



Association  
pour le développement  
de l'éducation  
en Afrique

## **Public institutions, the private sector and civil society must be stakeholders in reform of education and vocational training, the driver for social and economic change**

### **ADEA brought to a close today the Consultation Forum for the Private Sector, Socio-Professional Organizations and NGOs**

**Tunis, 20 May 2011.** The Forum for Consultation of the Private Sector, Socio-Professional Organizations and NGOs organized by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) ended today in Tunis. The meeting was brought to a close by Hon. Saïd Aïdi, Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of Tunisia.

The Forum took place from 18 to 20 May 2011 as part of the preparation of the 2011 Triennale on education and training for sustainable development, to be held this year in Burkina Faso, from 27 November to 2 December 2011.

The closing session provided an opportunity to present the key messages from the three days' proceedings, of which the essential burden is as follows:

- The sustainable development of Africa is dependent on the concerted vision of all actors in the continent's future;
- It is necessary to reform the system of educational and training, the driver for social and economic change, and to adopt a charter for governance based on partnership and the involvement of public institutions, the private sector and civil society;
- Reform must be guided by a concern for equity and the appropriate responses must be provided, particularly for the specific needs of women, the rural world and marginalized populations;
- Systems for vocational training must be designed to match the skills needed by the private sector: to ensure this, a shift is necessary from a logic based on supply to a logic driven by demand;
- Vocational training and the integration of young people into society and the workforce is a matter of concern for all and something for which all actors must take responsibility;

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- Entrepreneurial culture and the values of independence and responsibility must be promoted and disseminated in all education and training systems;
- The financing of vocational training must be rethought in order to assist and underpin reform.

The Minister of Vocational Training and Employment congratulated his audience on the quality and the relevance of the messages generated by their deliberations. Referring to the Tunisian revolution, he reminded them that education and training together form a vector for the consolidation of democratic processes and of the importance in this regard of building strategies for regional development that take account of the specific social and economic characteristics of the different regions. He also stressed:

- The necessity of bringing together the efforts of all the various actors (public institutions, the private sector, socio-professional organizations and NGOs) and of combining their respective strengths to face up to the challenges, in particular that of youth unemployment;
- The importance of entrepreneurial culture and the values of independence and responsibility, which must be disseminated throughout every level of education;
- The necessity of providing systems for education and training that are responsive and suited to a world in constant, rapid change, as well as supportive of life-long learning;
- The central role that must be assigned to young people in development policy and in this regard the importance of the contribution of the private sector and the organizations of civil society.

And lastly, the Minister assured ADEA of the support of Tunisia's Ministry for Vocational Training and Employment and proposed to communicate to his African counterparts the conclusions and messages that have come out of the Forum.

In his address, ADEA Executive Secretary Ahlin Byll-Cataria saluted the combined sum of competence and knowledge of the representatives of the private sector, socio-professional organizations and civil society present at the Forum. *"The representation of the private sector and civil society will be strengthened at the Triennale"*, he declared, adding that *"ADEA must take greater advantage of their contribution in order to strengthen their input to the policy dialogue on education and ensure successful reform of education and training in Africa"*. The Executive Secretary also highlighted the importance attached by ADEA to Tunisia's experience, which has already defined strategies to address both youth unemployment and the integration of young people into society and the workforce, along with the development needs of all Tunisia's regions.

**Tunis, 20 May 2011.**

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