



Association for the  
Development of  
Education in  
Africa



Republic of  
Burkina Faso



African Union

Addis Ababa, Sunday January 27, 2013

## Education and Training

Burkina Faso to present - The promotion of Key Competences for the Accelerated and Sustainable Development of Africa – at the African Union Heads of States Summit.

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The 20th (Ordinary) Summit of the Heads of States of the African Union kicks off this Sunday, January 27 at the African Union Headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. Heads of States or their designated representatives of all the 53 member states of the African Union are expected to attend.

In her welcome remarks and first address to the Executive Council, at the opening session of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Council on Thursday January 24, 2013, African Union Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma highlighted the significance of this year which marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the continental body.

Speaking earlier at the opening session of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on January 21, 2013, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, told the PRC that this is a watershed year for Africa, which marks 50 years of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the jubilee of the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) that was established in 1962, as well as 10 years since the launch of the African Union.

She told the members of the Executive Council that it is in this context that the newly elected Commission which she now heads reflected on its responsibility during this term of office, to decisively move forward the continental agenda, propelled by these celebrations of the 50th Anniversary. She informed the audience that for the Third African Union Strategic Plan (2014 -2017), the Commission will identify key priorities on which to concentrate attention in order to accelerate Africa's agenda for "an integrated, people-centred and prosperous continent at peace with itself". "This will be in addition to the other programmes, but we thought that through prioritization, we will be able to set more realistic outcomes, which can be achieved during this period and beyond," Dr. Dlamini Zuma assured the Council. The African Union Commission hopes to achieve this as early as March this year.

The Commission, in conjunction with the Regional economic Communities, the member states and other continental institutions will therefore have to focus on concrete outcomes in key priority areas, among which are human capacity development focusing on health, education, science, research, technology and innovation. Dr. Dlamini Zuma told the various audiences that she addressed during the week that the African continent still has to contend with huge infrastructure backlogs, as well as backlogs in education (especially higher education), health and other basic services, including responding to rapid urbanization, youth development and the need for food security.

The new African Union Commission Chairperson asserted that the continent must be resolute to meet its vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa by 2063. Amongst the critical areas in which Africa is required to speed up implementation, as Member states and the RECs, and supported by the Commission and other continental institutions is building Africa's human capacity through the prioritization of Primary Health Care and Prevention; Social Security; Education, especially Higher Education, Skills Development and Investment in Science and Technology, Research and Innovation.

It will be against this backdrop that Heads of States will pay attention to a presentation that President Blaise Compaoré and his team from Burkina Faso will be making to them on Monday, January 28 2013 on the theme "The promotion of key competences for the accelerated and sustainable development of Africa". This theme will highlight the conclusions and recommendations of the Triennial organized by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and hosted by the Government of Burkina Faso in February 2012. A number of concrete actions are expected to be taken by member states of the African Union in order to complement and implement components of the broader vision that the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities, and the member states should be pursuing.

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