Years of Close Collaboration with the African Union on Education Policy

ADEA’s main implementing entities: ADEA’s Biennales and Triennales

Ministries of Education in Africa served by ADEA

ICQNs bring together Ministers and technical experts to tackle educational challenges

Regions of Africa represented on ADEA’s Bureau of Ministers

8 Years of close Collaboration with AfDB, ADEA’s host institution

MISSION: To serve as an open and flexible pan-African organization that informs and facilitates the transformation of education and training to drive Africa’s accelerated and sustainable development

VISION: High quality African education and training geared towards the promotion of critical knowledge and skills for accelerated and sustainable development in Africa

34 Chapters of FAWE (an offshoot of ADEA) promoting excellence in girls education in Africa

5 Ways that ADEA expresses its strength through its convening power, as a Forum, Network, Partnership, Platform & Catalyst

1 Task Force to foster the integration of Information & Communications Technology (ICT) into curriculums across the continent
The “Promise of Education”

Education is an inalienable right of every human being. It promises to free all citizens from the shackles of ignorance, poverty, and disempowerment, and endow them with the capacity to be architects of their own destiny, and catalysts of entrepreneurship, innovation and global citizenship. Education promises to “inherently and instrumentally” improve human capacity, dignity, and individual well-being without which there can be no meaningful national development, social progress, and the transformation of the world.

Putting Education Financing on the Front Burner

Africa’s huge youthful population can be a “demographic dividend” only if it is provided with quality education and appropriate skills. An estimated 133 million (more than 50%) of the sub-Saharan region’s youth are illiterate (African Economic Outlook, 2013). To achieve the goals of the global and continental agendas of repositioning access, equity, quality education, and skills development as key drivers of inclusive growth and sustainable development, African countries must provide a level of predictable and sustainable investment in education that exceeds that of other developing regions. Although a number of education financing initiatives exist at the global and continental levels, they neither cater for the diverse needs of African countries nor fully fulfill the goal of AEF is: not to substitute but to complement; not to compete but to collaborate; and not to be mutually exclusive but to be mutually inclusive of existing funding mechanisms at the national and international levels.

The African Education Fund (AEF)

Africa’s vision of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena” is only realizable if African countries equip their citizens with 21st century skills, for a knowledge-based society in a global and competitive environment.

The African Education Fund is a unique, Africa-initiated, continental strategy and mechanism for confronting the mammoth challenge of financing education. This funding mechanism, which will be designed, led and managed by Africans is imperative for transforming Africa’s education and training systems to unleash the full human potential of the continent and create lasting opportunities for African people to acquire cutting-edge skills and effectively compete in the global economic and technological arena. The goal of AEF is: not to substitute but to complement; not to compete but to collaborate; and not to be mutually exclusive but to be mutually inclusive of existing funding mechanisms at the national and international levels.

The Consensus

The African Education Fund is a vision many stakeholders interested in education in Africa have had but could not actualize. It is no longer a mirage. It was given life and voice at the highest political levels at the ADEA 2017 Triennale held in March in Dakar (Senegal) under the theme “Revitalizing Education towards the 2030 Global Agenda and Africa’s Agenda 2063”: From H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal through Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB); to the respective special envoys of the President of the Republic of The Gambia and the President of the Republic of Angola; several African Ministers, the Vice President, Sector Operations of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); the Administrator of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF); and other stakeholders, the consensus is that AEF has become imperative for real and sustained transformation of African education and training systems.