



THE COALITION ON MEDIA AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AFRICA FORUM, (CAFOR)

REGIONAL WEBINARS REPORT

Held From

18Th September 2020 to 2nd OCTOBER 2020

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I. Summary

The Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR) organized four regional webinars involving the members of CAFOR to discuss the strategic plan approach, avenues for resource mobilization and plan for the intended upcoming projects of CAFOR. These webinars were held starting from 18th September 2020 to 2nd October 2020. Twenty-one members of CAFOR attended the webinars from all the regions. CAFOR secretariat played the leading role in discussing the vital issues of CAFOR.

Details of CAFOR Secretariat:

Number	Designation	Name
1	Executive Director	Dr Lawalley Cole
2	Senior Advisor	Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke
3	Regional Program Officer- Eastern Africa	Mrs Hemalatha Vanam
4	IT Knowledge Management Expert	Mr Michael Awonon

Details of members attended the webinars:

Number	Region	CAFOR Members
1	West Africa	Prof. Kate Adoo - Adeku, Ghana
2	West Africa	Mr. Emmanuel Ametepey, Ghana
3	West Africa	Mrs. Afua Nkrumah, Ghana
4	West Africa	Mrs. Amie Joof, Gambia
5	West Africa	Mrs. Jahou Faal, Gambia
6	West Africa	Mr. Hamadou Tidiane Sy, Senegal
7	West Africa	Mrs. Adebukola Olatunji, Nigeria
8	West Africa	Mrs. Dukpé Lawani, Nigeria
9	East Africa	Dr. Tessema Bekele, Ethiopia
10	East Africa	Ms. Flavienne Ramarosaona, Madagascar
11	East Africa	Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga, Kenya
12	Southern Africa	Mr. Limbani Nsapato, Malawi
13	Southern Africa	Mr. Lewis Msasa, Malawi
14	Southern Africa	Mr. Tula Dlamini, South Africa
15	North Africa	Dr. Mounia Belafia, Morocco
16	North Africa	Mr. Khaleb Gulam, Libya
17	Central Africa	Mrs. Liliana Kambirigi Sebatigita, Burundi
18	Central Africa	Mrs. Liliane Bigayimpunzi, Burundi
19	Central Africa	Mr. Jean Marie Mbala Mwambila-Bantu, DR. Congo
20	Central Africa	Mr. Justin Mambiki, Rep. of Congo
21	Central Africa	Ms. Novella Nikwigize, Rwanda

II. Summary of Conclusions & Recommendations

- The main projects that CAFOR will undertake are the African Virtual e-library project, the Street Children Pilot Project, and the Digital School Initiative project.
- The CAFOR pilot street children project to be implemented in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia, should take on a multi-sectoral approach, and CAFOR should collaborate closely with UNICEF for this project. This pilot project can also be a project for the multi-sectoral task force on Children Without Parental Care set up by UNICEF.
- CAFOR should include collaborations and inclusion of partner organizations and donor agencies for better implementation of all its projects.
- For the popularization of CESA in Africa, CAFOR should design an appropriate programme for domestication, making sure a good strategy is put in place for monitoring the implementation. The plan would take on a multi-sectoral approach with vital legal and IEC components for implementation.
- There is the need to be realistic about the uniqueness of CAFOR as an institution with high-caliber members, and which is independently created. Investments in the organization by its members would make the difference.
- CAFOR should be more active in West Africa, especially in Francophone West Africa.
- CAFOR should also proceed with the opening of the Regional Offices as soon as possible.
- CAFOR should take into consideration the present situation of COVID -19 for any upcoming project implementations. This pandemic must be seen as both an opportunity and a challenge.
- CAFOR should undertake more communication for advocacy purposes. This publicity for CAFOR is significant, as it hinges on quality, inclusive, and transformative education. CAFOR's promotion will be for acquiring a continental vision and strategy. It would boost strategic partnerships and avoid the spirit of brutal competitiveness.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education in Africa could generate contributions from members' expertise, engagement, commitment, and insights from their viewpoint. It would, therefore, be best to receive project ideas and presentations from all the countries on the continent, and especially how these will be financed.
- It would be best if the financial contributions from CAFOR members could be more than what the Secretariat is asking members to subscribe. It would be appropriate if CAFOR can have more members supporting financially. CAFOR also needs more members now who are also available for meetings, for reasons of consensus.
- CAFOR should enhance its networking, fundraising and donor engagement and ensure that all countries in Africa are represented in the organization.
- Members should participate vigorously in fundraising. Every member of CAFOR has a responsibility as ambassadors for CAFOR to their governments and funding partners and must be committed as this is a vital essence of being a member of the organization. The members of the Executive Board must be more active in CAFOR activities and must participate actively in setting the ball rolling.
- It is a general concern that not all members are at the same level of understanding of the essence of CAFOR's existence and operations. The Secretariat will organize a full Executive Board meeting by the end of November 2020 to discuss this and other issues against the backdrop of a donors' Roundtable Conference for CAFOR.

