



CAFOR



AFRICAN UNION

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

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**COALITION ON MEDIA AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AFRICA
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CAFOR activities in 2019

(a) The signing of the MOU:

2019 has had a perfect start for CAFOR with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the African Union and CAFOR on 18th January 2019. Through the MOU, the two parties CAFOR and the African Union agree to work together to enhance the integration of global and continental policy agendas. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063, the Science, Technology and Innovations Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), *the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25)*, and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) into country-level developmental and sectoral strategies for the development of the African continent. The MOU will, therefore, enhance dialogue on policy issues as recommended by the African Union and promote a shared understanding of the problems in educational reforms for youth participation in their respective national labour force. They will also help build commitment and ownership of the policy agendas at the country level..

CAFOR will, therefore, work very closely with the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission to ensure a fruitful and viable partnership where the two parties will also function with other organisations and entities in the African continent and beyond to ensure the implementation of this MOU in a coherent and consistent manner. CAFOR is working through its country representatives to promote a shared understanding of the problems in educational reforms for youth participation in the national labour force.

(b) New members of CAFOR participating in CESA activities at country level:

From January to date, CAFOR has welcomed several new members at the country level bringing the total number of countries active in CAFOR to 21 with an additional 25 countries to be registered by the end of 2019. The 21 participating countries are Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The remaining countries will be inducted in CAFOR's programmes in 2020, thus covering all the 55 member states of the African Union.

CAFOR is already working to enhance partnerships with African based organisations, including several youth-led organisations for the implementation of the **CESA** communication strategy that the organization developed recently. CAFOR looks forward to the continued support of its partners and stakeholders as it continues to make a move to higher levels in its flight towards the "Africa We All Want".

(c) The AU High-level Dialogue on Gender, Education and Protection of schools

CAFOR participated in the High-level Dialogue on Gender, Education and Protection of schools in humanitarian settings held on the 5th February 2019 at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa on the topic "Internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees: Securing access and quality education for girls, women and boys". The meeting aimed to improve understanding of the impact of humanitarian situations on education, especially for girls and women, and the role of education in peacebuilding. Through the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the **CESA 16-25**, the proposed ways of addressing the vulnerability of girls, boys and women IDPs, refugees and returnees to ensure their schooling in a humanitarian context, were widely distributed by CAFOR to its networks of more than 1,500 members for dissemination throughout the African continent and beyond.

(d) The meeting of the CESA 16-25 Teacher Cluster, 19th March 2019

The ***CESA teacher Development Cluster*** meeting held on the margins of the Joint consultations on teacher development workshop, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19th March 2019. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the activities of the cluster members, the cluster work plan and the Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol (CTMP).

UNESCO-IICBA, the lead agency for the cluster welcomed members to the meeting, and reviewed the agenda of the meeting and encouraged cluster members to share ongoing activities in their institutions. CAFOR's Executive Director stated that his organization has about 50 members in 20 countries in Africa and a large network of more than 1,500 journalists, communication experts and other professionals, and works closely with the AU, UNESCO and other partners. CAFOR's role is to ensure that the policies of the AUC are implemented at the country level, through working with ministries. CAFOR is developing a strategy and ensuring that young graduates are employable by reviewing the training teachers receive at teacher training colleges. CAFOR emphasizes STEM education and encourages young people to embrace the teaching profession.

Inputs and activities from cluster members have been incorporated to the existing cluster work plan. Key points raised on the work plan include:

- Clarity on the role of the **CESA Teacher Development Cluster** in support to teachers in Africa
- Legal framework for the teaching profession already exist across countries
- Synergizing efforts and resources of the cluster members to ensure cohesion when working with teachers and supporting member states
- Establishing continental parameters for the development and certification of teachers
- The synergy between different **CESA 16-25** implementation clusters
- Aligning the teacher curriculum with the primary and secondary curriculum
- Continental teacher mobility
- Developing continental teaching standards

(e) MasterCard Foundation – Secondary Education in Africa Conference – 18th – 19th March 2019.

CAFOR participated in this two-day meeting for secondary school teachers held in Addis Ababa. The meeting reviewed a study conducted by MasterCard entitled "Secondary Education in Africa: Preparing Youth for the Future of Work". CAFOR's Executive Director used the occasion to network among the participants who were mainly secondary school teachers from various regions of the African continent and discussed strategies for a continental communication programme that would focus on employment issues for African youths.

