



Office of the Executive Director

**The Coalition on Media and
Education For Development
Africa Forum
(CAFOR)**

CAFOR Activity Report 2018 - 2020

December 2020



CAFOR
Coalition on Media
and Education for
Development Africa
Forum



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

Roosevelt Street, W21K19, P.O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**COALITION ON MEDIA AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AFRICA
FORUM (CAFOR) ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2018 TO 2020**



Abbreviations

AFDB	: African Development Bank
ASRIC	: African Scientific Research and Innovation Council
AU	: African Union
AUC	: African Union Commission
AUDA – NEPAD	: African Union Development Agency – New Partnerships for Africa’s Development
CAFOR	: Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum
CAPA	: Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa
CESA	: Continental Education Strategy for Africa
CIEFFA	: The International Centre for Girls and Women’s Education in Africa
CSO	: Central Statistics Office
CTMP	: Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol
COVID	: Coronavirus Disease
DIC	: Division of Information and Communication
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
EBU	: European Business University
ECOWAS	: Economic Community of West African States
EU	: European Union
GIZ	: German Agency for International Corporation
GPE	: Global Partnership for Education
HRST	: Human Resource Science and Technology
ICT	: Information and Communication Technology
IDPs	: Internally Displaced Persons
IICBA	: International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa
IWPR	: Institute of War and Peace Reporting
KOICA	: The Korean International Co-operation Agency
MOU	: Memorandum of Understanding

MLT	: Media Lab of Tripoli
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organisation
NYH	: Nurhussen Yassin
PACE	: Pan Africa High level Conference on Education
PPP	: Public Private Partnerships
PWDs	: People With Disabilities
REC	: Regional Economic Communities
SDG	: Sustainable Development Goals
STC- EST	: Specialised Technical Committee on Education Science and Technology
STEM	: Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics
STISA	: Science Technology and Innovation Strategy For Africa
T V	: Television
TVET	: Technical and Vocational Education Training
UAE	: United Arab Emirates
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	: United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNECA	: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	: United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	: United Nations Children’s Fund
USAID	: United States Agency For International Development
WPF	: World Press Freedom Day



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



Popularization of:



AGENDA 2063



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**CONTINENTAL EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA
(CESA 16-25)**



**SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION STRATEGY FOR
AFRICA (STISA) 2024 AND**



**TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
(TVET) CONTINENTAL STRATEGY**



Advocacy



Youth Skills Development



Innovative Education System



Building Human Capital Capacity



Strengthening Coalition owned by its Members.



Supporting Stakeholder Mobilization and Sensitization



**Provide Platform for Multi-stakeholder Partnership for the Achievement
of Education Goals**



Promote Communication use for Education for Young People



Promote African Union Education and other Policy Instruments



Give new Impetus to Media Training



Promote Networking



Support to Youth in Emergency and Post Conflict Situations

Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR)
is partner to the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology,
African Union Commission.

To learn more about CAFOR visit Website: www.cafor.org



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1. Message from CAFOR Chairperson- Prof Kate Adoo-Adeku

I bring you warm greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Executive Board and members of CAFOR. I also take this opportunity of extending my heartfelt greetings to the African Union Commission, our host institution. We wish to express our profound gratitude for the great support and assistance we continue to get from the Commission. It is my pleasure to convey to you all this messages as we release our first activities report which covers two and a half years of our existence. I also take this opportunity to thank all the staff of the CAFOR Secretariat based in Addis Ababa, Brazzaville and Nairobi for their tireless efforts to ensure the smooth running of the CAFOR machinery despite the challenges that you all face daily. We wish to, on this occasion, express our appreciation to you all while we say *behind every cloud there is a silver lining*.



CAFOR is a relatively young organization established to promote development activities that would enhance Africa's Development Agenda with a focus on the African Youth. A significant ingredient is the promotion of communication in support of Education which is the crucial tool in using to accelerate its work with the three key concepts of Communication, Education and Development. These three conceptions are intertwined to create a healthy environment which would offer space for the youth on the continent to develop employable opportunities for their well-being, families, and their nations.

CAFOR has put in place a strategic plan with critical structures that would help it to promote its work on the continent as consistent with its vision and mission. Young as it is, and despite the challenges it is facing amidst the emergence of COVID 19, CAFOR in its modest manner and within a short space of time has succeeded in making its presence felt in many regions in Africa, and even globally. Consequently, the existence of CAFOR has boosted some remarkable awareness about the situation with young people on the African continent. The strategic plan it has put in place would give both meaning and direction on the key area it shall be operating on for the next couple of years.

CAFOR will, in the next few years, support qualified, underprivileged young people with demonstrated high potential from Africa, to access education and employable and entrepreneurial skills. CAFOR strives to work with multiple stakeholders to ensure the integration of global and AU continental policy agenda into development policy and practice at the country level. CAFOR's collaboration with the European Business University in Luxembourg which has initially provided 50 scholarships for young African students in TVET and business administration is a highly commendable start. As we expect another 100 scholarships for African youths, we look forward to new employment avenues for the course beneficiaries.

CAFOR also works with media agencies specialized in learning and development reporting, communication researchers and trainers, education specialists and organizations engaged in

areas of concern to training for the youth and development. CAFOR will eventually be uniquely placed to provide a continent-wide platform for exchanging information, experience and practices on new technologies and innovations for youth empowerment among experts in government ministries, CSOs, NGOs, the media, the youth, and communities.

CAFOR has also put in place a Resource Mobilization Strategy for the period 2020 – 2024. The strategy will ensure a transparent, systematic, predictable, and well-coordinated approach to soliciting, acquiring, and utilization, management, reporting, monitoring, and evaluating assistance from International Cooperating Partners. It will also support the expanding of the resource base to ensure sustainable resource availability for implementation of CAFOR's programmes as stipulated in CAFOR's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. In this respect, CAFOR will develop and improve relations and dialogue with the African Union Commission and all Technical and Financial Development Partners in Africa and elsewhere. The organization will establish the framework for resource mobilization and acquire adequate resources to implement all its activities.

CAFOR will further elaborate on and execute an effective resource mobilization strategy with a roadmap for the evolution of strategic partnerships and financial resource mobilization. Business sponsors, organizations providing grants that include individuals and organizations involved in participating financially to the Education and training of young people in Africa would support CAFOR in its efforts to mobilize adequate resources. CAFOR will also develop a business case for financial support that would be sustained with relevant documentation of its policy impact and results since its inception in January 2018, for dissemination to key existing and potential technical and financial partners. We say a big thank you to all who have assisted in diverse ways to help CAFOR achieve some of its noble objectives.

2. Message from Executive Director- Dr Lawalley Cole

CAFOR has only existed for two years. During much of these two years, the membership of CAFOR expanded to a considerable extent. CAFOR used this period mainly to make itself known around the African continent and even globally through participation in over 40 conferences, workshops and seminars and meetings held in various parts of Africa and the rest of the world including in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Hungary, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Ghana, Botswana, Rwanda, Cote D'Ivoire, and other places.



A significant highlight of CAFOR's activities took place on 18th January 2019 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the African Union and CAFOR. Through the MOU, the two parties CAFOR and the African Union will 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 through these African Union policy agendas, 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 changes.

It was also during this period that 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, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, India, Brazil, Italy, Turkey, Denmark, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom, and Spain. CAFOR staff also met and discussed the African Union's plan that includes the **Continental Education Strategy for Africa (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 took place through meetings with UNDP, UNESCO and UNFPA. Also, the African Union alerted all the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of its 55 member states and their embassies in Addis Ababa to explain the purpose of the MOU signed between the African Union and CAFOR. The AU also called on its member states to provide the necessary support to CAFOR to accomplish its mission at the country level.

CAFOR is currently engaged in frantic efforts to enhance its partnerships and mobilize resources for its projects and programmes around Africa. We have since produced a Strategic

Plan that would run from this year 2020 until 2024, with an annual budget projected at US\$15m. We have also equally developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy for the same period. With these instruments, CAFOR will be engaging the African and international community to support programmes African countries, albeit amidst this current COVID – 19 pandemics, and as we explore new opportunities for the continent-wide platform to implement CAFOR/AU programmes. CAFOR will also work collectively with all its partners to mobilize financial resources to support the short, medium, and long term, COVID-19, and post COVID-19 recovery process in Africa. To this end and following the earlier consultations we made with ambassadors, UN agencies, and other bilateral and multilateral partners, CAFOR has proposed to hold a Virtual Roundtable Conference with all its partners jointly with the HRST Department. The theme of the Roundtable is **"Supporting the African Union's post-COVID 19 innovative practices in the fields of education, science and technology with an emphasis on TVET implementation to enhance youth advancement across the continent of Africa."**

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 give much consideration to its post-COVID-19 interventions in the African continent.

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.

3. General Corporate Information about CAFOR



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 labour market within the African continent. The primary reason for this coalition is to gain maximum influence and potential that an individual organization would otherwise not be able to have. The Coalition strives to achieve this through the following means:

- Having the Coalition owned by its members.
- Combining resources and working together and having the groups or parties accomplish more along than they would work on their own.
- Leadership becomes a shared activity.
- Accountability shifts from strictly individual to both individual and collective.
- The team develops its purpose and mission.
- Problem-solving becomes a way of life, not a part-time exercise.
- Measure effectiveness through the group's combined outcomes and products.

The principal orientation of CAFOR includes:

- By becoming a technical arm for the development in Africa, by participating with the cooperation of donor agencies operating in Africa such as- African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (REC) and Specialised United Nations (UN) bodies in the area of communication for youth skills development and their integration into the African labour market.
- Developing advocacy to integrate communication components in agricultural development for young Africans, TVET and other educational and skills development policies.
- Promoting better knowledge of educational facts for young Africans among the media and journalists.
- Providing advice and quality services in communication to the development cooperation agencies operating in Africa including the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and Specialized United Nations Bodies, and ministries of education, agriculture, labour and finance in Africa, the media, and civil society organizations intervening in education and youth development.
- Contributing to the expansion of support to policies and reforms in education and youth development.
- Mobilizing matching financial resources.
- Generating opportunities for sustainable social development by designing, implementing, and evaluating communication strategies for youth training and development in Africa.

- Examining and enforcing mapping strategies for identifying institutions for creating jobs in the fields of agriculture for young people, technical schools or institutes such as vocational training institutes, especially agricultural institutes.
- Mapping the competencies and the specialization of each institute, examining the opportunities for African capacity in agriculture and technology, cross-pollinating centers of excellence and establishing a research laboratory on education and development issues and use the data collected for programme interventions.

4. List of CAFOR Executive Board, Secretariat and Partner organisations

4.1) CAFOR Executive Board



Kate Adoo-Adeku

PRESIDENT

Ghana



Lawalley Cole

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gambia



Sarah Mbi Enow
Anyang Agbor

MEMBER
Cameroon



Amie Joof

MEMBER

Gambia



Amos Kiarie Njoroge

MEMBER

Kenya



Jennifer Kimani

MEMBER

Kenya



Bright Kampaundi

MEMBER

Malawi



Flavienne
Ramarosaona

MEMBER

Madagascar



Bukola Olatunji

MEMBER

Nigeria



Beatrice Khamati
Njenga

MEMBER

Kenya



Limbani Nsapato

MEMBER

Malawi



Khaled Gulam

MEMBER

Libya

4.2) CAFOR Secretariat



Lawalley Cole
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Tshimanga Mukadi-
Mutoke**
SENIOR ADVISOR



Hemalatha Vanam
REGIONAL PROGRAMME
OFFICER (EASTERN AFRICA)



Michael Awonon
IT & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
OFFICER

4.3) CAFOR Members



Mounia
Belafia
MOROCCO



Bheki
Maseko
SWAZILAND



Henry Kabwe
ZAMBIA



Tessema
Bekele
ETHIOPIA



Kabral Blay-
Amihere
GHANA



Justin
Mambiki
CONGO



Burang Goree
Ndiaye
GAMBIA



Seatholo
Masego
Tumedli
BOTSWANA



Carol
Natukunda
UGANDA



Hervé P.
Hessou
BENIN



Kiram
Tadesse
ETHIOPIA



Joseph
Chimbuto
MALAWI



Isatou Jallow
GAMBIA



Rosette Rand
ETHIOPIA



Alula
Teklelariam
Gebrekidan
ETHIOPIA



Liliane
Kambirigi-
Sebatigita
BURUNDI



Virgile
Ahissou
BENIN



Kwesi Amoak
GHANA



Jeanne-
Frances
Maduakor
NIGERIA



Tsige
Ghataneh
ETHIOPIA



Gérard Guédégbé
BENIN



Maria Mdachi
TANZANIA



Adam Alqali
NIGERIA



Tula Dlamini
SOUTH AFRICA



John Kwame Boateng
GHANA



Jean-Marie Mbala Mwambila-Bantu
DR CONGO



Omer Redi Ahmed
ETHIOPIA



Emmanuel AMETEPEY
GHANA



Liliane Bigayimpunzi
BURUNDI



Lewis Msasa
MALAWI



Hamadou Tidiane SY
SENEGAL



Novella Nikwigize
RWANDA



Maame Afua Nkrumah
GHANA



Hassan Ghazaly
EGYPT



Jahou Faal
GAMBIA



Rotimi Onekama
NIGERIA



Aya Chebbi
TUNISIA



Amos Tizora
MALAWI

4.4) CAFOR Partner Organizations



OBITUARY

CAFOR DEEPLY REGRET THE PASSING OF TWO OF ITS KEY MEMBERS

Professor Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi passed away on 30th November 2019



Professor Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi was a founding member of CAFOR. He was a research professor in the Department of Language and Communication Sciences, and a former Minister of Information and Communications in the Republic of Benin. He was also a former Director of the National Institute for Training and Research in Education (INFRE) and a former Director of the National Center for Applied Linguistics (CENALA, now INALA). He was decorated as a Commander of the National Order of Benin and on an exceptional basis, was raised to the Dignity of Grand Officer of the National Order of Benin.

He had previously worked in various capacities, including that of being the Zonal Coordinator for Francophone Africa for the writing of an Education ToolKit for African journalists and communication experts. This work was completed with many of the professionals in media and education who formed CAFOR. Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi was also the promoter of the journal "Ablòde", a journal of his laboratory. Without a doubt, his demise constitutes a new "intellectual" loss for the African academic scientific community.

Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi was an eminent scholar and academic and world-renowned Professor of Languages and Linguistics from the University of Abomey-Calavi in the Republic of Benin. He taught African linguistics, terminology and languages, including "adja", at the University of Abomey-Calavi. He had held many senior positions in the Republic of Benin, including Minister of Information and Communications, Director of the National Institute for Training and Research in Education (INFRE) and former Director of the National Institute of Applied Linguistics (INALA), formerly CANELA).

Professor Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi is the author of several literary works, including "The Spider in His Tales". A book prefaced by Bruno Amoussou, at the time President of the National Assembly of Benin.

Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi was also the promoter of the journal "Ablòde", a journal of his laboratory. Without a doubt, his demise constitutes a new "intellectual" loss for the African academic scientific community.

Toussaint Yaovi Tchitchi, the former Minister of Information and Communication of the Republic of Benin was born on December 31, 1938 and died on November 30, 2019 in Cotonou, Republic of Benin after a long illness. He was 80 years old.

Dr Olubunmi Owoso passed away on 28th June 2020

Dr Olubunmi Owoso was a member of the Executive Board of CAFOR. He was the former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA), in Nairobi, Kenya from March 2012 to December 2018. Earlier, from 2001 to 2009, he served as Rector of Yaba College of Technology, in Lagos, Nigeria, where he instituted many reforms and projects. These included the establishment of the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, the Centre for Applied Research and Technology Innovation, the Internal Quality Assurance Unit and the Servicom Unit, as well as a satellite campus of the College in Epe, Lagos State, for agriculture programmes and a skills development centre.



Dr Owoso's educational background comprised a BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture (University of Ibadan, Nigeria), MSc Food Technology (University of Reading, U.K.), MSc Development Studies (South Bank University, U.K.) and a PhD in Management Science (Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria). Over the years, he achieved various professional qualifications that included a Certificate in Microcredit and Small Enterprise Development (awarded by the Israeli Centre for International Development and African Development Finance Institutions). He also obtained a Certificate in Microeconomic Policy Analysis and a Certificate in Poverty Alleviation Policies and Strategies (National Centre for Economic Management, Nigeria); and a Certificate in Innovation for Economic Development (Harvard Kennedy School, USA). He was a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology; also, a Fellow, Academy for Entrepreneurial Studies, Nigeria; and a Fellow, Nigeria Institute of Management.

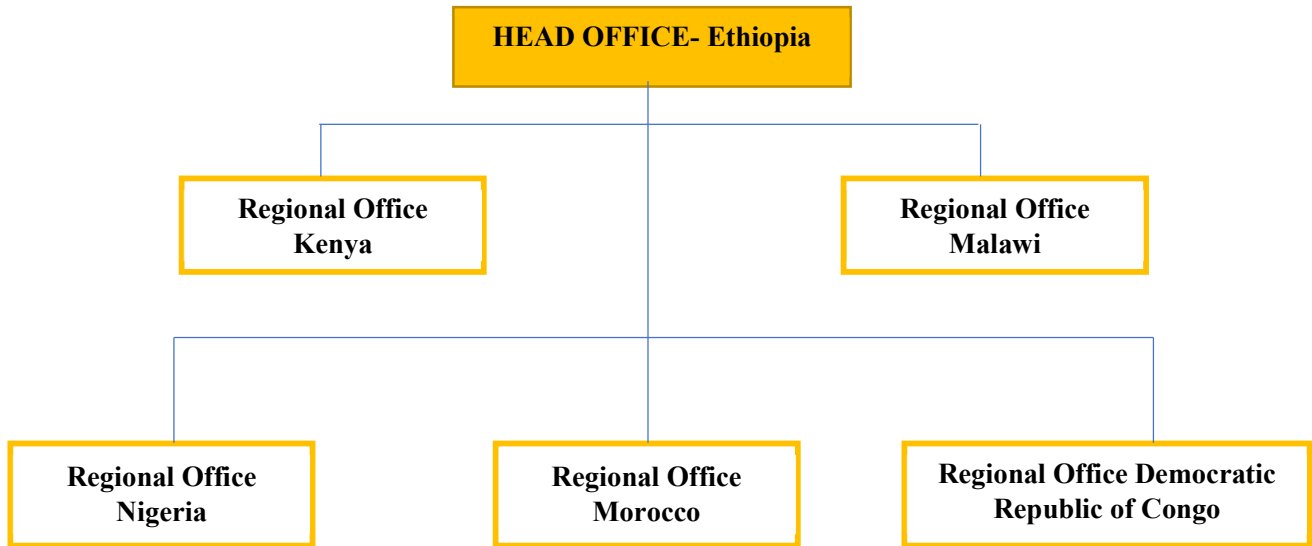
Dr Owoso was decorated in August 2012 by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a national honour, the National Productivity Order of Merit.

