



DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

NOTE TO EDITORS / 30TH AU SUMMIT

First High Heads of State Level Dialogue Financing Africa's Future: Unlocking Development Potentials Through Education.



H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat,
 Chairperson of the African
 Union Commission

Addis Ababa, 27, January, 2018 - Investing in education is a foundation for economic prosperity, improved stability, peace, security and health outcomes. It is one of the most cost effective ways to drive economic development, improve skills and opportunities for young women and men, and unlock progress on the Agenda 2063 aspirations and all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The African Union Assembly established a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government of the African Union to be champions for education, science and technology. This demonstrates the value accorded to education at the highest political level in Africa. Considering the value of investing in education, Africa needs to enhance the quality and quality of education financing on the continent.



H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang
 Agbor, Commissioner for
 Human Resources Science and
 Technology

This topic will be at the center of a high-level dialogue of African Heads of State titled "Financing Africa's Future: Unlocking Potentials through Education". The event is held at the 30th African Union (AU) Summit, organized by the Department for Human Resources Science and Technology of the AU Commission, together with the [Global Partnership for Education \(GPE\)](#) and the [ONE Campaign](#).

It builds on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25), and the political momentum from a high-level event held in New York at the 72nd UN General Assembly, jointly hosted by Malawi, Senegal, France, Norway and GPE, entitled "[Financing the Future: Education 2030](#)".

Moderated by Julie Gichuru, a Kenyan Entrepreneur and Media Personality, the high-level lunchtime event will provide an opportunity to ensure a strong Africa-defined perspective on how to enhance education financing, particularly domestic financing

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including at least 20% of total government expenditure on education; and how to ensure actualization of commitments made by partner agencies to support education development in Africa.

The event takes place ahead of two important events. The first one is the inaugural meeting of the AU Committee of Ten Heads of State Champions for Education, Science and Technology, which will take place on the eve of the AU Assembly session in Addis Ababa. The second is the [GPE Financing Conference](#) to be held in Dakar, Senegal, on February 1-2, co-hosted by Senegal's President Macky Sall and France's President Macron.

There are, 55 million children out-of-school in Africa, most of them girls; and it is projected that 9 million girls aged 6 and 11 may never go to school unless urgent and drastic interventions are made to ensure access to primary and secondary education for all children.

Africa's fast growing youthful population demands innovative options for providing education and training at all levels, in order for Africa to harness demographic dividends and ensure that youth are a social economic asset and not a formidable challenge. About 46 percent of the increase in Africa's labor force between 2015 and 2063 will be young people aged 15-34, and they must be appropriately educated, skilled and empowered.

All of Africa's children and youth must have the opportunity to access their right to an inclusive, quality, equitable education from pre-primary through to tertiary including TVET, to harness their potential for innovation, inventiveness, entrepreneurship, employability and responsible citizenship. African leaders and all education stakeholders must take action now. The alternatives are unemployment, poverty, inequality, instability - all of which will stunt economic growth, with social security and have political ramifications.

Education is fundamental to achieving every facet of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, and it will boost the continent's march towards economic progress and social development. Delivering high-quality education calls for mobilization of considerable resources. It also calls for efficient management of existing resources. Both public and private education systems across many African countries are under considerable financial pressure, particularly considering the large and growing demand at all levels.



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To reach the objectives of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and Sustainable Development Goal for quality education (SDG4), it is estimated that global spending on education must rise annually from \$1.2 trillion per year to \$3 trillion by 2030, according to the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunities. This includes domestic spending.

This event contributes towards framing the efforts for financing quality education in Africa. We can start working towards the Africa we want through ensuring quality and sustainable education financing.

Journalists are invited to cover the event which will take place on Saturday 27th January 2018 at the AU Conference Centre.

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