



Dr. Lawalley Cole; Executive Director of CAFOR

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Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum



The Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR) is first and foremost a forum with various organizations, experts and individuals who are committed to ensuring that education systems in Africa are relevant to young Africans with newly acquired skills that correspond with what obtains in the labor market within the African continent. The primary reason for forming, joining or building this coalition is to gain maximum influence and potential that an individual organization would otherwise not be able to have.

CAFOR's Vision

The Vision of CAFOR is to place communication at the center of education focusing on youth skills development and the labor market in Africa. CAFOR will become the Leading African Centre of Excellence for Communication in the area of Youth Skills Development and will be the SUSTAINABLE independent, continental reference and facilitating agency for excellent communication practices in the field of education for development.

CAFOR's Mission

CAFOR's mission is to promote Communication as a Core Element of Education and Youth Development that will focus on Youth Labor Force Participation with a focus on reform in the agricultural sector in Africa as a start. CAFOR will place Communication at the heart of education and youth development in Africa.

This domain will include advocacy, capacity building, analysis, research, and documenting best practices. CAFOR will mainly focus on the concept of work and training in those areas that equip young people with exceptional skills to meet modern-day challenges.

It's Strategic Orientation

CAFOR will rotate its strategy very much around the concept of work and training that gives skills to young people. More attention will, therefore, be given to technical and vocational education rather than formal university education that awards degrees to individuals that may not be useful in the circumstances and the environment that obtains in Africa.

CAFOR's Expected activities

CAFOR has a network that consists of more than 1,500 journalists, communication experts, and members of NGOs and civil society organizations from all the 55-member states of the African Union. These networks will be instrumental in knowledge sharing and stimulating and sustaining a public debate on education and development issues in many countries. CAFOR also recognizes that African economies are heterogeneous with varying demographic profiles, economic structures and youth development policies. The Forum believes that youth policies will need to be context-specific for them to achieve favorable and sustainable outcomes.

CAFOR will focus much of its attention on this aspect using more than 1,500 communicators in all the 55-member countries of the African Union.

Innovation CAFOR is supporting

With African fortunes and prospects looking up and the continent making strides in its efforts to achieve its transformation agenda, there is an urgent need to introduce or intensify the use of science and technologies in traditional innovation.

To successfully realize the African transformation agenda, Governments in Africa must capitalize on the potential of Africa's youth to accomplish the African transformation agenda. With the changing times, young Africans are now growing up in an increasingly free and fair continent. They are becoming dynamic, forward-looking and best positioned to find innovative solutions to local challenges using science and technology. The conditions must, therefore, be suitable for this.

Current challenges for young people in Africa that CAFOR needs to address urgently?

CAFOR sees Education as a challenge that links closely with the youth bulge. In Northern and Southern Africa there has been 'an obvious and growing quantitative overproduction of higher education graduates compared to what the labor market can absorb' according to the African Development Bank. Governments have increased the number of higher education providers but not focused on the educational curricula and the needs and realities of the productive sectors of the economy.

Encouragement of self-employment and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through business development training and skills upgrading could help, but also access to microfinance services and empowerment programs for women.

African governments must ensure that young people engage in technology and innovation, as advances in technology, particularly ICT, have resulted in global interconnectedness and increased opportunities for self-actualization.

If harnessed correctly, technology and innovation, especially in agriculture, can offer opportunities for dealing with the challenge of youth unemployment, while a growing economy provides fertile ground for innovation and risk-taking by Governments and citizens.

Africa is currently pursuing a transformation agenda under the recognition of the African Union's vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena".

