



TRIENNIAL REPORT (2021-2023):

**CAFOR'S ENGAGEMENTS AND
COLLABORATIONS**

JANUARY 2021-DECEMBER 2023

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 2021 TO 2023**



Abbreviations – UPDATE NEEDED

AAU	: Association of African Universities
ACBF	: Africa Capacity Building Foundation
ADEA	: Association for Development of Education in Africa
AFDB	: African Development Bank
AfECN	: Africa Early Childhood Network
Africa CDC	: Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention
AFTRA	: Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities
ASRIC	: African Scientific Research and Innovation Council
ATUPA	: The Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa
AU	: African Union
AUC	: African Union Commission
AUDA – NEPAD	: African Union Development Agency – New Partnerships for Africa’s Development
BAL	: Basketball Africa League
CAFOR	: Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum
CAPA	: Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa
CBE	: Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
CCIs	: Cultural and Creative Industries
CESA	: Continental Education Strategy for Africa
CIEFFA	: The International Centre for Girls and Women’s Education in Africa
CSO	: Civil Society Organization
CTMP	: Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol
COP26	: Climate Change Conference
COVID	: Coronavirus Disease
CTWWC	: Change The Way We Care
CWPC	: Children Without Parental Care

DGD	: Day of General Discussions
DIC	: Division of Information and Communication
DOTSS	: D- Digital Connectivity : O- Online and Offline Learning : T- Teachers as Facilitators : S- Safety Online and in School : S- Skills Focused Learning
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
EBU	: European Business University
ECD	: Early Childhood Development
ECE	: Early Childhood Education
EDA	: Emmanuel Development Association
EFA	: Education for All
EI	: Education International
ESTI	: Education Science Technology and Innovation
EU	: European Union
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organization
FAWE	: Forum for Africa Women Education
GIZ	: German Agency for International Corporation
GPE	: Global Partnership for Education
HRST	: Human Resource Science and Technology
ICT	: Information and Communication Technology
IICBA	: International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa
ILO	: International Labour Organization
ITU	: International Telecommunication Union
KPI	: Key Performance Indicator
MOU	: Memorandum of Understanding

NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
REC	: Regional Economic Communities
SDG	: Sustainable Development Goals
SIFA	: Skills Initiative for Africa
STC- EST	: Specialized Technical Committee on Education Science and Technology
STEM	: Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics
STISA	: Science Technology and Innovation Strategy For Africa
TC	: Technical Committee
TOR	: Terms of Reference
TTF	: Teacher Task force
TVET	: Technical and Vocational Education Training
UAE	: United Arab Emirates
UIS	: UNESCO Institute of Statistics
UK	: United Kingdom
UN	: United Nations
UNCRC	: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
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
USD	: United States Dollars
WFP	: World Food Programme

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1. Message from the Chairperson of CAFOR – Prof. Kate Adoo-Adeku



Dear Esteemed Members and Partners,

I warmly greet each of you and express my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated individuals who have been the driving force behind CAFOR's achievements over the past three years. Despite financial and technical constraints, the CAFOR Executive Director and staff have displayed exceptional commitment, significantly promoting education, science, technology, innovation, and youth development in Africa.

The African Union's recognition of civil society organizations as crucial players in economic and social development aligns with CAFOR's mission. We have actively collaborated with various agencies to implement the AU's collective vision, focusing on education, science, technology, and youth development. CAFOR's role as a Pan-African civil society organization has been pivotal in bridging the gap between the AU and African citizens, emphasizing communication to enhance education and youth training across the continent.

I commend the Executive Director and the entire CAFOR team at the Secretariat in Addis Ababa and beyond for their outstanding achievements during this reporting period. Despite limited resources, the organization has earned Certificates of Recognition from the AU's Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, an Outstanding Diplomatic Award for Youth Development from youth-led organizations, and other notable accolades from partners such as the Africa-America Institute and the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa. Also, it entered into new agreements with several institutions of high repute during this period. And just in the past two months, CAFOR succeeded in signing two important MoUs. One with the Ashagari Charitable Organization (ACO) that focuses on women leaders and youth in Ethiopia. This agreement would bring a new dynamism in empowering our youth within the African cultural milieu, transforming them for Africa's development efforts. Our MoU with Tallinn University in Estonia also offers another opportunity to embark upon some research activities that serve as fruitful grounds for development endeavors on the continent.

These MoUs have come at the right time, just in tune with the AU's declaration of 2024 as a Year of Education in Africa with our active participation. On behalf of all CAFOR members, I say a big thank you and congratulations to our indefatigable CEO, Dr. Lawalley Cole, and his Senior Advisor, Mr. Tshimanga, our Partners, and all those who worked tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes to help make what CAFOR is today.

CAFOR's partnerships with African-based organizations, including youth-led groups, have strengthened its commitment to implementing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and related communication strategies. Actively participating in over 30 local and international activities, including conferences and workshops, CAFOR has strived to raise awareness and ownership among key constituencies, particularly African youth.

CAFOR is actively mobilizing resources for its program, consisting of ten projects, four of which are flagship initiatives aligned with the AU's vision frameworks and the UN Declaration on Transforming Education in Africa. These projects, such as the African Digital Library and Learning Platform and the TVET Digital Library, aim to respond to the urgent need for change in African education post-COVID-19, particularly in rural areas.

With an energetic professional corps of over 70 members, including scientists, technologists, journalists, youth leaders, and educators, CAFOR has significantly impacted globally by participating in over 70 conferences and events. As we look ahead, CAFOR aims to renew its MoU with the African Union Commission, expanding its mandate to include emerging issues like peace, security, and youth development. The organization plans to align its actions with the ESTI Department's programs and convene with each division for a Joint Action Plan.

I sincerely appreciate the unwavering support from our partners and stakeholders. Let us continue our journey toward realizing the "Africa We All Want."

Best regards,

Professor Kate Adoo-Adeku, Chairperson, Executive Board, Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum

2. Message from Executive Director- Dr Lawalley Cole



Dear Esteemed Members and Partners,

I extend my warm greetings to each of you and take this opportunity to express profound gratitude to the incredible team at CAFOR for their unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions over the past three years. The triennial report reflects the collective dedication of our staff, who have navigated challenges with resilience and determination, delivering commendable results in line with our

mission and objectives.

Throughout the reporting period from January 2021 to December 2023, CAFOR, as a dedicated membership organization, has diligently pursued the goals outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the African Union (AU). This collaborative endeavor has played a pivotal role in advancing the AU's vision across education, science, technology, and innovation on the continent.

Navigating through leadership changes within the AU's Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI), CAFOR has maintained constructive partnerships across various AU departments. Recognizing the AU's crucial role in driving economic and social development, democracy, and human rights in Africa, CAFOR places importance on engaging with mechanisms such as the African Governance Architecture (AGA) to support civil society organizations.

To fortify our engagement, CAFOR has collaborated closely with agencies supporting education, science, technology, innovation, and youth development on the continent. Consistent dialogue with the Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) and the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security has ensured our alignment with the AU's overarching vision.

Our ten flagship projects, including the African Digital Library and Learning Platform, TVET Digital Library and Learning Platform, and Innovative Skills for Africa's Youth, are a testament to our commitment to enhancing African education and aligning with the AU's vision. Through strategic partnerships, scholarships, and skills development programs, CAFOR has actively contributed to youth development.

Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, shifts in AU leadership, and resource mobilization constraints, CAFOR remains resolute in its commitment. We

aspire to renew the MoU with the AU, expanding our mandate to address emerging African issues.

Active participation in AU-led forums, conferences, and workshops related to education, science, technology, and innovation has provided invaluable networking opportunities and the exchange of best practices. CAFOR has significantly contributed to the AU's initiatives promoting gender equality, particularly in STEM fields, supporting programs aimed at bridging the gender gap in education.

Our resource mobilization efforts have been robust, seeking support from international donors, private foundations, and corporate sponsors to ensure project sustainability and contribute to the AU's overarching objectives.

Collaborating closely with AU member states, CAFOR has actively encouraged their participation and implementation of AU policies and programs in education, science, technology, and innovation. This collaborative approach aims to promote ownership and successful execution of the AU's agenda within each country.

CAFOR has established a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, ensuring accountability through regular reporting, project evaluations, and feedback from beneficiaries. This commitment to continuous improvement and learning reflects our dedication to achieving positive and lasting impacts.

As we look ahead, CAFOR remains steadfast in its mission and collaborative efforts with the AU. We are committed to developing a joint action plan with divisions in our line departments, continually evaluating progress, and positively influencing African education to support the AU's goals.

In conclusion, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CAFOR has made significant strides in implementing the MoU with the African Union. Our active engagement with various AU departments, support for flagship projects, participation in AU-led events, contributions to gender equality initiatives, and robust resource mobilization efforts displays our dedication to advancing the AU's vision. CAFOR remains poised for continued collaboration and impactful contributions in the years to come.

Sincerely,

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

3. General 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:



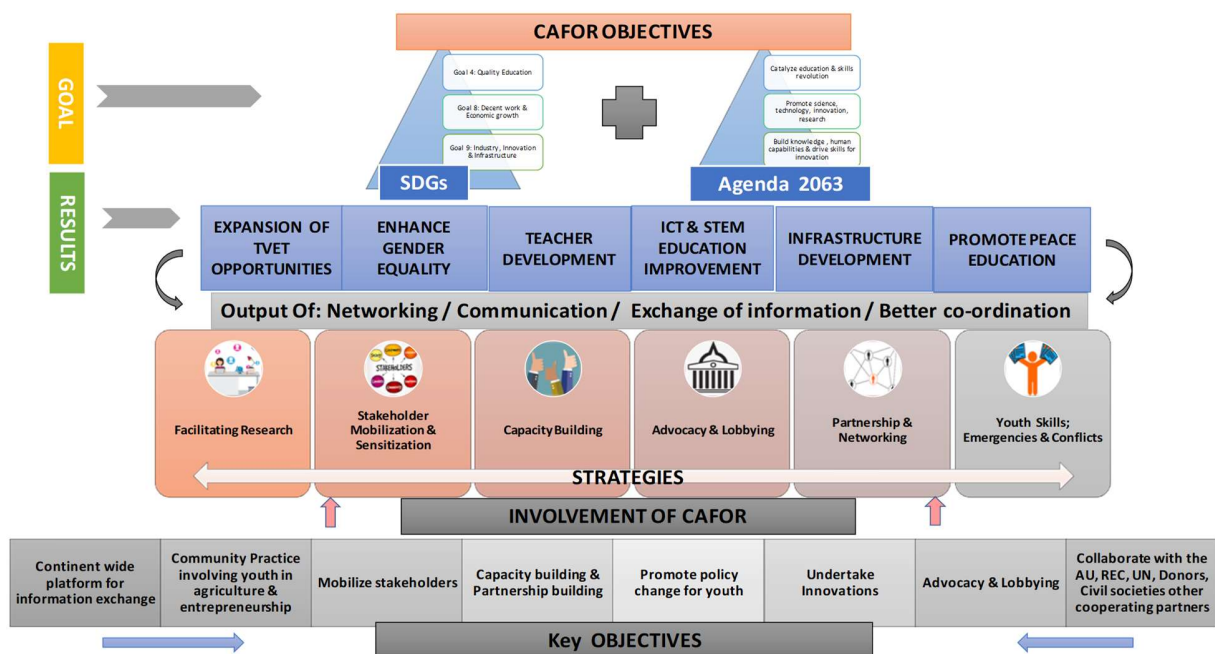
- Having the Coalition owned by its members.
- Combining resources and working together and having the groups or parties accomplish more along than they would work on their own.
- Leadership becomes a shared activity.
- Accountability shifts from strictly individual to both individual and collective.
- 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 Outcome and products.