During the relatively short period he worked with us at CAFOR, Dr Owoso was always an active member of the organization who worked well with the African Union and participated in many CAFOR and A.U. activities both online as well as with his physical presence. He visited the CAFOR Secretariat in Addis Ababa a couple of times to discuss many matters of mutual interest concerning the evolution and progress of CAFOR. He also visited members of the HRST Department and held talks there too. CAFOR planned together with Dr Owoso to open the CAFOR office in Abuja, Nigeria, his home country as soon as the situation permitted.

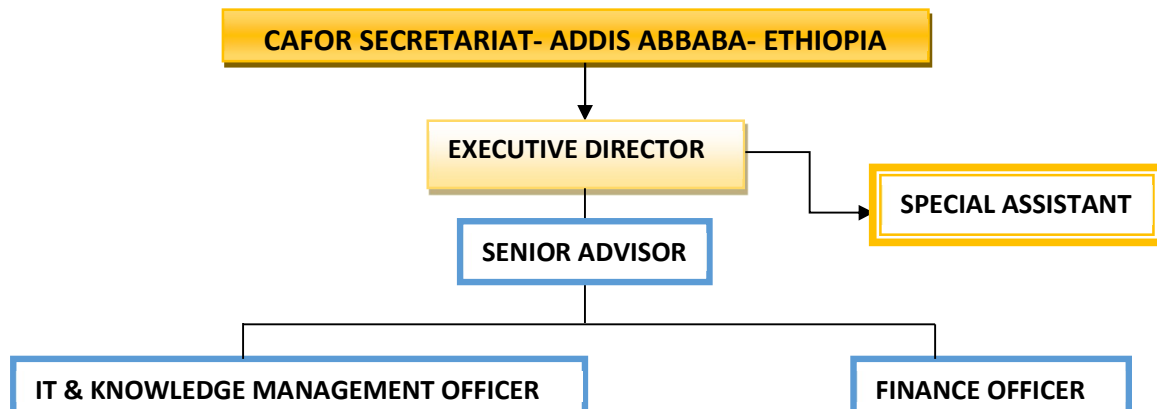
CAFOR deeply mourns this significant loss which we share with the family and friends. Dr Olubunmi Owoso was 70 years old.

5. CAFOR Organization & Governance Structure

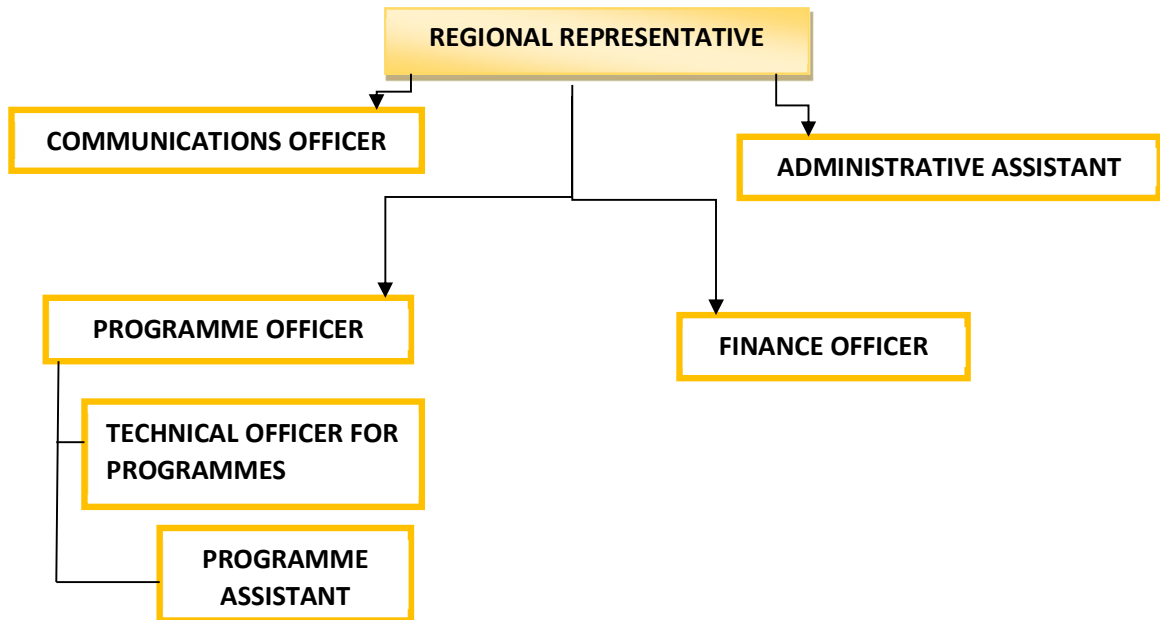
CAFOR’s core central team is located in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia along with its regional offices in Kenya and Malawi regions of Africa. Further CAFOR intends to extend to other regions as Abuja, Rabat and Kinshasa.



The Executive Board of CAFOR constitutes a 12-member board led by a chairperson. The board supports the enhancing of coordination, the establishment of guidelines, provides strategic leadership and policy direction and guides all CAFOR-related programs. The Board participates in significant decision-making involving expertise in journalism, communications, education, youth, economic and social development. The CAFOR Secretariat hosted by the African Union Commission in its Headquarters in Addis Ababa is led by an Executive Director who is the global chief of CAFOR’s management. The Executive Director is supported by: a) Senior Advisor b) Special Assistant c) Information technology & knowledge management officer d) Financial officer.



CAFOR's regional offices are headed by Regional representative and supported by a communication officer, programme officer, finance officer, technical officer for programmes, programme assistant and an administrative assistant.



6. Main CAFOR activities in 2018

Operationally, CAFOR effectively started on January 1, 2018, and the year was very eventful with CAFOR participating in many major world events in Africa and abroad. In January 2018 soon after its inception, CAFOR participated in the AU/ CIEFFA High-Level Dialogue on "Enhancing policies and practices to promote STEM" held on January 24, 2018, on the margins of the African Union Heads of State Summit in Addis Ababa. This high-level dialogue focused on Technical and Vocational Education and Training for African women and girls. H.E. Mr Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania, delivered the keynote address. Also, on January 27, 2018, CAFOR participated in the First High-Level Dialogue on Financing Education in Africa with the theme: "Financing Africa's future: Unlocking development potentials through education". This High-level dialogue was co-organized by the African Union Commission's Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) Department, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and ONE Campaign (Africa). H.E. President Macky Sall of Senegal chaired the Conference.

CAFOR was invited to participate and had representation in the World Literacy Summit held from 25th – 27th March 2018 at Sheldonian, Oxford University in the United Kingdom. One highlight of the summit was the exposure to the many and varied literacy activities in a wide variety of settings around the world. CAFOR's representative spent time with professionals that included young people from all over the world who brought together the enthusiasm and commitment to make a positive impact on the world through literacy.

In March 2018, CAFOR worked intensely with UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) in Addis Ababa on 1. The Peacebuilding for African Youths Project through teacher development in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and 2. Support for the development of a new Strategic Plan for UNESCO-IICBA.



HRST Commissioner Professor Sarah Ayang-Agbor at High – Level dialogue on Enhancing policies and practices to promote STEM



UNESCO's IICBA Conference on the Peacebuilding for African Youths Project through teacher development in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel

Also, from 27-29 March 2018, CAFOR participated in the U.N. Human Rights Office's Regional Consultation on the Practical Implementation of the Right to Development: Identifying and promoting good practices – held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



U.N. Human Rights Office's Regional Consultation on the Practical Implementation of the Right to Development



PACE Conference participants in group photo with H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta

In April 2018, CAFOR participated at the Pan-African High-level Conference on Education (PACE, 2018) held in Nairobi, Kenya and organized by UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa. The Conference called for the building of a conducive environment for education transformation in Africa with the utmost consideration for African ownership of CESA 16-25 and SDG4-Education 2030 at continental, regional and national levels. Also, given the broader development ambitions, the Conference called for more integrated approaches to education policies and strategies in a "life-long" perspectives, and promote a truly "system-wide articulation and inter-sectoral collaboration."

Participants at PACE Conference



Executive Director with Jennifer Kimani, CAFOR Executive Board member at the PACE Conference



PACE, 2018 photos with the Minister of Education of The Gambia, Claudiana Cole, UNESCO expert Seydou Jallow and other participants.

Fifth Pecs African Studies Conference at the University of Pecs in Hungary

In May 2018, CAFOR'S Executive Director was a special guest at the Fifth Pecs African Studies Conference at the University of Pecs in Hungary from 24-26 May 2018. He delivered the keynote lecture for the Conference whose theme was "Africa's Changing International Relations and Realities." The topic of his address was "Creating and Enhancing Capacity in Africa for Efficient Economic and Social Development."



CAFOR Executive Director delivering the Keynote address in Pecs

Fifth Pecs African Studies Conference at the University of Pecs in Pecs Hungary



CAFOR Executive Director with Professors K. Mathews, CoranHyden, and IstvanTarrosy

The Global Energy and Infrastructure Conference in Berlin, Germany

In June 2018, the European Academy for Taxes, Economics and Law invited CAFOR's Executive Director to attend and chair the Global Energy and Infrastructure Conference held in Berlin, Germany from 27-29 June 2018. Apart from heading the Conference, his two presentations focused on education and youth skills development for the energy sector in Africa. Also, on June 22, 2018, the Executive Director participated in the launch of the African Development Dynamics Report and SHaSa II organized by the African Union Commission Economic Affairs Department in Addis Ababa.



UNICEF-AU Engagement Strategy 2019 – 2021.

Executive Director with the UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Ms. LeilePakkala, the Representative for the UNICEF Liaison Office to the African Union, Dr. Edward Addai, and Ms. AichatouDiawara-Flambert, Senior Advisor from UNICEF Headquarters in New York

On August 20, 2018, CAFOR participated in the Conference on the UNICEF-AU Engagement Strategy 2019 – 2021. The UNICEF Liaison Office in Addis Ababa organized this Conference with the UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa as well as some senior UNICEF staff from UNICEF Headquarters in New York attending. CAFOR has opted to support the implementation of the strategy with the African Union Commission. Following this Conference, CAFOR's Executive Director visited some of the participants who attended the Meeting at UNICEF Headquarters in New York in September 2018 and held extensive discussions on Adolescent and Youth programmes for Africa. CAFOR is following up on these activities during 2019.



Africa-America Institute Conference

With Ms. AminiKajunju, former CEO of the Africa-America Institute and panel moderator, with other panelists

From 8 – 10 October 2018, CAFOR participated in the State of Education Conference organized by the Africa-America Institute in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire. The theme of the Conference was "Shifting Paradigms: Building Future capacities and New Narratives through African Education." The President of Cote D'Ivoire, H.E. Dr Alassane Ouattara, delivered the keynote address. CAFOR's Executive Director moderated the session on "Transforming Higher Education in Africa" and was a panelist" in the session on Global Connections: Media and Narratives." The networking at this Conference was excellent, and CAFOR is now participating in many activities with the African diaspora that will include a Yale University project involving selected brilliant African Secondary School students participating in short courses at Yale University.





CAFOR Executive Director with CEO of the Africa-America Institute, Kofi Appenteng

Second African Youths SDG Summit

CAFOR Executive Director addressing African youths at the SDG Youth Summit



From 7 – 9 November 2018, the Second African Youths SDG Summit was held in Accra, Ghana. CAFOR's Executive Director was one of eight patrons of the summit. This summit was a significant highlight of the year for CAFOR with more than 1,200 youths from 44 countries participating in the Conference. CAFOR would like to commend the leadership of Youth Advocates Ghana for organizing this summit and for making it one of the most successful youth conferences on the African

continent. CAFOR will ensure that it works and coordinate initiatives with the African Union and other partners and entities on the continent. CAFOR will ensure that programming in advocacy and partnership mobilization for youths aligns well with the vision that young people in Africa have for their future as they well-articulated those aspirations in this Conference. We must understand their real needs and what they have always longed for in Africa. We must be in an excellent position to be also able to tap into their energy and dynamism.



Global Nutritionist Isatou Jallow addressing the Conference on the essence of nutrition in economic and social development



Ghana's Ministers of Planning, Hon. Prof. G. Gyan-Baffour and Asst. Minister for Labour Standards in Liberia, Atty. WelmaBlaye Sampson with the UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana

7th- 9th
NOVEMBER
2018



African Youth SDGs SUMMIT

...creating the Africa we want

THEME

PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs:
MOVING FROM POLICY TO ACTIONS

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Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Ghana.



Lilliane Kambirigi-Sebatigita
Communication & Media
Relations Advisor,
UN Retiree, Belgium.



Dr. Lawalley Cole
Executive Director- Coalition
on Media and Education for
Development Africa Forum
(CAFOR)



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

CAFOR participated in the AUC-HRST– African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) Congress from 27-29 November in Abuja, Nigeria. This Conference brought together leading scientists and science researchers from all the regions of the African continent. The Congress reviewed the statute of ASRIC and elected its first bureau. CAFOR joined the Communication Cluster of ASRIC that would be advocating for more scientific research and development in Africa. The Conference concluded that Africa needs a healthier and more dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable research enterprise, especially in science and technology, to mobilize different segments of the economy to achieve the long-term aspirations of the continent.



With Dr Jane Bemigisha, Executive Director, ESIPPS International Ltd in Kampala, Uganda at the ASRIC Conference in Abuja, Nigeria.

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.

In December, CAFOR participated in three workshops at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The Education Division of the HRST Department organized these meetings. They are 1. the launch of the CESA Curriculum Cluster where the issues confronting education quality, relevance and responsiveness, as a necessary part of ensuring that education contributes to the achievement of Agenda 2063 are adequately addressed. CAFOR will now serve as a member of this CESA 16-25 Curriculum Cluster. 2. CAFOR also participated in the meeting of the CESA thematic cluster leaders, and 3. The technical consultation workshop to set up the Pan-African Quality and Accreditation Agency. This agency will now advance African standards and guidelines for quality assurance and its domestication at national and regional levels once it becomes functional.

7. Main CAFOR activities in 2019

(b) The signing of the MOU on 18th January 2019

2019 has had a perfect start for CAFOR with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the African Union and CAFOR on January 18 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.



The AU HRST Commissioner -Professor Sarah Ayang Agbor and CAFOR Chairperson, Prof. Kate Adoo-Adeku signing the MOU

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. The two parties will function with other organizations and entities in the African continent and beyond to ensure the implementation of this MOU coherently and consistently. 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.

With the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey at the signing ceremony



(c) 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 Executive Director with Dr Tessema Bekele, Emmanuel Development Association Executive Director

CAFOR is already working to enhance partnerships with African based organizations, including several youth-led organizations 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".



CAFOR Executive Director met with a group of Nigerian youths in Abuja who are bent on working together to advance youth development in Nigeria. He had previously met some of them in Ghana about three earlier at the 2nd African Youths SDGs Summit. It was gratifying for them to pay him a courtesy visit and to continue the dialogue about CAFOR and youth development, education, science, technology, and innovations in the African continent. They had a group photo (seen here) after the meeting. The Executive Director thanked all these young people as he told them that “The future of Africa is in your hands”.



CAFOR Executive Director with Emmanuel Amatepey, Executive Director, Youth Advocates, Ghana at the SDG Youth Summit in Accra, Ghana



Members of youth-led development organization called Change for Ethiopia led by Fuad Gena visiting CAFOR Secretariat at AU Headquarters to request for collaboration with CAFOR



Youth from Ghana (Ishmael Selassie, Youth Programme Co-ordinator, Planned Parenthood Association Of Ghana) and Nigeria (Adam Alqali – and also a CAFOR member) visiting CAFOR Secretariat at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

(d) The A.U. High-level Dialogue on Gender, Education and Protection of schools on 5th February 2019

CAFOR participated in the High-level Dialogue on Gender, Education and Protection of schools in humanitarian settings held on February 5, 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.

(e) The Meeting of the CESA 16-25 Teacher Cluster on 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-IIICBA, the lead agency for the cluster welcomed members to the meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda 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 an extensive network of more than 1,500 journalists, communication experts and other professionals, and works closely with the A.U., UNESCO and other partners. CAFOR's role is to ensure the implementation of AUC policies 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 are incorporated into 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 exists 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.



CAFOR Executive Director with Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, Director, UNESCO-IICBA and Professor Elifas Tozo Bisanda, Vice Chancellor, the Open University of Tanzania. Also, in this photo is Ms. Mary Sichanze of CEMESTEA with participants at the CESA 16-25 Teacher Cluster meeting in Addis Ababa.

(f) MasterCard Foundation – Secondary Education in Africa Conference from 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.

(g) CESA Clusters Coordinating meeting from 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 A.U. 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 operationalization 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.



Group photo of participants at the CESA Cluster Coordination meeting

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 mobilization and effective coordination.

(h) Participation at the African Union Commission Chairperson's Second Youth Forum from 24th -27th April 2019

In the photo below, the late Dr Olubunmi Owoso, Executive Board member is sitting in the middle

The African Union Commission convened from 24th-27th April 2019, 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 organizations and members of the African diaspora were also represented. The Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency Quartey Thomas Kwesi and other Commissioners also honoured the occasion.

CAFOR was represented 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, vigorously moderated the plenary sessions. Also, 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.



Youth Forum participants

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".



Group photo of participants at the Youth Forum with AU Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat

(i) CAFOR participation at the World Press Freedom Day Conference from 1st – 3rd May 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde addressing Media Practitioners from around the World on World Press Freedom Day

CAFOR participated in the celebrations of the World Press Freedom Day. This event 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". CAFOR could network with journalists around the world to play a supporting and facilitation role in analytical work, mobilization 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 would 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**.

(j) Meetings with A.U. ambassadors and partners

In 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, Norway, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, India, Brazil, Turkey, Australia, Finland, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Poland, Spain, Italy, and New Zealand. CAFOR staff also met and discussed the African Union's plan that includes 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, ECOWAS, and the E.U. delegation to the African Union. CAFOR also met with delegations from China, Luxembourg, France, Sweden, 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, UNICEF, 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. She also invited the Member States of the African Union to provide the necessary support to CAFOR in the accomplishment of its mission at the country level.

In total, CAFOR met with 42 delegations among them 26 Diplomatic Representation to the African Union, 12 non-conventional stakeholders, and 4 private sector establishments in order to present its vision and mission and as a privileged partner of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union. The objective of CAFOR consultations were also geared toward building trust and confidence for resource mobilization for the implementation of its activities and programmes. CAFOR has therefore designed a mapping of potential partners for future collaboration the most important among them being UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, CAPA, GIZ, UNDP, ECOWAS, Korea Africa Foundation, GIZ and USAID.



CAFOR Executive Director with H.E. Ambassador Sami J. Abdullah, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia and the Representative of the Kingdom to the African Union

CAFOR Executive Director with H.E. Ambassador Borja Montesino, Ambassador Spain to Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union.



