

AFRICAN UNION

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CONCEPT NOTE

**A STUDY ON PEACE EDUCATION AND THE STATE OF PROTECTION OF
EDUCATION FROM ATTACKS IN AFRICA**

VALIDATION WORKSHOP

1-2 August 2019, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

1.0 Introduction

The African Union (AU) envisions among others, a peaceful and prosperous Africa, integrated, and led by its own citizens and occupying the place it deserves in the global community and in the knowledge economy. Inspired by this vision and the aspirations of AU's Agenda 2063, the Continental Education Strategy (CESA 16-25) (expected to deliver the necessary human capital for the realization of the AU's vision) recognises peace and a secure environment as one of its pillars under the mission of 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.

CESA 16-25 is operationalising its programmes through a platform of thematic clusters, presently 13 in number, among which is the Peace and Education Cluster coordinated by Save the Children International. The CESA Peace and Education Cluster works in strategic partnership with the ADEA Inter Country Quality Node on Peace Education, and with all major stakeholders supporting the theme. The Cluster's mandate is to bring coherence to work in this thematic area and bring partner agencies and together to support the formulation of national policies on peace education and conflict prevention; and on protection of education from attacks by generating and bringing to bear relevant evidence; promoting the implementation of such appropriate policies in Member States; developing models for peace education and education protection, including for refugees and displaced persons; training stakeholders as peace actors and mediators; learning lessons and developing and disseminating materials on peace education and protection of schools.

1.1 An innovative practice by CESA 16-25: ensuring continuous education for children affected by armed conflict and other humanitarian situations

CESA 16-25 underscores the importance of protecting schools and universities from attacks and military use in order to ensure the continuation of education during war and in post conflict situations in Africa. According to Education for All Global Monitoring Report in 2015 by UNESCO, 44% of the world's 28.5 million children affected by armed conflict are out of school in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority – 95% – live in low and lower-middle income countries of which Africa hosts significant proportions. Girls, who make up 55% of the out of school children, are the worst affected, as they are often victims of rape and other sexual violence that accompanies armed conflicts. Moreover, a number of violations are perpetrated against girls and boys during armed conflict. The violations include recruitment and use of children; killing or maiming

of children; sexual violence against children; attacks against schools or hospitals; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access.

In response to attacks on schools and universities, and their military use which predisposes them to attacks, CESA 16-25 condemns these practices by both national forces and non-state actors and has identified the Cluster on Peace Education as the appropriate platform to ensure facilitation of continuous education during wars and in post conflict situations, towards the attainment of the continental education strategy's goals and objectives.

1.2 Progress made at the AU on the protection of education from attacks and military use

Save the children Pan Africa and AU liaison has been working with the AU Commission to influence policy decisions at the Commission's department for Human Resources, Science and Technology (AU/HRST) and that of Peace and Security Council (PSC). In the past 4 years, the issue of attacks on education has been recognised by CESA and indicators for monitoring and evaluating attacks on education and peace education have been adopted among the CESA compendium of indicators. Furthermore, the AU Statutory meeting of African Ministers responsible for Education in October 2017 adopted a decision on safe schools, calling for all Member States to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) and implement its Guidelines.

Again, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has condemned the phenomenon of attacks on education in at least 5 of their Open Sessions and called for more Member States to endorse the SSD and implement the Guidelines for making schools safe in Africa. The Council has also recommended for the issue of protecting children during wars to be raised to the AU Summit level. The AU Summit in February 2019 therefore requested the AU Commission to work with Member States and relevant partners to ensure access to education for refugee children, returnee children and Internally Displaced children and stateless children in Africa; and requested the development of a mechanism for regular reporting on the situation of girls and women's education, considering safety and security of schools, among others.

Considering that the African Committee of Experts on the Rights Welfare of Child(ACERWC) has already appointed a Special Rapporteur for Children Affected by Armed Conflict(CAAC) and the AU Summit's recommendation in 2018 for the appointment of a Special Envoy on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) whose mandates will also include advocacy for the protection of education, the issue of safe schools

can be said to have received the needed political support at the highest level of policy making in Africa.

In addition, the establishment in April 2018 of a Group of Friends of children affected by armed conflict, co-convened by the Ambassadors of Nigeria and Liberia, both members of the PSC, underscores the importance attached to the issue at the AUC. The Group, among others, has an informal mandate for leading advocacy at the AU on prioritising issues affecting children in wars and consolidating gains made in respect of making schools safe.

The safe schools Guidelines is useful as a tool for pre-deployment training for Peacekeeping Missions and preventing attacks on schools as well as for protecting education during and after armed conflict situations. By June 2019, 23 out of the 55 African member states have endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration.

2. Scope of the study

In light of the foregoing, the Peace and Education Cluster under the coordination of Save the Children International, commissioned a study to assess the state of peace education and protection of education in Africa, in order to inform the strategic directions of the Cluster.

The study covered two key mandates of the Peace and Education Cluster:

- i) Review of progress, lessons learnt and challenges of the work of the ADEA ICQN on the Peace Education, focussing on:
 - Existence and the relevance of content of a policy framework for Peace and Education Cluster;
 - The extent to which Member States have integrated peace and education and global citizenship education into national curricula;
 - Promising practices and programmes on Peace and Education, Prevention of Violent Extremism, Global Citizenship Education, and Peacebuilding;
 - Teacher training and development for peace building.

For each of these points, the study was limited to broad areas such as the problem; practical interventions undertaken through the ICQN and other actors; progress and lessons learnt; challenges and way forward.

- ii) Assessment and analysis of Member States' education and defence policies in providing continuous education during emergency situations, especially armed conflict, with a focus on the following:

- The extent of implementation of the principles of the Safe Schools Guidelines on the protection of education from attacks and military use in 21 AU Member States that had endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration by August 2018;
- Existence and operationalization of reporting mechanisms on the implementation of the Safe Schools Guidelines or any mechanisms for providing continuous education at all times.

Target countries for the research included the 21 AU Member States that had endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration by August 2018. These are: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan and Zambia.

THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP

3. Workshop Goal, Objectives and Expected Outputs

i. Overall Goal

The overall goal of the Validation Workshop is for the research report to be reviewed by AU Member States and other stakeholders, and validated for adoption as an Africa Union document.

ii. Specific objectives

- To provide feedback on the relevance and the value addition of the study to Agenda 2063 and CESA aspirations for the development of education in Africa;
- To improve on the quality of the research report through participatory assessment and feedback on the extent to which the realities at country level are adequately reflected;
- To improve on the usefulness of the report by ensuring consistency of the findings with the recommendations;
- To initiate networking among peace education and safe schools practitioners, including the ICQNs by the adoption of the platform for interactions.

4. Expected Workshop Outputs

The following are key expected outputs from the workshop:

- Feedback on content of the report from participants compiled
- A mailing list of participants
- An agreed roadmap for finalisation and implementation of the report

- Enhanced understanding of the mandate and expectations of the CESA Peace and Education Cluster

5. Participation

This event is expected to bring together representatives of the Ministries responsible for Education and Defense, AU Commission, Civil Society organisations, CESA (16-25) Cluster Coordinators, International Organizations and UN agencies who have directly or indirectly contributed or are well placed to influence the implementation of the findings.

6. Methodology

The workshop is designed to create awareness on CESA (16-25) as well as promoting interactions among participants on the state of protecting education and the work on Peace and Education in Africa through power point presentations, plenary discussions, group discussions and a number of informal and interactive engagements.

7. **Timeframe:** 1st – 2nd August 2019

8. **Venue:** AU Head Quarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia