

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION  
- ESTI -



THE YEAR OF EDUCATION  
Educate an African fit for  
the 21st Century:

## EDUCATE AN AFRICAN FIT FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY:

Building resilient education  
systems for increased access  
to inclusive, lifelong, quality,  
and relevant learning in  
Africa.

A concept note to spur PAU's engagement in the celebration of the Year on Education

## 1. Background and Rationale

- During the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, the African Union adopted Education as the theme of the year 2024.
- The starting point of this milestone decision was the 2022 UN Transforming Education Summit, where AU Heads of States and Governments, attending a high-level side event under the leadership of the AUC Chairperson pledged to take up and address education challenges and gaps.
- A lot has been achieved by African governments to improve access and upgrade the quality of education services. These include reduced proportion of out-of-school children, better completion rates at primary and lower secondary education, improved access to pre-primary education, adult literacy, lifelong learning and school meals financing, but to name a few.
- However, education is still in deep crisis. Multiple attacks on schools, teacher shortages, low education outreach to marginalized groups such as girls, children in rural areas and those living with disabilities, are some of the compounding impediments to education progress in Africa.
- The official kick-off of the AU Theme of the year took place in Addis Ababa during the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of States and Governments, in the presence of top-ranking officials from Regional Economic Communities, multilateral and bilateral partners, the diaspora and the media.
- With education at the continental limelight, key policy and decision-makers will discuss the best ways to increase investments and designing acute policies to better advance the education agenda, especially towards the achievements of CESA 16-25 and SDG4 targets.
- Prior to this official kick-off, a pre-launch session was held under the leadership of the AUC Chairperson and the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- Activities around the AU Education year are piloted by ESTI Department. A series of activities have already been implemented, in line with the Education Roadmap endorsed during the 37<sup>th</sup> AU Summit. These include the upcoming PAU Education Days.
- As the flagship academic institution of the African Union, the Pan African University will take advantage of this unique opportunity to further disseminate its objectives and achievements.
- The Pan African University envisions to become a leading centre of excellence in research and higher education for the advancement of Africa. It therefore aims at *producing world class human resources through high-quality postgraduate education and research to drive the development imperatives of the continent to meet the aspirations of the Agenda 2063.*
- The 2024 AU Year on Education comes when the Pan African University is currently in its consolidation phase, after an over decade-long launching phase. Moreover, less than two years ago, the PAU's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary opened an opportunity not only to take stock of achievements recorded so far since its inception, but also to ponder on its most pressing challenges in the years ahead, including its financial sustainability.
- The 2024 Year on Education opens a space to bring the limelight to Education as a key priority in the Continent and therefore, highlight how PAU is contributing to foster higher education through the organisation of *PAU Education Days*. This Event is designed as a strategic gathering to enhance visibility and celebrate the



contribution of this pan African academic institution as a driving force for Africa's human capital development, and to connect with education stakeholders that could be interested in this project.

- The 2024 Year on Education will also give room for discussions on issues

affecting the development of the PAU as a centre of African excellence (innovation, employability, reputation within AU Member States and international development partners, etc.).

## 2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

### • Objectives

The PAU Education Days event aims at:

- Expatriating on PAU's mandate and activities
- Increasing PAU's brand awareness to its audiences
- Showcasing PAU's achievements since its inception
- Opening discussing PAU's opportunities, challenges and vision to harness PAU's expected impact in the continent

- Connecting with potential partners for PAU's consolidation phase

### • Expected outcomes

- PAU's audiences are better informed on its mandate and activities
- Visibility of the Pan African University on is increased
- Potential partners and other education stakeholders pledge to support the PAU in its consolidation phase and its vision

## 3. Participants, Dates and Venue

### ❖ Participants

#### PAU Community

- PAU Rectorate staff
- PAU Institutes administrative and teaching staff (Directors and other participants)
- PAU students (PAUGHSS)+ 1 Students from others Institutes
- PAU Alumni Association (One or two participants)
- Local authorities
  - Cameroon's Members of Government (MINESUP, MINRESI, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINPMEESA, MINCOM, MINPROFF, MINAT, MINSANTE, MINFI, MINEPAT) MAYOR OF YAOUNDE, Governor of Centre Region, Divisional and Sub-Divisional Officers
- Key institutional partners
  - Embassies of host countries of PAU Institutes
  - Embassies of key strategic partners

Technical and financial partners

- UN specialized agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP)
- EU Commision
- World Bank
- African Development Bank
- Private sector
  - Orange
  - MTN
  - ECOBANK
  - BGF Bank

### • Other participants

- Media

### ❖ Dates

- 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

### ❖ Possible venues

- Yaounde Conference Centre
- International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC)
- Merina Hotel
- Hilton Hotel

## 4. Format

*PAU Education Days* will be organized in a hybrid format to guarantee mass mobilization around this grand event through physical and online presence.

The following sequences could be planned (see details in the draft agenda):

- **Day One – 30 July 2024**
  - Official Kick-off ceremony, with an Inaugural Lecture on the topic *The Geopolitics of Higher Education in Africa amidst the implementation of Agenda 2063*
  - Session I: **Capitalizing on international cooperation to develop higher education in Africa**
  - Session II: **The Pan African University through the test of time (Part One)**

- Session III: **Employability of the Pan African University: Challenges, good practices and ways forward**
- **Day Two – 31 July 2024**
  - Session IV: **Harnessing the power of digitalization, AI and innovation to scale up quality of higher education in Africa**
  - Session V: The Pan African University through the test of time (Part Two)
  - Session VI: The Pan African University through the test of time (Part Three)
  - Closing ceremony

In the sidelines of workshops, a grand exhibition stand could be opened to education stakeholders and partners to the PAU (including the PAU itself) ready to make some promotional displays on their programmes.