CAFOR Executive Director with H.E. Ambassador Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union

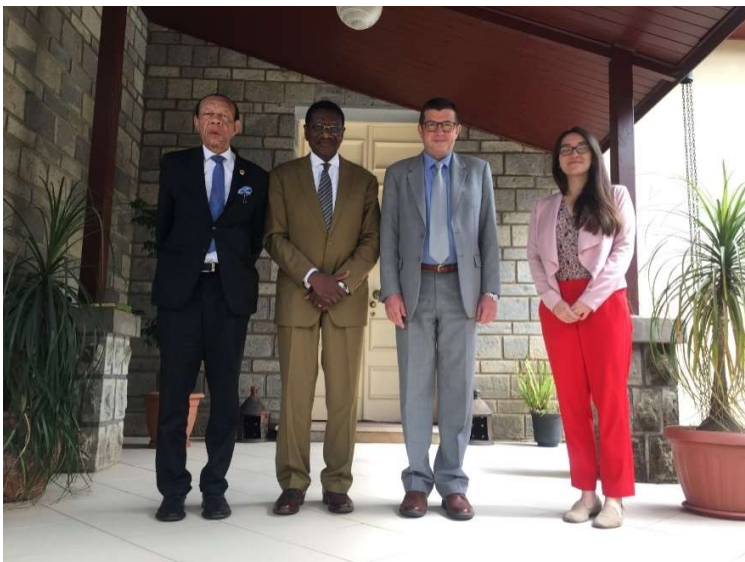


CAFOR Executive Director with H.E. Ambassador Peter Doyle, Ambassador of Australia to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union



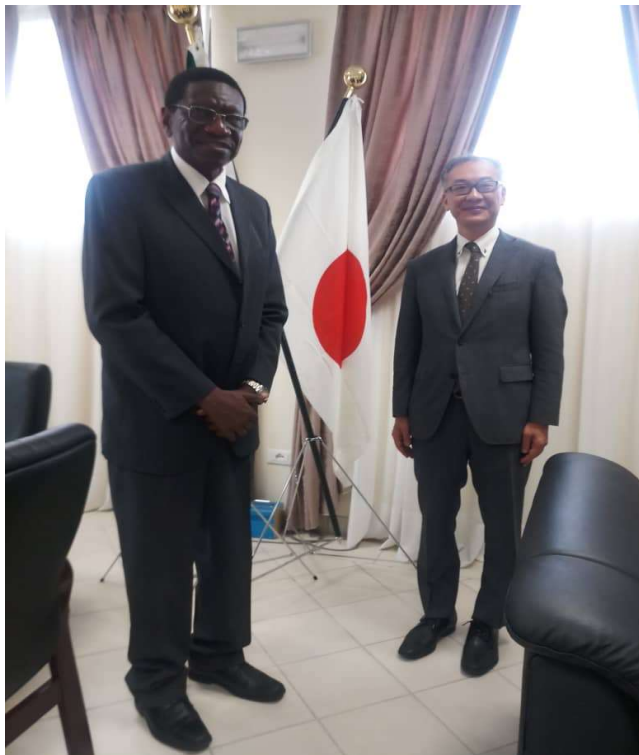


CAFOR Executive Director with H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Berlendi, Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union.



CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with H.E. Ambassador Aleksander Kropiwnicki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union

CAFOR Executive Director; Dr. Lawalley Cole with the Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, A.U. and UNECA; H.E Anurang Srivastava



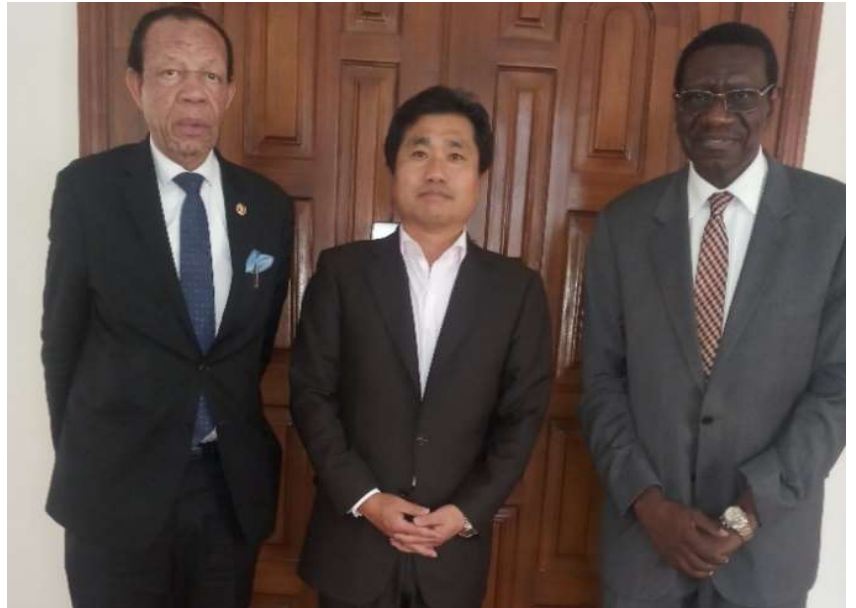
CAFOR Executive Director with Japan Ambassador to A.U.; H.E Fumio Shimizu

CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with H.E. Ambassador Morten von Hanno Aasland, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the African Union. Also, in the photo is Ms. Vigdis Christofoli, Education Advisor at the Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia.

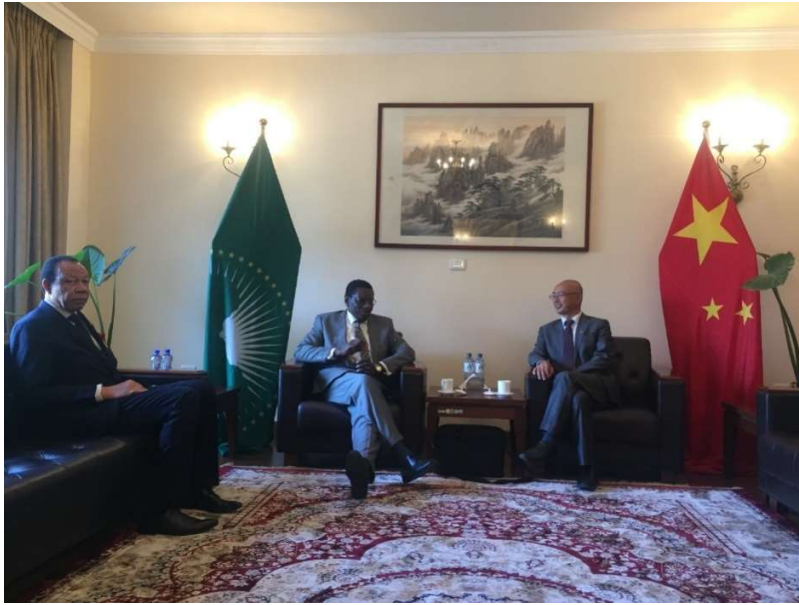


CAFOR Executive Director with UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia and A.U.; H.E Mohamed Al Rashedi

CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with the Ambassador of Korea to Ethiopia, and the African Union, H.E. Lim Hoonmin.



CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with the Ambassador of Brazil to Ethiopia, and the African Union, H.E. Luiz Eduardo Villarinho Pedroso.



Executive Director and Senior Advisor with Economic and Commercial Counsellor in Mission of the People's Republic of China to the African Union; Mr. Lin Zhiyong



Executive Director and Senior Advisor with a visiting team from the Korea-Africa Foundation



CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with the team of the Embassy of Denmark



CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with the Chargé d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, H.E. Dominique Chevolet.

CAFOR Executive Director and Senior Advisor with Ethiopian Airlines manager Mengistu Adela and Passenger Sales Representative Abel Yifru. The Business Sector in Africa will become an important partner to CAFOR.



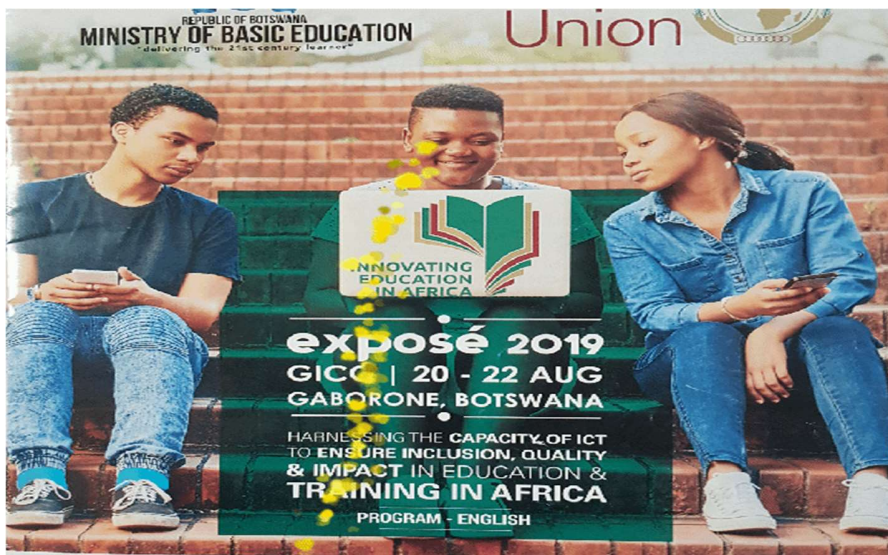
(k) African Curriculum Association

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 organizations working in the area of curriculum development in African institutions.



In this photo, CAFOR Chairperson Prof. Kate Adoo-Adeku is with Dr Fiona Jackson, Development Manager, Curriculum Programmes at Cambridge International and two other participants.

(l) Innovating Education in Africa Expo 2019, Gaborone, Botswana from 20th to 22nd 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, policymakers, the business sector and financiers committed to supporting and promoting innovation in education.



Dr Mahama Ouedraogo, Director HRST with one of the winners of the Africa Innovation Expo 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana

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 T.V. and Radio studios and fifteen workstations and fifteen cameras and recording devices.



Participants of the Botswana Innovation Expo 2019

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.



Executive Director of CAFOR at the 2019 Botswana Innovation Expo 2019

CAFOR embarked on an aggressive publicity and communication campaign over the Innovation Education in Africa Expo 2019 in all member countries of the African Union. CAFOR has also endeavored to achieve record participation of youths and youth organizations, educational institutions, media organizations, development partners, and the governments of A.U. member states. These include 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 has publicized 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, out of more than 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 center stage for policy initiatives and strategic action by governments and stakeholders and highlighted points 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".



The Conference in Kigali, Rwanda with the Prime Minister of Rwanda, the Right Hon. Dr. Ngirente Edouard, standing next to Mrs. Jahou Faal, Secretary-General of CAPA. Also, in this photo are CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole, with Ministers of Education from Namibia, Dr. Itah Kandjii Murangi, Rwanda Dr Uwamariya Valentine, and Tanzania, Dr Joyce Ndalichako.

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 to enhance individual development. In this challenging world, however, 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 mean 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.

(n) **The Third Ordinary Session for the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST) from 10th -12th December 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole and Senior Advisor for Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, Mr Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke participated at the Third Ordinary Session for the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST) held in Addis Ababa from 10th -12th December 2019, by its The meeting provided a common platform for Education, Science and Technology experts to discuss and review progress on the implementation of the decisions of STC-EST II as well as the implementation of critical policies and programmes in Africa on Education, Science and Technology. It was also the opportunity to advocate for investment in Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation towards the attainment of the African Union's agenda 2063 and the Global Sustainable Development Goals.



Group photo of participants at the Third Ordinary Session for the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST)

The Conference had two sessions. There was the Experts 'Session held from 10-11 December and a Ministerial session held on the last day of the Meeting, December 13 2019. Key issues discussed at the Experts Session included matters arising from the outcomes of an extraordinary summit of the Committee of Ten Heads State and Government who are championing on Education, Science

and Technology, the A.U. Chairperson's One Million by 2021 Initiative, and the Digital Transformation Strategy of the African Union. Among other key issues, the Ministerial Session elected a new Bureau and considered the Experts Report on Education, Science and Technology, from the Commission, Partner Organizations and Civil Society, and made recommendations for consideration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

(o) Dubai Expo 2020

CAFOR participated in preparatory activities for the Dubai Expo with the African Union Commission and considered one of the largest global events connecting governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, and the general public, to showcase innovation, promote progress and foster cooperation. In its quest of engaging new partnerships for supporting the effective implementation of the continental development vision embedded in the Agenda 2063, a large-scale platform for education and international dialogue such as the Expo 2020 Dubai remains a promising opportunity for the A.U. and its Member States.

The central theme of the Dubai Expo 2020 is: ***"Connecting Minds, Creating the Future"*** to enable nations, organizations and the general public taking part in the event to explore the power of connection and its impact on people's lives today. This theme is split into three interrelated subthemes: ***Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability***, which also remain a central focus in the global development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) and the need to move away from the usual approach towards an interdependent network committed to generations to come.

CAFOR's Senior Advisor, Mr Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, represented the organization in this two-day continental workshop relating to the African Union participation at EXPO 2020 Dubai. The workshop intended to bring participants and businesses closer to the world's fastest-growing markets and create opportunities for accessing more than 3.2 billion people. The main objectives of the Continental Workshop were to advance the collaboration between the African Union and the organizing country, the United Arab Emirates. The African Union being designated by the Government of UAE as a vital partner and stakeholder would be offered a pavilion during the EXPO 2020 Dubai.

The African Union participation to the EXPO is justified by the opportunity for the Organization's quest to develop relevant partnerships to support the implementation of the Agenda 2063 and to capitalize on the strong concordance between the EXPO's themes of opportunity, mobility and sustainability and the Agenda's flagship initiatives and priority programmes.

The African Union welcomes all its stakeholders, mainly member states, including A.U. affiliated institutions, Regional Economic Communities, Financial Institutions, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, and Academia. CAFOR would take an active part in the EXPO with the understanding that a series of workshops will be held to define objectives and deliverables expected from showcasing Africa at the EXPO 2020 Dubai.

The 2nd Continental Workshop to project A.U. Participation at EXPO 2020 Dubai was held on October 30 to November 1 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting gathered a high-level delegation

from the Expo 2020 Dubai Team led by Ms. Hind Alowais, Vice President, International Organizations and Non-official Participants, Expo 2020 Dubai, A.U. Commission Staff, A.U. Organs, AUDA-NEPAD, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and other Specialized Agencies, Focal Points concerned with A.U. Strategic Partnerships and International Cooperation, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Private Sector, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Financial Institutions (Trade and Development Bank, African Financial Corporation), CSOs, Academia, the Diaspora, Think Tanks, Regional and Continental Chambers of Commerce, Fundraising Experts, Technical Partners and Partnership Experts, African Disability Alliance, among others. The Executive Director of CAFOR, Dr Lawalley Cole, represented CAFOR in this workshop.



Young African female entrepreneurs with the AU Commissioner-General for the Dubai Expo 2020, Dr. Uche Madueke.

The Conference discussed various issues related to the participation and promotion of the Private Sector, Entrepreneurship, Trade and Investment opportunities in Africa, the promotion of African Culture and Creative Industries, Africa's strategy for the Blue Economy, Agriculture and Climate Change, critical attention on issues related to People With Disabilities (PWDs), the importance of reaping the demographic dividend, Women and Gender mainstreaming at Expo 2020 Dubai as well as issues related to how the African Union should brand itself at Expo 2020 Dubai and how A.U. should promote infrastructure and Social Development as well as ICT at Expo 2020 in line with A.U.'s Agenda 2063. In that regard, the Conference welcomed the opportunity given to engage various stakeholders in the preparatory process of A.U.'s participation at EXPO 2020 Dubai and agreed on the following recommendations and way forward:

- (i). Encourage the A.U. to continue engaging all stakeholders and coordinate the contributions of all the parties involved.

(ii). Call on all participants to continue to provide their ideas, contributions, and concrete proposals to finalize A.U. programming component (Spotlights on Africa) during Expo 2020 Dubai through virtual tools.

(iii). Stress on the importance to finalize A.U. Communication Strategy and the A.U. sponsorship plan to mobilize funds for A.U. participation at EXPO 2020 Dubai.

(iv). Commence immediately with necessary consultations on the engagement of the Regions through the holding of Regional sensitization workshops and the execution of the Roadshows, which of course would depend on the accelerated progression of mobilization of necessary processes.

(v). Call on all the leads in the various Group sessions to continue engaging with the members of their Groups to finalize the different concept Notes for A.U. Activities programming at Expo by or before November 152019.

(vi). Encourage that the preparatory process for the A.U. participation at the Expo 2020 Dubai should accommodate the interest of People with Disabilities (PWDs);

(vii). Express the need for better coordination of all African Union Member States Commissioner Generals to ensure harmonization of Africa's participation at Expo 2020.

(viii). Express gratitude to the Expo 2020 Dubai Team and Encourage the Expo 2020 Dubai Team to continue to work closely with the African Union and its stakeholders towards the implementation of the mandate for A.U. participation at the Expo 2020 Dubai.

(p) Youth Connect

On Friday, 20th December 2019, the ceremony marking the official launching of the Youth Connect Ethiopia was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. CAFOR's senior Advisor, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Senior Advisor- Partnership & Resource Mobilization, represented the Organization at the launch. The ceremony was presided over by Mrs. Yalem Tsegay, Ethiopian Minister of Women, Children and Youth. In her opening address, the Ethiopian Minister stressed the importance her country gives to the promotion of youth, primarily through the Youth Connect platform which aims at creating supporting synergy for young people in close partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP). The Youth Connect Initiative is devoted to improving the future of young people by providing them with the required skills, entrepreneurship, and financial support for job creation and access to the job market. Ethiopia has about 70% of Africa's population under the age of 30. Mrs. Tsegay concluded that any plan devoted to improving the future and role of young people in development is highly encouraged by her government, noting Ethiopia's rapidly growing youth population.



Ms. Yalem Tsegay, Ethiopian Minister of Women, Children and Youth opening the Youth Connekt Conference

According to UNDP which is providing support to this programme, young African entrepreneurs with innovative start-ups that have the potential for scale-up across the region would benefit from financing and a support structure through the Youth Connekt Africa Hub and Youth Connekt Innovation and Empowerment Fund. UNDP will continue to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the youth initiative in Africa and Ethiopia for the realization of skills development and entrepreneurship among them. Young people continue to face enormous challenges due to a lack of job opportunities and growing unemployment. UNDP will further continue to lend support to youth organizations by providing them with knowledge in Information and Communication Technology, (ICT), and promote youth voluntarism.



Ms. Howit Hailu, State Minister, Ms. Semegne Wube, State Minister, Ms. Yalem Tsegay, Minister WCY, Mr. Tshimanga Muadi-Mutoke ,Senior Advisor, CAFOR, Mattiyas Assefa, Director Ministry WCY

The establishment of the Hub and Innovation and Empowerment Fund was agreed to at the inaugural Youth Connekt Africa Summit held in July 2017 in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

Youth Connekt was initiated by Rwanda in 2013 and designed to realize the demographic dividend by combining elements of skills development, entrepreneurship, access to jobs and finance, awareness-raising on issues related to youth development, and promotion of youth citizenship through community work and inclusion in local and national policy dialogue.

