



**CAFOR**



**AFRICAN UNION**

**AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

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**CONCEPT NOTE**

**CAFOR Project: Popularizing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025  
(CESA 16-25)**

## **1. Project Summary**

This project will create awareness and ownership of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) at all African Union member states. CAFOR will build visibility and credibility for the CESA 16-25 by disseminating the Strategy's content and spirit widely through its various media of communication, including its members at the country level.

The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) provides the framework for reorienting Africa's education and training systems to meet the human resource needs of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. CESA offers an agreed overall framework for mobilizing critical stakeholders towards a shared vision for pursuing various thematic education areas. Clustering under thematic areas has been identified as a useful tool for enhancing coordination and strengthening partnerships on common themes.

CESA also serves as a platform for bringing together all Education actors across the continent behind a transformative Pan African plan for education. In this regard, stakeholders adopted the thematic cluster approach to bring together various stakeholders in specific education fields to contribute to achieving CESA's strategic objectives. To date, twelve CESA thematic clusters have been launched. Agencies involved in CESA Clusters must demonstrate their commitment to achieving the Continental Education Strategy for Africa. The clusters' full potential remains untapped as the groups are in various stages of functionality and performance.

## **2. Problem Relevance**

The COVID-19 Pandemic and its negative impact on Africa's education systems call on all education stakeholders at the regional and continental levels to act with speed and scale up to implement innovative initiatives that improve Africa's education's resilience system and ensures continuous learning. The African Union's DOTSS<sup>1</sup> approach provides the framework for action and confluence for the work for clusters.

Besides, Africa is ushering into an era that most observers and pundits predict will determine its destiny as the continent of the future. To fulfil this promised bright future, the continent has to come to terms with its education and training systems that are yet to fully shed the weight of its colonial legacy and its tribulations as a relatively new political and economic entity and player in the world arena.

In the bid to "create" a new African citizen who will be an effective change agent for the continent's sustainable development as envisioned by the AU and its 2063 Agenda, the African Union Commission has developed a comprehensive ten-year Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

This Strategy is driven by the desire to set up a "qualitative system of education and training to provide the African continent with efficient human resources adapted to African core values and therefore capable of achieving the vision and ambitions of the African Union.

Those responsible for its implementation will be assigned to "reorient Africa's education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, innovation and creativity required to nurture African core values and promote sustainable development at the national, sub-regional and continental levels". The goal of the CESA 2016 -25 is therefore anchored on creating a new context favourable to the full inclusion of education among the AU's priorities, the RECs and member states. The existing communication gaps for implementing education programmes on the continent have resulted in some negative repercussions.

CAFOR is currently playing a supporting and facilitating role in policy dialogue, technical and institutional capacity development, knowledge and experiences, advocacy, and communication. However, so many gaps exist. These border on:

- (a) *The rights-based approach to education – education as a human right.* A considerable gap exists between the ratifications, domestication, and implementation of the treaties on education, children's rights and gender equality.

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<sup>1</sup> **DOTSS is an approach to ensure continuity of learning online and offline, and it means:**

D-Digital and electricity connectivity of Schools.

O-Online learning to complement offline learning.

T-Teacher as facilitators and motivators of Learning.

S-Safety to learn online and offline.

S-Skills focused learning (360 degrees continuous and cumulative learning – foundational, digital, entrepreneurial, 21st century and job-specific skills).

- (b) *International, regional, sub-regional and national targets.* Insufficient commitment on the part of governments to fully implement policies and plans in pursuit of international targets, e.g., SDGs, Agenda 2063 and CESA 16-25, CRC,
- (c) *Civic engagement.* Lack of ownership of various stakeholders of social mobilization programmes for the promotion of education and development.

### **3. Call to Action**

CAFOR will work with its members at the country level to enhance information exchange and experience as well as reinforce cooperation to collectively strengthen implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa through the following activities:

- Publishing and distributing CESA 16 - 25 to all the stakeholders likely to implement the continental Strategy and the public at large.
- Regularly communicating on the activities and the progress of CESA 16 - 25 to all the stakeholders and the public to ensure i) ownership of the Strategy by the countries and the RECs; and ii) political support at all levels (national, regional, continental, and international).
- Establishing appropriate communication channels between the players/stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Strategy.

#### **(a) Sharing of strategies and knowledge, including with other regions**

- Putting practical knowledge, strategies, and experiences online on a Web site dedicated to the CESA 16 -25.
- Using social media – Facebook, Twitter etc. that would involve the public in sharing awareness on CESA 16 – 25 implementation.
- Organizing ministerial meetings on the themes covered by the areas of focus.
- Organizing study tours.
- Arranging for presentations by the African ministers in significant conferences where they are participating.
- Sharing knowledge, strategies, and experiences in the UNESCO in education sciences.
- Sharing GPE, CAFOR, ANCEFA and UNESCO publications on successful experiences.
- Creating links between the AU, GPE, UNESCO, ANCEFA, and CAFOR's Web site.
- Carrying out policy dialogue activities through the institutional arrangements that already exist at CAFOR (Executive Board meetings, Country-level meetings etc.) and UNESCO (the General Conference).

