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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**PAN- AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT (PACTED III)**
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
16-17 July 2013

AU/MIN/EDUC/PACTEDIII/RPT(1)

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

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17th July 2013

Introduction

1. The meeting of Ministers of the third Pan African Conference on Teacher Development (PACTED III) took place back to back with the first Ordinary Session of the Bureau of Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF V) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 July 2013, to consider the report of Senior Officials of PACTED III and make appropriate recommendations to be submitted to the COMEDAF V Bureau meeting.

Attendance

2. Representatives from the following Member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Togo and Zambia.
3. Three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were present: East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).
4. The following partner agencies attended the meeting as Observers: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Association of African Universities (AAU), the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), African Council for Distance Education (ACDE), Pan African Teachers' Center (PATC), Centre for Mathematics and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTE), Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education Project (SMASE), Conférence des Ministres de l'Éducation des Pays Ayant le Français en Partage (CONFEMEN), International Task Force for Teachers on EFA, African Development Bank (ADB), Civil society organisations were also present: Africa Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) and Education International (EI).
5. The following specialised institution of the African Union was represented: Centre International des Filles et des Femmes en Afrique (CIEFFA), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
6. Other institutions present are: Africa Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) and Kenyatta University.

ITEM 1: Opening Session of the meeting of Ministers

7. Dr. Beatrice Njenga, Acting Director, HRST department welcomed Ministers to Ethiopia and invited the speakers to make their official speeches.

8. Dr. MacJohn Nwaobiala, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chair of COMEDAF, on behalf of the Minister of the Federal Ministry of Education appreciated the presence of RECs and partner agencies. He further expressed appreciation to the deep commitment of Member States towards the challenge of teachers, knowing the magnitude of what needs to be done. He also mentioned the role of AFTRA, which has as one of its tasks the regulation of the African Teacher Mobility Protocol.
9. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner, HRST welcomed the Ministers and mentioned that the teacher was at the centre of education objectives at national, regional and continental levels. He underlined that PACTED was an innovative way of addressing continental issues in teacher education by bringing together major partner agencies in view of avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts, optimizing synergies and resource utilization, and working together towards a common, home-grown vision for Africa. The Commissioner reiterated the call for enhancing managed mobility of the existing corps of trained teachers. He concluded by emphasising the need to fast-track finalisation of the Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol.
10. Prof. Gado Tchangbedji, the representative of Higher Education and Research Republic of Togo on behalf of the Minister of Basic Education and Literacy in Togo, welcomed the participants and reaffirmed the commitments of PACTED towards strengthening education on the Continent. He then declared the session open.

ITEM 2: Presentation and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

11. The agenda and programme of work were adopted without any amendments.

ITEM 3: Presentation of PACTED II Report: Implementation of Executive Council Decision – EX.CL/Dec 702

12. Dr Beatrice Njenga in presenting the Report of PACTED II, explained that the report had been considered by COMEDAF V, and the report of COMEDAF V was endorsed by the AU Executive Council in the July 2012 AU Summit. She therefore read out the respective Decision of the Executive Council on this report.

ITEM 4: Keynote Presentation “Developing Quality Teacher Education Programmes Towards the Africa We Want”

13. Dr. Matete Madiba alluded to the importance of teacher training as a central pillar of education in Africa. She explained that the project on Tuning in Africa was directly linked to the AU Strategy for Harmonisation of Higher Education in Africa, designed to help improve the quality of education on the continent, while also facilitating intra-African academic mobility and collaboration.

She explained that Tuning is a process about seeking points of agreement, convergence and mutual understanding in order to facilitate a common understanding of educational structures and programmes.

14. Dr. Madiba noted that Tuning is not without its critics which stem primarily from its previous uses throughout the globe in various education jurisdictions. However, she argued that tuning will contribute in assisting in the harmonization of education policies in Africa. She added that the specific purpose of harmonization is to establish harmonized higher education systems across Africa, while strengthening the capacity of higher education institutions to meet the educational needs of African countries through innovative forms of collaboration as well as agreeing on benchmarks of excellence. She concluded by stating that reforms in education should take into account teacher training and development incorporating values and ethics for the Africa.

15. In the discussions that ensued, the following were highlighted:

- i. Difference between the teacher of today versus the teacher of tomorrow requiring innovation, engagement and resources;
- ii. Address curriculum development leaving aside the colonial residue so as to create a truly afro-centric education system;
- iii. Management of resources to improve outputs;
- iv. Develop a holistic approach to maintain African shared values;
- v. Whether the Tuning process set up is replacing the AU Harmonisation process;
- vi. NEPAD's role in education was noted and their programs and policies were highlighted.
- vii. ADB mentioned that education is a priority with one of the key areas being regional integration. ADB has continued to support programs throughout the continent, with the Pan African University (PAU) standing out as a key program in which demonstrates the bank's commitment to the continent.

16. In response to the discussions, Dr. Matete Madiba underlined that the Tuning process is set up to assist in teacher development and that the model of the future African teacher is shifting towards an Ubuntu framework. She added that peer learning and peer education is changing the education delivery in Africa and concluded that the essence of the Tuning framework is to make students and teachers a central part of the education process. It is to be noted that the Tuning Project is implemented under the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy, in direct support of the AU's process of harmonisation of higher education.