- CAFOR would need to be introduced to all the UN agencies - such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP - in the region at the country level. The better way forward would be to use the Addis UNICEF UN contacts who are already working with CAFOR and ask them to refer and introduce CAFOR to the other UN agencies in the rest of the continent.
- The African Union Commission has already sent a diplomatic Note Verbale to all member states of the Union announcing the emergence of CAFOR after the signing of the MOU and has asked all its member states to support the organization at the member state level. A copy of this Note Verbale will be dispatched to all CAFOR members for dissemination and follow up.
- CAFOR's scholarship programme with the European Business University (EBU) in Luxembourg received considerable appreciation as it is providing African youths with relevant new skills that would enable them to make use of better job opportunities. CAFOR looks forward to having EBU engage young Africans in scholarships with more advanced level training courses such as Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral level training that would provide them with the necessary skills that would enable them to be employable within the African continent.
- There is also the need to improve communication to ensure that CAFOR is better known in all the regions, as well for the mobilization of resources from the influential institutions. This drive would also entail improving the status of the Coalition with other NGOs and CSOs in the Africa region.
- CAFOR must increase its communication networks in Africa for the effective deployment of its projects. Resource mobilization can be done at varying levels, including regional and country levels. Also, CAFOR must approach the African Development Bank, Africa's premier development bank and anchorage for African resource mobilization to support CAFOR's initiatives.
- CAFOR members should be imparting information about their respective countries' plans and actions to the CAFOR Secretariat to ensure that CAFOR stands strategically relevant.
- CAFOR should include budgets for upcoming projects and should engage its members in General Assembly and Board meetings.

III. Discussions by CAFOR's Executive Director

Dr. Lawalley Cole

The Executive Director of CAFOR chaired all the webinars, speaking from the African Union Commission headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He invited all the members of CAFOR to participate in the discussions and introduced the CAFOR secretariat to everyone. Being a moderator of the webinar, the Executive Director took the responsibility of engaging everyone for persuasive and interactive arguments during all the webinars. He communicated that it is a collective responsibility of the participants. He urged everyone to come up with the best ideas and practices to handle the plans of CAFOR during this COVID -19 pandemic period. The Executive Director noted that COVID-19 knows no boundaries and that anyone can be infected and affected either directly or indirectly. He explained how this COVID pandemic had disrupted many aspects of life.

The Executive Director provided the background to the holding of these regional meetings and explained how he had met the members of the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa, including over 40 Ambassadors and heads of UN agencies and bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies mainly from countries outside of Africa to discuss CAFOR and its programmes for African youths. He also explained the cordial working relations CAFOR has with its host institution, the African Union Commission, and especially its host department, the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST). He also spoke about the increase in partnerships with several like-minded organizations, including youth-led organizations in the continent.

The Executive Director facilitated the discussion, making sure that all the CAFOR members eased during the webinars and participated effectively with substantial contributions to the talks. Dr Cole emphasized the importance of the production of CAFOR's Strategic Plan, the Resource Mobilization Strategy, and the CAFOR Activities Report for the period 2018 -2020. He explained the significance of the role of CAFOR members in achieving the objectives of CAFOR. He urged all CAFOR members to familiarize themselves with these documents so that all can be at the same level of understanding where members can make meaningful contributions. He explained the importance of the efforts of CAFOR working with the ambassadors of different countries and working on the opening of CAFOR offices in all the five regions of Africa. It was noted that very soon, the regional offices in Lilongwe, Malawi, and Nairobi- Kenya will be opened and CAFOR has initiated the requisite process for the same. He expressed his willingness to strengthen cooperation with Civil Society Organizations. He supported the idea of opening the regional office for North Africa in Rabat, Morocco as a gateway to the Arab world when the financial capacity will permit. The Executive Director also paid tribute to the late Dr Olubunmi Owoso who was supporting the project to open the regional office for West Africa in Abuja, Nigeria.

He discussed at length about how CAFOR is providing an opportunity to the African youth by providing them with a scholarship program that will enable them to take part in business administration financial management courses at the European Business University in Luxembourg. Dr Cole informed members that CAFOR has been holding meetings on a Street Children Pilot Project recently with UNICEF. CAFOR has been incorporated into UNICEF's Task Force on Children Without Parental Care. Dr Cole intimated the need to be realistic in contributing our efforts. He pushed forward the working of CAFOR as a team by ensuring the meaningful involvement of all its members. We all can aim to become like OXFAM, which has bases in the US, the UK and elsewhere around the globe and work together to achieve the overall objectives of CAFOR. Dr Cole expressed his views saying that CAFOR is working towards a noble cause and humbly requested the members and partner organizations to effectively contribute their membership fees to CAFOR as mentioned in the Bank Details in Annex. It was directed that the Senior Advisor of CAFOR get in touch with the Mastercard

Foundation and other organizations recommended by members during the webinars to explore areas of cooperation.