(f) CESA Clusters Coordinating meeting - 22nd - 23rd April 2019

CAFOR participated in the Coordinating Agencies for the Thematic Clusters of the ***Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA)*** meeting in an ordinary technical session from 22nd to 23rd April 2019 at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa. The purpose of the meeting was to build the capacity of the agencies for effective coordination, to share experiences and tackle challenges faced in the operationalisation of the ***CESA Implementation Platform***. The meeting also reviewed and endorsed new e-platforms for facilitating communication, monitoring and reporting of the work of the Clusters.

CAFOR and other participating agencies committed to supporting the work on ***CESA implementation towards strengthening the quality and value of education for 'the Africa we want'***. They mentioned challenges including communication, resource mobilisation and effective coordination.

(g) Participation at the African Union Commission Chairperson's Second Youth Forum

From 24 -27 April 2019, the African Union Commission convened a huge Youth Forum – the second of its kind for the young people of the African continent and an initiative by the Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat. Her Excellency Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology graced the occasion with her dynamism. There were also a considerable number of private sector leaders, development partners, high profile innovators, and youth co-creators. Civil society organisations and the African diaspora were also represented. The Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency Quartey Thomas Kwesi and other Commissioners also honored the occasion.

CAFOR was represented in full force by members of the CAFOR Secretariat in Addis Ababa and a couple of young CAFOR members in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa. CAFOR's Executive Director was also there with one member of the Executive Board of CAFOR, Dr Olubunmi Owoso from Nigeria. Two other members of the Executive Board of CAFOR. Commissioner Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, also a key organizer of the Forum as AUC Commissioner, who vigorously moderated the plenary sessions and Dr. Beatrice Njenga, the Head of the Education Division at the AUC helped us to reinforce CAFOR's full support to the implementation of the outcome of this Forum.

CAFOR seized the opportunity to salute the AUC leadership for taking this initiative and ensuring that it was a complete success. At the end of the deliberations and after receiving pledges of financial, technical and moral support from about 20 partners and institutions in Africa and abroad, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat on Saturday 27th April, 2019 formally launched the "1 million by 2021 Initiative" as a demonstration of the African Union's commitment to young Africans. This initiative seeks to concretely provide opportunities in the critical areas of Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement (4E's) for millions of African Youth by the year 2021. The initiative calls for the pooling together of efforts and resources to enable an enormously useful shift. As Chairperson Mahamat says "I hope that all stakeholders: governments, civil society and youth, and partners, both public and private sector, will join me on this bold new initiative as we demonstrate our sustained commitment to a developed, united and peaceful Africa".

(h) CAFOR participation at the World Press Freedom Day conference 1-3 May 2019 in Addis Ababa

CAFOR participated in the celebrations of the World Press Freedom Day which considered the emergence of citizen journalism, civilian oversight, the challenges and opportunities for the media in an age of disinformation, as well as the significant role social media has played in providing news in real-time; but also fake news. Over two thousand journalists, activists, government representatives and influencers from all over the world assembled in Addis Ababa for the WPF 2019, under the theme "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation". Following this participation, CAFOR was able to network with journalists around the world to be able to play a supporting and facilitation role in analytical work, mobilisation and provision of experts, technical and institutional capacity building, exchange of

experiences and sharing of knowledge among countries and professionals, advocacy, dissemination and communication. Through these contacts, CAFOR will be able to better support the implementation of the communication strategy for **CESA 16 - 25** through its networks of journalists on the continent and communication units in ministries of education in Africa, and universities, individual experts and ensuring visibility and enhanced public support for **CESA**.

(i) Meetings with AU ambassadors and partners

Between 1st May and 15th July 2019, CAFOR's Executive Director and staff met with significant members of the diplomatic community and partners of the African Union. These include Ambassadors from Japan, Germany, Qatar, Korea, and the United Arab Emirates. CAFOR staff also met and discussed the African Union's agenda that include the **CESA** with various representatives accredited to Ethiopia and the African Union. These include representatives of the USAID, the GIZ, KOICA, the Korea-Africa Foundation and the EU delegation to the African Union. CAFOR also met with delegations from China, France, Kuwait, the League of Arab States, and Education Cannot Wait at UNICEF, New York. Dialogue on **CESA** and other African Union agendas has also started through meetings with UNDP, UNESCO and UNFPA. In addition to all of these meetings, Her Excellency the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, sent a Note Verbal to all the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 55 Member States of the African Union and their Embassies in Addis Ababa to announce and explain the purpose of the MOU signed between the African Union and CAFOR and has invited the Member States of the African Union to provide the required support to CAFOR in the accomplishment of its mission at the country level.

