

*Concept Note on 'Transformation of Education in Africa', co-organized by the African Union Commission, the European Union, UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP*

## **“TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN AFRICA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”**

A High-Level Side Event at the Margins of the global Transforming Education Summit (TES)  
AND THE 77th United Nations General Assembly - New York

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - 12:30pm to 02:30 PM (2hrs)

### **CONTEXT**

The United Nations Secretary General is convening the global Transforming Education Summit (TES) on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022, during the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the world to press a reset on how countries approach and prioritize education. The Summit aims to mobilize a renewed political commitment supported by innovative solutions of high impact to transform education, by revitalizing national and global efforts to achieve SDG4. This important Summit comes at a time when children all over the world are facing the dire consequences of learning loss resulting from school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it will provide opportunity for the youth to share their vision and make their voices heard, as they come together and join forces to transform education in Africa.

To minimize the potential negative effects of learning loss, all countries have been urged by the UN Secretary-General to undertake national consultative processes in the lead-up to TES, identify bold national commitments to transform education in their countries, and develop **National Statements of Commitment** capturing key areas of national commitment for action. Heads of State and Government will be encouraged to present their National Statement of Commitment at the TES in September. Various side events on specific issue areas are also being organized (including one on Girls' Education hosted by Sierra Leone, and another on School Health and Nutrition hosted by Morocco).

### **RATIONALE FOR THE SIDE-EVENT ON TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN AFRICA**

The African Union Commission (AUC), UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP and the European Union (EU), will co-organize a high-level side event at the margins of TES, which will focus on 'transforming education' in the specific context of Africa. The AUC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with these institutions and are collaborating in areas of common interest including on Education and Skills Development, Culture and on Home Grown School Feeding. The AUC together with the EU also guides the Africa-EU Partnership.

The global platform offered by TES is an opportune moment for partners to come together to put the spotlight on education in Africa. It will sustain the momentum that was created with the AU-EU-UNICEF education event 'Building Skills for the future' on 20 April 2021 and followed up at the 76<sup>th</sup> UNGA in 2021 when the AUC and UNICEF convened ministers of education and development partners to discuss 'Reimagining Education in Africa' at the margins of the General Assembly. The meeting was attended by 20 Ministers of Education in Africa and saw the launch of the [Transforming Education in Africa](#) Report (co-produced by AUC and UNICEF) with eight specific [recommendations](#) to support transforming education systems in Africa. The event also presented **a call to action to African member states to advocate for 'Education'**

**to be the AU theme of the year for 2023.** During the TES Pre Summit held in Paris from 29-30th June 2022, Governments were urged to consolidate national consultations as they prepare for the September 19th Summit, where Heads of State and Governments will announce their national commitments to transforming education.

### PURPOSE OF THE SIDE-EVENT

The side-event at TES aims to:

- Galvanize actions for speed and scale in transforming education systems in Africa and ensure that they are effective, efficient, and equitable
- Amplify key findings of the national consultations under TES in Africa
- Present a declaration on priority actions for transforming education in Africa.

The event will aim to identify and secure the participation of **5 or more Heads of States in Africa** (preferably each representing an AU region) who are “champions advocates of education” to mobilize political action and commitment of other Member States at and beyond TES. In 2018, the Heads of State and Government instituted **the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10)** Championing Education, Science and Technology in Africa, to effectively implement its long-term vision of a transformative Agenda 2063. The 10-member strong Committee is currently chaired by His Excellency Macky Sall, President of Senegal. The composition of the Committee includes two Presidents from each of the AU's Five Continental Regions and draws its membership from: Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia.

In addition, the event will involve participation of other levels of government representation, such as ministers of education, ministers of finance, key partners from other intergovernmental organizations, donors, the private sector. Participation of young people will also be central to the event.

The AUC and the Office of the Permanent Observer of the AU to the United Nations in New York will lead the engagement with the Member States in Addis Ababa and in New York respectively, to solicit the participation of Heads of States. UNICEF, UNESCO and WFP, through their Country Offices, will also mobilize the engagement of the Heads of State at the country level.

