says. "Youth represent more than 50% of Africa's population-the current median age in Sub Saharan Africa is 18.5 years and yet, as Dr. Donald Kaberuka of the AfDB highlighted, 14 million of our African youths are entering the job market each year and yet cannot find a job".

Oley Dibba-Wadda stresses that "It is critical for ADEA to take the lead in ensuring that we accelerate the education agenda so it that resonates with the realities of the 'Africa we want', an African architecture that is meaningful to Africans for Africa's sustainable development." In essence, she says this means "education and training that will stimulate critical skills development for employability, peace and prosperity, and for Africans to become a dynamic driving force in the world." For Mrs Dibba- Wadda, "This is the time to act."

Ms. Dibba-Wadda is ADEA's fifth and first female Executive Secretary since it was created in 1988. She succeeds Ahlin Byll-Cataria, ADEA's Executive Secretary between 2008 and 2013.

About ADEA

ADEA is a Pan-African network driven by African Ministers of Education and development partners seeking solutions to the education challenges of Africa through education policy research, dialogue, advocacy and networking, as well as the provision of advisory and capacity building services across a set of African educational issues. ADEA is hosted at the African Development Bank (AfDB). Its Secretariat is located in Tunis, within the AfDB's temporary relocation offices. More about ADEA is available at www.adeanet.org.

Media contact: **Thanh-Hoa Desruelles**, Principal External Relations and Communication Officer, ADEA, t.desruelles@afdb.org, tel: +216/ 71 10 34 32 (office) OR +216/ 21 69 11 46 (cell)

¹ 10X10 is a project set up to support –through fundraising – organizations working to advance social causes worldwide. Concern Universal is an international Charity fighting poverty through support given to community development actions throughout the world, including skills development.