(j) African Curriculum Association

CAFOR's Chairperson, Prof. Kate Adoo-Adeku, recently participated in the Conference of the African Curriculum Organization held in Accra, Ghana from 26th to 30th May 2019. A key recommendation from this conference was the need for more communication and publicity on the work of the Africa Curriculum Association, and to create and strengthen partnerships with organisations working in the area of curriculum development in African institutions.

(k) African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC)

As a member of the Communication Cluster of ASRIC, CAFOR is currently participating in the visibility study for the establishment of ASRIC Scientific Journal. The ASRIC Bureau and the Secretariat manage the Journal. The vision is for the Journal to be Africa's highest quality journal, attracting African scientific excellence within the continent and the diaspora. The scientific/thematic areas of interest include Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Medical and Health Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities.

(l) Innovating Education in Africa Expo 2019, Gaborone, Botswana - 20 to 22 August 2019.

CAFOR submitted one paper at the Expo 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana as a partner of the African Union and contributed to the development of a Communication Plan for the Expo to be

implemented jointly by CAFOR and the Division of Information and Communication (DIC) of the African Union Commission. CAFOR focuses on (i) Advocacy for education innovation and strengthened continental collaboration; and (ii) Engaging in critical debates and discussions on the full range of pressing education challenges and opportunities related to ICT in education, with diverse practitioners, policy-makers, the business sector and financiers committed to supporting and promoting innovation in education.

In terms of practical innovation, CAFOR showcased an ICT-based innovation that successfully increased inclusion, quality and impact in education and training in an African country in crisis. CAFOR presented a descriptive field study which was also an innovation entitled “Using the Media Lab to teach courses for Journalism, Radio and Television Sections in a Media Department”. A CAFOR member from Tripoli, Libya, Dr. Khaled Abou Kacem Ghulam, Professor in Journalism Section, and Head of the Tripoli Media laboratory in the Media Department of the University of Tripoli with two of his colleagues, Prof. Tarek Rajab Guerfal, Professor in the Radio Section, Prof. Ali Amari Salem, also from the Radio Section at the University of Tripoli conducted this study. The Tripoli Media Laboratory of the University of Tripoli has provided hands-on training in Journalism to numerous youths, who would otherwise never receive that type of quality training in a country embedded in a severe factional conflict.

Briefly, the Media Lab of Tripoli (MLT) was established in March 2014, supported by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR). It contains two TV and Radio studios and fifteen workstations and fifteen cameras and recording devices.

MLT is providing practical journalism training in a country embroiled in a civil war. It has been the foundation stone for the transformation from the theoretical to the practical side in teaching the media models. Since established in the early 1990s, the Tripoli University Media Department focused mainly on theory, lecture and classroom exercises. The MLT is currently filling this critical gap in this emergency.

The Media Lab has trained more than 4,000 students, most of them women over the past five years. In a war situation, the need arises to have this kind of innovation. Therefore in an emergency, this innovation serves to guarantee continual education and training for young people in Libya. The MLT has hosted and trained tens of young journalists and students from other Libyan cities and universities during the summertime. It also offered media and communications training to more than one hundred media officers and journalists of the Government of National Accord in Libya. Despite the ongoing conflict in Tripoli, and the limited sources of funding, the Media Lab continues to provide training to the students and other trainees.

This study has shed light on the training experience within the Media Lab of the Media Department (Sections of Journalism, Radio and Television). It is essential because of its effects on the level, capacity and efficiency of the human element (students). This experience drew the attention of both the stakeholders at the University of Tripoli and the other Libyan universities, who may use it to spread the training and practical application in the academic sphere, at the departmental level or the sections.

CAFOR is embarking on an aggressive publicity and communication campaign over the Innovation Education in Africa Expo 2019 in all member countries of the African Union. CAFOR is striving to achieve record participation of youths and youth organizations, educational institutions, media organizations, development partners, and the governments of member states, including sub-national government authorities, e.g. local governments that are closer to the grass root in innovation initiatives in many forms that would benefit the young people of Africa. CAFOR will publicize the outcome of Innovation Education in Africa Expo 2019 in all African countries, for possible replication, adaptation and upscaling. Forty innovators were awarded various prizes during this Expo with the first winner Ms Susannah Farr of South Africa and CEO at gold-youth and gold-enterprises winning a cash prize of U.S. \$50,000, from over 300 applications across Africa. Ms Farr shared gold-youth's engagement in creating a movement to implant long-term peer role models and mentors into all schools and communities measuring concrete improvements in social mindset and behaviour change, improved educational outcomes and job creation.

