

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251 115 517844
Website: www.au.int

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CESA INTER-CLUSTERS COORDINATION MEETING

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 19th to 21st August, 2020

Introduction

Africa's education system is facing four main crises - equity, learning, relevance and affordability. The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) was adopted in 2015 to respond to these crises by transforming Africa's education system. The twelve (12) strategic objectives articulate high-level results that aim to reorient and provide qualitative and quantitative improvements to African education and training systems and provide the continent with requisite human resources for achievement of the African Union's Vision and Agenda 2063.

Under each strategic objective, a set of intermediate-level goals, called action areas (AAs), are provided to specify the critical elements and results the CESA 16-25 must accomplish before achieving the strategic objectives. These action areas are the basis on which operational plans for implementing the CESA 16-25 will be developed.

CESA also serves as a platform for bringing together all Education actors across the continent behind a transformative Pan African agenda for education. It is in this regard that the thematic cluster approach was adopted to bring together various stakeholders in specific fields of education to contribute to the achievement of CESA's strategic objectives. To date, twelve CESA thematic clusters have been launched. The full potential of the clusters remains untapped as the clusters are in different stages of functionality and performance.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and its negative impact on Africa's education systems is calling on all education stakeholders at the regional and continental levels to come together to act with speed and at scale up to implement innovative initiatives that improve the resilience of Africa's education system and ensures continuous learning. The African Union's DOTSS¹ approach provides the framework for action and point of confluence for the work for clusters.

Objective

The meeting is being called to revitalize and reinforce the role of clusters in CESA implementation. Its purpose is to take stock of how the clusters are responding to and contributing to CESA implementation, and agree on 2020-2021 priorities, deliverables, and ways of working. The meeting will be used to discuss the AU's framework for

¹ **DOTSS is an approach ensure continuity of learning online and offline, and it means:**

D-Digital and electricity connectivity of Schools.

O-Online learning to complement offline learning.

T-Teacher as facilitators and motivators of Learning.

S-Safety to learn online and offline.

S-Skills focused learning (360 degrees continuous and cumulative learning – foundational, digital, entrepreneurial, 21st century and job specific skills).

transforming Education in Africa based on the DOTSS approach and explore possible contribution of clusters to its implementation.

The specific objectives of the meeting are:

- a. To set the contexts for the transformation of Africa's education systems based on DOTSS and reinforce the role of Clusters in CESA Implementation.
- b. To take stock of division of labour, scope of work, composition, functioning, coordination, and performance of clusters against Key Performance Indicators (KPI)², and promote inter-cluster synergies.
- c. To agree on the 2020-2021 cluster and inter-cluster priorities, work plan, ways of working and reporting mechanisms and frequency.

Expected Outcomes

- a. Common understanding, consensus and mainstreaming of DOTSS, the approach for transforming Africa's education system, into cluster work.
- b. Updated Cluster Terms of References (TORs)³, areas of focus, KIs, and actions to improve Cluster composition, coordination, functionality, and performance.
- c. Updated 2020-2021 cluster and inter-cluster priorities, workplan and ways of working
- d. Renewed agency commitment to supporting, improving, and sustaining the work of the CESA thematic Clusters.

Participants

All AU institutions, Member States and Partner Organisations that have signed up to be part of CESA thematic clusters.

Date and Venue

The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) Cluster Coordination Meeting will be held virtually from 19th to 21st August, 2020.

² KPIs should cover – Institutional KPIs: diversity of representation; frequency of meetings, joint work plan and reporting. Performance KPIs: level of implementation. Public goods (guidance, standards, evidence of what works), support to countries and resource mobilization.

³**WHY** we need a Cluster.

WHAT are the deliverables?

HOW to coordinate the clusters through meetings.

WHO are the members of the clusters?