Since its launch, Youth Connekt has enabled four million young people aged between 16 and 34 to actively participate in Rwanda's development through job creation, ICT innovations, skills development, and citizen engagement. Based on this success, UNDP is working with the Government of Rwanda to scale up the Youth Connekt Initiative to the regional level. UNDP is already supporting the roll-out of the initiative in five African countries—Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. By connecting government, private sector and youth, the Youth Connekt Hub will work to identify start-ups that are solving challenges on the continent and provide access to appropriate infrastructure and support to have an African footprint.

The launching of Youth Connect Ethiopia included panel discussions during which the necessity to strengthen networking of youth organizations to share experience and maintain dialogue were high points for discussion. The launching ceremony also provided a logo and website for the Youth Connect Ethiopia programme. CAFOR is looking forward to working closely with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs and UNDP to boost the programme in Ethiopia and other participating countries in the region.



Official announcement of the Youth Connect Ethiopia Logo by Minister, Yalem Tsgegay, in the presence of Alessandra Casazza, UNDP Director a.i, Regional Service Center of Africa

8. Main CAFOR Activities in 2020

(a) The World Literacy Summit - Oxford University – United Kingdom, held virtually from 5th – 8th April, 2020.

The Executive Director was a Speaker at the World Literacy Summit held virtually from Oxford University in the United Kingdom. Although he could not make it to the virtual Summit due to schedule conflicts, his proposal for the discussion was accepted and published in the World Literacy Summit bulletin. The Summit brought together leaders from 85 countries representing over two-thirds of the world's population, and all with a single focus – advocating, championing, and educating on the vital importance of improving literacy levels across the globe.



It is the world's largest gathering of international literacy specialists, including NGO leaders, researchers, academics, literacy entrepreneurs, education companies, publishers, practitioners, government representatives and most importantly, the learners themselves. There were over 600 delegates at the Summit and a further 40,000 people watching via webinars.

The four-day global event, comprised of insights and inspirations from pioneers, policymakers, and experts. Many of the sessions were facilitated by the very people who are dealing first-hand with the issues presented.

The following is the abstract of the paper from CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole:

Topic: Literacy, the digital economy and sustainable development in Africa

The capability to read and write at a basic level is a fundamental human right, simply because it is essential. With technology becoming increasingly critical and affordable within every person's reach, literacy today is now more important than ever to keep up with the rest of society.

Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa in particular, still have the highest number of people unable to read and write. Lack of education is the root of many problems in developing countries and become even more significant when one cannot keep up with the rest of the world.

Development starts with education, and education begins with knowing how to read and write. Almost everything we do today and everything we use depends on our ability to read. By having a smartphone, we have all the information we need at the tip of our fingers. With the internet, all

our collective knowledge is connected and instantly accessible. All that one need is to know how to read.

This presentation will be exploring how technology helps to develop literacy and numeracy in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will focus on the research literature on how teachers use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in primary and secondary schools in sub-Saharan Africa, emphasizing improving the quality of subject teaching and learning. It will also examine some of the internal factors of influence on teachers' use, or lack of use, of technology in the classroom. The discussion will also attend to perceptions and beliefs about ICT and their motivating effects, technological literacy and confidence levels, pedagogical expertise related to technology use, and the role of teacher education. We will discuss these factors in light of significant infrastructure and other external issues. We conclude by drawing out several pedagogical implications for initial teacher education and professional development to bring literacy and schooling within developing contexts into the 21st century.

The paper will further try to link human capital formation as a significant contributor to economic growth in sub-Saharan African countries, and how relevant policies must now emerge to promote sectors that enhance economic growth on the continent. As a matter of principle, fair access to information in this emerging global information economy should be the norm. In Africa, however, huge discrepancies exist between those who have and those who do not have information. One well-noted characteristic is that this inequity has given birth to the new concept of "information poverty". This deficiency explains the reality of the nature of deprived people, but who also exists in a world that relies increasingly on ICT. There is, therefore, a dire need for African countries to promote literacy and numeracy further to close the digital divide link with the industrialized world.

Innovative approaches must be formulated and applied to close this digital divide between Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the world. These strategies would include the provision of ICT infrastructure, access to ICTs and the development of appropriate content and information literacy skills. We must also identify some international initiatives to develop ICT infrastructure that would include developing telecenters, tech mobiles and technology resource centres, and using any means necessary to provide digital technology access. Furthermore, we must identify the need to create Internet content in African languages, develop African language keyboards and conduct needs assessments of the local users. In this respect, concrete proposals for training teachers to teach information literacy skills could emerge. Such suggestions would involve libraries in information literacy skills development and instituting mass information literacy programs. We can conclude by examining how implementing these approaches to closing the digital divide will need strategic interventions by governments in Africa.

(b) The IMF and AU Virtual Conference on the macro-economic impact of COVID-19 in Africa and the country's policy responses to the pandemic from 19th May – 2nd June 2020.

CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole participated in the virtual conference organized jointly by the Africa Training Institute (ATI) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Department of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission, 19th May – 2nd June 2020.

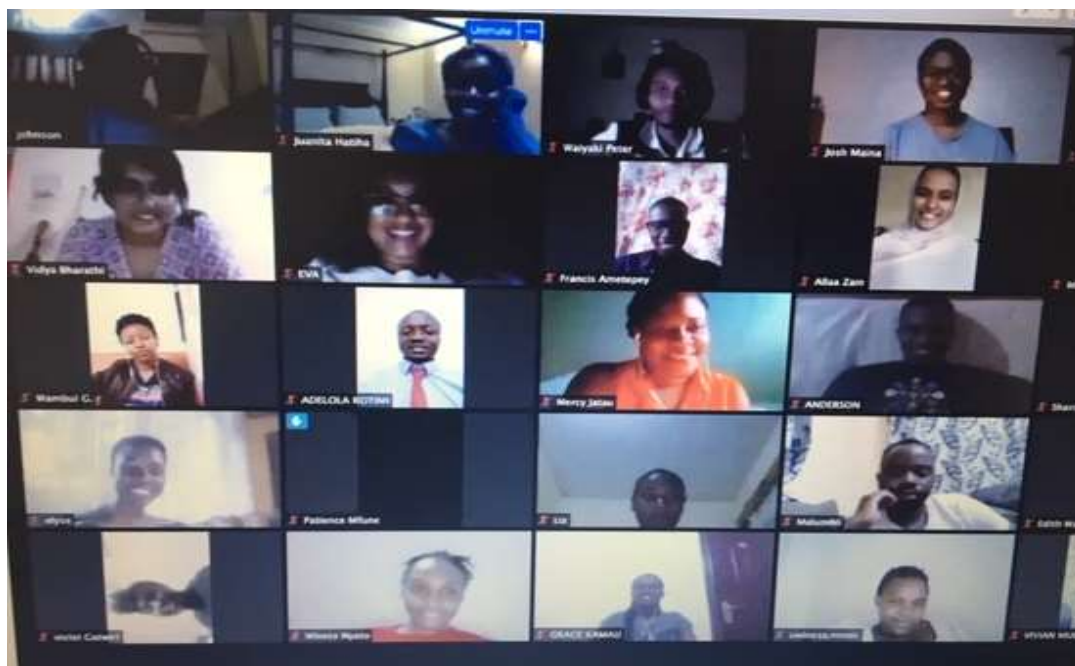
The virtual conference's overall objective was to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the macroeconomic impacts of pandemics and the appropriate policy responses. The conference facilitated virtual discussions of the pandemic dynamics in Africa and how it is impacting factor inputs and productivity. It highlighted the urgency of accelerating progress on the health-related SDGs. The virtual conference offered a unique opportunity for peer-learning amongst countries in the continent.

The conference also discussed and assessed the following:

- a) the macroeconomic impacts of the disease in Africa and their transmission mechanisms
- b) the policy responses offered by authorities and their constraints; and
- c) the potential impacts of confinements and containment measures on growth, jobs, and income in the region.

The event offered an opportunity to present the IMF's policy advice to help its members withstand the health shock. These include guidance notes by the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department (MCM), Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD), and Research Department (RES).

(c) CAFOR Scholarship Programmes in June 2020: Successfully placed 50 African youth in a scholarship programme with the European business university, Luxembourg



Scholarship candidates who have been placed in EBU

Bridging the youth employment skills gap is one of the major areas of concerns of CAFOR. In June 2020, CAFOR secured an opportunity to place 50 African youths from 19 African countries in business programmes at the European Business University (EBU) in Luxembourg. The countries are Ghana, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Gambia, Senegal, Burundi, Congo, Zimbabwe, Benin, Malawi, Togo, Libya, Botswana, Zambia, Egypt, Uganda, Algeria, and Mauritania. The

candidates successfully took courses in financial accounting and business administration from EBU. CAFOR will continue to strive to contribute to Africa's development by enhancing the skills of youth in Africa in every possible way.

The successful implementation of the first group of the scholarships programme has prompted EBU to offer an additional 100 scholarships to African youths through CAFOR to enhance Africa's youth skills. That has been a big achievement for CAFOR as the organization strives to empower African youth with employable skills to contribute to the continent's growth. CAFOR takes this opportunity to extend its most sincere gratitude to all its members, partners, associates and stakeholders who contributed to making this great success for the new organization with many achievements recorded.

(d) Ensuring quality of Learning and well-being for young children in the context of COVID-19 on 15th July 2020 – UNESCO-IICBA

CAFOR attended on 17 July 2020, a Webinar session organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO) under the Global Education Coalition led by Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO's Special Envoy on Literacy for Development. The webinar was held under the theme: Ensuring the quality of learning and well-being for young children in the context of the

COVID-19. The objective of the meeting was to mobilize the International Community, especially members of Global Education Coalition, (GEC) and partners' organizations to find a suitable solution to the challenges facing member states, policymakers, early education practitioners, (ECE) and teachers and other stakeholders in pursuit of concrete actions for securing inclusive and better well-being to young children for quality learning in the post-COVID-19 period. In that respect, the Special Envoy called for collaboration which is much needed by using innovative teaching methods and technology in education. The gradual re-opening of schools requires continuous vigilance on health care and other high safety measures, such as sanitation, social distancing, and masks, to enhance hygiene practices. The G20 was called upon to be part of the centre of the strategy.



(e) The CESA Inter-Cluster Coordination Meeting from 19th – 21st August 2020

The meeting, organized by the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission, was held to revitalize, and reinforce the role of clusters in CESA implementation. All CAFOR Secretariat staff participated in this meeting. Its purpose was to take stock of how the clusters respond to and contribute to CESA implementation and agree on 2020-2021 priorities, deliverables, and working ways. Participants also used the meeting to discuss the AU's framework for transforming Education in Africa based on the DOTSS approach and exploring possible clusters' contribution to its implementation, based on Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

The meeting also:

- a) set the contexts for the transformation of Africa's education systems based on DOTSS and reinforce Clusters' role in CESA Implementation.
- b) took stock of the labour division, scope of work, composition, functioning, coordination, and performance of clusters against Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and promote inter-cluster synergies.
- c) agreed on the 2020-2021 set and inter-cluster priorities, work plan, ways of working and reporting mechanisms and frequency.

The meeting generated:

- a) Common understanding, consensus and mainstreaming of DOTSS, and transforming Africa's education system into cluster work.
- b) Updated Cluster Terms of References (TORs), focus areas, key indicators, and actions to improve Cluster composition, coordination, functionality, and performance.
- c) Updated 2020-2021 cluster and inter-cluster priorities, work plan and ways of working.
- d) Renewed agency commitment to supporting, improving, and sustaining the work of the CESA Thematic Clusters.

(f) Conducting learning assessment during school closure on 7th September 2020

UNESCO IICBA organized a one-day Webinar on 7th September 2020 on conducting learning assessment during the Schools Closure to initiate solutions for ensuring the continuity of quality education, including facilitating delivery assessment of distance learning. The meeting's objective was to pave the way on the online review as a critical component of long-distance learning and share information about how governments are supporting teachers to continue conducting learning assessment during school closures. The meeting also aimed at sharing experiences on the appraisal of distance learning in primary and secondary schools. The webinar facilitated knowledge exchange across national borders. The Education's experts generally agreed that learning assessment systems have considerable potential to motivate students, especially those taking national online exams and discussed global policy measures, such as postponement of exams, rescheduling or maintaining exams or cancellation. Regardless of the interruption, the participants concluded that formative assessment could be used as that solution based on the learning platform. Other option of summative evaluation during the school closure will focus on an accelerated tutorial.

Finally, the meeting concluded that learning assessment was significant because its implementation requirements to access the practical examination schemes in this challenging school closing period would call for strong support and information exchange, particularly during the school reopening process.

(g) Virtual Forum on Continuous Learning and Safe Reopening of Schools – 10th September 2020

CAFOR participated in the Virtual Forum on Continuous Learning and the Safe Reopening of Schools organized by the AUC in collaboration with UNICEF on 10th September 2020, to foster learning and experience sharing among education experts and advisors in Ministries of Education.

A communique issued after the Forum from the experts from Ministries of Education of the AU Member States and Partner Organizations acknowledged and recommended the following about the Education Sector Response to COVID-19 in Africa.

I. Consequences of School Closures and Challenges in Continuous Learning and Safe Reopening of Schools:

The following key issues were raised as negative consequences of school closures.

1. Reduced access to school-based services including health, nutrition, information and social services.
2. Increased exposure to domestic violence and increase in child marriage and early pregnancies.
3. Interruption in learning, leading to learning loss and its long-term effects.
4. Risk of disengagement with the school system and an increase in school dropouts.
5. Increased inequities against the marginalized who have limited or no access to initiatives for learning continuity.

The following emerged as common challenges in ensuring continuous learning and safe reopening of schools.

1. Limited budgetary allocations to cover the implementation of changes in operations when schools are reopened.
2. Inadequate multi-sectoral approaches to the Education Sector Response to COVID-19.
3. Difficulties in monitoring COVID-19 transmission when schools reopen in countries and communities with low surveillance and reporting mechanisms.
4. Low level of internet connectivity, software, hardware and technical capacity to support learning through alternative modes while schools are closed.
5. Quality of learning using alternative modes may not be the same as in-person learning.

II. Recommendations for Continuous Learning during School Closures

Participants proposed the following measures for ensuring continuity of learning during school closures.

1. The innovations implemented to support education during COVID-19 should be documented and considered for their potential to support the education system in the long-term.
2. Public-Private Partnerships to facilitate the provision of remote learning and reduce the cost to students and teachers related to requisite connectivity, software, and hardware.
3. Build the capacities of teachers to provide needed facilitation support in the implementation of remote learning.

4. Adopt context-specific mediums and approaches in the provision of remote learning for various communities.

III. Recommendations for Safe Reopening of Schools

Participants proposed the following measures for ensuring safe reopening of Schools in Africa:

1. Policy adjustments to support guidelines, including clear policies for school opening and closure during public health emergencies, reforms needed to expand equitable access for marginalized and out of school children.
2. Prioritize budgetary allocations to address the impact of COVID-19 on education and invest in strengthening education systems for recovery and resilience.
3. Effective coordination and enforcement of operational measures towards reducing transmission of COVID-19, safeguard essential services and supplies and promote healthy behaviour.
4. Focus on practices that compensate for lost instructional time, strengthen pedagogy, and build on hybrid learning models such as integrating remote and distance education approaches.
5. Expand focus on students' well-being and reinforce children's protection through enhanced referral mechanisms and the provision of essential school-based services, including healthcare and school feeding.
6. Adapt school opening policies and practices to expand access to marginalized groups such as previously out-of-school children, displaced and migrant children and minorities.

Furthermore, the meeting commended the African Union Commission's efforts in facilitating experience sharing among the Member States as an essential resource for strengthening the Education Sector Response to COVID-19 in Africa.

(h) The AAU African Academic Diaspora Virtual Homecoming 2020 Conference held from 28th -30th September 2020.

The Association of African Universities (AAU), in partnership with the African Union (AU) and the Government of Ghana, held from **28th -30th September 2020**, the first Virtual African Academic Diaspora Homecoming in which education stakeholders from Africa and Diaspora participated. CAFOR was represented by its Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole. The Homecoming's overall objective was to strengthen collaboration and partnership among research and educational institutions of higher learning in Africa and the Diaspora to advance education quality for all persons of African descent. The three-day event was intended to be a significant gathering of academics, policymakers, professional associations, research institutions, regional diplomatic missions and student associations from Africa and the diaspora.

The central theme of the conference was '**Advancing African and Diaspora Academic Relations**'. Other sub-themes included the **Role of the Diaspora in Higher Education and Innovation in Africa, where *ongoing, and potential***, innovative relationships between higher education institutions across Africa and African diaspora academics seek to promote academic exchanges and collaborations to internationalize and strengthen the capacities of African

universities. The subject of **Technology and Digital Platforms in Teaching and Learning** highlighted the Corona Virus Pandemic (Covid-19) 's disruption of most African universities' academic calendar and considered this a clarion call for African universities to innovate around the use of technology to keep their learning doors open.

28 - 30/SEPT 15:00.GMT / 11:00.EST **AFRICAN ACADEMIC DIASPORA VIRTUAL HOMECOMING 2020**

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES / ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES / اتحاد الجامعات الإفريقية

DIASPORA AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT / African Union

SUB-THEME THREE
WOMEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
PROF. JANE NAANA OPOKU-AGYEMANG
Former Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Education, Ghana

MODERATOR
DR. BEATRICE KHAMATI NJENGA
Former Head of Education - African Union Commission

REGISTER <https://tinyurl.com/DIASPORA2020> **EMAIL** namo@aau.org secgen@aau.org kasam@aau.org

PANELISTS:
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PROF. CAROLE BOYCE DAVIES Professor of English & African Studies, Cornell Univ. Ithaca NY
MARTHA MUHWEZI Executive Director Federation of African Women Educators
DR. KESHUMA LANGMIA Chair, Dept of Strategic, Legal & Management Communications, Howard Univ., Washington DC
PROF. ANUSUA ADOAKO AMPOFO Professor of African Studies & African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon

COLLABORATING PARTNERS: ADF, NAFEO, HUSA, ALP, SABU, 3G

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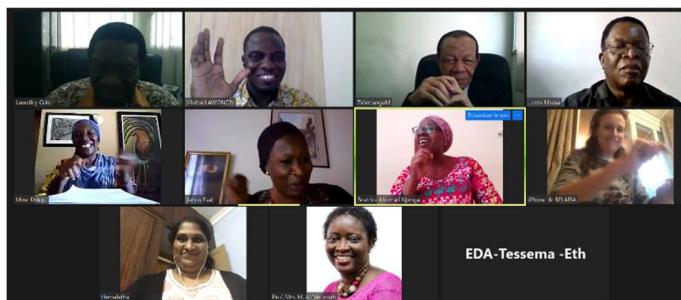
The Funding of African Higher Education is a significant challenge bedeviling African higher education funding, and there were calls for innovative ways and funding streams to support higher learning intuitions in Africa. Another theme on **Transnational Education (TNE): Prospects and Challenges: called for** a better understanding of the existing models of TNE operating in Africa and its contribution to Africa's educational development.