The principal orientation of CAFOR includes:

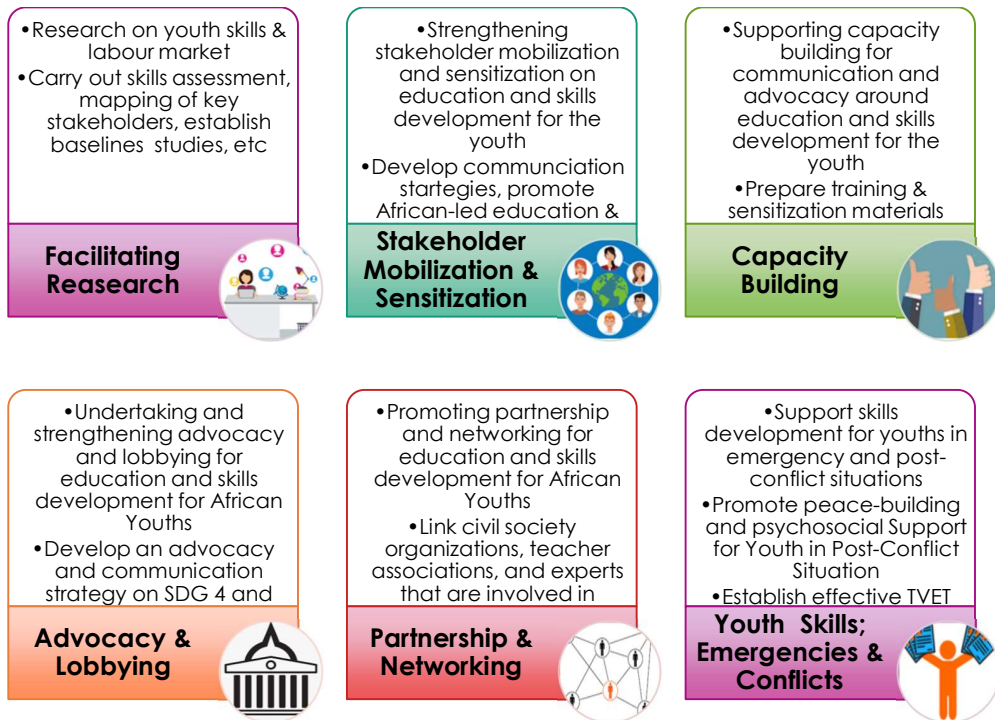
- By becoming a technical arm for the development in Africa, by participating with the cooperation of donor agencies operating in Africa such as- African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (REC) and Specialised United Nations (UN) bodies in the area of communication for youth skills 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.

CAFOR Objectives and Strategies



CAFOR STRATEGIES



Resource Mobilization Strategy Implementation



4. CAFOR Executive Board, Secretariat and Partner Organizations

3.1 CAFOR Executive Board



Kate Adoo-Adeku
PRESIDENT / GHANA



Lawalley Cole
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / GAMBIA



Sarah Mbi Enow
Anyang Agbor
MEMBER / CAMEROON



Amie Joof
MEMBER / GAMBIA



Ahadu Gebru
MEMBER / ETHIOPIA



Flavienne
Ramarosaona
MEMBER / MADAGASCAR



Amos Kiarie Njoroge
MEMBER / KENYA



Bukola Olatunji
MEMBER / NIGERIA



Kemal Abdela
MEMBER / ETHIOPIA



Beatrice Khamati
Njenga
MEMBER / KENYA



Sals Umer Sileshi
MEMBER / ETHIOPIA



Khaled Gulam
MEMBER / LIBYA



Bright Kampaundi
MEMBER / MALAWI

3.2 CAFOR Secretariat



Lawalley Cole
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tshimanga Mukadi-
Mutoke
SENIOR ADVISOR



Michael Awonon
IT MANAGER



Kaleb Amare
PROPOSALS AND FUNDRAISING
ASSISTANT


























Tsedey Shume
SPECIAL ASSISTANT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Theodore Menelik-
Mfuni
SPECIAL ADVISOR AND
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

3.3 CAFOR Members

 <p>Mounia Belafia MOROCCO</p>	 <p>Bheki Masseko ESWATINI</p>	 <p>Henry Kabwe ZAMBIA</p>	 <p>Tessema Bekele ETHIOPIA</p>	 <p>Kabral Blay-Amihere GHANA</p>
 <p>Justin Mambiki CONGO</p>	 <p>Burang Goree Ndiaye GAMBIA</p>	 <p>Seatholo Masego Tumed BOTSWANA</p>	 <p>Carol Natukunda UGANDA</p>	 <p>Hervé P. Hessou BENIN</p>
 <p>Kiram Tadesse ETHIOPIA</p>	 <p>Joseph Chimbuto MALAWI</p>	 <p>Isatou Jallow THE GAMBIA</p>	 <p>Rosette Rand ETHIOPIA</p>	 <p>Alula Teklelariam Gebrekidan ETHIOPIA</p>
 <p>Virgile Ahissou BENIN</p>	 <p>Kwesi Amoak GHANA</p>	 <p>Jeanne-Frances Maduakor NIGERIA</p>	 <p>Tsige Getaneh ETHIOPIA</p>	 <p>Gérard Guédégbé BENIN</p>
 <p>Maria Mdachi TANZANIA</p>	 <p>Adam Alqali NIGERIA</p>	 <p>Tula Dlamini SOUTH AFRICA</p>	 <p>John Kwame Boateng GHANA</p>	 <p>Jean-Marie Mbala Mwambila-Bantu DR CONGO</p>



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



Ida Nganga
KENYA



Nicolas
MUHIGIRWA
BILENGALENG
A
DR CONGO



Bintou
KAMARA
THE GAMBIA



Francis ZOTOR
GHANA



Endale
TADESSE
ETHIOPIA



Norman
WILLIAMS
GHANA



Phillippe
NANKIMBESHA
BURUNDI



Nomazula
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Mariama
DARBOE
THE GAMBIA



Yeama Sarah
THOMPSON
SIERRA LEONE



Alida Sephora
Zegui
PEGNENE
(COTE D'IVOIRE)



Asanda
NGOASHENG
SOUTH AFRICA



Abdikadir
Mohamed
CAATO
SOMALIA



Marie Lydia
RAHARIMALAL
A EP TOTO
MADAGASCAR



Papa Adama
Touré
SENEGAL



Mika LOM
SENEGAL

3.4 CAFOR Partner Organizations



INSPIRE EMPOWER TRANSFORM



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION



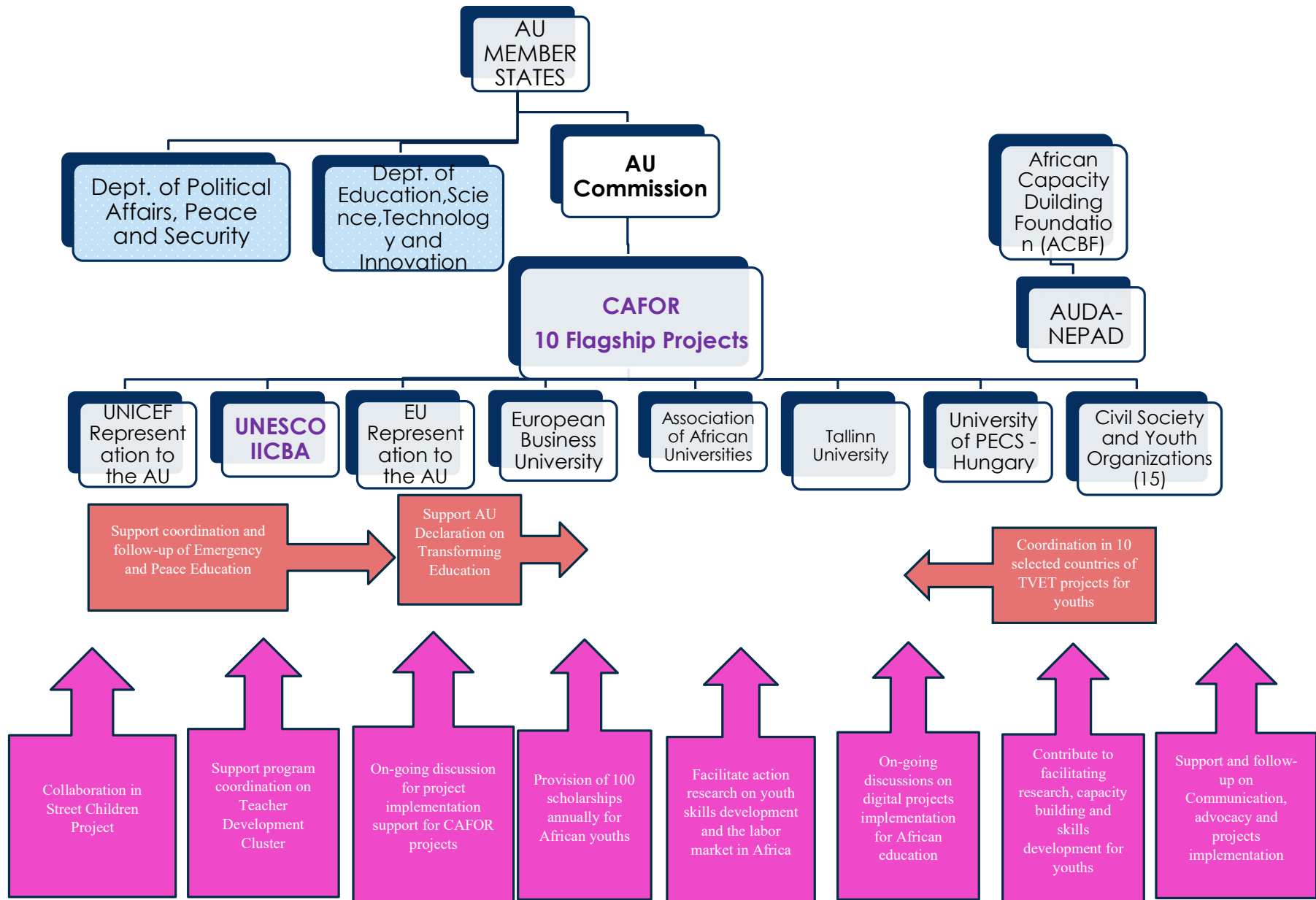
PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

