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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTINENTAL EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA

CESA 16-25

PLANNING MEETING

23 to 24 June 2016

Concept Note

1. INTRODUCTION

Education and Training play a central role in the achievement of human and economic development goals. Education systems and program must therefore ensure the production of appropriately skilled populations with requisite knowledge, attitudes and social cultural values for engendering sustainable and peaceful co-existence and wealth creation. The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) was adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2016 to provide the framework that links education to the human resource needs of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, as well as national development goals.

In developing the framework, all key stakeholder groups were involved, so that interventions in education in Africa will be within a common framework and towards a common vision. All African Ministers of Education met in Kigali in February 2015, convened by UNESCO and the AUC to draw up a common African position and priorities in education development. The common position was fully included in the UNESCO Education program (Education 2030) through the global meeting held in Incheon in May 2015. The global program unpacks the SDG number 4, but also addresses education requirements for achieving several other SDGs.

Based on this background that informed CESA 16-25, it is clear that the African education strategy is for the first time in alignment with the global goals. CESA is indeed the continental domestication of the Global Education 2030 programme adopted in Incheon, Korea, as well as SDG 4. Furthermore, there are sectoral African post 2015 strategies such as STISA 2024, the revised Youth Decade Plan of Action and the Continental Strategy for TVET, which are concomitant with CESA 16-25.

The strategy addresses the need to deliver better living standards, higher levels of quality employment and employability, entrepreneurship and innovation, through establishment of robust and dynamic inter-sectoral linkages. It speaks to Africa's quest for increased capacity, and human capital development, as a key to realizing the common developmental approach that the continent has taken. CESA, as a strategy, also identifies key thematic areas, and proposes a coalition of partners and stakeholders as part of its implementation platform.

Already, stakeholders under the Women and Gender thematic have met and started developing their implementation framework. A study on Teachers' working training and living conditions has been commissioned, which will lay the basis for the stakeholders under Teacher issues to develop their programs.

2. SUMMARY OF CESA 16-25

CESA 16-25 provides a common basis for national, regional and continental program design and implementation, and an overall framework for mobilization of all key stakeholders. It is a Strategy for Reorienting Africa's education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, innovation and creativity required to nurture

African core values and promote sustainable development at the national, regional and continental levels

Five Guiding Principles are proposed as key orientations for directing reform agendas, suggesting certain desired outcomes of implementing the strategy.

Seven Pillars are proposed as pre-requisite conceptual elements necessary to support successful implementation.

Twelve Strategic Objectives are proposed as high level results to be achieved in implementing CESA 16-25. The document also includes suggested Action Areas to form the basis for operational plans. These cut across all levels and types of education and education provision.

The issue of teachers and teaching remains core to education development. Also highlighted are Science and Technology; a demand for a paradigm shift in technical and Vocational Education and Training; gender; value inculcation in education (e.g. peace and democracy); as well as ensuring access and inclusion for the remotely situated, the slower learners, the poor and the hungry and so on. A particularly important area that must be strengthened is Education Management Information Systems.

Implementation Platform

A major advantage of CESA 16-25 is that it comes at a time when the role of education and training in achieving the global and local development goals is well recognized. This includes promoting the skills revolution that is required for Africa to harness its youth demographic dividend and build prosperity through building value chains for expanding productive sectors. The Summit of the African Union took a decision establishing a mechanism of Ten Heads of State Champions for Education, Science and Technology. This highest level of championship will ensure visibility of Education and ensure it remains on the local and international priority list.

CESA has proposed an **Implementation Platform**, which is a coalition of stakeholders covering all thematic areas in education and training as identified in the Strategic Objectives. Implementation of CESA 16-25 will therefore require that the defined stakeholders' platform be operationalized, so that partnerships can be established and programs drawn up for pursuing the development of various thematic mentioned as priorities.

3. PLANNING MEETING

The Commission therefore wishes to organize the First Technical Planning Meeting for the implementation of CESA 16-25.

3.1 Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting will bring together all key partners working in the areas mentioned in CESA 16-25 Strategic Objectives in order to:

1. Establish the Coalition of Partners for CESA
 - a. Identify strategic thematic grouping of partners into CESA Clusters
 - b. Agree on roles and responsibilities of Partners and CESA Clusters
2. Establish the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for CESA
3. Agree on the CESA Implementation Road Map
4. Receive and discuss updates on some themes
 - a. Teacher Development
 - b. Girls and Women's Education
 - c. School Feeding
 - d. Peace Education
 - e. Technical and Vocational Education and Training
 - f. Higher Education

3.2 Structure of the Meeting

The meeting will include plenary sessions and thematic break-out sessions

3.3 Outcome of the Meeting

The outcome of the meeting will consist of an elaborated implementation mechanism, including thematic clusters, frameworks for monitoring and reporting as well as communication, and a CESA implementation Roadmap.

The report of the meeting will be presented to the Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology

4. DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening session
2. Presentation on CESA 16-25
3. Presentation on the CESA 16-25 Implementation Platform
4. Introduction from Partners
 - a. Who you are
 - b. What you do
 - c. Which CESA Strategic Objective will you contribute to
 - d. What will be your contribution
5. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Proposed CESA 16-25 Clusters
6. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Proposed Monitoring and Reporting Framework
7. Break Out Session of CESA 16-25 Clusters
8. Plenary Report Back Session
9. Conclusions and Way Forward
10. Closing Session

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES: DAY 1

TIME	ACTIVITY	Facilitator/ Presenter
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival and Registration	HRST
9:00 – 9:30	Opening Remarks: Welcome by Director, HRST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks, UNESCO ADG for Africa • Opening remarks, Commissioner, HRST 	Facilitator: Director, HRST
9:30 – 9:50	Presentation on CESA	
9:50 – 10:10	Presentation on CESA Implementation Mechanism with Proposed Thematic Clusters	
10:10 – 10:30	Open Discussions	
10:30 – 11:00	Implementation Updates School Feeding- WFP Girls and Women’s Education - FAWE Technical and Vocational Education and Training – AU Expert Group Peace Education - UNICEF Higher Education – Damtew Tefera	
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK	
11:30 – 11:45	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED MONITORING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK , By Nazar Eltahir	
11:45 – 12:00	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR CESA 16-25 , By Lawalley Cole ADEA	
12:00 - 13:30	PRESENTATION BY STAKEHOLDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, location and geographic scope • What you do in Education Development • How you will contribute to implementation of CESA 	
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH	
14:30 – 16:00	BREAK - OUT SESSION INTO CESA CLUSTERS	
16:00 – 16:20	COFFEE BREAK	
16:20 – 17:30	BREAK - OUT SESSION CONTINUED	

DAY 2

TIME	ACTIVITY	Chair/Facilitator
9:00 – 9:30	Recapitulation of Day 1	
9:30 – 10:00	Finalisation of Cluster Reports	
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation of Cluster Reports	
10:30 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 – 13:00	PRESENTATION OF CLUSTER REPORTS By Cluster Chairs	HRST
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 15:00	FINALISATION OF REPORT	
15:00 – 15:45	PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF OUTCOME OF THE FIRST CESA PLANNING WORKSHOP: Head, Education <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation Mechanism <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Thematic Clusters and Terms of Reference b. Monitoring and Follow up c. Communication framework 2. Implementation Roadmap 	
15:45 – 16:00	CLOSING SESSION	Commissioner, HRST
16:00 – 16:30	FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH COFFEE BREAK	