Strengthening relationships between US Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and African Universities was another exciting theme. Some Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have established collaboration with African universities on the continent. Participants discussed existing and emerging relationships between HBCU and African universities on the continent in terms of teaching, learning, research, students and faculty exchanges, and joint degrees.

There was also the theme on Women of African Descent in Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges, which highlighted gender inequality in academia and explored how higher education institutions in Africa and Diaspora can create more significant opportunities for women in higher education by eliminating all gender-based barriers. Successful and contemporary models in increasing women's participation in higher education for sustainable development worldwide highlighted this topic.

Higher Education: A Panacea to Racism, Equity and Promoting Social Justice explored the role of higher education in ending racism, promoting social justice and the need for solidarity among all persons of African descent to fight these injustices collectively.

(i) CAFOR regional webinars from 18th September - 4th October 2020



CAFOR conducted five regional webinars for CAFOR members to popularize, create awareness and domesticate CESA, STISA, TVET and SDG 4. The regional webinar discussions included familiarization with CAFOR's Vision, Mission and Objectives with its members and anticipated role to be played by the members as a part of their contribution towards achieving the goal. To popularize the CESA strategy in Africa, CAFOR would design appropriate programmes, ensuring that a sound system is implemented to monitor the implementation and domestication.

The intended upcoming projects of CAFOR have been discussed with the members and two main flagship programmes of CAFOR – African Virtual e-Library and Street Children of Africa have been chosen to be the best programmes for implementation. A call has been made to all the CAFOR members to contribute to their membership fees for the effective operationalization of CAFOR and its programmes.

j) ECE session on Professionalization of early childhood teachers. The Missing piece of strong leadership on 8th October 2020

The webinar explains teachers' offering opportunities, innovation- one day to a one-week celebration and partnership engagement by ILO, UNICEF, and their need for more extensive partnership. Effective early childhood care, social and emotional care, and civic education will improve early childhood teachers' quality.



The webinar speakers informed about the Casablanca declaration, ethical standards, staff qualification, and teachers' capacity in early childhood education. These involve advocacy and global teachers training, including the campus for early childhood education. Princess Laurentien of Netherlands called for policy actions, teacher professionalization and teacher leadership for best training facilitation and best practices and improvement in digital skills acquisition, the use of mother tongue for early childhood education

and advancement of status and social development for teacher training. The meeting concluded that social dialogue and policy changes are not adequate to guide teachers' education.

k) Psycho-social support to teachers during the COVID-19 crisis on 11th October 2020

UNESCO-IICBA organized a webinar on Psychosocial Support on Teachers during the COVID-19 crisis in the month of October 2020. The webinar was attended by 50 participants including CAFOR staff, ministry of education officials working in teachers' development and management, specialists of psychosocial support, primary and secondary school teachers, researchers and the representative of UNESCO partner organization. The objective of the meeting was to exchange experiences of countries in addressing issues related to teachers and teaching while designing a crucial education response in building the emotion and enjoying professional engagement in the welfare of teachers, good health in terms of environment, protective measure and priority in digital solution able to explore in emotional dimension and compensation. The meeting reflected on the lack of psychosocial support globally and ensuring teachers' safety and providing them with other training on ICT and other new skills, essential and effective psychological interventions. The teacher appreciation and affirmation to strong coordination between policymakers and educators is a useful aspect to consider while establishing a more comprehensive policy framework of support. Participants concluded that teachers need comprehensive, thoughtful, psychosocial help. They must also be well equipped with knowledge and skills to support students, build social plan support among teachers, and build the team and cultural activities.

l) Education Cannot Wait –Responding to Education Crisis in Central Sahel on 12th October 2020

CAFOR participated in the webinar organized by Education Cannot Wait in the month of 12th October 2020. The webinar was based on identifying funding opportunities, youth skill development related concerns to enable capacity building programs for the youth to continue Education despite threats caused in the education sector in the Sahel regions of Mali and Burkina Faso and Nigeria. The report also underscored the problematic situation caused by the security crisis and the COVID -19 pandemic, flooding, and the political situation. In conclusion, the Sahel needs more support to overcome conflicts, poverty, social support, learning materials, protection mechanisms, sanitation, hygiene, and social distancing. Considering these specific necessities, there is a need for solidarity to break the virus cycle.



m) BRIGHTLINE INITIATIVE – International Management and Strategy Conference held on 22nd October 2020



CAFOR Executive Director, Dr. Lawalley Cole attended this high-level leadership conference with 330 top global leaders organized by Strategy@Work 2020 through the Brightline Initiative Project Management Institute held on 22nd October 2020. This event had a mix of interactive sessions, engaging panels, and cozy fireside chats. The Executive Director attended many sessions and interacted with several global business leaders. The following salient issues put in the context of COVID-19 can be noted among the many questions that emerged during the deliberations:

1. Only people can generate growth and innovate. Yet employees are the most undervalued resources. An estimated 85% of employees are disengaged. Why do leaders let their employees become disengaged? How can leaders engage their people fully to drive their business success?
2. Technology is rapidly transforming the rules of business success. The next digital era is here to bring radical shifts in how we lead our organizations and manage talent. How can leaders stay ahead of the wave and create a better future for their people?
3. Most companies and organizations invest in disconnected innovation activities that fail to produce any significant impact. These programs are seldom grounded in strategic intent and supported by robust organizational structures. Participants drew attention to how leaders can design an innovation culture, invest in innovation portfolios, and navigate organizational structures while managing the existing business.
4. To stay relevant and grow, organizations must generate positive social and environmental impact. How can leaders transform their organizations that proactively address social causes in a meaningful and impactful way?
5. The world has now realized that health workers are "Miracle workers". Panelists from healthcare industry reflected and shared their experience of leading from the ground zero.
6. What are the technological and social drivers of accelerating change, and how can leaders and organizations respond by boosting their AQ (Adaptability Quotient)?

7. Financial institutions and their leaders provide the society with the instruments to stay afloat and push through the crisis mode. These times of increased uncertainty and market volatility call for a steady hand at the tiller, essential for people to survive, transform and prosper. What is the global impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and how can we build-up momentum to build a better post-crisis world?
8. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed a deep education divide between the "haves" and "have-nots." As the education industry adapts and transforms, what are the new models that will emerge? And which ones would succeed?
9. Leading a thriving and engaged organization means recognizing that women are a powerful force in transforming organizations. How can leaders actively encourage women leaders, drive equity, and build a culture of inclusion?
10. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed glaring gaps between the developed and developing economies. How will the power equation change the world? Will we look towards local solutions instead of thinking global? Experts were able to shine a spotlight on emerging economies and redefine how we innovate and transform.
11. Blockchain promises trust, transparency, and accountability. While most executives understand blockchain technology's potential, what can they do to harness the blockchain's positive power today?
12. The global economic crises, prevailing pandemics and climate change have further deepened the divide between the haves and have-nots. Will the current situation force us to rethink the purpose of business and innovations? How can we develop organizations embedded in social good, much before the next global crisis hits?
13. We live in the age of transformation, while a digital revolution disrupts every sector and every type of industry. Participants explored the rise of the Citizen Developer.
14. A global leadership panel discussed the challenges, changes, and innovations to space exploration. The last year has witnessed a new dynamism to space exploration. There is enhanced international participation, more engagement from the private industry, and excitement based upon new leadership vision. New frontiers of space exploration will include leaders in the field discussing new capabilities, current space exploration missions, what has changed, what is still the same, and how a unique community of professionals is creating a new direction and potential.
15. Thanks to the global health crisis and its economic and social fallouts, leaders are confronted with organizations, institutions, and systems' fragility. The focus has shifted from efficiency to resilience. How can they measure the value of being resilient and plan to rebuild with stability in mind? How can leaders build and transform a culture of resilience?
16. Leading organizational transformation takes enormous courage and commitment. Truly engaged leadership involves solving challenges and creating environments in which breakthroughs with lasting results occur. Global leaders of several industries - government, software, telecom, and retail delved on how they rapidly transformed their organizations for success.

From this conference, CAFOR's Executive Director engaged further with Mr. Richard Bruyere of MPOWR Envision to explore the possibility of supporting CAFOR's strategy development and expansion at the global level. Talks are still ongoing with the involvement of members of the CAFOR Secretariat, and CAFOR looks forward to benefiting from MPOWR Envision's services.

n) African Union Women in Science Webinar II on 28th October 2020



The graphic is a green and white poster for the African Union Women in Science Webinar II. It features the African Union logo at the top left. The title 'WOMEN IN SCIENCE WEBINAR II' is in large yellow and white text, followed by the subtitle 'Women empowerment during and post COVID-19'. The date '28 OCT. 2020' and time '14.00 - 16.30 GMT+3' are displayed. A registration link 'www.hrst-au.org/webinar' is provided. The host, Her Excellency Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, is shown in a circular portrait at the top. Below her, six speakers are listed in circular portraits: Prof. Beatrice D. Simo-Kengne, Dr. Katharina Kreppeel, Prof. Mary Abukutsa-Onyangko, Prof. Esther T. Akinlabi, Prof. Amal Amin, and Dr. Aderla Olubamiji. Each speaker's name and a brief title are provided below their portrait.

CAFOR participated in the Women in Science Webinar held in the month of October 2020. The webinar theme was Women's Empowerment Post COVID-19. The webinar was chaired by Her Excellency Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor. The webinar concentrated on the post-COVID-19 job loss situation, which made people drop below the

poverty line, which resulted in the rising need to diversify into different work areas, increase agriculture production, and enhance food chains.

o) Global Partnership for Education Raise Your Hand Initiative on 12th October 2020

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) launched on 12th of October 2020 a fourth financing campaign to keep education on the global agenda to raise 5 billion USD for education for the world's children. The initiative was also to provide the platform and tools, and the right quality education to empower future generation. In that respect, GPE will hold an education summit in Kenya in 2021, The Kenyan President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, was selected to champion the investment in education in close collaboration with British Prime Minister His Excellency Boris Johnson.





p) Third SDGs Youth Summit – Accra, Ghana on 4th November 2020

The Executive Director of the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR), Dr. Lawalley Cole extended the full support of CAFOR to the cause with respect to implementation, monitoring and evaluating the global Sustainable Development Goals as related to African context. The African Union which CAFOR is entirely associated with had earlier launched its Agenda 2063, which is its blueprint agenda that looks deeply ahead into the 50 years after the formation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963 which is now the African Union. Agenda 2063 Africa’s strategic framework for its socio-economic transformation over 50 years. Its builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

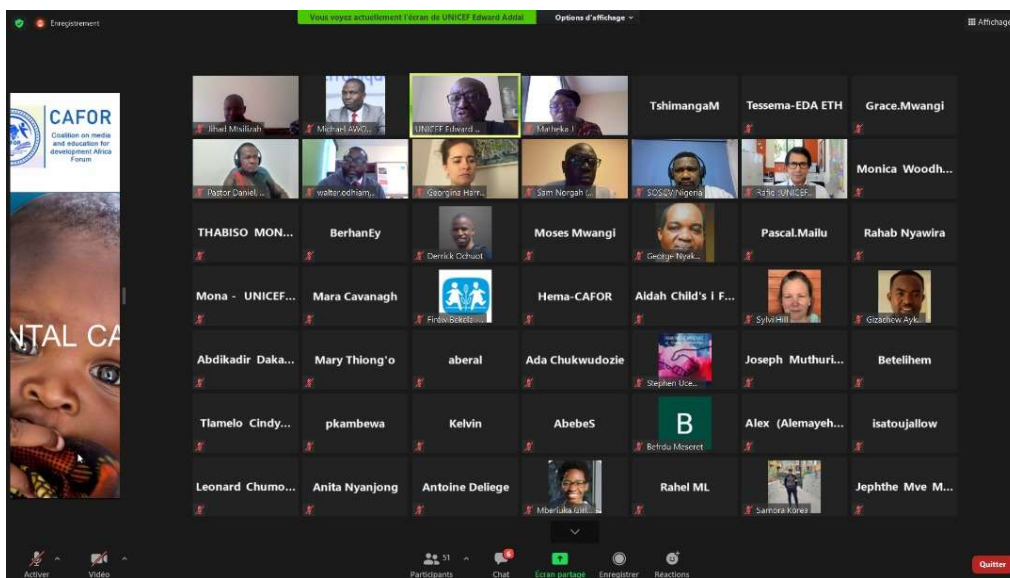


These include the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16 – 25), the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), the Technical and Vocational Education Strategy for Africa (TVET). It is also built on national, regional, and continental best practices in its formulation. With Agenda 2063, Africa will become a prosperous continent with high-quality growth that creates increased employment opportunities for all, especially women and youth. Through this vision, sound policies and more significant infrastructure will push Africa’s transformation by enhancing the conditions for private sector development and by heightening investment, entrepreneurship, and micro, small and medium enterprises. Recent global food crisis and continuing struggles with hunger in some parts of Africa, particularly in the Horn, stress the need for greater food security. Africa must also harness more of its capital – human, natural and financial – to invest in future development.

Africa's population is young, growing, and rapidly expanding with an increasing number of job seekers. Population growth rates are higher in cities, and estimated to increase by an additional 300 million people by 2030. Africa's challenge is not only to create employment fast enough to keep pace with this population growth but also to provide everyone with the skills to join a productive workforce. The education system needs to enhance skills in traditional professions – such as teachers, nurses, doctors, and lawyers – and in sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics to support the rapidly changing demands of African economies.

To meet the SDG and Agenda 2063 targets, African institutions dealing in education must focus more on investing in science and technology. Support for technical and vocational training must step up and linking to specific needs in the labour market, both in the formal and informal sectors, including the skills to create small businesses. This transformation calls for the development of a new human capital accounting framework which enable a business to track how investment in people can enhance the organization's human capital and support the delivery of better outcomes for the enterprise, the workforce, and the wider community.

q) CAFOR – UNICEF Ideation Workshop from 11th -12th November 2020



CAFOR jointly organized from 11th -12th November 2020 a two-day ideation workshop on Children Without Parental Care (CWPC) in close collaboration with UNICEF, the Lumos Foundation and SOS Children's Villages International. The objective of the Workshop was:

1. To generate practical and innovative solutions for mitigating the impact and reversing the trend of children without parental care.
2. To identify critical conditions to accelerate the implementation of innovative solutions.

The Workshop demonstrated a strong partnership to gain a momentum that all children should not be left behind and forgotten. CAFOR discussed the integrated child support center approach, which

will shelter the street children, provide WASH facilities, and benefit them with basic education and skills training.

r) New CAFOR- EBU Scholarship Programmes in November 2020

As a second phase of the scholarship programme sponsored by European Business University, CAFOR has been offered an additional 50 tuition-free scholarship opportunities to be awarded to African youths. The youth who benefitted from this scholarship awards come from the following countries - Ethiopia, Chad, Ghana, Egypt, Libya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Congo, Burundi, South Africa, Benin, Malawi, Togo, Senegal and Nigeria. The online certified courses include:

1. Business management
2. Financial accounting
3. Marketing Management
4. Introduction to Python

s) CESA Teacher Cluster Development Meeting on 24th November 2020

CAFOR participated in the CESA Teacher Cluster Development Meeting held on 24th November 2020. The meeting aimed to finalize the work plan, review the progress, and nominate the African Union Member States as champion countries with a specific focus on policy, frameworks, advocacy, collaboration, and coordination for the cluster's best practice. It also discussed the AU support for fundraising in implementing projects/activities as outlined in the work plan. Strategic objective one was devoted to revitalizing the teaching profession and ensuring quality and relevance at all level of education. CAFOR joined the teacher professional development group as an implementing partner. CAFOR also was selected for publicity of the Teachers Award. CAFOR will take part in the validation process of the legal framework. CAFOR will be part of the follow-up mechanism jointly with AFTRA and EI in stabilizing the African Continental Teacher Regulatory Authority for teacher training.

t) UNESCO –IICBA Online & Distance Learning for Teachers in Africa (ODLTA) on 4th November 2020

This new online course entitled Introduction to Online and Distance Learning for Teachers in Africa (ODLTA) aims to promote the use of technology-enhanced distance learning in Africa for continuing education during the global pandemic COVID-19. To promote this online course, UNESCO-IICBA and its partners have organized a series of webinars.

The objectives of the webinars were to:

- Demonstrate the contents and features of a new online course.
- Encourage stakeholders to use and promote online and distance learning during the school closure and beyond.
- Collect feedback on the appropriateness and feasibility of the platform.
- Discuss best approaches to disseminate the online course for its wide promotion among teachers throughout Africa.



ODLTA will feature on national media channels, and participants and partners expressed their willingness and availability to help disseminate the course widely. For the moment, the course is available in English.

u) **The Africa-America Institute's Sixth Annual State of Education in Africa Conference**

The sixth AAI's Annual State of Education (SOE) in Africa Conference was held on **Friday, 13th November 2020**. The SOE is a space for learning and dialogue that informs collective action in line with the Africa America Institute's founders' commitment to liberatory teaching and learning. CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole, participated in the conference.

The SOE 2020 gathered virtually, and in solidarity with the global Black Lives Matter movement, to explore the theme *"Teaching Africa": A 21st Century, Anti-racist Agenda that Promotes Equity and Achievement in K-12 Education.*"

Guided by a diverse group of knowledgeable and caring scholars and practitioners, conference participants explored the urgency, challenges, and transformative potential of "teaching Africa"—as a culturally responsive pedagogical approach to nurturing the high academic achievement and holistic well-being of K-12 students in the United States of America.

v) **UNESCO – Paris webinar on 16th December 2020 – Advancing the early childhood care and education agenda inclusive innovative dialogue towards a global partnership strategy- technical session.**

UNESCO Paris held a webinar session on 16th December 2020 on advancing the early childhood care and education agenda, innovative, inclusive dialogue towards a global partnership strategy. During the meeting, participants expressed the need for reviewing the strategy to combat deprivation and the call for action by Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands to lead the process. In that respect, a precise diagnosis is needed. But there is a lack of data on childhood education which is mostly linked with the different sectors. The holistic approach should take place in the

education system. The meeting also noted that the webinar provided a platform to discuss challenges and complete action for quality education, child development and wellbeing for young children during and after COVID 19 pandemic. This technical meeting agreed on crucial pillars to build on – strategy mission approach, the modality on implementation and evaluation of the process. Each team will prepare a draft for the 2021 January meeting for ideas and contributions. The major blocks are accountability, collaboration, and financing.

w) Co-Creation webinar on CAFOR's Flagship Projects on 18th December 2020

CAFOR conducted a webinar on its flagship projects mainly - The African Virtual e-Library Project and the Street Children in Africa Project in close co-operation with Sensemakers Collective (SMC) on 18th December 2020. The webinar focused on collaborations with CAFOR members

for the main flagship programmes of CAFOR, for their effective implementation and fundraising.