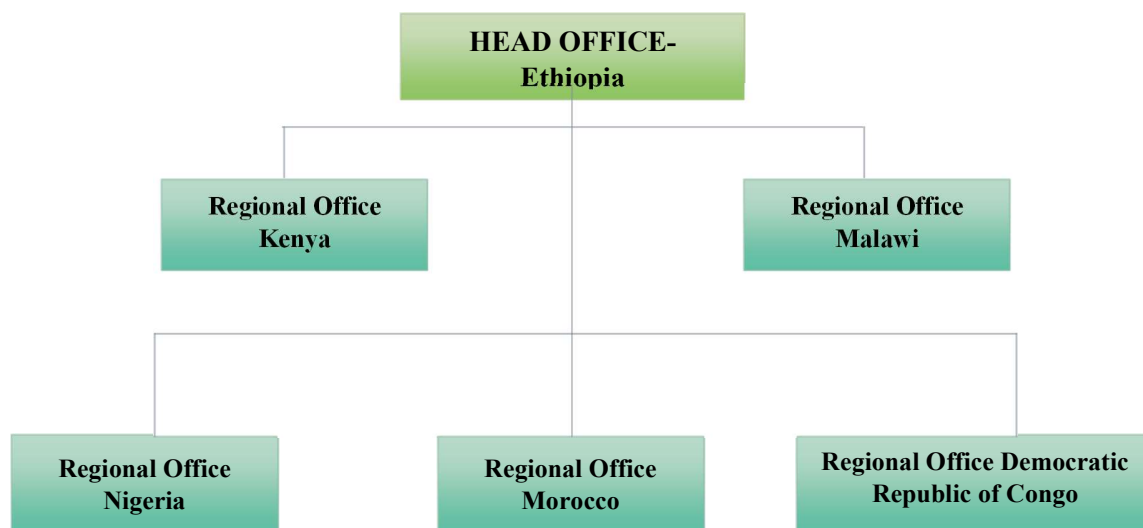
CAFOR Diagram on Collaboration with Partners

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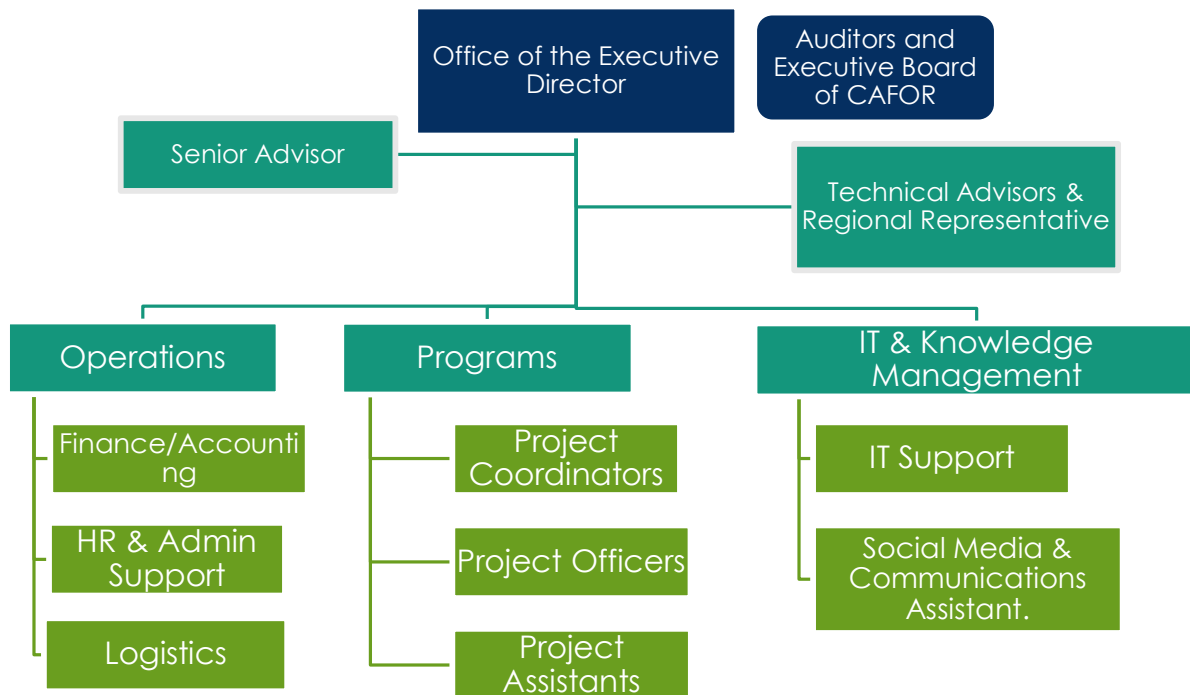


4. CAFOR Organization & Governance Structure

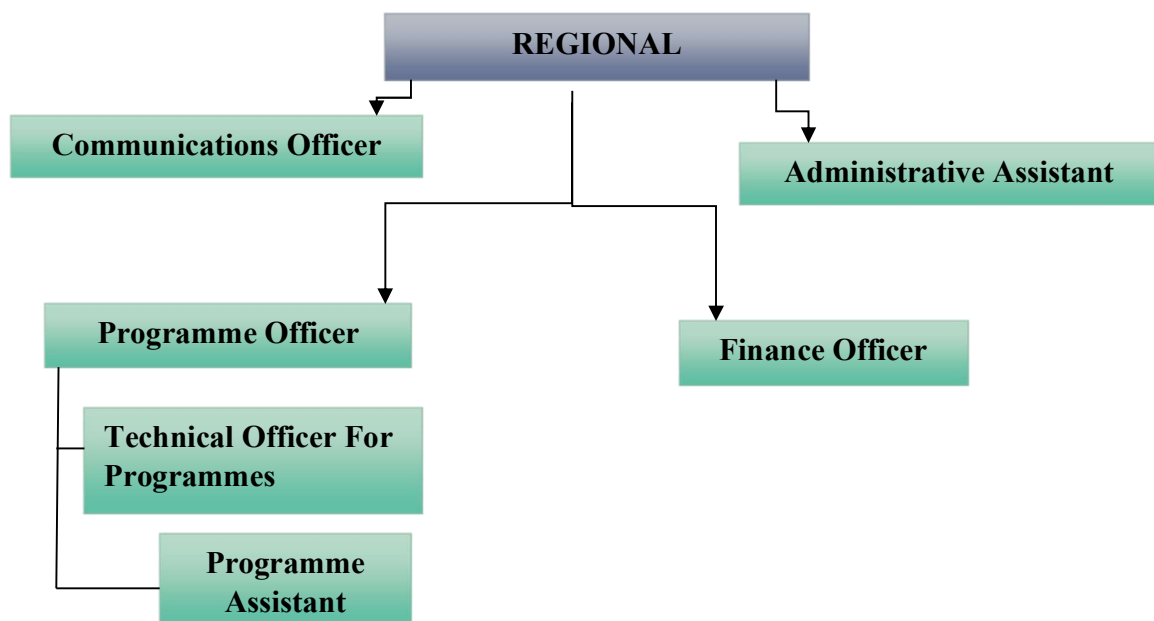
- CAFOR's core central team is located in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia along with its regional offices in Kenya and Malawi regions of Africa. Further CAFOR intends to extend to other regions as Abuja, Rabat and Kinshasa.



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.



5. Outline of the CAFOR Triennial Report 2021 – 2023

The Report is organized by theme or activity, regardless of the date, to provide a more coherent and reader-friendly structure. Grouping events under the same theme/topic will allow readers to easily navigate through the different sections and find relevant information. This is the approach for organizing the report:

1. Introduction and Overview (January 2021 - December 2023)
 - a. Introduce CAFOR's mission, goals, and achievements during the triennial period.
2. Implementation of the MoU and working experience with the ESTI Department.
 - a. Major measures taken to implement the MoU, including contacts with missions at the country level, the designing of the 10 flagship projects with a brief description of each.
 - b. Contacts are grouped together with analysis on how these could have contributed to the implementation of the MoU with the African Union, despite the lack of technical resources.
3. Specialized Technical Committee Meetings
 - a. A description of the specialized technical committee meetings that took place during the triennial period, emphasizing their purpose and Outcome.
 - b. Events grouped together.
4. Technical Meetings with Partners
 - a. Summary of all technical meetings with partners, highlighting key topics discussed and areas of collaboration.
 - b. Events grouped together.
5. Working Sessions with Partners
 - a. Overview of the working meetings held with various partners, highlighting the nature of collaboration and specific Outcome.
 - b. Events grouped together.
6. Meetings with Ambassadors and Diplomatic Missions
 - a. Summary of all meetings with ambassadors and diplomatic missions, highlighting key discussions and Outcome.
 - b. Events grouped together.
7. Meetings with senior Government officials
 - a. Summary of all meetings with ministers and other senior government officials, highlighting key discussions and Outcome.
 - b. Events grouped together.
8. Audiences with African Union Commissioners

- a. Summary of audiences with African Union Commissioners, focusing on the main topics discussed and any significant Outcome.
 - b. Events grouped together.
9. Commemoration and Celebrations of Special Events
 - a. Summary of each special event (e.g., Africa Day of School Feeding, World Teachers' Day) with description of how CAFOR participated in or organized these events.
 - b. Events grouped together.
10. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding
 - a. Summary of all important MOU signings that occurred within the given timeframe with an outline of the significance of each partnership.
 - b. Events grouped together.
11. Youth Summits and Conferences
 - a. List of youth summits and conferences, with a description of each event.
 - b. Events grouped together.
12. Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Learning
 - a. Overview of the partnerships established with institutions of higher learning, highlighting the objectives and collaborative activities.
 - b. Events grouped together.
13. Other Special Events
 - a. Farewell ceremony for Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Director, ESTI Department.
 - b. Farewell ceremony for Prof. Sarah Anyang-Agbor, Commissioner, ESTI Department
14. Conclusion and Future Outlook
 - a. Summary of the overall impact of CAFOR's efforts during the triennial period and highlighting any plans or goals.
15. Annexes:
 - a. Budget for the next five years
 - b. Table of diplomatic visits and their outcome
 - c. Any other issues.