Dr Cole thanked the participants for their contributions to the webinar discussions and asked all members to remain committed as individuals and organizations within CAFOR.

IV. Presentation by Senior Advisor, Partnership & Resource Mobilization

Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke

Mr Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Senior Advisor at CAFOR, presented CAFOR's initiation into its existence in Ethiopia.

He presented a detailed explanation of the objectives of CAFOR, CAFOR's Vision & Mission. He highlighted the importance of CAFOR strategic approach in attaining its goals. He briefed the members about CAFOR's intention to address reform in support of education, to enforce technical, vocational education and training through communication, networking, and teacher development. The ultimate idea is to plan and address the issue of the expansion of CAFOR by establishing regional offices. He had a detailed discussion on resources would be mobilized for CAFOR and the involvement of CAFOR members and their role in the implementation of CAFOR's vision and mission. He called upon CAFOR members to collaborate effectively for significant domestic fundraising and their contribution towards their membership fees to CAFOR. All members must pay a commitment fee of US 50 \$ for members; US 100 \$ for board members and US 1000 \$ for corporate members. Bank details for the necessary payments have been provided to all the members.

Mr Tshimanga's entire presentation is in Annex 1, followed by Bank details in Annex 2 for reference.

V. Presentation by Regional Program Officer- Eastern Africa

Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam

Mrs. Hemalatha, Regional Program Officer, presented to CAFOR members the designed ten projects to be implemented under the leadership of CAFOR and in close collaboration with its members at the country level. Mrs. Hema launched an appeal to CAFOR members to present their contributions and work plans for the upcoming projects. She also underscored the ongoing Scholarships Programme with the European Business University (EBU) in Luxembourg, that provided 50 scholarships to African youths from 19 African countries in the fields of business administration and financial management. Finally, she informed the CAFOR members about the forthcoming 100 scholarships, which is being advertised on the CAFOR website for the submission of applications and CVs for the selection of candidates. The deadline for the offer is the last week of October 2020. Please note that the shortlisted candidates will be considered not later than the first week of November 2020. The language requirement for a candidate to be selected is proficiency in English which is the working language of European Business University.

More details about the intended upcoming projects of CAFOR can be accessed in Annex 3, followed by elements of the next steps for CAFOR members in Annex 4 and more action details about the EBU scholarship programme can be found in Annex 5 followed by EBU scholarship details in Annex 6.

VI. Inputs from Regional Members

Southern Africa Region: Dated: 18th September 2020	
Members attended:	Dr. Limbani Nsapato, Malawi
	Mr. Lewis Msasa, Malawi
	Mr. Tula Dlamini, South Africa
Discussion Points:	
<p>These webinars are a most welcome development as they constitute the extensive usage of Information Technology to generate excellent ideas for CAFOR projects and their financing. Ownership is critical, and hence the need for further mobilization of resources. Also, the African Union policy instruments need domestication and ownership at the country level. Also, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education in Africa could generate contributions from members' expertise, engagement, commitment, and insights from their viewpoint. It would, therefore, be best to receive project ideas and presentations from all the countries on the continent, and especially how these will be financed. It would also be best if the financial contributions from CAFOR members could be more than what the Secretariat is asking members to subscribe. It would be appropriate if CAFOR can have more members supporting financially.</p>	
<p>CAFOR also needs more members now who are also available for meetings, for reasons of consensus. The projects presented are suitable for young Africans. However, funding can be a bit tricky due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most donors have now suspended funding for conventional programmes and projects. But as schools have reopened, there could now be a resumption of interaction with donors. There are also plans from CAFOR to have general assembly meetings and board meetings.</p>	
<p>Malawi welcomes the setting up of the Southern Africa Regional Office in that country and the members from Malawi would ensure that the office is established. CAFOR should enhance its networking, fundraising and donor engagement and ensure that all countries in Southern African are represented in the organization. The process of having members from countries like Angola already started with contacts at a very high level, and CAFOR expects to get members from its first Lusophone country soon. Mozambique should also be contacted for membership. The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) based in Harare, Zimbabwe should also be asked to join CAFOR, as they are already an essential partner of the African Union's HRST Department. All members would be entrusted to play a critical role in the functioning of the organization at both the country and regional levels. Malawi, for its part, will work to support the process of building CAFOR. It would be good to also work through the media chapters in Southern African countries as well as civil society coalitions in education to strengthen the good linkages.</p>	
<p>The Strategic Plan and the Resource Mobilization of CAFOR have stipulated an annual budget of U.S\$15m. The advice taken to have an ambitious account should be taken seriously and operationally, the funding will support the five regional offices and the headquarters in Addis Ababa. The administrative costs for the base in Addis Ababa are less than what the costs</p>	

would be in the Regional Offices as the African Union Commission is providing free office space, equipment, stationery, and other supplies, when available.