The meeting concluded that for the African Virtual e-Library project, CAFOR has high expertise as CAFOR is a membership organization and can harness its members' skills. There is a possibility of considering non-financial resources that are already in place, to enable project initiation. For the street children project, participants concluded that tracing families and strengthening support

should be the prime focus and involve the children who are left out due to COVID-19 crisis. The way forward for CAFOR would be to reinforce its co-operation with its members and partner organizations such as the Lumos Foundation, UNICEF, and ATUPA to implement the said projects.



x) Innovating Education in Africa Pitch Event 2020 from 21st -22nd December 2020



From 21st – 22nd December 2020, the African Union organized an Innovation Education in Africa Pitch Event 2020. The finalist’s details are as follows:

NUMBER	INNOVATION	ORGANIZATION
1	If-Tech	BYBEGOO
2	M-Lugha App	Northfront Technologies Limited
3	BrainShare	BrainShare Limited
4	TextSchool	Oasis Mathare
5	BAG-Building A Generation	BAG Innovation
6	Learnable	Simba Solutions
7	Padziwe Ecosystem for Digital Education	Padziwe Systems
8	AI/VR Solar Lab Cases	Priyo Tech
9	Chalkboard Education	Chalkboard Education
10	Class Quiz	ENVASt

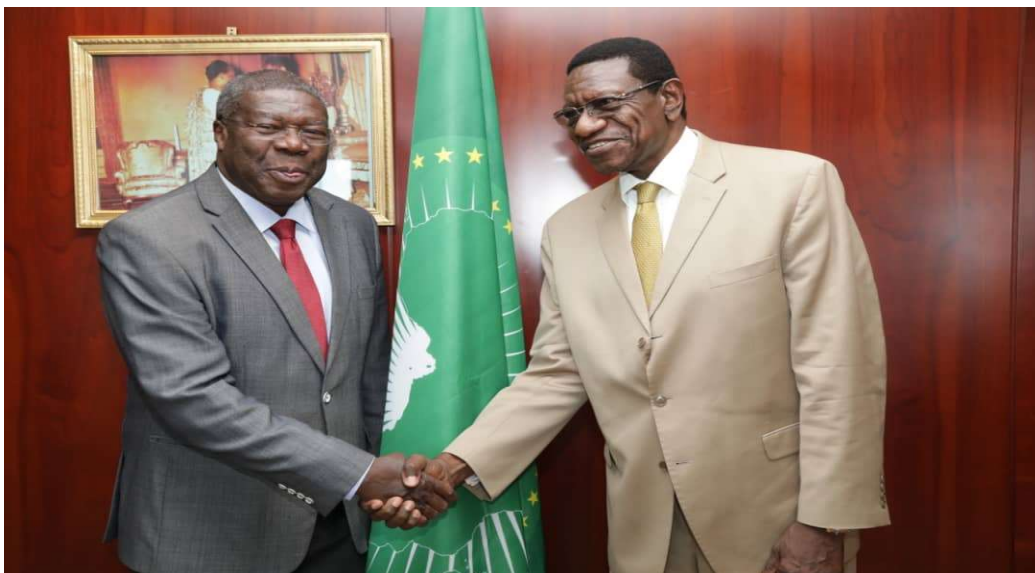
The winners of the innovation pitch event were given benefits and endorsements by the African Union Commission. These included certificates of the recognition and other benefits, including cash prizes. In first place we have BAG Innovation by Mr. Yussouf Ntwali who received USD 60,000 /-, in second place Learnable from Simba Solutions -Mr. Shoriwa Shaun Benjamin who received USD 40,000/- and in third place Ms. Genevieve Simeyou from Chalkboard Education who received USD 20,000/- the prize to their contribution towards innovations in education in Africa.

9. Collaboration with the African Union Commission

The African Union Commission hosts the CAFOR Secretariat in its headquarters in Addis Ababa. During this reporting period, CAFOR maintained excellent working relations with the Commission, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January 2019, which spans for Five years ending on 18th January 2025. The purpose of this MOU is to have both parties (The AU and CAFOR) work together to "Enhance the Integration of Global and Continental Policy Agendas (Agenda 2063, SDGs, STISA 2024, CESA 16-25, and the TVET Continental Strategy) into Country-level Developmental and Sectoral Strategies for Africa's Development".



CAFOR Chairperson, Prof. Kate Adoo-Adeku paying a courtesy visit to the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey in January 2019



CAFOR Executive Director Dr. Lawalley Cole paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey in November 2019 to update him on the activities of CAFOR

Members of the CAFOR Secretariat attended all the major events organized by the AU, including those organized by the Bureau of the Chairperson, the Department of Social Affairs, the Department of Economic Affairs, the Department of Peace and Security, and the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology.



CAFOR members attended Heads of State and Government Summits organized by the Bureau of the Chairperson in Addis Ababa.



CAFOR Executive Director interacted cordially with members of the HRST Department. On the left with Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Director, and Dr Beatrice Njenga, the then Head of the Education Division (also an Executive Board member of CAFOR)

CAFOR will make it a priority as of now to regularly engage in dialogue to inform each other of our priority areas of cooperation. Since the signing of the MOU, CAFOR has extended its arms to securing new partnerships with numerous countries and agencies around the globe. CAFOR welcomed several new members at the country level bringing the total number of countries active

in CAFOR now to 44. The remaining countries in Africa will be inducted in CAFOR's programmes in 2020, thus covering all the 55 member states of the African Union.

CAFOR Executive Director introducing Dr. Mahama, Director HRST Department at the AU to the President of The Gambia, H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow at an AU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Given the current scenario, CAFOR will now seek to explore new opportunities for a continent-wide platform where it will strive to meet the need to align its work with that of all the Divisions within the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) of the AUC. In this respect, CAFOR proposes several actions which the two parties can jointly effect as of now and which align with the provisions set under the Memorandum of Understanding signed last year. CAFOR will convene with each Division of the HRST Department to work on a Joint Action Plan (JAP) for the operationalization of the MOU. Following the signing of the MOU, CAFOR staff collaborated only with the Education Division and participated in some of the Division's activities at the invitation of the then Head of the Education Division. As of now, CAFOR will also work with the remaining Divisions of the HRST Department, namely Science and Technology and the Youth Divisions in (a) specific subject areas, and (b) set up timeframes for all activities. CAFOR will also initiate the process of doing joint reviews and evaluation of activities implemented and progress made.

CAFOR has just developed its strategic plan for the next five years with a proposed annual budget of US \$15,000,000. CAFOR has enormous capacity at the field level with highly skilled professionals in various walks of life. These range from University professors to high-level officials in African Government Ministries to business entrepreneurs, and senior consultants and participants in civil society organizations. CAFOR will seek to achieve its objectives with the following strategic activities related to education and skills development for youths in Africa:

- **Facilitating research**
- **Strengthening stakeholder mobilisation and sensitisation**

- ***Supporting capacity building*** initiatives
- ***Support skills development*** for youths in emergency and post-conflict situations
- ***Undertaking and strengthening advocacy*** and lobbying
- ***Promoting partnership and networking***

10. Other Collaboration

Following the keynote lecture delivered by CAFOR’s Executive Director at the University of Pecs in Hungary, CAFOR continued its collaboration with Hungary. In these photos, CAFOR’s Executive Director and Senior Advisor participate in the seminar organized by the Embassy of Hungary to Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Civil Service University in Addis Ababa, the National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary, and the University of Pecs in Hungary.



With the Hungarian delegation from the University of Pecs and Ms. Hannah Tetteh, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative to Ethiopia and the African Union.

11. Future activities

This report has highlighted CAFOR's achievements and shortcomings as we anticipate paving the way forward with our plans for the remainder of the period ending 18th January 2025. CAFOR has extended its arms to securing new partnerships with numerous countries and agencies around the globe. CAFOR welcomed several new members at the country level bringing the total number of countries active in CAFOR now to 44. The remaining countries in Africa will be inducted in CAFOR's programmes in the coming years, thus covering all the 55 member states of the African Union.

The current Coronavirus pandemic will have long-term effects on education systems in Africa, and CAFOR must be fully prepared to accompany and support its partners and members in their various interventions. There is undoubtedly the new paradigm shift that CAFOR will learn to cope with now and even in the distant future. As schools and other learning institutions in Africa close and reopen due to the COVID -19 pandemic, a large proportion of students will be prevented from attending school in the coming months, and even few years to come. As of now, more than one billion children and students have been forced out of schools and universities in more than 150 countries, with over 100 governments closing schools nationwide and 25 others imposing localized school closures. A vast majority of those – 700 million – are between preschool age and 18 years old. Those numbers can only continue to rise.

For education continuity, which is essential for productivity and competitiveness, schools around the world, including many in African states, have been preparing to provide online instruction. However, even the best and most well-intentioned efforts would mean that students suffer. In Africa, technology is at a low level of development, and students from low-income families and rural students are unlikely to have access to the technology necessary for online learning. There is a high risk that most of the poverty-stricken, marginalized and refugee children in Africa will be left alone and in environments that are not at all ideal for education.

Besides, the technological deficiencies in Africa would suggest that not only that students generally learn less in online environments, compared with in person, but that disadvantaged students learn the least. Poor connectivity, lack of computers and high data costs are just some issues among many others. This phenomenon is real even when online teachers have experience and training with online teaching. Under the current emergency, most teachers in Africa would not have any experience at all with this online approach. It can be a tough situation for everyone, but it is most likely to harm low-income and rural students. The risk of having a massive dropout of students from the schools' system in Africa, with severe consequences from the resulting deficiency that would ensue in the shortage of the human capital that the continent has strived to build over the past sixty years.

Therefore, CAFOR will advocate with all stakeholders ensuring that African governments and their citizens take extraordinary measures in the provision of the necessary resources to support new and innovative initiatives to ensure that learning continues and that the momentum continues in the nick of time.

Africa already has a significant deficiency of teachers, with more than 19 million teachers needed to curb this deficit, according to UNESCO's Institute of Statistics. While teacher shortages are one thing, the quality of existing teachers is another. Despite this deficiency, the available teachers must heed the call to continue teaching to help their students. Schools in Africa might have to take emergency measures to require teachers to participate. This matter is not the only step to take. Schools should be well equipped with resources for online teaching to enhance their online teaching capacity, which can be useful beyond emergencies such as this (and in preparing for other possible future emergencies). There are issues related to curriculum design, class sizes, teacher training, the interactivity of platforms and learning assessments to tackle. Teachers must continue to be paid during school closures to allow economic stability during the crisis and make them remain in the profession. We also must consider that many families count on schools to feed and provide other services for children, so closing schools removes a lot more than just academic learning.

It is in this context that CAFOR will vigorously pursue its agenda with the African Union Commission. CAFOR has elaborated its strategic plan for the next five years with a proposed annual budget of US \$15,000,000. CAFOR has enormous capacity at the field level with highly skilled professionals in various walks of life. These range from University professors to high-level officials in African Government Ministries to business entrepreneurs, and senior consultants and participants in civil society organizations. With COVID 19 issues in the background, CAFOR will, in broad terms, engage in the following:

- ***Provide a continent-wide platform*** for exchanging information, experience and practices about new technologies and innovations among experts in government ministries, CSOs, NGOs, the media, the youth, and communities. CAFOR will promote a community practice involving the youth in such areas as agriculture, entrepreneurship and other vocations that will help in the curbing of internal and external migration.
- ***Sensitize and mobilize stakeholders*** on good communication practices among key stakeholders.
- ***Build the capacity*** of media professionals and other interested stakeholders to stimulate robust public debate on education and development issues.
- ***Promote policy change*** and measures for ensuring an enabling policy environment for youth to engage in the innovative enterprise in Africa.
- ***Translate ideas*** into action on the ground by testing technological innovations and institutionalizing what works
- ***Promote relationships*** of trust and meaningful multi-stakeholder partnerships for the achievement of education goals on the continent.
- ***Undertake advocacy*** and lobbying to meet Africa's current economic and social challenges.
- ***Collaborate*** with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations, donors, civil society networks and other cooperating partners in areas of communication for education and development for the achievement of CESA and SDGs, with a stronger emphasis on youths.

CAFOR will also work collectively with all its partners to mobilize financial resources to support the short, medium, and long term, COVID-19 and post COVID-19 recovery process

in Africa. To this end and following the earlier consultations we made with ambassadors, UN agencies, and other bilateral and multilateral partners, CAFOR has proposed to hold a Virtual Roundtable Conference with all its partners jointly with the HRST Department. The theme of the Roundtable is **"Supporting the African Union's post-COVID 19 innovative practices in the fields of education, science and technology with an emphasis on TVET implementation to enhance youth advancement across the continent of Africa."**

The purpose 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. The Roundtable will, among other things, allow CAFOR to determine its financing and technical assistance needs with the support of the African Union Commission's HRST Department, cooperating partners, and member states of the African Union. It will also be able to ascertain the strategic partners to mobilize and map the relevant entities who will provide the required resources – both technical and financial.

The Roundtable will result in the production of a database of prospective technical and financial partners for CAFOR and their collaborative work with the African Union Commission. It will also result in the confirmation of indicative and firm commitments from the technical and financial partners for CAFOR and validate the general situation of financing opportunities to the CAFOR Secretariat and the opportunities therein for sourcing and mobilizing funding. We will also be able to determine the available tools for planning the establishment of new financing mechanisms for the CAFOR networks located in the 55 member states of the African Union. The Roundtable will also allow us to determine a management plan to support CAFOR's financing mobilization for plan implementation and with a programme to ensure funding sustainability. The Roundtable Conference will take place as soon as possible if our donor partners would honour their promises to finance it. Post Roundtable activities will include a review of HRST's work plan for the second quarter of 2020 to determine how CAFOR's programme can fit in.

12. CAFOR Budget as per 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
<i>Total programme (core) costs</i>	10,121,841	9,838,667	9,545,231	9,228,924	8,887,008
<i>Total administrative cost</i>	4,878,159	5,161,333	5,454,769	5,771,076	6,112,992
Grand total	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000

CAFOR DETAILED BUDGET

CAFOR Strategic Draft Budget 2020-2024	FINANCIAL YEAR (USD)				
Budget per annum	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
Costs Details	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Running Costs	5,136,259	5,445,243	5,767,070	6,114,608	6,490,876
Anticipated total expenditure					
Total Income					
Total Fund To Raise					
CAFOR Strategic Plan Detailed Budget Framework					
Proposed Indicators					
% Income International partners (Pledged)					
Running costs growth (10%)	513,626	544,524	576,707	611,461	649,088

Total number of staffs							
Growth (10%)							
Sub-total for travels and miscellaneous expenses							
CAFOR Secretariat							
Operating Budget							
STAFF COSTS (including mission costs)							
Full time staff	2,853,159	2,933,833	3,004,519	3,075,801	3,148,189		
Consultants	600,000	660,000	726,000	798,600	878,460		
SUB TOTAL STAFF COSTS	3,453,159	3,593,833	3,730,519	3,874,401	4,026,649		
MEETINGS							
Meetings, events and PR	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615		
OVERHEADS							
Utilities (rent, maintenance, insurance ...)	375,000	412,500	453,750	499,125	549,038		
Communications (telephone, postage...)	175,000	192,500	211,750	232,925	256,218		
Stationery, supplies, and other bank charges...)							
SUB-TOTAL OVERHEADS	550,000	605,000	665,500	732,050	805,255		
INFRASTRUCTURE							
Building and improvement to premises	375,000	412,500	453,750	499,125	549,038		
SUB-TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	375,000	412,500	453,750	499,125	549,038		

EQUIPMENT							
Office Equipment	950,000	1,045,000	1,149,500	1,264,450	1,390,895		
SUB TOTAL EQUIPMENT	950,000	1,045,000	1,149,500	1,264,450	1,390,895		
SUB TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	5,478,159	5,821,333	6,180,769	6,569,676	6,991,452		
Proposed Budget For East Africa- Nairobi	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Budget per annum	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000		
						Per diem per day	Return tkt
						(As per RT doc)	
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	482,453	494,517	506,581	518,762	531,136		
Programme staff cost (including tickets and accommodation) per head per trip for 5 days	1,350	1,485	1,634	1,797	1,977	200	350
Consultants costs	100,000	110,000	121,000	133,100	146,410	10%	
Programmatic activities costs	175,000	192,500	211,750	232,925	256,218	10%	
Events, PR and meetings	50,000	55,000	60,500	66,550	73,205	10%	
Overheads (Utilities, maintenance, communications, supplies, bank charges...)	50,000	55,000	60,500	66,550	73,205	10%	
Infrastructure (buildings rent and improvements)	75,000	82,500	90,750	99,825	109,808	10%	
Equipment (Office, vehicle rent , research facilities...)	200,000	220,000	242,000	266,200	292,820	10%	

SUB TOTAL NAIROBI REGIONAL OFFICE	1,133,803	1,211,002	1,294,714	1,385,709	1,484,777		
Proposed Budget For South Africa- Lilongwe	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Budget per annum	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000		
						Per diem per day	Return tkt
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	476,523	488,175	499,827	511,598	523,559		
Programme staff cost (including tickets and accommodation) per head per trip for 5 days	1,350	1,485	1,634	1,797	1,977	200	350
Consultants costs	100,000	110,000	121,000	133,100	146,410	10%	
Programmatic activities costs	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
Events, PR and meetings	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Overheads (Utilities, maintenance, communications, supplies, bank charges...)	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Infrastructure (buildings rent and improvements)	75,000	82,500	90,750	99,825	109,808	10%	
Equipment (Office rent , vehicle rent , research facilities...)	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
SUB TOTAL LILONGWE REGIONAL OFFICE	1,002,873	1,067,160	1,136,710	1,212,170	1,294,188		
Proposed Budget For West Africa- Abuja	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Budget per annum	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000		
						Per diem	Return tkt

						per day	
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	484,867	496,874	508,879	521,003	533,318		
Programme staff cost (including tickets and accommodation) per head per trip for 5 days	1,350	1,485	1,634	1,797	1,977	200	350
Consultants costs	100,000	110,000	121,000	133,100	146,410	10%	
Programmatic activities costs	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
Events, PR and meetings	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Overheads (Utilities, maintenance, communications, supplies, bank charges...)	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Infrastructure (buildings rent and improvements)	75,000	82,500	90,750	99,825	109,808	10%	
Equipment (Office rent , vehicle rent , research facilities...)	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
SUB TOTAL ABUJA REGIONAL OFFICE	1,011,217	1,075,859	1,145,763	1,221,575	1,303,947		
Proposed Budget For Central Africa- Kinshasa	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Budget per annum	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000		
						Per diem per day	Return tkt
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	478,688	500,904	513,142	525,498	538,047		
Programme staff cost (including tickets and accommodation) per head per trip for 5 days	1,350	1,485	1,634	1,797	1,977	200	350
Consultants costs	100,000	110,000	121,000	133,100	146,410	10%	