Chapter 1 - Introduction:

CAFOR, the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum, is a relatively young organization dedicated to promoting development activities that enhance Africa's Development Agenda. With a focus on communication, education, and development, CAFOR aims to create a healthy environment for African youth to develop employable opportunities for their well-being, families, and nations. In line with this mission, CAFOR has actively collaborated with various partners and civil society organizations to achieve its goals and influence policy decisions in Africa, particularly within the African Union.

Partnerships and Collaboration:

During the triennial period from January 2021 to December 2023, CAFOR has actively engaged with partners and alliances to address key issues and achieve its objectives. These collaborations have been crucial in enhancing CAFOR's impact and influencing policy decisions at the African Union level. Some of the significant partnership events during this period are as follows:

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union (18 January 2019):

CAFOR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union to enhance the integration of global and continental policy agendas. This MOU aligned CAFOR's work with the African Union's strategies and frameworks, such as Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Science, Technology, and Innovation 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). This partnership facilitated dialogue on policy issues and promoted a shared understanding of educational reforms for youth participation in national labor forces.



Figure 1 CAFOR signing ceremony with AU on 18 January 2019

2. Engagement with Diplomatic Community Representatives and African Union Partners:

CAFOR's Executive Director and staff engaged with various diplomatic community members and African Union partners, including ambassadors from multiple countries and representatives of international organizations. These engagements served to explain the purpose of the MOU signed between the African Union and CAFOR and sought support for CAFOR's mission at the country level. These dialogues expanded CAFOR's network and laid the groundwork for future collaborations and resource mobilization.

3. Achievements and Future Plans:

Despite its relatively young age and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CAFOR has made significant strides in promoting education and skills development for African youth. Some of these achievements include:

a. Scholarship Program with the European Business University:

CAFOR capitalized on a rare opportunity to place 50 African youths from 19 countries in a scholarship program with the European Business University in Luxembourg. This program provided underprivileged individuals access to quality education and relevant skills training. In January 2023, a new intake of over 100 students from African countries was admitted to the European Business University programs through CAFOR's efforts.

b. Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Pécs and various other reputable institutions

CAFOR signed a landmark MOU with the University of Pécs in Hungary, facilitating collaboration in research, capacity building, and skills development for African youth. This partnership aimed to increase access to quality education and support African students through the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme.

The signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) by CAFOR and its partners from January 2021 to December 2023 has resulted in a range of significant benefits and achievements. One major focus is the promotion of youth development through collaborations with organizations such as AYDEC, O-Yes Global Foundation, Tallinn University, Ashagari Charitable Organization, European Business University, Safelight Initiative, and Sports for Change. This collective effort aims to empower African youth by implementing entrepreneurship programs, leadership development initiatives, educational scholarships, and mentoring programs. The emphasis on positive growth and skills enhancement underscores the commitment to fostering a thriving youth population.

Additionally, the collaboration with Tallinn University signals a commitment to enhancing the relevance of education systems in African Union member states. Through research and capacity-building efforts, this partnership seeks to elevate the quality and applicability of education.

Furthermore, specific MoUs with organizations like Ashagari Charitable Organization focus on empowering women leaders and youth through culture-focused initiatives, highlighting a dedication to gender inclusivity and recognizing the pivotal role of women in leadership for societal growth. Other key aspects include international collaboration and networking, the implementation of scholarship programs in developing countries, and a broader commitment to advocacy and education as tools for positive societal change. In conclusion, these strategic and multi-faceted MoUs reflect a comprehensive approach to youth development and education enhancement in Africa, with the potential to create a lasting, positive impact.

c. Future plans

Looking ahead, CAFOR has developed a strategic plan to guide its work for the next few years. This plan focuses on ten flagship projects and programs across Africa, with an operational budget of US\$15m annually and a total budget of over US\$350m. CAFOR aims to mobilize resources and engage with the African and international community for support, especially in light of the post-COVID-19 recovery process.

CAFOR is dynamic and committed to promoting communication, education, and development for African youth. Through partnerships and collaborations with the African Union, diplomatic community members, universities, and international organizations, CAFOR has achieved notable success in enhancing the skills and employability of African youth. As CAFOR continues to expand its network and mobilize resources, it envisions becoming the leading center of excellence for communication in youth skills development and making significant contributions to Africa's sustainable development.

Chapter 2 - Implementation of the MOU and Working Experience with the ESTI Department

Introduction:

CAFOR and the African Union formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on January 18, 2019, for a five-year period ending on January 19, 2024. This report outlines the significant steps taken by CAFOR to implement the MOU, focusing on partnerships, flagship projects, and working relations with the Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI).

1.0 Implementation Progress:

1.1 Global Partnerships and Membership Expansion:

- CAFOR established partnerships with various global countries, governments, and agencies aligned with its mission.
- Over 30 African countries now have active CAFOR members, with plans to include all 55 member states by January 2025.

1.2 Diplomatic Engagements:

- Meetings with 43 diplomatic representatives, including 27 Ambassadors from non-African countries, enhanced understanding of AU policy instruments and frameworks.
- Engaged with 12 non-conventional stakeholders, fostering collaboration with key international organizations and private sector entities.

1.3 COVID-19 Adaptation:

- Conducted hybrid meetings with 37 potential partners during the pandemic, emphasizing flexibility and adaptability.

1.4 Broadened Collaboration Spectrum:

- Initiated dialogues with foundations, sports councils, private sector entities, and educational foundations, expanding the scope of collaboration.
- Fostered collaboration with youth-led organizations for effective implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA).

2.0 Partnerships:

2.1 Strategic Framework:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union remains a cornerstone for CAFOR's strategic initiatives.
- Advocated for policy and regulatory reforms to enhance youth employability.
- Facilitated a continent-wide forum for knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

2.2 Multi-stakeholder Collaborations:

- Promoted partnerships between academicians, researchers, universities, and training institutions for curriculum development.
- Encouraged public-private partnerships and collaborations between industries and educational institutions to meet demand and supply.
- Collaboration with international donors and organizations to secure funding for educational reforms.

2.3 Support for AU Agendas:

- Aligned efforts with Agenda 2063, working closely with AU departments and institutions to strengthen research and innovation.
- Provided technical and financial support for the implementation of CESA and TVET strategies.

2.4 Member Engagement:

- Expanded CAFOR's membership to 30 countries, with plans for further growth.
- Supported members through capacity building, advocacy, and policy initiatives for youth employment.

2.5 SDG Implementation:

- Directly contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and indirectly supported SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 10 through strategic initiatives.

2.6 Technological Innovations:

- Promoted and tested new technological innovations to enhance education, research, and skills development.

3.0 Working Relations with ESTI:

3.1 Challenges and Adaptation:

- Adapted to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and leadership changes within the ESTI department.
- Despite physical separation, CAFOR remained committed to productive collaboration with ESTI.

3.2 AU Chairperson's Statement:

- Acknowledged the AU Chairperson's emphasis on education reform during the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Ministerial Meeting of the Executive Council in 2023.

3.3 Support for ESTI:

- Offered support to the AU Education Division through competent staff, resources, and expertise.
- Advocated for strengthened leadership, workforce, resources, political backing, and funding mechanisms for ESTI.

4.0 CAFOR's Comprehensive Projects and Programmes Overview

CAFOR, committed to enhancing its partnerships and resource mobilization, is actively involved in ten projects, four of which are flagship initiatives designed to align with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the Transforming Education in Africa initiative by the African Union and the UN Secretary-General. These projects are pivotal in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between CAFOR and the African Union.



Figure 2: African Digital Education Platforms

4.1 Flagship Projects:

4.1.1 African Digital Library and Learning Platform:

- Launching a new generation of the African Digital Library to provide full-text resources for learners across Africa.
- Focused on revitalizing education, lifelong learning, and poverty alleviation through knowledge exchange programs.
- Extensive modernization efforts targeting remote areas.

4.1.2 TVET Digital Library and Learning Platform:

- Collaboration with reputable training institutions to design a unique training program for African youth.
- Issuing 30,000 TVET scholarships in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria in the initial year, scaling to all 55 AU member countries.
- Addressing the skills gap by providing technical and vocational education and training.

4.1.3 Digital Teacher Training Initiative:

- Leveraging popular messaging platforms for efficient and engaging teacher training using video, audio, and gamification.
- Supporting existing and aspiring teachers with ongoing ICT training and creating a digital teacher community.
- Innovative approach to attract, retain, and enhance teacher skills in African countries.

4.1.4 African Learning Planet (ALP):

- A digital hub for educational solutions within the African Union, providing a centralized location for various resources.
- Targets children in K12, teachers, ministries, NGOs, parents, and TVET students for improved accessibility and quality education.
- Fosters collaboration, communication, and resource-sharing among education stakeholders.

4.2. Additional Projects:

4.2.1 Quality Education:

- Improving education in 10 selected African countries for vulnerable children by creating a safe environment.
- Enhancing teaching skills of 2,000 teachers with a strong communication dimension involving community leaders.



4. 2.2 Popularizing CESA 16-25:

- Creating awareness and ownership of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) in all AU member states.
- Building visibility and credibility for CESA 16-25 through widespread dissemination and engagement.

4. 2.3 Education in Emergencies and Conflict Situations:

- Addressing education during emergencies in 15 African member states with a focus on the most vulnerable children.
- Providing quality education, enhancing teaching staff efficiencies, and ensuring equity in education access.

4. 2.4 Street Children Pilot Project:

- Providing protection, healthcare, food, and skills development to children living on the streets in African cities.
- Emphasizing basic education, clean water, hygiene, and sanitation for street children's well-being.

4.2.5 Innovative Skills for Africa's Youth:

- Formulating, developing, and implementing a communication strategy for innovative skills development initiatives.
- Identifying reputable training institutions continent-wide to design a unique training program for secondary school graduates.

4.2.6 Training of Journalists and Communication Officers:

- Enhancing communication for development by training over 30,000 journalists, communication, and public relations officers.
- Revising and updating an existing Education Toolkit for journalists and communication specialists.



5. Conclusions

In conclusion, CAFOR's strategic partnerships and collaborations with various agencies and organizations have been instrumental in advancing education, science, technology, innovation, and youth development in Africa. By forging these connections, CAFOR has been able to achieve significant milestones in implementing the MOU with the African Union. CAFOR's triennial efforts highlight commendable progress in implementing the AU MOU, forging partnerships, and supporting key education and youth development initiatives. The organization remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing the AU's vision and contributing to continental development despite challenges and changing dynamics.