Members should participate vigorously in fundraising. Every member of CAFOR has a responsibility as ambassadors for CAFOR to their governments and funding partners and must be committed as this is a vital essence of being a member of the organization. The members of the Executive Board must be more active in CAFOR activities and must participate actively in setting the ball rolling. It is a general concern that not all members are at the same level of understanding of the essence of CAFOR's existence and operations. The Secretariat will organize a full Executive Board meeting by the end of November 2020 to discuss this and other issues against the backdrop of a donors' Roundtable Conference for CAFOR. CAFOR would then be able to put in place the appropriate channel for communication and networking to enable all members to participate effectively in education reform that would benefit the African youth. CAFOR will also hold a webinar meeting specifically for the opening of the Malawi office by the end of the year.

CAFOR would need to be introduced to all the UN agencies - such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP - in the region at the country level. The better way forward would be to use the Addis UNICEF UN contacts who are already working with CAFOR and ask them to refer and introduce CAFOR to the other UN agencies in Malawi and the rest of the countries in the region. The African Union Commission has already sent a diplomatic Note Verbale to all member states of the Union announcing the emergence of CAFOR after the signing of the MOU and has asked all its member states to support the organization at the member state level. A copy of this Note Verbale will be dispatched to all CAFOR members for dissemination and follow up. Political support will undoubtedly be needed from government focal points. Overall collaboration is the key to the successful implementation of all CAFOR programmes and projects.

West Africa Region Dated: 25th September 2020

Members Attended: 8 members

- Prof. Kate Adoo – Adeku, Ghana
- Mr. Emmanuel Ametepey, Ghana
- Mrs. Afua Nkrumah, Ghana
- Mrs. Amie Joof, Gambia
- Mrs. Jahou Faal, Gambia
- Mr. Hamadou Tidiane Sy, Senegal
- Mrs. Adebukola Olatunji, Nigeria
- Mrs. Dupké Lawani, Nigeria

Discussions Points:

CAFOR should undertake short term projects for 3-6 months and come up with project feasibility and replicability across other regions and countries. CAFOR should enable youth with a six weeks short course or a course which lasts for a duration of 3- 6 months and provide a means of enhancing their skills. CAFOR should prioritize on upcoming projects and start planning for better implementation. CAFOR should undertake the street children project for three months and initiate a pilot study. This piloting enables CAFOR to study the impact and effects of small project implementations. CAFOR has to come up with innovative ideas and should prioritize areas of work, taking into account the staff strength of the organization.

CAFOR should include collaborations and inclusion of partner organizations and donor agencies for better implementation. The Street Children Project of Ethiopia if implemented and is successful, can be replicated in other countries of Africa. CAFOR should come with a strategy for successful implementation. Also, the African virtual e-library project if implemented, will go a long way to enhancing the reading skills of young Africans. The Digital School Initiative would expand access to technology. This initiative also includes the ICT skill enhancement programme. However, many schools in Africa, especially in rural communities, are not connected. The question now remains on how young people in rural communities access this technology. How do we advocate for schools in rural communities to have access to mobile phones and other digital technology? The virtual e-library is perceived as a good project, but access can be a problem as the majority of Africans do not have access to technology. The Youth Advocates of Ghana (YAG) and other youth-led organizations in the continent will be prepared to participate in the implementation of digitized technology projects.

The main upcoming projects which CAFOR should plan to undertake must include the African Virtual e-library project as it will enable online education. The Street Children Project must also be given priority.

CAFOR should enable for significant research on African Education system and plan the way forward. For the popularization of CESA in Africa, CAFOR should design an appropriate programme for domestication, making sure a good strategy is put in place for monitoring the implementation. The process would take on a multi-sectoral approach with vital legal and IEC components for implementation. Fundraising at the national level should be transparent with strong liaison with the parent body of CAFOR at the headquarters level to avoid hitches.

There is, however, the need to also be realistic about the uniqueness of CAFOR as an institution with high-caliber members, and which is independently created. Investments in the organization by its members would make the difference.

The Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) is in the process of rebranding to the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA). ATUPA will work closely with CAFOR, but capacity could be demanding when numerous projects are undertaken. ATUPA is currently involved in similar programmes as CAFOR, especially as concerns rolling out digitized training for employable skills. A survey is now underway to determine the extent of the issues involved with capacity strengthening and ATUPA will share the results of this survey.

CAFOR should be more active in West Africa, especially in Francophone West Africa. Also, CAFOR should reach out to the Mastercard Foundation who are presently working on a project for 30 million youths for a period exceeding ten years. Also, CAFOR should approach the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) to seek the sponsorship of some programmes for the region.

CAFOR should also proceed with the opening of the Regional Office in Abuja, Nigeria, as soon as possible. Discussions on this already started last year with the late Dr Olubunmi Owoso. Also, the CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor had discussed this issue with Dr Nelson Magbagbeola, who was the then ECOWAS Permanent Representative to the African Union. Dr Magbagbeola left Addis Ababa last year after being promoted to the position of Secretary-General of ECOWAS. Our members in Nigeria were requested to follow-up on this issue with Dr Nelson Magbagbeola at ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. The CAFOR Secretariat will also be contacting Dr Magbagbeola as soon as possible to introduce the members in Nigeria.