ITEM 5: Presentation and Discussion on partnerships for implementation of the PACTED roadmap

17. Dr. Beatrice Njenga underscored Member States ownership of PACTED and stated that its implementation is their responsibility while partners provide additional support and assist its coordination. She presented the proposal on lead agencies for each key objective of the Road Map.

18. In the discussions that ensued, the following were highlighted:

- i. The role of partners as coordinators
- ii. Identification of best practices would create a possibility to list the best and highlight the successes.
- iii. UNICEF offered to assist implementing the PACTED roadmap on objectives 1 and 2.
- iv. Implementation of PACTED roadmap should support use of ICT
- v. ANCEFA offered to support Objective 6 in the roadmap

19. In response to the discussions:

- i. NEPAD talked about a project in which curriculum is developed by institutions of higher learning identified at a country level, while Human Resource training would be facilitated by the University of South Africa, which has the capacity to perform distance learning.
- ii. Various universities throughout the continent are working together to achieve synergy in the Education policies within the continent.

ITEM 6: Consideration of Agenda, Date and Venue of PACTED IV

20. The PACTED Chair Prof. Tchangbedji stated that Cameroon had agreed to host the next COMEDAF, in April 2014, and that PACTED would be back-to-back with COMEDAF VI.

ITEM 7: Consideration of report of Senior Officials of PACTED III

21. The report of PACTED III of senior officials was adopted with some minor changes.

ITEM 8: Presentation on Pan African University (PAU): Ensuring high level teaching faculty staff for Pan African University

22. The Commissioner of HRST, Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga highlighted the goals, mission and scope of the Pan African University (PAU). He underlined the progress made in the implementation of the institutes through the signing

of the MOU's, Tripartite agreements and Host agreements with the institutes and countries. He also pointed out the number of students enrolled in the different programs in the institutes. He also stated by pointing out certain challenges faced in the implementation of PAU. He concluded that he would be visiting the three operational PAU institutes in view of improving the PAU.

23. In the discussions that ensued, the following were highlighted:

- i. Request from some Member States to host PAU centres and information on the regional quota system for students
- ii. Information on the hosting conditions for the Rectorate; Process of recruitment of students and members of the governing structure of the PAU
- iii. Inadequate involvement of RECs in the implementation of PAU
- iv. Ownership of the PAU should be in the hands of Member States and not LTPs.

24. In response, Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga explained that every member state will receive a full brochure on PAU. He stated that the selection of Centres for the PAU is competitive and transparent at all levels and any country will have the opportunity to host a centre. He stated that the Rector and Deputy Rector will be appointed by the University Council through nomination from the RECs. He explained that concerning the location of the Rectorate, all African Member States will have the opportunity to apply in due process using to certain criteria. Dr Ikounga de Paul stressed that transparency is a key pillar of the PAU as it belongs to Africa Member States. He also added that the selection of students is competitive and is aimed at creating pan-africanist leaders of the tomorrow. He concluded that it is imperative that funding and direction come from interested stake holders.

ITEM 9: Presentation and Adoption of the Report of PACTED III

25. The Report was adopted with minor amendments.

ITEM 10: Closing remarks

26. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner HRST thanked participants and requested them to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of PACTED III.

27. Prof. GadoTchangbedji thanked the AUC for the facilitation of the meeting and the participants for their commitment to strengthening Education in Africa.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting of Ministers of the Third Pan African Conference on Teacher Development (PACTED III) took place back to back with the First Ordinary Session of the Bureau of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF V) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17 July 2013. The meeting approved the report of Senior Officials of PACTED III and considered the recommendations made by the meeting.

The following recommendations were made:

1. Request Member States, RECs and the AUC to start the implementation process of the Roadmap and involve teachers in this process;
2. Call upon Member States to develop strategies for teacher development in armed conflict and natural disaster areas;
3. Call upon AUC to discuss with stakeholders, the modalities for proper functioning of PACTED, including a reporting mechanism;
4. Request the AUC to ensure that PACTED regulations are aligned with AUC's rules,, regulations and decisions adopted by policy organs;
5. Request Partners to provide support towards implementation of the Roadmap;
6. Request Senegal to coordinate the setting up of a communication strategy under the auspices of AUC, for the PACTED Roadmap and its implementation, including a dedicated website for PACTED in collaboration with partners;
7. Request the International Teachers Task Force to coordinate the identification of best practices in each of the different objective areas set out in the Roadmap with a view to improving implementation in Member States;
8. Request the AUC and Ministers of Education to establish a mechanism for partnering with CEMASTEIA in improving Science, Technology and Mathematics Education in Africa;
9. Request Member States to establish and promote measures for motivating teachers, especially in rural areas;
10. Request the AUC to take all the necessary measures to ensure proper implementation of PAU;
11. Request Member States, RECs and ADB to ensure funding of PAU in view of sustainability of the project;
12. Request Member States and RECS to take into account the results of the Tuning project so as to harmonise the curriculum.