The organization's efforts to establish new partnerships and welcome new members have not only expanded its network but also allowed for valuable discussions with key stakeholders. Engagements with organizations such as the African Capacity Building Foundation, the MasterCard Foundation, and Oxfam International have resulted in fruitful dialogues on programmatic issues and the development of essential policy instruments.

Through its initiatives, CAFOR has made tangible contributions to addressing the pressing challenges in education and youth development. Projects like the African Digital Library and Learning Platform, the TVET Digital Library and Learning Platform, and the Digital Teacher Training Initiative demonstrate CAFOR's commitment to improving educational access, quality, and equity in Africa. These initiatives are aligned with the African Union's vision of promoting innovation, research, and development while building human capital, scientific knowledge, and technological capacity.

Moreover, CAFOR's deepening relationship with the ESTI department ensures that its work remains aligned with the African Union's broader objectives. By addressing the significant skills gap in Africa, CAFOR's partnerships with various organizations focused on education and youth development play a vital role in enhancing employability, reducing poverty, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, CAFOR's extensive network of members spanning across participating countries and plans for further expansion demonstrate the organization's commitment to making a lasting impact in Africa. By working towards the objectives outlined in the MOU, CAFOR contributes to the African Union's agenda of advancing education, training, and employment opportunities for African youth, ultimately fostering sustainable economic, social, and human capital development across the continent.

CAFOR's remarkable achievements include the establishment of partnerships, engagement with stakeholders, and implementation of projects and programs that directly address the critical challenges in African education. Through its initiatives, CAFOR promotes education access, quality, and equity while narrowing the skills gap and supporting youth development. These accomplishments position CAFOR as a valuable contributor to the realization of the African Union's vision for a prosperous and educated Africa.

Chapter 3 - Specialized Technical Committees

During the triennial period from January 2021 to December 2023, CAFOR actively engaged in several specialized technical committee meetings, primarily focusing on education, science, technology, and innovation. These meetings were instrumental in discussing and implementing continental programs, strategies, and policies aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

One significant event was the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education Science and Technology (STC-EST), held virtually from September 1st to 2nd, 2022. CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr. Lawalley Cole, and Senior Advisor, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, participated in this ministerial session, which preceded three days of education expert deliberations. The outcome of this meeting was the adoption of a Declaration that emphasized the urgent need for increased investments in education, science, technology, and innovation. The Declaration played a crucial role in revitalizing and transforming Africa's education systems, with a specific focus on implementing gender-responsive education policies. Ministers urged Member States, the private sector, and development partners to contribute to the advancement of education, science, technology, and innovation in Africa.

In addition, CAFOR actively contributed to the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Fourth Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, and Technology (STC-EST 4), held virtually on October 18th and 19th, 2023. The primary purpose of this session was to review and approve the Concept Note and Roadmap for the theme of the year of Education 2024: "Education an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa." This session saw the participation of Member States, development partners, international organizations, and African Union specialized agencies and departments. The meeting facilitated fruitful deliberations on transforming education in Africa, with presentations on the Concept Note, Roadmap, and related events by various stakeholders, including CAFOR.

CAFOR's active involvement in these specialized technical committee meetings yields several benefits for the organization. Firstly, it allows CAFOR to play a significant role in shaping the development and implementation of continental strategies and policies in the education, science, technology, and innovation sectors. By actively engaging with stakeholders, CAFOR contributes to shaping the future of education in Africa. Secondly, participation in these meetings fosters collaboration with Member States, development partners, and international organizations, promoting knowledge-sharing and collective action. Finally, as a lead agency for the Working Group on Children Without Parental Care, CAFOR strengthens its advocacy and communication strategies, influencing policies and initiatives that benefit vulnerable children in Africa.

In conclusion, the specialized technical committee meetings attended by CAFOR during the triennial period underscore the organization's commitment to advancing education, science, technology, and innovation in Africa. These meetings serve as crucial platforms for discussions,

collaboration, and the adoption of strategies and policies aligned with continental frameworks and global development goals. CAFOR's active participation in these meetings positions the organization as a key contributor, collaborator, and leader in areas such as education, children's development, advocacy, and communication strategies.

Conclusions:

CAFOR's close collaboration with the ESTI Department and the Education Division before the pandemic and their significant contributions to the STC EST debates on education, science, technology, and innovation have greatly benefited the parties involved. Their contributions have aligned with the ideals of the AU's Agenda 2063, the global Sustainable Development Goals, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy (TVET) Strategy. By actively supporting the reorientation of Africa's education and training system and promoting the development of skills for young Africans, CAFOR has played a crucial role in preparing Africa for the challenges of the 21st century. Furthermore, CAFOR's involvement in school feeding programs, in collaboration with the African Union and the World Food Programme, has had a positive impact on addressing hunger and improving nutrition for students in various African countries. Their participation in African Day of School Feeding events highlights their commitment to this cause.

CAFOR's membership in several working groups on education and children's development demonstrates their dedication to making a difference in these areas. Their active participation in the Working Group on Children Without Parental Care and their rotational chairmanship of meetings have allowed them to influence policies and initiatives that benefit vulnerable children in Africa. As a lead agency for advocacy and communication strategies, CAFOR continues to play a vital role in promoting the rights and well-being of children without parental care.

Overall, CAFOR's participation in the specialized technical committee meetings has resulted in significant achievements. Their contributions have contributed to the development and implementation of continental programs, strategies, and policies, shaping the future of education and promoting sustainable development in Africa. Through collaboration with Member States, development partners, and international organizations, CAFOR has fostered partnerships and knowledge sharing, promoting collective action towards common goals. It is through these efforts that CAFOR continues to make a positive impact on education, children's development, and advocacy initiatives in Africa.

Summary of Specialized Technical Committee Meetings during the Triennial Period (2021-2023):

1. Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education Science and Technology (STC-EST) - September 2022:

Participants: CAFOR Executive Director Dr. Lawalley Cole and Senior Advisor Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke.

Purpose: Elaborate and adopt strategies for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Outcome: Adoption of a Declaration calling for increased investments in education and the implementation of gender-responsive education policies. The Ministers called for contributions from Member States, the private sector, and development partners to advance education, science, technology, and innovation in Africa.

2. Extra-Ordinary Session of the fourth Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, and Technology (STC-EST 4) - October 2023:

Participants: CAFOR and various stakeholders, including Member States, development partners, international organizations, and African Union specialized agencies and departments.

Purpose: Review and approve the Concept Note and Roadmap for the 2024 education theme.

Outcome: Fruitful deliberations on transforming education in Africa. Presentations on the Concept Note, Roadmap, and related events. Collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders towards building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.

Achievements:

1. Contribution to continental frameworks: CAFOR's active participation allows it to contribute significantly to the development and implementation of continental strategies and policies in education, science, technology, and innovation. This role helps shape the future of education in Africa in line with the AU's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Collaboration with partners: CAFOR's involvement in these meetings enables collaboration with various stakeholders, including Member States, development partners, and international organizations. This collaboration fosters knowledge-sharing, partnerships, and collective action towards achieving common goals in education and other areas.

3. Lead agency for advocacy: By chairing the Working Group on Children Without Parental Care, CAFOR strengthens its role as a lead agency for advocacy and communication strategies in children's development. This position allows CAFOR to influence policies and initiatives that benefit vulnerable children in Africa.

In summary, the specialized technical committee meetings attended by CAFOR during the triennial period focused on advancing education, science, technology, and innovation in Africa. CAFOR's active participation in these meetings benefits the organization by allowing it to contribute, collaborate, and lead in areas such as education, children's development, advocacy, and communication strategies.

Chapter 4 -Technical Meetings with Partners

During the triennial period from January 2021 to December 2023, CAFOR actively participated in various technical meetings with partners. These sessions aimed to foster collaboration, share progress, and address challenges related to education and teacher development across Africa. The following is a summary of key technical meetings, their dates, participants, discussions, and potential benefits for CAFOR and partners:

1.0 CESA Teacher Development Cluster Meetings:

The CESA Teacher Development Cluster Meetings have been organized by UNESCO-IICBA in close collaboration with Education International, AU Member States, CAFOR, CEMASTEPA, Ethiopian Teachers Association, FAWE, Finn Church Aid, GPE, IGAD, Kenya National Union of Teachers, Teachers Service Commission Kenya, Teachers Taskforce for Education 2030, AFTRA, ILO, UIS, ECD Cluster, the Varkey Foundation and AfECN.

The cluster coordinators are Education International and AFTRA, with UNESCO-IICBA as Co-Chair and Coordinator.

Dates:

- January 19, 2021
- April 27, 2021
- September 8, 2021
- June 14, 2021
- August 10, 2021
- November 30, 2021
- December 6, 2021
- February 27, 2022
- February 27, 2023
- July 31, 2023
- September 19, 2023
- December 15, 2023

The following are a select number of meetings:

1.1 Purpose & Outcome:

January 19, 2021: Review of cluster performance, calendar setup, and identification of support needs. Addressed the impact of COVID-19 on education in Africa, using digital equipment, and connectivity. Emphasized the need to hear teachers' voices and their engagement during school closures.

April 27, 2021: Presentation on progress, challenges, and good practices by partner organizations within the CESA 16-25 framework. Discussion on champion country identification and

strengthening the cluster's impact. Presentations by CAFOR and other organizations covered topics such as digital connectivity and inclusivity, online learning, and gender-responsive pedagogy. The cluster explored ways to strengthen its impact, especially in early childcare and teacher recruitment standards.

1.2 African Curriculum Cluster – under CESA (10 August 2021):

Purpose:

- Update on CAFOR's initiatives in curriculum development and youth skills development.

Outcome:

- Progress in designing innovative curricula.
- Collaboration with UNESCO and industry leaders for capacity building.

Participant: Dr. Lawalley Cole.

The main achievement in this context is the progress made in designing innovative curricula by CAFOR through the Africa Curriculum Organization in collaboration with UNESCO and industry leaders for capacity building. This accomplishment is significant for several reasons:

1.3 Innovative Curricula Development: The progress in designing innovative curricula suggests that CAFOR has made advancements in creating educational programs that are modern, relevant, and responsive to the needs of the changing world. This achievement is crucial for ensuring that education remains effective and prepares the youth for the challenges and opportunities of the contemporary world.

1.4 Collaboration with UNESCO and Industry Leaders: The collaboration with UNESCO and industry leaders indicates a multi-stakeholder approach to curriculum development. By partnering with UNESCO, CAFOR can benefit from global expertise and perspectives, ensuring that the curricula align with international standards and best practices. Involving industry leaders in the process ensures that the curricula are tailored to meet the demands of the job market, enhancing the employability of the youth.