North & Central Africa Regions: Dated: 29th September 2020

Members Attended: 2 from North Africa	Dr. Mounia Belafia, Morocco
	Mr. Khaleb Gulam, Libya
Members Attended: 5 from Central Africa	Mrs. Liliana Kambirigi Sebatigita, Burundi
	Mrs. Liliane Bigayimpunzi, Burundi
	Mr. Jean Marie Mbala Mwambila-Bantu, DR. Congo
	Mr. Justin Mambiki, Rep. of Congo
	Ms. Novella Nikwigize, Rwanda

Discussion Points:

CAFOR's scholarship programme with the European Business University (EBU) in Luxembourg received considerable appreciation as it is providing African youths with relevant new skills that would enable them to make use of better job opportunities. CAFOR looks forward to having EBU engage young Africans in scholarships with more advanced level training courses such as Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral level training that would provide them with the necessary skills that would enable them to be employable within the African continent. CAFOR, therefore, must follow up with the EBU to ensure that young people in Africa pursue the more advanced courses as a continuation of the existing scholarship programme.

There is also the need to improve communication to ensure that CAFOR is better known in the two regions, as well for the mobilization of resources from the big institutions. This drive would also entail improving the status of the Coalition with other NGOs and CSOs in the two regions, and particularly in the North Africa region where there is so much work to be done.

The delegates from North Africa strongly endorsed CAFOR's proposal to open the regional office in Rabat, Morocco for the North African region. This development will pave the way for the opening of doors to the Arab world and ensuring closer working relations with the rest of the African continent. Many strong organizations in North Africa can support the work of CAFOR in implementing education-related projects. CAFOR must, therefore, increase its communication networks in the two regions for the effective deployment of its projects. CAFOR will be participating in the virtual third Youth Summit on the SDGs organized by the Youth Advocates of Ghana in early November, and this will also be an opportunity to present CAFOR's programmes and receive reactions from African youths. CAFOR members will be invited to participate in the summit.

On the issue of resource mobilization, this can be done at varying levels, including regional and country levels. Also, CAFOR must approach the African Development Bank, Africa's premier development bank and anchorage for African resource mobilization to support CAFOR's initiatives.

East Africa Region: Dated : 2nd October 2020

Note: For East African webinar members from other regions also participated and the turnout was more

Members Attended from East Africa: 3	Dr. Tessema Bekele, Ethiopia
	Ms. Flavienne Ramarosaona, Madagascar
	Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga, Kenya
Other Regions	Mrs. Jahou Faal, Gambia/Kenya
	Mrs. Dukpé Lawani, Nigeria
	Mrs. Afua Nkrumah, Ghana
	Dr Mounia Belafia, Morocco
	Mr Lewis Msasa, Malawi

Discussion Points:

CAFOR should take into consideration the present situation of COVID -19 for any upcoming project implementations. This pandemic must be seen as both an opportunity and a challenge. CAFOR should be in a position to clarify when interventions are needed and collaborate effectively as different collaborations are available in Africa. An emphasis must be put on the issues of equity and justice. CAFOR members must demonstrate a high degree of commitment for the organization to take on the next level. The CAFOR pilot street children project to be implemented in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia, should take on a multi-sectoral approach, and CAFOR should collaborate closely with UNICEF for this project. This pilot project can also be a project for the multi-sectoral task force on Children Without Parental Care set up by UNICEF. Also, CAFOR may propose a multi-media technology in school systems. The street children project should encompass the prevailing COVID situation, as new opportunities emerge. The Emmanuel Development Association, a key partner, is already working in components that include street children issues in five regions in different parts of Ethiopia and is currently moving to a sixth region – the Somali region. This period is, therefore, an excellent time to embark on the Street Children project.

CAFOR has already discussed the Street Children Project with several Ambassadors accredited to the African Union as well as heads of development agencies in Ethiopia. CAFOR must develop sound strategies for implementation. With the setting up of the Regional Offices that would comprise of a Regional Representative and Regional Programme Officer, stakeholders work will be facilitated at the country level with the local authorities.

On the scholarships programme with the European Business University, the meeting noted with some concern that Ethiopia did not participate in the first batch of 50 scholarships and urged Ethiopian members to nominate candidates from Ethiopia for the current second batch of 100 scholarships.

The Takoradi Technical University in Ghana is engaged in numerous technical and vocational training courses. These courses relate to technical education, engineering, the applied sciences

and other types of vocational skills training. Also, the technical university in Takoradi is engaging the community in skills development and other TVET related areas. It is also the only university in West Africa that provides training in oil and gas with certification from local and international bodies. This type of exercise offers the opportunity for non-formal sector operators to benefit from the practice. Students and professionals from across the world come to Ghana to get certified training in oil and gas. The government of Ghana also supports individuals in this study programme to receive an education at any point in time. CAFOR's proposed international programmes and linkages are highly appreciated.