Programmatic activities costs	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
Events, PR and meetings	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Overheads (Utilities, maintenance, communications, supplies, bank charges...)	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Infrastructure (buildings rent and improvements)	75,000	82,500	90,750	99,825	109,808	10%	
Equipment (Office rent , vehicle rent , research facilities...)	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
SUB TOTAL KINSHASA REGIONAL OFFICE	1,005,038	1,079,889	1,150,026	1,226,070	1,308,676		
Proposed Budget For North Africa- Rabat	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Budget per annum	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000		
						Per diem per day	Return tkt
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	485,452	497,540	509,625	521,828	534,253		
Programme staff cost (including tickets and accommodation) per head per trip for 5 days	1,350	1,485	1,634	1,797	1,977	200	350
Consultants costs	100,000	110,000	121,000	133,100	146,410	10%	
Programmatic activities costs	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
Events, PR and meetings	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Overheads (Utilities, maintenance, communications, supplies, bank charges...)	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Infrastructure (buildings rent and improvements)	75,000	82,500	90,750	99,825	109,808	10%	

Equipment (Office rent , vehicle rent , research facilities...)	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
SUB TOTAL RABAT REGIONAL OFFICE	1,011,802	1,076,525	1,146,509	1,222,400	1,304,882		
Proposed Budget For Ethiopia - Addis	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Budget per annum	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000		
						Per diem per day	Return tkt
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	445,176	455,823	466,465	477,113	487,876		
Programme staff cost (including tickets and accommodation) per head per trip for 5 days	1,350	1,485	1,634	1,797	1,977	200	350
Consultants costs	100,000	110,000	121,000	133,100	146,410	10%	
Programmatic activities costs	200,000	220,000	242,000	266,200	292,820	10%	
Events, PR and meetings	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Overheads (Utilities, maintenance, communications, supplies, bank charges...)	25,000	27,500	30,250	33,275	36,603	10%	
Infrastructure (buildings rent and improvements)						10%	
Equipment (Office rent , vehicle rent , research facilities...)	150,000	165,000	181,500	199,650	219,615	10%	
SUB TOTAL ADDIS REGIONAL OFFICE	946,526	1,007,308	1,073,099	1,144,410	1,221,903		
SUB TOTAL FOR ALL REGIONAL OFFICES	6,111,259	6,517,743	6,946,820	7,412,333	7,918,374		

Total Budget per annum for 5 regional offices & 1 head office	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000		
Total Admin Staff Cost	4,878,159	5,161,333	5,454,769	5,771,076	6,112,992		
% Admin Staff Cost	33%	34%	36%	38%	41%		
Total Programme Cost	10,121,841	9,838,667	9,545,231	9,228,924	8,887,008		
% Programme Cost	67%	66%	64%	62%	59%		
TOTAL ADMIN & PRG COST	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000		

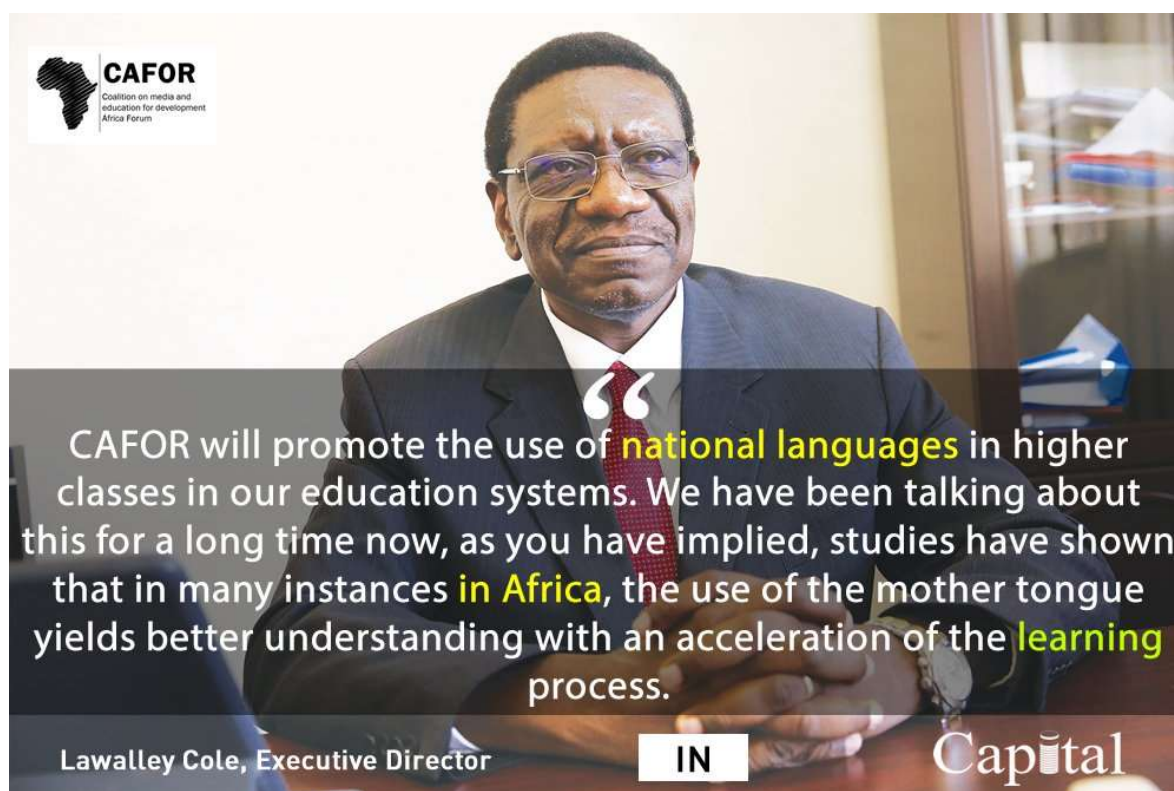
13. CAFOR and local and international media



Annex 1: Executive Director - Interview with Capital Magazine

ONE OF THE MANY PRESS MEETINGS WITH CAFOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Graduates need better skills if Africa is to utilize its resources more effectively. Billions are spent on education in hopes that its beneficiaries will have the knowledge necessary to impact the continent. The Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR) helps African youth obtain better skills. Lawalley Cole is the Executive Director of CAFOR and argues that integrating African youth into the labor market with decent and productive jobs remains a considerable challenge that requires regional and international partnerships. Lawalley Cole has pursued his masters' and doctoral studies in Education and Business Administration at the University of Massachusetts and Walden University. He also studied at Dar es Salaam University for a bachelor's degree, the University of Franche-Compté in Besançon, France, Université du Bénin in Lomé, Togo and Indiana University, USA. Capital's Tesfaye Getnet interviewed Dr. Lawalley Cole to learn more about what CAFOR does. Excerpts:



Capital: Why was CAFOR established?

Lawalley Cole: Africa's youth are not doing so well when it comes to employment. Due to the current demographic transition where the population is steadily rising on the continent, many young people are leaving school without the right skills and quality of education to match them with the labour market. It is mainly with this in mind that professionals from the fields of education, communication, law, media, business and development from across Africa put their heads together in the last quarter of 2017 to establish a Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR). This initiative was informed by and is a direct contribution towards the adoption of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -especially Goal 4- at the global level, and the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2016-25. CAFOR is a Coalition and also a Forum for the exchange of practical issues around this subject of young people in Africa and as there are as many stakeholders as possible in this endeavour (including members as well as funding and technical partners); we want to see sufficient networking and collaboration to make this succeed.

Capital: What is CAFOR's mission and vision?

Lawalley Cole: CAFOR's mission is to promote communication and evidence-based advocacy as core elements of Education and Youth Development that will focus on Youth Labour Force Participation by targeting reform in the agricultural sector in Africa as a start. This mission will be achieved through resource mobilization, advocacy, capacity building, analysis, research, and documenting best practices. CAFOR will have a particular bias towards the concept of work and training in those areas that equip young people with exceptional skills to meet modern-day challenges.

Our vision is to place communication and evidence-based advocacy 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.

Capital: People in Africa who conduct research often face difficulty obtaining funding. What kind of innovation is CAFOR supporting?

Lawalley Cole: Funding seems to be a problem. However, I want to believe that this is because of the way we perceive this issue. We do have a lot of resources on the continent, but we do not use them adequately, and we tend to depend on others to provide us with material assistance all the time. We must now try to work on our mindsets and change things around. If we can have the right vision to do things, we can make sure that we do the right things and use the resources on the continent. There are many ongoing innovations which are happening now in Africa as a continent because they are a necessity, as they enable us to navigate the daily precariousness of life. CAFOR supports any change that is adaptable to our survival and advancement on the continent. We will, therefore, be advocating for a better focus on science and technology in African nations to build on the momentum of economic growth. We will also elicit ideas on how a change in technology can harness the potential of African youth to advance the African development agenda and stem the steadily rising youth unemployment rates. Indeed, 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. CAFOR will, therefore, focus attention on facilitating action research on youth skills development and how they match with the labour market. We want to encourage African governments to 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 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. We also want to provide the continent-wide platform for exchanging information, experience and practices about new technologies and innovations among experts in government ministries, CSOs, NGOs, the media, the youth and communities. CAFOR will promote a community practice involving the youth in such areas as agriculture, entrepreneurship and other vocations that will help in the curbing of internal and external migration.

Capital: Is there a specific African approach to higher education that hasn't been attempted by governments to develop the most skilled and best-educated students from universities and colleges?

Lawalley Cole: Indeed, education must be seen 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 labour 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 programmes for women. The disconnection between higher learning institutions and the private sector has created the twin problems of high youth unemployment and a shortage of middle to upper skills, while in some cases, highly trained individuals lack jobs. For example, in Tunisia – more advanced in many ways than many nations in sub-Saharan Africa – with an unemployment rate of around 14 percent, more than 40 percent of university graduates are unemployed. Now given that fact that we in Africa have the potential to reap our demographic dividend, and that we can also take advantage of the opportunity that depends on an enabling policy environment that includes aiming at reducing fertility rates and promoting relevant skills development, with the promotion of regional markets and circular migration. In this context, CAFOR will encourage African governments to rotate strategies very much around the concept of work and training that gives skills to young people. More attention should, therefore, be given to technical education rather than formal university education that awards degrees to individuals that are not useful in the circumstances and the environment that obtains in Africa. CAFOR is cognizant of the fact that many African economies will not create enough regular jobs to absorb many of the new youth entrants to the labour market. This phenomenon will mean that it is their informal sectors that will have to absorb more young people and that for many economies the informal industry is set to become the 'new normal' over the next decade. CAFOR will, therefore, advocate for the proper recognition of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as well as training in agri-business as a viable option that will support the development of the informal sector for income generation among talented young Africans with specialized skills.

Capital: How will stakeholders and governments be working with CAFOR?

Lawalley Cole: CAFOR is first and foremost a membership organization comprising institutions, 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 labour market within the African continent. CAFOR already has a team of experts numbering more than 50 individuals, and also rely a great deal on external experts and its networks of more than 1,000 journalists, communicators and advocates in the field for implementation of activities. These networks will be instrumental in knowledge sharing and stimulating and sustaining a public debate on education and development issues in many countries. CAFOR will focus on radio, television, Internet and other social media programmes to: develop capacities for informed and reliable reporting on skills for youths and develop the media's awareness of education on all issues about youth participation in economic and social development, develop abilities of all communication professionals so that they view the media as potential allies for the development of education and skills for young Africans, strengthen the networks of trained journalists and communicators in education and skills development within the African media to respond adequately to reporting requirements on thematic youth and sustainable development issues for raising awareness and for advocacy purposes, propound communication strategies for the development of skills for youth for the African labor market, promote African-led education and training solutions to address national and regional needs and leverage a diverse and sustainable partner network.

CAFOR will have additional activities that will be revitalized for proper continuity. These include: studies of African media reporting on education; consultations with African broadcasters to explore policy changes for enhancing and extending the use of community radio for education promotion and develop participative, experiential methods of learning at the community level, preparation of training materials on communication for policy dialogue and action, including the development of a comprehensive toolkit for the training of African journalists and other media practitioners, support to stakeholders active in education promotion and dialogue that involves Parents' Associations, Teachers' Unions, Students' groups, private proprietors and Civil Society Organizations.

Capital: Even though millions graduate from universities in Africa there is still a lack of experts in various fields, how is CAFOR working to solve this problem?

Lawalley Cole: I have already indicated in this interview that CAFOR supports innovations at the continental level. I wish to note further that capacity remains a big problem on the continent, and hence the need for this innovation that I am talking about. We can no longer afford to do business as usual if we want to make the strides that we are advocating. We still depend on these "experts". As I said, African youth need to receive training that is relevant and directed towards developing the required skills needed to be productive adults to tap their full potential. CAFOR will need to advocate, through its members in the various countries, for a review and adaptation of national curricula to meet the needs of current global situations. For instance, African nations can now introduce business concepts and teach computer literacy in the early stages of education to achieve this. CAFOR will be partnering with another NGO based in Ethiopia called the Emmanuel Development Foundation, which is also a member of our Coalition. I was privileged to meet Dr Tessema Bekele, the Executive of this NGO this afternoon and our discussion focused on how Early Childhood Development or ECD is linked to the problems of youth unemployment we

currently see with our youth on the continent. We will work together in this area as we need to start from early childhood if we are to make an impact. CAFOR will, therefore, introduce long-term strategies to stimulate the creativity of young people and provide them with a quality education geared towards the global market.

Capital: Where do you stand on the debate between teaching foreign and local languages in schools?

Lawalley Cole: CAFOR will promote the use of national languages in higher classes in our education systems. We have been talking about this for a long time now, as you have implied, studies have shown that in many instances in Africa, the use of the mother tongue yields better understanding with an acceleration of the learning process. However, with these innovations that we are talking about, we will need to further develop these languages and make them adaptable to modern science and technology initiatives that are being done at the global level.

Capital: How can problems hindering education like poor infrastructure, food and water scarcity and poverty, be alleviated?

Lawalley Cole: CAFOR believes that integrating African youth into the labour market with decent and productive jobs remains a considerable challenge that needs a regional and international partnership. The African Union's Continental Agenda 2063 calls for action to support young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance. This step will pass through investment in their health, education, and access to technology, capital, and opportunities. CAFOR believes that Africa needs concerted strategies to combat youth unemployment and underemployment at national and continental levels. CAFOR will undertake studies that will help to define this procedure in practical terms. Despite the ambitious plans by the African Union for young people, African government policies are often not youth-centred and international partners are frequently under-informed. CAFOR studies will help to address these issues with practical and action-oriented recommendations. African governments have tended to respond with poorly targeted interventions that were neither coordinated nor sustainable. Corruption and other poor governance practices have tainted governance practices in Africa.

Capital: How can African research be better promoted?

Lawalley Cole: In the area of research and development, CAFOR will advocate for robust national frameworks for research and development as these are imperative for innovation. Many have questioned whether African Governments are currently providing the support needed for research institutions to flourish. Countries that have successfully developed innovations have intense research and development policies in place, which, along with adequate funding and monitoring of quality, promote partnerships among research institutions and the private and public sectors. Additionally, CAFOR sees how the linkages between academia and industry give students the opportunity to witness the practical application of the theories they have studied.

African innovators, young or old, face tremendous challenges in bringing their innovations to fruition due to lack of funding for research and development, and difficulties developing prototypes, formulating business plans, setting up production facilities and distribution channels, and marketing – all of which require capital investment. Most African banks practice collateral-based financing, making it nearly impossible for young people to apply for loans and grants.

CAFOR will advocate for youth-dedicated funds to be set up to provide young innovators with the seed money to help them realize their aspirations. Additionally, CAFOR will work with the relevant authorities at the continental level to ensure that they provide youth-targeted workshops on applying for funding and grants (locally or abroad), budgeting, forecasting and accounting.

Capital: Is there anything you would like to add?

Lawalley Cole: CAFOR has emerged at a critical moment in response to the global and continental agendas which put education at the center stage of development. Translation and implementation of the international programme at the country level require a robust system of communication and information sharing so that education should remain relevant and be considered a priority by policy makers and implementers. We at CAFOR take this opportunity to call upon all well-meaning individuals, organizations and other stakeholders to come forward with material, technical and financial support that will assist in the achievements of the Coalition's vision and mission.

Annex 2 Activity Summary with Embassies & Co-operation Agencies Accredited To The AU

SUMMARY OF POINTS FOLLOWING THE VARIOUS VISITS BY CAFOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF TO EMBASSIES AND COOPERATION AGENCIES ACCREDITED TO THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

S.NO.	EMBASSY OR AGENCY VISITED	DATE OF VISIT	PERSON(S) SEEN AND THEIR RANK	MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION	AGREEMENTS OR CONCLUSIONS REACHED	PLEDGES OR COMMITMENTS MADE	FOLLOW-UP AND COMMENTS BY CAFOR
1.	United Nations Population Fund, (UNFPA)	14/02/2019	Mr. Désiré Yetsowou Assogbavi Resident Representative	Courtesy call for the introduction of CAFOR, its vision and mission.	Deepen consultation and explore fields for cooperation, exchange of experiences, capacity-building in gender mainstreaming policy, reproduction health and healthcare, improving skills and competencies, and advocacy, data collection and analysis.	N/A	Second round of talks to be scheduled.
2.	United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP)	15 /02/2019	Mr. Lamin Momodou Manneh Regional Director	Presentation of CAFOR and request for financial support for the implementation of CAFOR activities, namely the holding of a round table of partners.	To build strategic partnership with UNDP The Second Meeting held on 26 July 2019 agreed on the UNDP support to CAFOR to attend the Innovating Education in Africa, Gaborone, Botswana from 20 to 22 August 2019	In progress	Ongoing Process
3.	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	26/03/2019	Dr. Nelson O. Magbagbeola Permanent Representative to the African Union	Briefing on CAFOR and prospects for cooperation between the two organizations.	Agreed to deepen the relationship to influence policies at national and regional levels with a view to the opening of the CAFOR Representation Office in Abuja, Nigeria.	N/A	Further consultations expected.