1.5 Capacity Building: The collaboration with UNESCO and industry leaders for capacity building implies that there is a focus on enhancing the skills and capabilities of educators and stakeholders involved in curriculum development. This is essential for the successful implementation of the innovative curricula, as well-trained personnel are better equipped to deliver quality education and support students effectively.

1.6 CESA Teacher Development Cluster Involvement: The participation of CESA Teacher Development Cluster members, represented by Dr. Lawalley Cole, signifies a commitment to regional cooperation in education. This involvement fosters a sense of shared responsibility and expertise, allowing for the pooling of resources and experiences to address common challenges in curriculum development and youth skills enhancement.

Overall, the main achievement is the collaborative progress made in designing innovative curricula with the involvement of key stakeholders, leading to the potential improvement of education quality and the development of relevant skills among the youth. This, in turn, benefits the participating organizations, educators, and ultimately the students by better preparing them for the demands of the modern world.

1.7 September 8, 2021: Participation in CESA Inter-Cluster Coordination Meeting, planning for World Teacher Day 2021, and discussion on the Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol. Introduction of 10 CAFOR project concepts, including a partnership with IICBA on teacher training. CAFOR showcased its projects on teacher training in 10 countries. Efforts to enhance communication and social dialogue with teachers were emphasized.

1.8 December 6, 2021: Special meeting on teacher absenteeism in Sub-Saharan Africa, addressing the global learning crisis and proposing recommendations to ensure inclusivity, literacy, numeracy, and digital connectivity, and to improve education funding and management.

1.9 February 27, 2023: Discussion on the work plan and calendar of events for 2023. Emphasis on elevating the teacher agenda globally and options for collaboration, including a newsletter, joint studies, and events. Endorsement of a strategy on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MH PSS) for teachers. A draft strategy for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for teachers was presented, aiming for further endorsement by the African Union.

CAFOR shared information and knowledge on the Outcome of the 15 February 2023 roundtable with partners and stakeholders held at the margin of the 36th Summit of Heads of State and Government to forge lasting and inclusive partnership in the implementation of CESA, SDG's 4, Education 2030, Continental TVET Strategy and STISA 2024. The main focus was Transforming Education in Africa with Digitalization, especially Digital Teacher Training, Technology, and the prospect of resource mobilization for education.

Participants: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, Dr. Dennis Sinyolo, Dr. Hungi Njora, Dr. Casely Olabode Stephens, and other representatives from various partner organizations.

1.10 Benefits & Achievements: Improved cluster performance, enhanced collaboration on teacher development, strengthened advocacy, and peace-building. Identification of champion countries, progress on Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol, and initiation of CAFOR's quality teaching project, and contribution to global education initiatives.

2. UNESCO-IICBA Webinar on Teacher Motivation: Date: July 14, 2021

2.1 Purpose & Outcome:

- Identifying factors impacting teacher motivation in Africa and discussing evidence-informed research. Recognition of the crucial role of motivated teachers in achieving

quality education and a call to action for urgent measures by governments, donors, academics, and practitioners.

Participants:

- Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam, and other representatives from UNESCO-IICBA, ADEA, and CAFOR.

2.2 Benefits & Achievements:

- Increased awareness and understanding of factors impacting teacher motivation, including working conditions – salary, training, and a safe environment, fostering commitment to empower, train, and motivate teachers for a quality education system, strengthened collaboration with UNESCO-IICBA and contribution to evidence-informed research.

3. UNICEF-AU DOTSS Ideation Workshop:: Date: September 29, 2021

3.1 Purpose & Outcome:

- Discussion on the operationalization of the DOTSS Framework, emphasizing the transformation of Africa's education system through online and offline digital education. Emphasis on the need for inclusivity, digital connectivity, teacher training, and their role in facilitating blended learning environments with efficient education funding.

Participants:

- Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, CAFOR representatives, and collaborators from ITU, UNESCO, UNICEF, EU.

3.2 Benefits & Achievements:

- Alignment with CAFOR's focus on digital education, with its contribution to shaping the DOTSS framework. Recognition of the importance of digital strategies for education, acknowledgment of the need for quality national digital ecosystems, and agreement on blended learning as a facilitator for digital skills learning. Strengthened collaboration with UNICEF, AU and ITU.

4. AU-EU-UNICEF High-Level Education Event: Date: April 20, 2021

4.1 Purpose & Outcome:

- Anchoring education at the heart of the Africa-EU Strategy, with a focus on access to quality education, equity, inclusion, and teaching 21st-century skills. Emphasis on innovation in education provision, digital revolution, and the strategic priority of investing

in education for Africa. There is a need for innovation in education provision, digitalization, and inclusive quality education to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures.

Participants:

- CAFOR representatives and stakeholders from the African Union, European Union, and UNICEF.

4.2 Benefits & Achievements:

- Commitment to investing in education, recognition of education as a strategic priority for Africa, and CAFOR's intention to be part of the global partnership supporting the Africa We Want. Positioning CAFOR as a key partner.

5. Meeting between CAFOR and AU Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department:

Date: May 11, 2021

5.1 Purpose & Outcome:

- Consultative meeting on providing technical and vocational training in post-conflict situations. Emphasis on strengthening capacity, resilience, coordination, synergy, and collaboration for youth skills development and access to digital education for peace building.

Participants:

- Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, and representatives from the AU Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department.

5.2 Benefits & Achievements:

- Recognition of the need for innovative partnerships, commitment to implementing projects on youth skills development and conflict prevention, and press release on promoting skills for youth in post-conflict contexts. Increased coordination in resource mobilization.

5.3 Overall benefits for CAFOR

- Enhanced visibility and participation in global education initiatives.
- Strengthened partnerships with key organizations.
- Contribution to policy discussions and frameworks.
- Alignment with Agenda 2063 and SDGs.
- Opportunities for joint projects and resource mobilization.

6. CAFOR and ACBF Consultative Meetings:

CAFOR and ACBF held a consultative meeting to strengthen the partnership. The focus areas included skills and capacity development, digitalization, gender equality, and governance. Both organizations committed to joint programming and resource mobilization. A subsequent consultative meeting was held on 6 September 2021 to identify priority projects, including the promotion of AU policies and innovative youth skills development. The roadmap for collaboration was discussed, and joint resource mobilization efforts were agreed upon.

Dates: May 4, 2021

September 6, 2021

6.1 Purpose & Outcome:

- Building synergy and partnership between CAFOR and ACBF, with a focus on skills and capacity development, human capital development, digitalization, gender equality, governance, and the sustainable development goals.

Participants:

- Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, Ambassador Alain Nyamitwe, and other representatives.

6.2 Benefits & Achievements:

- Identification of priority areas for cooperation, agreement on working together on projects related to African Union policies, innovative youth skills development, and joint resource mobilization.

These technical meetings with partners have played a crucial role in fostering collaboration, addressing critical educational challenges, and contributing to developing and improving education systems in Africa. The Outcome reflect a commitment to quality education, innovation, and inclusive practices aligned with continental strategies and goals.

7. CAFOR-ACBF First Technical Committee Session (9 November 2021):

The inaugural technical committee meeting between CAFOR and African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) convened on November 9, 2021. Notable participants included Prof. Maame Afua Nkrumah, Mrs. Isatou Jallow, Mr. Lewis Msasa, Dr. Tessema Bekele, Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam, and Mr. Michael Awonon from CAFOR, alongside ACBF representatives Dr. Barassou Diawara and Mr. Charles Chukwuenyem. The meeting's primary focus was the introduction of Technical Committee (TC) members, election of committee leadership, review of Terms of Reference (TOR), and discussion of previous

meetings' Outcome. Notably, the session elected Professor Maame Afua Nkrumah as the committee chair and Dr. Barassou Diawara as co-chair. Key topics included technical discussions, financial support, and the TOR for the committee's functioning, along with an overview of previous meetings and flagship projects like The Promotion of African Union Policies & Agendas and The Innovative Skills Development for Africa's Youth. Collaboration areas were identified, leading to the election of members for the joint CAFOR-ACBF technical committee secretariat. The meeting emphasized the need for a comprehensive roadmap and resource mobilization plan for the flagship projects.

7.1 Purpose:

- Initiating the CAFOR-African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) partnership and establishing a technical committee.

7.2 Outcome:

- Election of Professor Maame Afua Nkrumah as the committee chair and Dr. Barassou Diawara as co-chair.
- Selection of members for the joint CAFOR-ACBF technical committee secretariat.
- Review of Terms of Reference (TOR) and past meeting Outcome.
- Discussion on CAFOR's flagship projects and collaboration with UNESCO.
- Agreement on a comprehensive roadmap and resource mobilization plan for projects.

8. CAFOR-ACBF Second Session of Technical Committee Meeting (29th November 2021):

On November 29, 2021, the second technical committee meeting took place with representatives from CAFOR, including Maame Afua Nkrumah, Mrs. Isatou Jallow, Mr. Lewis Msasa, Dr. Tessema Bekele, Mrs. Jahou Faal, Mrs. Mounia Belafia, Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam, and Mr. Michael Awonon, alongside ACBF representatives Dr. Barrasou Diawara, Mr. Charles Chukwuenyem, Ms. Patience Yakobe, Ms. Abigirl Mataranyika, and Ms. Cynthia Nyam.

Chaired by Professor Maame Afua Nkrumah, the meeting covered a review of previous sessions, the formation of sub-committees for flagship projects, election of sub-committee chairs, and detailed presentations on the projects. Mrs. Jahou Faal and Mrs. Mounia Belafia were elected as chairs for the skills development and communication sub-committees, respectively. Discussions also emphasized the relevance of skill development within sustainable development, resource mobilization, and the establishment of a communication platform via WhatsApp for sub-committees. Monthly meetings for the technical committee were agreed upon, fostering efficient communication and collaboration.

8.1 Purpose:

- Progress review and detailed planning for CAFOR-ACBF projects.

8.2 Outcome:

- Formation of sub-committees for CAFOR projects.
- Election of chairs for sub-committees (Skills Development and Communication).
- Monthly meeting schedule for the technical committee.
 - Establishment of a WhatsApp platform for sub-committee communication.

9. CAFOR & Education International: Social Dialogue in Teacher Development (5th May 2021):

CAFOR engaged in a social dialogue on Teacher Development in Africa with Education International (EI). Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, and Mr. Michael Awonon met with Dr. Dennis Sinyolo, Chief Regional Coordinator of Education International (EI). The meeting aimed to discuss a social dialogue framework related to Teacher Development Cluster Communication. EI proposed CAFOR's membership in the Teachers' Taskforce and emphasized the need for a working team to establish social dialogue and participation frameworks. The meeting outlined plans for developing guidelines and convening a small online group involving CAFOR, EI, AFTRA, IICBA, ILO, AUC, and Teacher Task Force. The potential for engaging in the UNESCO-ILO working group on policy and joining the Global Partnership for Education was discussed. The meeting concluded with plans for a validation meeting upon finalizing the concept note.