The TVET sector has experienced a big challenge with teaching and learning during this pandemic. Some of these challenges include data collection, infrastructure, and staff capacity. Practising-based components in TVET training has remained a considerable challenge, as in any TVET based programme, 60% would be practical, while only 40 % would be theory. The question that one poses is how one will introduce e-learning or blended learning in the TVET sector. Also, how will the TVET sector share resources with the other institutions? CAFOR is now advancing encouraging initiatives, but there remain challenges for implementation. CAFOR and its partners will, therefore, need to open up to new opportunities, while looking to stop doing business as usual to fulfil the dream of having a decent living for both male and female youths in the continent.

TVET is, therefore considered a big deal. In that respect, there is a need for adequate research in the sector to inform on the way that works best for all. There must be an optimal balance between those working within the industry and those working outside. This balance should help in reducing costs through shared resources and would help in linking TVET in the value chain and innovation ecosystems. One needs to consider how the research and higher education space and industry are part of the innovation ecosystem to have a better perspective of this phenomenon. The TVET space is key to completing the ecosystem and for empowering people with the appropriate knowledge and skills for getting the products for the markets and for harnessing our natural resources and endowments.

The Center for Development Journalism and Advocacy (CDJA) based in Malawi, has recently joined CAFOR. This organization is a rights advocacy group whose core areas of work include the media, rights advocacy, education, health, and jobs. CDJA would like to share experiences with the CAFOR forum and would be very much interested in publicity about the work of CAFOR. The training of journalists is one area where CDJA would be ready to work with CAFOR to ensure a good understanding of the African union policies and agendas. CDJA also expressed interest in developing a communication strategy for CAFOR if CAFOR does not have one to concretize networking with members.

CAFOR should undertake more communication for advocacy purposes. This publicity for CAFOR is significant, as it hinges on quality, inclusive, and transformative education. CAFOR's promotion will be for acquiring a continental vision and strategy. It would boost strategic partnerships and avoid the spirit of brutal competitiveness that hurts. As concerns CAFOR, education and youth development are core for the social and economic development of the continent and to ensure prosperity, peace, and integration. CAFOR's publicity will also constitute an audible voice that would reflect the collective African position that could

influence the global arena. This understanding is what should prompt us to work in unity and not in competition and thus enhance employable life skills of the youth.

There are pockets of excellence around the African continent which must be communicated for mutual learning. CAFOR members must play their part in feeding the Secretariat with knowledge and information. The distinction must be replicated and hence no need for the wastage of resources. CAFOR continues to be strategically relevant, and the issue of values must remain critical in all CAFOR operations.

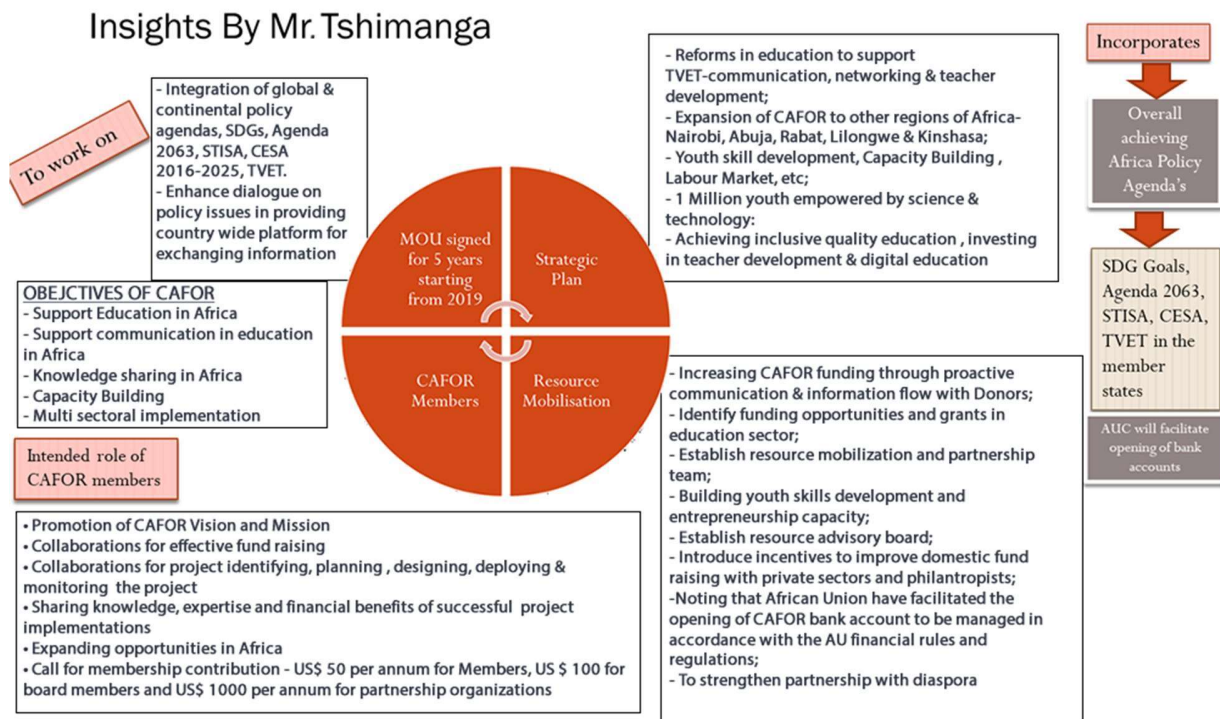
Africa is endowed with resources but is still the most impoverished continent. One big challenge is the shortage of leaders of integrity. Truth and justice must be paramount, no matter how much it may hurt. There is also the question of engagement. This issue starts with consultations and commitments, but, overall, it all begins with the education system.