4.	United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO)	16/04/2019	Ana Elisa De Santana Afonso Representative to Ethiopia and Liaison Office Director to the African Union, (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (ECA)	Engage UNESCO to be granted an official status aimed at strengthening the working relationship and information sharing, programs, and activities, particularly in the fields of communication and education.	Looking forward to strengthening the strategic partnership with CAFOR based on concrete projects such as the training of journalists.	N/A	Ongoing collaboration with CAFOR participation at the World Press Freedom Day. CAFOR also invited to participate in the Luanda Biennale on the Pan African Forum for the culture of peace 18-22 /08/2019
5.	Embassy of Korea	13 /05/2019	.H.E. Mr. Lim Hoonmin, Ambassador of the Republic Korea to Ethiopia and the African Union	Introduction of CAFOR, prospects for cooperation with advocacy role to enhance the integration of global and continental policy agendas, handing over of CAFOR related documents including Addis Ababa Street Children Pilot Project.	Provide necessary contacts of the KOICA Regional Office and the Korea–Africa Foundation for eventual partnership. Positive feedback on the proposed pilot Street Children Project for Addis Ababa.	N/A	Meetings with KOICA Regional Office & Korea Africa Foundation.
6.	European Union Mission to the African Union	20/05/2019	Ms. Anna Burylo Deputy Head of EU Delegation, to the African Union	Emphasize the importance of CAFOR to bridge the gap between advocacy and the AU Agendas at national, regional, and continental levels	The two parties agreed to meet later for further discussions after the EU team would have gone through the documents that the CAFOR team presented.	N/A	Build synergy, particularly in communication that will target the domestication of the Continental Strategy for Education

7.	Embassy of Japan	22/5/2019	HE. Fumio Shimizu Ambassador of Japan to the African Union	Introduction of the vision and mission of CAFOR with a focus on youth education and skills development.	Emphasized the need to begin examining the relationship with CAFOR with the view to improving basic and vocational education in Africa and in in sharing a common passion for the future.	N/A However , CAFOR requested Japan's contribution for the round table.	Follow-up meeting after TICAD VII Summit to be held in the city of Okohama, Japan, in August 2019 .
8.	Embassy of France	23/5/2019	Mr. Aymeric Lorthiois Second Counselor in charge of African Union	Presentation of the CAFOR vision and mission.	Advocate for possible cooperation of France in the fulfillment of the CAFOR objectives.	N/A	France is now positioning itself on education- related matters with the African Union, It is relying on multilateral agencies, such as the EU Delegation, La Francophonie, and the French Development Agency.
9.	Embassy of Sweden	29/05/2019	Mrs. Helena Badagard, The Programme Manager in charge of Democracy, Human Rights and Gender Equality,	Introduction of CAFOR and exploration of fields for cooperation	Capacity building projects and skills development for women and youths	N/A	The two parties agreed to meet again to define their areas of future collaboration
10.	German Development Cooperation(GIZ)	31/05/2019	Dr Inge Baumgarten Director, German Development Cooperation with the African Union	Presentation of CAFOR, explore ways and means of entering into a strategic partnership with GIZ for access	Finding common ground in seeking African solutions to African problems	N/A	Further sessions to be scheduled to define fields of cooperation.

				to financial support, skills initiative for Africa, and strengthening of the African partnership structure framework.			
11.	The League of Arab States	10/06/2019	HE. Saleh M.A Sahboun Permanent Diplomatic Mission to Ethiopia, African Union, and United Nations Commission for Africa.	Introduction of CAFOR from its inception, vision and mission that aims at providing quality educational opportunities for young Africans.	Define future strategic cooperation with Arab League countries	N/A	Round of talk Will be scheduled in near future.
12.	Embassy of Germany	11/6/2019	HE. Brite Wagener German Ambassador to Ethiopia and to the African Union	Presentation of CAFOR and how best to improve dialogue with partners to find African solutions at field level.	Looking forward to strengthening a working relationship with CAFOR in emergency education in post-conflict situations and countries emerging from natural disasters.	N/A	More consultation with the German Development Cooperation.
13.	United States AID Mission to the African Union(USAID)	12/06/2019	Ms. Sonjai Reynolds Cooper Director, Education and Youth Office	CAFOR's advocacy role to ensure the enhancing of the integration of global and continental policy agendas	Expressed interest on the CAFOR Initiative, vision and mission centered on communication in the education system.	N/A	Further consultations to be scheduled
14.	Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA)	14/06/2019	Mr. Dong Ho Kim, Country Director, Korea International Cooperation Agency to Ethiopia.	Presentation of CAFOR including its vision and mission that includes encouraging science and technology, as well as skills	Expressed the need to jointly mobilize several local experts for the implementation of KOICA country programs that may necessitate the signing of an agreement with the National Education	N/A	Consultative meeting will be called to deepen cooperation between the two parties.

				development as an essential component of the education curricula in Africa	Ministry, to pave the way for CAFOR's full participation in surveys for project formulation as well as in national conferences. CAFOR should also participate in activities like the training of trainers scheduled to start in 2020.		
15.	Embassy of State of Qatar	18/06/2019	HE. Hamad Al-Dosari Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African union.	Introduction of CAFOR's mission and vision. Explore fields of cooperation and the ways and means to finance a flagship project for Addis Ababa Street Children.	Qatar always supports education processes in Africa in that respect arrangements will be made to allow a CAFOR delegation to undertake a visit on the ground in Doha to allow for the deepening of cooperation with Qatari stakeholders.	Government of the State of Qatar pledged for financial support of US\$ 3Million.	The Visit to Doha which was initially scheduled for 8 September 2019 was cancelled.
16.	Embassy of United Arab Emirates(UAE)	19/6/2019	HE. Mohamed Al Rashedi Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Ethiopia	Presentation of CAFOR and exploration of fields of cooperation. Also discussed the initiative aimed to clean up the city of Addis Ababa off increasing number of children.	The two delegations decided to maintain contact to follow-up on the reinforcement of cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and CAFOR. Ms. Muna Ahmed/Adem, Political Analyst was appointed to be the focal person on the matter.	UAE pledged for the country's contribution of US\$ 2 million to support the project No new pledging	Follow up to be initiated in days to come
		15/01/2020	Mr. Tala Abdulla Alazeezi Head of the African Union Section	Second round of talks took place on 19 November 2019	The two delegations reiterated their previous commitment.	The meeting concluded that the	The follow-up action to be initiated with the capital regarding

				<p>between the two parties.</p> <p>Second round of talks between CAFOR and Embassy of UAE</p>	<p>Mr. Talal, a newly appointed Head of African Union Section welcomed the CAFOR Delegation and exchanged views on ongoing discussions for the concretization of UAE e pledging in support of CAFOR programmes.</p>	<p>UAE Embassy will refer the subject matter to their MOFA with immediate effect. The response may be expected by the next week. The two parties also discussed the possibility of having audience with UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs during the forthcoming AU Summit</p>	<p>the UAE pledging in support of CAFOR</p> <p>Tangible outcomes of the meeting Is expected soon.</p>
17.	Ethiopian Sky Light Hotel	20/06/2019	Ms. Seblewongel Degefa	The Executive Director briefed the	The Sky light General Manager expressed the	No pledging	No Follow-up

			General Manager	General Manager on CAFOR's vision and mission for the improvement of Education system in Africa.	necessity for CAFOR to make more efforts to be on the spotlight and recommended that the CAFOR delegation write an article for large dissemination in Ethiopian Airlines Magazine Salamta.		
18.	Embassy of Kuwait	3/07/2019	Mr. Abdullah Safran Al-Rashidi 3 rd Secretary and Consulate Affairs Officer	CAFOR's initiatives in the areas of advocacy for the continental policy agendas and their domestication by the member states of the African Union, including the Street Children Pilot Project.	Provided the 3 rd Secretary with a copy of project proposal which will be transmitted to the government of Kuwait for possible support noting that sustainable development will not be possible without skills development for the youth	N/A	Follow-up action to be initiated.
19.	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	5/07/2019	Ms. Zeinab Adam, Senior Advisor on Coordination, Development and Strategic Planning, United Nations Children's Fund, New York, United States of America.	Presentation of the vision and mission CAFOR.	Ms. Adam suggested introducing CAFOR to UNICEF National Coordinator with whom it could exchange views to obtain relevant information for their acceleration facility and for the education cluster in NY on issues related to the achievement of the SDG's.	N/A	Follow up action to be initiated.
20.	Embassy of the Republic of China	8/07/2019	Mr. Lin Zhiyong Economic and Commercial Counsellor China Embassy to the African Union	Introducing CAFOR to address education related challenges in Africa.	The meeting recognized the role played by China in the different social, cultural, and socio-economic development in Africa: agriculture, trade	N/A	No prospect of another round of talk.

			(HE. Liu Yuxi Amb. to African Union)	Promotion of AU Policy and Instruments. The Addis Ababa Street Children Pilot Project was also on the table for discussion.	and industry, commerce, infrastructure, innovation, and technology Regarding the Street Children project, this could be discussed at the national China Representation Mission to Ethiopia as the mission to the African Union is devoted for cooperation programs at continental level.		
21.	NHY	17/07/2019	Mr. Nurhussen Yassin Chief Executive Officer	The Senior Advisor introduced to NHY the objectives of CAFOR and exchanged views on possible participation of private sector on CAFOR programmes.	The NHY CEO expressed his willingness to provide at a later stage food for the CAFOR Pilot Street Children project.	N/A	Follow –up to be initiate
22.	The Korea-Africa Foundation	10/7/2019	Ms. Giyoun Kim Vice President The Korea Africa Foundation	First Institution to pay courtesy call on the CAFOR Secretariat at AU HQ. Discussed the way forward to define viable partnership with CAFOR.	Defining field of cooperation and exchange for dialogue. Expression of the willingness to strengthen partnership.	N/A	More meetings to be scheduled to define scope of partnership
23.	Embassy of India	13/08/2019	H.E Mr. Anurag Srivastava Ambassador of India to Ethiopia, Djibouti and to the African Union	Briefing on CAFOR from its inception until the signing of the MOU with the AU. Willingness to exchange experience	The country is determined to enhance skills through training and other capacity-building activities in Africa	N/A	Knowledge Sharing and Best practices.

				with Indian professionals in areas related to science, technology and innovations			
24	Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA)	9/12/2019	Ms. Jahou Bah Faal Secretary General	The CAPA Delegation led by the Secretary General Ms. Jahou Bah Faal paid a courtesy call on the CAFOR Secretariat and discussed among other things, CAFOR's vision and mission, as well as the scope for future partnership, technical advice, and skills improvement through TVET workshops, and the development of toolkit for training of communicators on TVET matters.	The two parties agreed to consolidate cooperation in field of TVET, participation in each other's meetings. It is in that context that the Executive Director of CAFOR was Invited as a Keynote Speaker in the CAPA meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda.	N/A	Follow-up on Signing of CAFOR CAPA agreement
25.	Embassy of Turkey	26/09/2019	Her Excellency Yaprak Alp, Ambassador of Turkey to Ethiopia.	Promotion of CAFOR, share experience in the field of Education.	It was agreed that Turkey may provide training and that can be concretized after its participation at the Roundtable.	N/A	Not yet ready For commitment.
26.	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	17/10/2019	Dr. Edward Addai UNICEF Representative to the African Union and UNECA	Introduction of CAFOR and explore the potential fields of cooperation.	Facilitate linkage with the UNICEF Country Mission. Invitation to attend round table. Assess the possibility of using CAFOR network	N/A	

	Representation to the African Union & ECA				for the promotion of UNICEF related activities.		
27.	Embassy of Denmark	23/10 2019	Ms. Trine Louise Magard Hansen 1 st Secretary on Governance and Climate	Introduction of CAFOR and search for fields of cooperation.	Danish representative expressed the need to partner with CAFOR to avoid duplication Efforts to be devoted in media capacity building to accelerate reform for free media, to safeguard socio political issues. Deepen understanding of CAFOR for possible engagement.	N/A	Diligently work in support of Africa's programmes to design new projects.
28.	Embassy of Brazil	23/10/2019	H.E Ambassador Luiz Eduardo Villarinho Pedroso	Promotion of CAFOR visibility and exploration of cooperation prospects.	Exchange of experience noting that Brazil experienced similar socio-economic challenges that Africa is confronted with today.	N/A	Expecting feedback On Street Children pilot project
29.	Embassy of Hungary	12/11/2019	H.E. Mr. Attila Koppány Ambassador of Hungary to Ethiopia and to African Union	Introduction of CAFOR and explore fields of cooperation between CAFOR and Hungary.	It was agreed that Hungary and CAFOR would sign a cooperation agreement on scholarship provision to African students at master's and doctoral levels in the fields of science and technology.	Ongoing process	Expecting feedback
30.	Embassy of Belgium	13/11/2019	HE. Mr. Francois Dumont Ambassador of Kingdom of Belgium to Ethiopia, Djibouti, IGAD, UNECA & AU	Presentation of CAFOR especially its aims to invest in education as Africa's moral responsibility to future generation.	Requested some detailed information on CAFOR round table conference for possible contribution.	No specific commitment was made at this stage	Follow-up action ongoing.

				To seek the Belgium financial support for the organization of the round table.			
31.	Embassy of Australia	26/11/2019	HE. Mr. Peter Doyle Australia Ambassador to Ethiopia, UNECA and to African Union	Introduction of CAFOR's vision and mission. Explore cooperation fields.	Envisaged possible support on training to reinforce capacity through skills development.	No specific commitment was made at this stage.	To pursue the consultation in the future.
32.	Embassy of Finland	26/11/2019	HE Mr. Marko Laine Deputy Head of Mission (H.E. Helena Airksinen, Ambassador of Finland to Ethiopia and to African Union)	Exchanged views on CAFOR in general and on the willingness to forge cooperation relation with Finland which is presently providing support in the field of mediation to the African Union Peace and Security Department.	Expressed availability of Finland to actively work with CAFOR in engaging Finland Technical expertise to build capacity of African youth.	No pledges were made on the occasion. Executive Director extended CAFOR Invitation to Finland to participate in the Roundtable.	Ongoing discussion to be scheduled.
33.	Embassy of Poland	10/12/2019	H.E. Mr. Aleksander Kropiwnicki Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Ethiopia	Introduction of CAFOR, its vision and mission. Explore fields of cooperation.	Poland Ambassador expressed his willingness to collaborate with CAFOR, but he would like to be familiar with the issues.	No commitment made at this stage.	Follow-up action to be initiated.

34.	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	17.12/2019	HE. Mr. Bengt van Loosdrecht Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the African Union, IGAD & UNECA	Presentation of CAFOR for its visibility within the international community and to explore ways and means to strengthen cooperation relations.	Ambassador Bengt reaffirmed his willingness and commitment to work closely with CAFOR.	More discussions could take place in the future after better understanding of CAFOR.	Follow up action to be initiate.
35..	Embassy of Norway	9/01/2020	HE. Mr. Morten von Hanno Aasland Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the African Union. Ms. Vigdis Aaslund Cristofoli Councillor	Comprehensive briefing on CAFOR's mission and vision and to examine the possibility of establishing cooperation between Norway and CAFOR.	Norway Ambassador took note of the CAFOR Executive Director's presentation and expressed his willingness to examine ways and means to include CAFOR programmes within the existing cooperation framework between Norway and the African Union.	Norway did not make any commitment at this stage.	Follow-up action to be undertaken.
36.	Embassy of Great Britain	9/01/2020	Mr. Joel Webb Senior Policy Advisor	CAFOR Delegation exchanged views with British Advisor on CAFOR	It was agreed to schedule another meeting in order to deepen relationship between the two parties on capacity building, and communication, particularly a joint approach on education, homeless children project and youth and communication, as well as on youth and climate change. CAFOR promised to share its strategic plan	No Commitments were made.	Follow-up to be initiated

					with the British representative.		
37.	Embassy of Spain	30/01/2020	H E Mr. Borja Montesino Ambassador of Spain	Dr. Cole made an exhaustive presentation of CAFOR to the Spanish Ambassador in the presence of Mr. Jorge Avila Liceranzu, First Secretary and Head of Multilateral and Cultural Affairs.	The Executive Director put on the spotlight CAFOR's vision and mission. He also informed the ambassador on CAFOR's activities particularly the ongoing preparatory process of the round table of partners to generate CAFOR funding.	No resources commitment was made.	CAFOR called upon His Excellency to participate in the forthcoming round table.
38.	Embassy of Italy	30/01/2020	H E. Giuseppe Berlendi	The two parties exchanged views on CAFOR and the work of the Italian Representation to the African Union	Introduction of CAFOR, and the Italian Ambassador informed the CAFOR delegation about the agreement signed between ACCRI with the HRST Department, and the Italy Initiative to hold a workshop at the AU on the subject of Science for Democracy by the Italian NGO from 25 to 26 February 2020.	No pledging was made.	Follow-up Action to be initiate.
39.	Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	4/02/2020	H.E Sami J. Abdullah Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia & Representative to African Union	The CAFOR Executive Director, briefed the Saudi Ambassador about the inception of CAFOR, as well as its vision and mission. He also expressed the willingness to establish strong	The Saudi Arabia Ambassador requested the CAFOR delegation to send him a formal request letter for his country's support to the round table.	No financial commitment was made at this stage.	The CAFOR request letter was received by the Embassy on 5 th February 2020.

				cooperation with Saudi Arabia in support of education in Africa and requested his country's technical and budgetary support for the upcoming round table.			
40.	Embassy of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	24/02/2020	Mr. Dominique Chevolet Chargé d'Affaires	Mr. Chevolet was received in audience in the CAFOR Office by the Executive Director of CAFOR, Dr. Lawalley Cole in the presence of the Senior Advisor, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke. The CAFOR Executive Director introduced CAFOR's vision and mission. He also expressed CAFOR's readiness to partner with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg especially in the implementation of the African Union and global agendas.	During the meeting the two parties spoke on the role of CAFOR to advance the AU agendas and exchanged views on the possible participation of Luxembourg in CAFOR activities. However, Mr. Chevolet indicated that his country normally works through the UN as for example providing support to the UN mission to Mali and is playing a decisive role in the AU in the fields of ICT and Peace and Security.	No financial commitment was made.	Possible follow-up After the Round Table.

41.	Ethiopian Airlines	25/02/2020	Mr. Mengistu Adelahe Manager Passenger Sales Mr. Abel Yfru Sales Representative	Introduction of CAFOR as well as exploration of fields of cooperation.	The two parties agreed to reinforce their relationship with possible signing of privileged partnership on Air ticket fare reduction for CAFOR members and to benefit from reduced hotel tariffs. Also, to collaborate in the field of training in science and technology at the Ethiopian Airlines Academy in Addis Ababa	No financial Commitment.	Follow-up to initiated with the Ethiopian Airlines Hotel Manager, and the Ethiopian Airlines Academy.
42.	City Government of Addis Ababa	4/03/2020	Mr. Abraham Seyoum Gonfa Executive Director Social Trust Fund	The Executive Director of Social Trust Fund of City Government of Addis Ababa paid a courtesy Call to the CAFOR Secretariat during which the Addis Ababa Street Children Pilot Project was introduced with an exchange of views on ways and means to jointly promote the project for fund mobilization, acquisition of land for the construction of a Center of Excellence for alternative education training, namely vocational skills development for the integration of underprivileged	The two delegations agreed to hold regular consultative meetings to promote and fund-raise for the Addis Ababa Street Children Pilot Project and steer the way forward for its implementation.	N/A	The Executive Director of CAFOR will formalize the relationship between CAFOR and the City Government of Addis Ababa by sending an official communication on the outcome of today meeting.

				young people in development.			
43.	Embassy of New Zealand	12/03/2020	H E. Mr. Mark Ramsden Ambassador to Ethiopia & to the African Union	The CAFOR Executive Director introduced CAFOR to his Excellency the New Zealand Ambassador and expressed the willingness of CAFOR to build constructive cooperation relations with the Government of the New Zealand in fields of Education in particular.	The New Zealand Ambassador expressed the view to deepen the partnership with CAFOR, and welcomed the request of CAFOR to be included in other partnership programmes and be included in the future African Union Hand Book published by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in partnership with the African Union Information Directorate.	N/A	Request for inclusion In Handbook to be presented to the AU Information Directorate.

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