#### **(b) Methodology and some suggestions for content**

There will be two phases in this task to fully develop and implement the communication strategy:

- Phase 1 will comprise of a thorough review of all the activities and actions that need to be taken to start implementing the communications strategy.
- Phase 2 will be organizing an all-encompassing workshop that would include representatives from the media and the education sector to outline the Strategy's essential elements and its modalities for implementation. This activity will specifically involve member states of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, and bilateral and multilateral agencies working on Education in Africa.

**(c) Partnerships and Participation**

- CAFOR will emphasize South-South cooperation for the implementation of the Strategy.
- The AU will ensure political leadership in the orientation and agenda-setting of CESA 16 - 25, emphasizing communicating the Continental Strategy's principles well to its member states and international levels.
- The AU will also ensure the choice of priorities in investment and action, the formulation and adoption of the implementation of programs and projects, the mobilization and the distribution of resources, and the monitoring and validation of results.
- CAFOR will play a supporting and facilitation role in analytical work, mobilization and provision of experts, technical and institutional capacity building, exchange of experiences, and knowledge sharing among countries and professionals, advocacy, dissemination, and communication.
- CAFOR will support implementing a communication strategy for CESA 16 - 25 through its members and its networks of more than 1,500 journalists on the continent and through communication units in ministries of education in Africa, and universities, individual experts and ensuring visibility and enhanced public support.
- CAFOR will also endeavour to publicize the various CESA Clusters' work to attract membership expansion to include other relevant organizations and agencies for promoting maximum use of available expertise and resources on the continent.
- CAFOR will also closely accompany the AU as it plays a critical role in ensuring that the Clusters' work is publicized among member states for greater visibility. To this end, the AU will submit clusters reports to the Specialized Technical Committee of Education Science and Technology (STC-EST) and the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government Championing Education, Science, and Technology (C10) each year.

**(d) Funding**

CAFOR is seeking sponsorship from partners and multilateral and bilateral agencies, and the private sector to support the management, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of this project in the following ways:

S. No.	SUMMARY BUDGET	Per Annum	Period (Yrs)	Personnel Deployed	Total (USD)
<b>1</b>	<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				
	Internal Staff Costs- Full Time Staff (2 % of total salary costs)	68636.63	5	4	343183.15
	Field Based Experts Costs - Project Period & Work	30000.00	5	5	750000

	Deploying 2 local field staff per country	500	5	10	25000
2	<b>PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COSTS</b>				
	Developing communication strategy (One time cost)	15000			15000
	Establishing media communication tool	17000	5	5	425000
	Publishing and Distribution	15000	5	5	375000
	Developing a tool to review progress (one time activity)	12000			12000
	Sharing of information and best practices				
3	<b>Other Costs</b>				
	Communication Costs- Monthly Mobile Top-Ups, Printouts, Stationery, Shipping, Postage, etc (per annum per person)	3000	5	9	135000
	Monitoring ,Evaluation Costs & IT Costs in 5 countries	4000	5	5	100000
	Associated Costs (Supplies, Equipment Costs, etc)	50000	5	5	1250000
	Operational Costs - Office Set-up Costs, Office Equipment, Etc	40000	5	5	1000000
4	<b>TRAVEL&amp; TRANSPORTATION COSTS</b>				
	Travel Insurance	1350	5	9	60750
	Per Diems per day for internal staff	260	5	9	11700
	Per Diems per day for international staff	200	5	5	5000
	Local Travel Costs per month	1000	5	9	45000
	International Travel Costs	600	5	9	27000
5	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>				4579633.15
6	<b>MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE</b>				686944.9725
	Calculated at 15% of TOTAL Amount				
7	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>5,266,578</b>

Sponsors may expect recognition in a few ways:

- Sponsors may be included in a roll of honour, hosted on the cafor website [www.cafor.org](http://www.cafor.org), with recognition by the African Union.
- Sponsors will be recognized in presentations at conferences and meetings as having supported education in Africa.
- Should a sponsor wish to remain anonymous, this will be respected by CAFOR.

#### 4. Conclusion

This work will set the contexts for transforming Africa's education systems based on what CESA 16-25 has drawn from the lessons learned from over three decades of educational development

experiences from around the globe. By publicizing CESA 16-25, all stakeholders in the education sector in Africa will develop a shared understanding, reach a consensus on how to mainstream the education sector on the continent through integrating all sub-sectors of education and training systems with a concrete set of actions for the proper implementation of the twelve CESA strategic objectives to transform Africa's education system.