VII. Vote of Thanks

CAFOR's IT & Knowledge management expert Mr. Michael Awonon thanked all the participants for their active participation in the webinars and informed that CAFOR intends to consolidate the working relations with them for strong engagement of all the members and collectively promote the education of the youth in Africa. This commitment would ensure the promotion of CAFOR's vision and mission in the member states of the African Union.

VIII. Annex

Annex 1: Insights by CAFOR Senior Advisor- Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke



Annex 2: CAFOR BANK DETAILS

COMMERCIAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA

AFRICAN UNION BRANCH

AU-CAFOR

FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNT(FC'Y) USD No **1000280153358**

LOCAL CURRENCY BANK ACCOUNT(NT/BIRR) No **1000280153889**

SWIFT CODE: CBETETAA

P.O.BOX 255

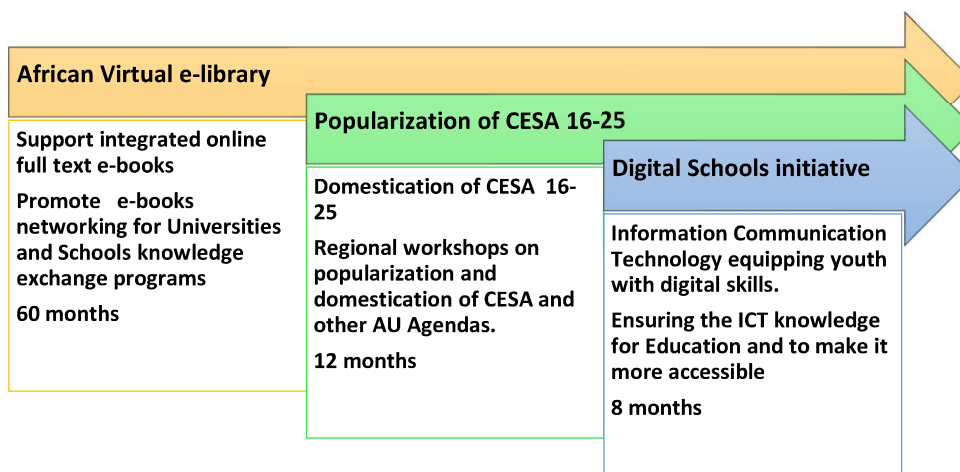
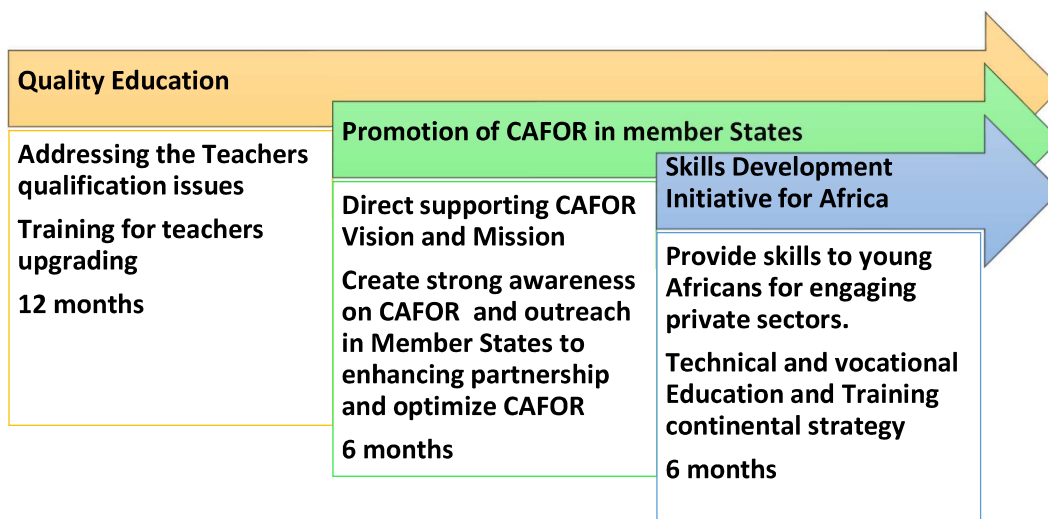
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Annex 3: Upcoming Projects By – Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam & Mr. Michael Awonon



