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**YOUTH MANIFESTO ON EDUCATION LED BY THE AFRICAN UNION CHAIRPERSON'S YOUTH ENVOY,
MS. Chido Mpemba**

- THIS IS OUR FUTURE

In line with Aspiration 6¹ of the African Union Agenda 2063 and article 11 of the African Youth Charter², we undertook a large consultation of youth across the continent in view of hearing their voices on issues and recommendations regarding the transformation of education in Africa.

The present declaration represents African youth contribution to the Global Transforming Education Summit on the Sidelines of the 77TH United Nations General Assembly to be held on 19 September 2022.

Preamble

We, Youth of Africa,

Guided by the OAU/AU instruments and decisions on education, in particular the Youth Charter and the Assembly Decisions [Assembly/AU/Dec.591 (XXVI)], adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and government at its 26th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 to 31 January 2016, and [Assembly/AU/Dec.753(XXXIII)] adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 33rd Ordinary Session held from 9 to 10 February 2020, as well as the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020),

Noting the African Union commitment to foster development programmers with the full inclusion and participation of and also create conducive conditions in order to realize a conflict-free Africa,

Mindful of our governments' commitment to education through the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 which mission is 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, sub-regional and continental levels. and through the Sustainable Development Goal 4 which is to ensure all genders, including people with disability and indigenous peoples, complete primary and secondary education and have access to affordable and quality preprimary, vocational, and tertiary education.

¹ An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children

² [Microsoft Word - Charter english.doc \(au.int\)](#)

Have gathered on-line, in regional spaces and in our communities to express our concerns and suggested solutions to address the learning crisis affecting African youth.

We acknowledge the importance of education as catalyst to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, the Africa we Want. We join our voices with youth around the world on the urgency to transform education in Africa.

We are concerned that:

- Millions of African children, adolescents and youth remain out of school; those that complete primary education may not continue through the secondary education. The situation has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This leaves our young population stunted in terms of basic literacy and numeracy. *Without basic skills, we have limited chances to access other basic services such as reading health information or understanding laws designed to protect our rights.*
- Most youth in Africa do not have the technical and vocational skills relevant for the 21st century job market to meaningfully contribute to the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063. *We cannot be the future we are so often referred to as, if we do not have the skills and opportunities to contribute to national, regional, and global commitments that affect our lives.*
- Inequities across the continent place girls, migrants, and refugees, those living with HIV and/or disabilities and those living in rural areas or in conditions marked by poverty at the highest risk of exclusion. Education remains expensive and not affordable for many children and youth, while those from wealthy family study abroad or in exclusive private schools with digital connections. *We cannot advance as young Africans, with the burden of the Continent on our shoulders, if we are not all given a fair chance to succeed and to contribute to our nations' development.*
- When we can go to school, we do not always feel safe, nor do we always have access to food, clean water, or decent infrastructure. Our curricula are often outdated, and we do not have enough teachers. *We cannot learn in environments that neither protect nor stimulate us.*
- When we do have teachers, there are too many students per teacher; they do not have relevant materials nor sufficient pay. The education we receive does not always support or respect us, nor teach us new areas. *We need better resourced education systems, teachers who are motivated and well equipped to teach us better, and curricula that cover new academic, social and emotional skills.*
- Too many African youth and schools do not have access to technology. And if we happen to have equipment and access to the internet, we are not adequately taught about online safety nor are there enough mechanisms to protect us online. *We cannot live in a digital, tech-dependent world, if our Continent lags sorely behind in access to affordable technology and related skills.*

Cognizant of the fact that as Youth, we have our responsibilities in the transformation of education We commit to be a part of the solution with all actors to protect our Right to Education and will:

1. Act as global and regional citizens and support our peers to join sub-national, national and regional and global plans to transform education.
2. Raise awareness in national youth platforms of commitments made in the Transforming Education Summit, and the High-Level Side Event for Africa.
3. Meaningfully engage with the African Union Institutions including regional bodies to implement and monitor commitments to transform education in Africa.
4. Engage with political leaders at all levels, heads of International Organizations and Donor Institutions to monitor the implementation of declarations and commitment made to transform education in Africa.
5. Work with all actors to put an end to gender, economic, ethnic, geographic, political and other inequities that divide African youth.

Recommendations

Understanding that Transforming Education in Africa requires a shift in approach **We call** Governments, the African Union and Development actors to transform Africa's education systems in at least 6 areas underpinned by the AU DOTSS Framework:

1. Innovations in teaching and learning including expanding digital learning opportunities.
2. Increasing the number of teachers, improving quality of teaching, and building the capacity of teachers to teach in both virtual and physical classroom environment.
3. Make the schools environment both virtual and physical classroom safe for learning particularly for girls and provide psychosocial support for children and young people especially in humanitarian contexts.
4. Increase education funding and improve quality of spending in the education sector.
5. Prioritize science, technical and vocational education driven by industry needs and the job market.
6. Establish and strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for education including with industry to provide opportunities for apprenticeship and on the job training and IT company to advance innovation

Finally, **We call all actors** in the education sector committed in multilateral agreements to deliver on their promises to both transform education and engage youth as partners.

Adopted on 20th September 2022 at the High-Level Side Event on Transforming Education in Africa in the Margins of Transforming Education Summit in New York.