(m) Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) Conference from 25th – 31st August 2019 in Kigali – Rwanda

CAFOR's Executive Director participated in a panel as a Keynote Speaker in the Conference of the Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA). The theme of the Conference was "Building Partnerships for the Promotion of TVET for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment in Africa". The conference aimed among other issues to raise the need for rapid industrialization of African economies to the centre stage for policy initiatives and strategic action by governments and stakeholders, and highlighted issues on private-public partnerships (PPPs) in expanding the TVET space and developing vocational education and skills in African countries. CAFOR's Executive Director animated the conference with the topic "The Leadership Challenge: Harnessing TVET for Africa's transformation".

In his intervention, CAFOR's Executive Director linked the theme of the conference with the question of leadership in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and equated this link with the resolve to develop human capital's ability to react as a leader. He noted that Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is an educational approach that is oriented by a training process that emphasizes on what is to be done in the workplace to meet the businesses requirements and also to enhance individual development. However, in this challenging world, the combination of job-oriented skills and knowledge is not sufficient to develop an individual's full potential. Therefore, to build excellence in human capital, the application should be started in the early stages of education. Leadership can be taken to be the ability of an individual to influence, motivate and enable others to contribute toward effectiveness in the decision-making process and setting the goal for an organization. Without proper leadership in TVET, the goals set to prepare excellence in human capital and self-reliance would be hard to attain.

4. Future activities

(a) Exploring new opportunities for the continent-wide platform to implement CAFOR/AU communication programmes:

- National training for communication officers and other media practitioners.
- Widespread use of CAFOR's revised tool kit for media practitioners in Africa.
- Use of new modules for designing and managing communication strategies.
- Use of other communication techniques and tools.
- Use new techniques in institutional communication programme design and management.
- Use of more internal communications mechanisms.
- Promote public/external relations in Ministries of Education/Youths/Finance/Social Affairs.
- Maintain viable media/press relations, and enhance media understanding of education and youth issues in general.
- Support public affairs communication and advocacy – in particular, advocacy with media leaders/gatekeepers.
- Help to design ministerial communication strategies.

(b) Definition of the Strategic Framework of the CAFOR Strategic Plan

Major issues - Improved quality in education, relevant education, TVET, Science technology and innovations, education for disadvantaged groups, girls and children from economically and socially deprived communities, fund-raising is the biggest priority.

5. Objectives and Expected Results of the Roundtable

(a) General Objective

The objective of the proposed Roundtable Conference is to contribute to the setting up of sustainable funding mechanisms that would accelerate CAFOR's sustainable financing needs and increase CAFOR's impact on the performance of the policy, and the legal framework for advancing education and development for young people in Africa.

CAFOR will also subscribe to the design of a long-lasting financing management plan in collaboration with the African Union Commission, its organs and all partner agencies and member states by considering the results of its interventions at the country level.

(b) Specific Objectives

Specifically, it includes the following:

- Determining the financing and technical assistance needs of CAFOR with the support of the African Union Commission's HRST Department, cooperating partners and member states of the African Union;
- Ascertaining the strategic partners to mobilize;

- Mapping the relevant entities who will provide the required resources – both technical and financial;
- Mobilizing the anticipated collaborators during the roundtable;
- Establishing more focused roundtables with varying categories of technical and financial partners;
- Supporting education and training as well as lobby and advocate for a thorough understanding of the challenges of CAFOR among the technical and financial partners;
- Boosting the work of CAFOR with the African Union Commission and its partners;
- Elaborating a technical and financial resource mobilization strategy with a monitoring plan to implement the commitments from partners;
- Coordinating high-level consultations with partners in collaboration with the African Union Commission.

(c) Expected Results

- Production of a database of prospective technical and financial partners for CAFOR and their collaborative work with the African Union Commission.
- Confirmation of indicative and firm commitments from the technical and financial partners for CAFOR;
- Validation of the general situation of financing opportunities to the CAFOR Secretariat and the opportunities therein for sourcing and mobilizing funding;
- Availability of the tools for planning the establishment of new financing mechanisms for the CAFOR networks located in the 55 member states of the African Union ;
- Availability of a management plan to support CAFOR's financing mobilization for plan implementation and with a programme to ensure funding sustainability.