### FORMAT OF THE SIDE-EVENT

While the programme for the event will be co-created in consultation with all partners, it aims to be forward-looking, structured around the opening session, a presentation of AU-UNICEF joint report on *“Transforming Education in Africa: An evidence based overview and opportunities for long term improvements,”* and three high-level panel discussions and Statements:

- High-level Panel 1 - Education Financing: Challenges and perspectives

- High-Level Panel 2 - Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for education in Africa
- High-Level Panel 3 - Innovative and scalable solutions to address the learning crisis in Africa, including digitalization and data management for education.
- Presentation of the **Youth Manifesto on Transforming Education in Africa**<sup>1</sup> developed by young Africans, led by the AU Youth Envoy
- Presentation of a declaration on priorities for transforming education in Africa, including the call to action to make 'education' the AU theme of the year for 2023

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Side-event is expected to achieve multiple outcomes:

- A Declaration on an Africa vision and priorities for transforming education in Africa including an advocacy request for an AU Assembly decision to make “**Transforming Education in Africa**” the AU theme of the Year 2023.
- Trigger a collaboration among AU Member States towards the creation of a **continental movement on transforming education in Africa**. This process, led by Member States (and supported by partners), will involve evidence-based policy and public advocacy; partnerships; youth engagement; scaling up innovations; monitoring progress towards SDG 4; and Agenda 2063 “*Africa We Want*”.

The draft programme for the High Level Side Event on Transforming Education in Africa.

| Time   | Items  |
|--------|--|
| 30 min | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening session</b></p> <p>Session Chair &amp; Director of Programme: Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI), AUC</p>  |
|        | <p><b>Welcoming remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E Macky Sall, President of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening statements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of Sierra Leone, Co-Chair of the Global Education Coordination Mechanism of SDG4</li> <li>• Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO</li> <li>• Ms. Catherine Russell, Executive Director, UNICEF</li> <li>• Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director, WFP</li> <li>• H.E. Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships</li> </ul> |
| 5 min  | <p><b>Setting the scene: Presentation of an AU-UNICEF joint Report on “Transforming Education in Africa: An evidence-based overview and opportunities for long-term improvements”</b></p>  |
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Key findings of the Report on “Transforming Education in Africa: An evidence-based overview and opportunities for long-term improvements” – Ms. Marie-Pierre Poirier, Regional Director, UNICEF.</li> </ul>   |

<sup>1</sup> Annex 1 - To be developed through the youth track and presented by the AU Youth Envoy

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|---------------|---|
|               | <b>Session 2. High Level Panels: What is the African VISION for the Transformation of Education in Africa?</b>  |
| <b>25 min</b> | <p align="center"><b>High-level panel discussions 1</b><br/> <b>Theme: Education Financing: Challenges and perspectives</b><br/> Moderator: Ms. Folly Bah Thibault</p>  |
|               | <p>Heads of States talk about their country experiences, highlighting achievements and lessons learned and share their recommendations for strengthening financing of education to address the learning crisis in Africa.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana</li> <li>• H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of DRC</li> <li>• H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of Niger</li> <li>• H.E. Aziz Akhannouch, Prime Minister of Morocco</li> <li>• Mr. Charles North, Education Financing – GPE Ag. CEO</li> </ul>          |
| <b>25 min</b> | <p align="center"><b>High-level panel discussions 2</b><br/> <b>Theme: Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for education in Africa</b><br/> Moderator: Ms. Folly Bah Thibault</p>   |
|               | <p>Education Partners will share their views, commitments and recommendations on establishing a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder' partnerships for a renewed movement supporting initiatives to transform education in Africa.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros</li> <li>• H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of Zimbabwe</li> <li>• H.E., Philip Isdor Mpango Vice-President of Tanzania</li> <li>• H.E. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius</li> <li>• Mr. Anders Holm, CEO, Hempel Foundation</li> </ul> |
| <b>30 min</b> | <p align="center"><b>High-level panel discussions 3</b><br/> <b>Theme: Innovative and scalable solutions to address the learning crisis in Africa including Digitalization and Data Management</b><br/> Moderator: Ms. Folly Bah Thibault</p>   |
|               | <p>Heads of States talk about their country experiences, highlighting achievements and lessons learned and share their recommendations for scaling up innovation solutions to address the learning crisis in Africa.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d'Ivoire</li> <li>• H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria</li> <li>• H.E. Lazarus Chakwera President of Malawi</li> <li>• H.E. Anatole Collinet Makosso, Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo</li> <li>• Mr. Segun O. Ogunsanya, CEO/MD Airtel Africa</li> </ul>  |
| <b>10 min</b> | <p align="center"><b>Session 3: Declarations</b></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation – Republic of Uganda: Rapporteur of STC-EST</p>  |
|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Youth Manifesto on Transforming Education in Africa by Ms. Chido Mpemba - AU Youth Envoy</li> <li>• Presentation of a Draft Africa Declaration on priorities for transforming education in Africa by H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI), AUC</li> </ul>   |
| <b>5 min</b>  | <p align="center"><b>Session 4: Closing</b></p>   |
|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas - Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD</li> <li>• Head of State (TBC)</li> </ul>  |