9.1 Purpose:

- Discussion on social dialogue and collaboration with Education International.

9.2 Outcome:

- Invitation for CAFOR to join the Teacher Task Force.
- Proposal for a working team to facilitate social dialogue.
- Plan for a validation meeting after finalizing a concept note.

10. CAFOR and Mastercard Foundation (8th and 10th June 2021):

CAFORS's interaction with the Mastercard Foundation involved two significant events. On June 8, 2021, CAFOR participated in the launch of the Africa CDC campaign "Saving Lives and Saving Livelihoods for Africa." The event aimed to address COVID-19 challenges, with Mastercard Foundation pledging \$1.3 billion for vaccine support. Subsequently, on June 10, 2021, CAFOR held a meeting with the Mastercard Foundation, represented by Ms. Aster Minwyelet Addamu. Discussions centered around potential collaboration areas, with a focus on digital economy,

education, job skills creation, and entrepreneurship. The meeting acknowledged the ongoing revision of Mastercard Foundation's action plan due to the COVID-19 situation, emphasizing the need for further discussions post-revision.

10.1 Purpose:

- Exploring collaboration areas and discussing potential projects.

10.2 Outcome:

- Preliminary discussions on collaboration.
- Identification of focus sectors: Digital Economy, Education, Job Skills, and Entrepreneurship.
- Mastercard Foundation's commitment of \$1.3 billion for CDC Africa's COVID-19 campaign.

11. CAFOR and Dikembe Mutombo Foundation (15 July 2021):

On July 15, 2021, CAFOR engaged in discussions with the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation (DMF) to identify collaborative opportunities and establish a strategic partnership. Participants included Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, and Mr. Michael Awonon from CAFOR, and Susan M. Johnson, JD, Executive Director of DMF. Both parties recognized synergies and potential cooperation in education and youth skills development. The meeting concluded with an agreement on the need for strategic action and a call for strengthening the partnership, particularly in areas like promoting girls' education, digitalization, sports in African schools, teacher development, education governance, and distance learning.

11.1 Purpose:

- Identifying areas for strategic partnership in education and youth skills.

11.2 Outcome:

- Agreement on areas of cooperation for mutual benefit.
- Emphasis on transforming education into opportunities for African youth.

12. Working meetings with UN Representatives (30 May 2022):

12.1 Purpose:

- Introduction of CAFOR's vision and mission to UN representatives.

12.2 Outcome:

- Discussion on a roundtable to showcase CAFOR's activities and flagship projects.
- Recognition of UN's role in coordinating agency programs and supporting SDGs.

CAFOR's delegation, led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, met with Dr. Catherine Sozi, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, on May 30, 2022. The discussion introduced CAFOR's vision and mission, emphasizing a forthcoming roundtable to discuss activities and programs in skills development and flagship projects. Dr. Sozi outlined her office's role in coordinating UN Agencies' programs domestically, highlighting a focus on education in support of Ethiopia's SDG roadmap. Plans were discussed for an Education Summit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

13. Ethiopian Media Sector Alliance (EMSA) Breakfast Meeting (21st June 2022):

13.1 Purpose:

- UNESCO-sponsored meeting to support EMSA in Ethiopia.

13.2 Outcome:

- Discussion on freedom of expression, gender inclusion, and media development.
- Introduction of CAFOR's programs related to media and education.

CAFOR participated in numerous meetings organized by EMSA. Notable among them was a UNESCO-sponsored Breakfast Meeting on June 21, 2022, in support of the Ethiopian Media Sector Alliance (EMSA). Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke attended the event, where discussions revolved around freedom of expression, capacity building, policy improvement, and gender and youth inclusion in media. EMSA's challenges, achievements, and future plans were presented. CAFOR highlighted its programs on media, journalist training, and the impact of innovative Science and Technology on journalism training.

14. Pilot Project with Al-Fakhoora Education Above All Foundation (15 and 21 November 2022):

14.1 Purpose:

- Virtual meetings to discuss co-funding a pilot project for TVET scholarships.

14.2 Outcome:

- Agreement on co-funding the pilot project.
- Submission of Express of Interest to Al Fakhoora Foundation.

CAFOR held virtual consultative meetings on November 15 and 21, 2022, with Al-Fakhoora Education Above All Foundation representatives, including Ms. Jennifer Dwyer. The meetings

resulted in an agreement on co-funding a pilot project providing 500 TVET scholarships to African youth. The project, a joint effort by CAFOR and its partners, sought approval from Al Fakhoora Foundation, with CAFOR requesting funding support. The project aimed to establish a digital TVET library-training platform to scale existing programs, with transparent evaluation and monitoring involving all stakeholders.

These technical meetings with partners throughout the triennial period contributed significantly to CAFOR's strategic goals, fostering collaboration, resource mobilization, and the implementation of flagship projects, ultimately advancing education, skills development, and sustainable development in Africa.

15. Meeting between CAFOR and the AU Post Conflict and Reconstruction Programmes (23rd April 2023):

15.1 Purpose:

- Webinar meeting to explore collaboration on peacekeeping and security.

15.2 Participants:

- CAFOR: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Mukadi-Mutoke Tshimanga, Mr. Brian Baptista, Mr. Harpreet Banger
- African Union PCRDC: Ms. Sandra Adong Oder

15.3 Outcome:

- Identification of critical areas for collaboration, including digitalization and mental health.
- Proposal for an MoU between PAPS and CAFOR.
- Recommendation for exploring the possibility of hiring an officer hosted by PAPS.
- Key discussion points included:

15.3.1 Digitalization of Peacekeeping Documents:

- Exploring ways to digitize awareness documents for peacekeeping and security, focusing on behavioral change in dissemination, with examples from Mozambique, Somalia, and Darfur.

15.3.2 Mental Health Policies:

- Translating new African Union policies on mental health and psychosocial support into a continental awareness program.

15.3.3 Youth Peace Training Manual:

- Translating and implementing a manual in collaboration with UNESCO for youth skills development, focusing on Sudan, Gambia, and the Sahel region.

15.3.4 Peace Support Operations:

- Training staff in languages for effective peace support operations.

15.4 Benefits to CAFOR:

- Strengthening partnerships with the African Union.
- Opportunities for CAFOR to contribute to important peace and security initiatives.
- Potential projects aligned with PCRD's focus areas.

15.5 Recommendations:

- Signing an MoU between PAPS and CAFOR.
- Meeting with the Director of Political Affairs.
- Exploring the possibility of hiring an officer hosted by PAPS.
- Exploring an Education for Peace campaign with CAFOR and PAPS.

These technical meetings aimed to enhance collaboration, plan projects, and leverage partnerships to develop and implement impactful initiatives. Each session contributed to the overall goals of CAFOR and its partners, fostering a shared commitment to sustainable development in Africa.

16. Visit to Ethiopian Technical University: **Date: 26 April 2023**

Participants:

CAFOR: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mr. Brian Baptista, Mr. Harpreet Banger, Dr. Tsedey Shume, and Mr. Kaleb Amare

Ethiopian Technical University: Mr. Habtom Gebre Egziabher

16.1 Purpose:

- Assessment of local language requirements for Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) for the CAFOR African Learning Platform Project.

16.2 Outcome:

- **TVET Language Policy:** Understanding language policies and requirements for TVET.
- **University Overview:** Learning about the Ethiopian Technical University's structure, partnerships, and programs.
- **Language Options:** Discussing language options for students, particularly in mechanics.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Exploring opportunities for collaboration between CAFOR and the university in TVET.

16.2 Achievements:

- Insight into language requirements for TVET in Ethiopia.
- Potential collaboration avenues with a key educational institution.
- CAFOR identified language issues and deepened collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills, aligning TVET training with global agendas. This collaboration enhances the use of local languages in education.



Figure 3: Federal Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institute

17. Visit to Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation Ethiopia Country Office: Date: Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Participants:

CAFOR Delegation: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Prof. Theodore Menelik Mfuni, Dr. Tsedey Shume, Mr. Kaleb Abay

Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation: Mr. Abebe Demisu Belay, Mr. Mesfin Wondafrash Alemu, Mr. Getachaw Tamuru

17.1 Purpose:

- Exploring collaboration opportunities with the Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation.

17.2 Outcome

- **PCF Overview:** Understanding PCF's mission, focus areas, and projects.
- **Education Initiatives:** Learning about PCF's education-related projects, including infrastructure, eLearning, and teacher training.
- **Collaboration Possibilities:** Potential collaborative projects between CAFOR and PCF, especially in education and climate change.

17.3 Achievements:

- Establishing partnerships for joint educational initiatives.
- Understanding PCF's operations in Ethiopia.
- CAFOR gained insights into PCF's extensive work in education, infrastructure development, and climate change adaptation. The visit laid the foundation for potential joint projects and initiatives.



Figure 4: CAFOR and Pestalozzi Children's Foundation Meeting

18. Consultative Meeting between CAFOR and Partners on the AU Theme of Year of Education 2024

Dates: November 16, 2023, and December 1, 2023

CAFOR and Partners: Safe Light, O-Yes Global Foundation, Better Life, Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, Emmanuel Development Association, Sport for Change, Dar Al Fiker Foundation

- **18.1 Purpose:**
- Consultative meetings introducing the Concept Note and Roadmap for the AU Theme of Year 2024 on Education.

18.2 Outcome

- Discuss and introduce the AU theme for 2024 on education, fostering collaboration among partners for its successful implementation.
- Partners such as Safe Light, O-Yes Global Foundation, and Pestalozzi Children's Foundation discussed key areas of intervention, emphasizing collaboration in advocacy, teacher training, and increasing access to quality education.

- The roadmap for the year was established, with plans for seminars, workshops, and projects.

18.3 Achievements:

- Major focus area included:
- AU Theme 2024: Presenting the theme and its significance for the African continent.
- Collaborative Initiatives: Discussing potential collaborative projects and initiatives aligned with the theme.
- Roadmap **Focus Areas**: Emphasizing the key intervention areas outlined in the roadmap.

18.4 Benefits to CAFOR:

- Positioning CAFOR as a key player in the AU's education initiatives.
- Identifying potential partners for collaborative projects.