Addis Ababa Street Children Pilot Project

Providing Skills to unprivileged young people for insertion in development.
skills provided
48 months

Operationalisation of CAFOR

Capacity Building
Reinforcement of the CAFOR capacity
12 months

Training to Journalists

To provide training to journalists on African Union Policies and Agendas.
By promoting CESA, TVET, STISA
By developing curriculum for professional growth through innovation and capacity building & thus adapting to social changes post COVID
8 months

Education Cannot Wait

To provide digital connectivity and online platform to schools, teachers and students.
Providing capacity building workshops and skill enhancement opportunities to the teachers.
Acquisition of knowledge and To provide quality education and contribute to achieving continental framework of standards and competencies in Africa.
36 months

Next Steps - What we expect from CAFOR Members ??

Presentations For

- Areas of collaboration
- Work plans
- Time frames
- Anticipated project costs

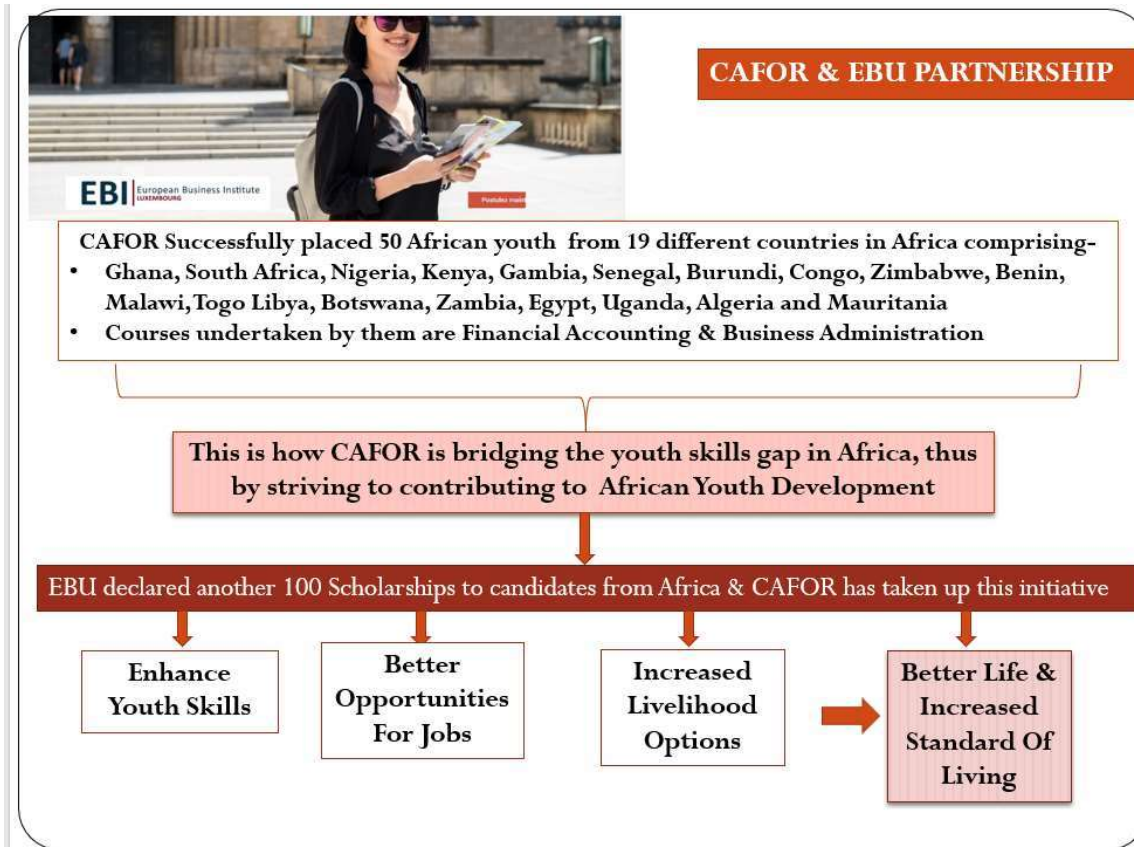
Commitment Towards

- Fund raising plan
- Donor engagement strategy
- Deadlines

When

- We will decide a further date and let you all know in advance.
- We will have discussion sessions about work plans, time frames and areas of collaborations and the way forward

Annex 5: European Business University Project Details



Annex 6: EBU Scholarship Details

Scholarship Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic ICT Skills• Good understanding knowledge of English language
Online Courses Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Management• Financial Management• Marketing Management• Introduction to Python
Minimum Requirement for Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment fee of 10 Euros• Weekly access to a computer• Adequate data bundles
Important Info/ dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration & Payment deadlines 20th Nov 2020• Tern dates starts from Jan 2021- May 2021• Mail CVs to h.vanam@cafor.org• CVs to be received by 20th Oct 2020 by CAFOR