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**African Ministers to Present the Continent's Educational Roadmap  
in COMEDAF V**

**Abuja, 23 April 2012**—Ministers of Education of the African Union will on 26 and 27 April 2012, converge at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, within the framework of their Fifth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF V). The Conference is organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It will include the participation of AU Specialized Agencies in education, Regional Economic Communities as well as a number of partner agencies amongst others.



The COMEDAF V started meeting at the level of the Experts in the area of education on 23 April 2012 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Vera Ngosi, Director of HRST in the presence of the Minister of Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Prof. Mrs. Ruqquyattu Ahmed Rufai, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. D. B. Ibe, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Crispus Kiamba representing the outgoing COMEDAF bureau among other personalities to discuss the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa, make recommendations concerning the Commission's education programme, and consider reports on the performance of member states and related agencies in education.

Director Ngosi commended the Chair (from Kenya) of the outgoing bureau of COMEDAF for representing the continental vision in education with commitment all over the continent during their two and half years mandate. “ We appreciate how you further represented the AU education programme, as the Chair also of the Association of the Development of Education in Africa, ADEA, thus ensuring that the collective AU vision in in education provides the framework for all agencies working in education in Africa”, she underlined.

Welcoming Nigeria as the new Chair of COMEDAF, Mrs. Ngosi urged the new bureau to provide leadership needed by stirring up action within their countries and regions. She said Nigeria is taking over the chairmanship of COMEDAF at a particularly important and critical period in education development in Africa. “ The expectations are high...this period require more urgent efforts to popularize the second decade of education and mobilise enhanced and sustained interest for accelerating implementation especially among member states, RECs, educations and development partners”, she noted.



Dr. Ibe in his opening remarks recalled that the Experts will have to review the success made so far on the implementation of the Plan of Action, since 1996 when the AU Declared the First Decade of Education up to 2006. He enumerated the different areas of focus for the second decade (2006 – 2015) Plan of Action. They are: Gender and culture; education management information system; teacher development; tertiary education; technical and vocational education and training; curriculum, and teaching and learning materials; and quality management.

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, Prof. Kiamba extended warm greetings to the AU for the opportunity given to his country in 2009 to chair the COMEDAF and to serve the continent in promoting the educational agenda. “Kenya has strived to ensure that education efforts in the continent meet the expectation..

The Experts meeting ends on 24 April 2012, while the Ministerial meeting would hold from 26 – 27 April 2012. The Ministers are expected to ensure that the agreed continental programmes are domesticated, taking into account emerging local and global opportunities.



The Ministers of Education will deliberate on key areas within the Plan of Action such as: Higher Education, Teacher Development (Pan African Conference on Teacher Development), Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Mid-term Evaluation of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education. Other areas of discussion proposed by Member States and partners include the “History of Africa project”, Quality Education from UNICEF, Financing of Education from AfDB, among others.

***Journalists are invited to cover the opening ceremony of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF ) on Thursday 26 – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012.***

**For Further Information consult the AU website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)**

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