Figure 5: Consultative Meeting between CAFOR and Partners on the AU Theme of Year of Education

19. Member States Validation Meeting on Teachers' Guides and Learners' Manuals for AU Strategy on ACDEG in School Curricula - Dates: December 4-6, 2023

Location: Maputo, Mozambique

Participants:

CAFOR Delegation: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Dr. Gulam Khaleb Abulghasem, Ms. Ramarimalala Marie Lydia



Figure 6 CAFOR staff and members and members attending the AU Validation Workshop in Maputo , Mozambique.

19.1 Purpose:

- Validate teachers' guides and learners' manuals for the inclusion and mainstreaming of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) in school curricula.

19.2 Outcome:

- CAFOR, in collaboration with AU and partners, contributed to developing and validating essential educational materials. The meeting set the stage for implementing the pilot phase in selected countries in 2024.
- **ACDEG Project Overview:** Presenting the project and its significance for democracy education.
- **Validation of Documents:** Participating in the validation process for teachers' guides and learners' manuals.
- **Implementation Plans:** Discussing plans for the effective implementation of the pilot phase in 2024.



Figure 7 CAFOR in Maputo

19.3 Achievements:

- Recognition for expertise in education initiatives.
- Contribution to the implementation of an AU-led democracy education project.

20. Common Benefits and Achievements for the AU and CAFOR:

- Enhanced collaboration with partners, fostering synergies in addressing global education challenges.
- Identification of language issues and policies, promoting inclusive education using local languages.
- Understanding partners' projects and areas of expertise, paving the way for joint initiatives.
- Contribution to AU initiatives, aligning with global education goals and promoting democracy through educational curricula.
- Strengthened relationships with partners and acknowledgment of CAFOR's role in the development and validation of crucial educational materials.

Chapter 5 - Working Sessions with Partners

Working Session 1: CAFOR-UNICEF Meeting (10th March 2021)

1.1 Under UNICEF's leadership, a two-day ideation workshop was conducted on 10 March 2021, attended by partners including CAFOR, SOS Children's Villages, and Lumos Foundation. The primary focus was "Changing The Way We Care (CTWWC)." CAFOR's role in the Africa Working Group on Children Without Parental Care (CWPC) contributed to the "Solutions Book project," documenting scalable models for CWPC intervention. The workshop addressed challenges children face due to various factors, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The main outcome was the establishment of the CWPC Working Group, emphasizing the transformation of care systems and advocacy and communication.

Participants: UNICEF, CAFOR, SOS Children's Villages, Lumos Foundation

1.2 Outcome:

- Establishment of CWPC Working Group
- Formulation of two work streams: Transformation of Care System and Advocacy and Communication
- Development of the "Solutions Book project"
- Emphasis on locally driven solutions and conditions for accelerating action

1.3 CAFOR's Contributions:

- Participation in the Africa Working Group on CWPC
- Leadership in the Advocacy and Communication work stream

1.4 Achievements

- Strengthened collaboration with partners
- Enhanced visibility and influence in addressing CWPC issues
- Contribution to scalable solutions and evidence-based practices

Working Session 2: Preparatory Group Meeting for Day of General Discussions (DGD) 2021 (8th June 2021)

2.1 On 8 June 2021, CAFOR's Secretariat Team, led by Executive Director Dr. Lawalley Cole, attended the preparatory group meeting for DGD 2021. Chaired by Dr. Edward Addai, UNICEF

Representative to the African Union, discussions revolved around progress on Africa's submission to DGD and the implementation framework.

Participants: UNICEF, CAFOR Secretariat Team

Working Session 3: Regional Consultation for Eastern and Southern Africa-UNICEF (14th July 2021)

3.1 On 14th July 2021, CAFOR participated in a UNICEF-organized webinar on achieving universal birth registration in the context of COVID-19. The meeting highlighted progress, challenges, and strategies for enhancing birth registration. UNICEF called for innovation and new approaches to increase registration coverage, stressing the impact on children's fundamental rights.

Participants: UNICEF, CAFOR Secretariat Team

3.2 Outcome:

- Overview of universal birth registration
- Showcase of digitalization policies
- Call for innovation in birth registration
- Emphasis on decentralization

3.3 CAFOR's Contributions:

- Active participation in discussions
- Advocacy for innovative approaches

3.4 Benefits to CAFOR:

- Insights into regional birth registration challenges
- Opportunities for collaboration on innovative solutions

Working Session 4: Brainstorm Session on the Convention of Rights of Child (CRC) - Day of General Discussions (14 October 2021)

4.1 CAFOR engaged in a CRC discussion on 14 October 2021, focusing on Africa's perspective on children without parental care and transforming care systems. Chaired by Dr. Edward Addai, UNICEF representative to the African Union, the session included inputs from Civil Society Organizations and children in alternative care.

Participants: UNICEF, CAFOR, Civil Society Organizations

4.2 Outcome:

- Continental submission on CRC
- Inputs from various stakeholders
- Emphasis on transforming care systems in Africa

4.3 CAFOR's Contributions:

- Active participation in discussions
- Input on Africa's perspective on children without parental care

4.4 Benefits to CAFOR:

- Strengthened collaboration with UNICEF
- Contribution to continental discussions on CRC

Working Session 5: AU Sports Council - Basketball Africa League (1 September 2021)

5.1 On 1 September 2021, CAFOR and AU Sports Council convened to discuss collaboration opportunities. Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, and Ms. Hemalatha Vanam represented CAFOR. The meeting focused on integrating sports for development into education, promoting SDGs through sports, and creating a handbook outlining the role of sports in achieving sustainable development.

Participants: AU Sports Council, CAFOR

5.2 Purpose: Explore collaboration in using sports for education and development.

5.3 Benefits for CAFOR: Enhanced visibility, potential partnerships, and contribution to sports-related SDGs.

5.4 Achievements:

The major achievement in this working session was the collaboration between the AU Sports Council and CAFOR (presumably an organization related to sports or sustainable development). The meeting aimed to explore opportunities for cooperation, and several key areas of focus were identified:

- **Integrating sports for development into education:** This suggests a commitment to using sports as a tool for educational purposes, potentially enhancing physical education programs or incorporating sports-related activities into the educational curriculum. This integration could have positive effects on students' overall development, including physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline.
- **Promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sports:** The discussion indicates a shared interest in leveraging sports as a platform to raise awareness and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). This could involve using sports events and initiatives to address issues such as poverty, gender equality, and health.

- **Creating a handbook outlining the role of sports in achieving sustainable development:** The commitment to developing a handbook signifies a tangible outcome of the collaboration. This handbook could serve as a guide for individuals and organizations interested in understanding how sports can be effectively utilized to promote sustainable development. It may include best practices, case studies, and practical strategies.

5.5 There are also likely to be multifaceted benefits for both parties:

- **AU Sports Council:** The collaboration with CAFOR allows the AU Sports Council to enhance its initiatives and impact by integrating sports into education and aligning activities with the SDGs. The handbook can serve as a valuable resource to disseminate knowledge and promote the adoption of sustainable practices in sports development.
- **CAFOR:** By collaborating with the AU Sports Council, CAFOR can access a broader platform and network. The integration of sports into education and the promotion of SDGs align with CAFOR's mission, and the handbook can enhance its credibility as a resourceful organization in the field of sports and sustainable development.

In summary, the significant achievement lies in the collaborative efforts to integrate sports into education, promote SDGs through sports, and create a handbook for sustainable development. These initiatives have the potential to positively impact both the AU Sports Council and CAFOR, fostering a synergistic relationship between the two entities.

Working Session 6: Innovating Education in Africa 2021 (Multiple Sessions)

CAFOR actively participated in various Innovating Education in Africa 2021 sessions, including evaluation committee meetings, early pitch events, a virtual expo, and the final pitch event. The initiative aimed to identify, promote, and support African education innovations. CAFOR's involvement, mainly through CAFOR's Regional Program Officer for Eastern Africa, Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, contributed to the selection of innovative projects for implementation and scalability.

6.1 Outcome:

- Objectives of Innovating Education in Africa 2021
- Discussion on program activities
- Call for innovation and selection process

6.2 CAFOR's Contributions:

- Representation in the meeting

- Engagement in discussions on education innovation

6.3 Benefits to CAFOR:

- Networking opportunities
- Involvement in promoting education innovation in Africa
- Recognition for contributions to education innovation
- Strengthened partnerships in the education sector with enhanced credibility, potential collaboration with winners, and contribution to education and advancement.

6.4 Outcome and Achievements of the above six working sessions:

- The CWPC Working Group was established to address children's challenges without parental care.
- Progress in achieving universal birth registration and exploring innovative solutions in the context of COVID-19.
- Contributions to education innovation through the evaluation and selection of impactful projects.
- Collaboration with AU Sports Council to integrate sport into education and promote social development.

6.5 Potential Benefits for Partners:

- Enhanced advocacy and communication strategies for CWPC.
- Improved birth registration processes and increased coverage.
- Advancements in education innovation and knowledge sharing.
- Integration of sports for sustainable development and social impact.

6.6 CAFOR's Overall Contribution:

CAFOR actively contributed to these working sessions, fostering collaborative efforts toward addressing critical issues affecting children, education, and sports in Africa. The organization's participation reflects a commitment to innovative solutions, advocacy, and the pursuit of sustainable development goals.

Working Session 7 - CAFOR and ACBF Meeting - May 4, 2021, and September 6, 2021

7.1 CAFOR and the African Capacity Building Foundation held consultative meetings to build synergy, strengthen partnerships, and discuss areas of cooperation.

Participants:

- **CAFOR:** Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, Mr. Michael Awonon.
- **ACBF:** Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, Ambassador Alain Nyamitwe, Ms. Patience Yakobe.

7.2 Purpose:

- To strengthen partnership and collaboration between the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and various initiatives in line with continental mandates.

7.3 Outcome:

- Identification of areas for cooperation, including skills development, human capital development, digitalization, gender equality, and sustainable development.
- Agreement on forms of partnership: technical support, joint programming, and joint resource mobilization.

7.4 Benefits for CAFOR:

- Opportunities for joint programming, resource mobilization, and advancing shared goals.

Working Session 8 - CAFOR and ACBF Follow-up Meeting (6th September 2021):

Participants: Same as the May meeting.

8.1 Purpose:

- Validate the previous meeting's Outcome and identify priority areas for collaboration.

8.2 Outcome:

- Agreement on two projects: Promotion of African Union Policies and Agendas and Innovative Youth Skills Development.
- Formation of a technical committee to design the roadmap for project implementation.

Working Session 9 - CAFOR Members Brainstorming Session (13 September 2021):

Participants: Prof. Maame Afua Nkrumah, Mrs. Isatou Jallow, Mr. Lewis Msasa, Mrs. Jahou Faal, Dr. Tessema Bekele, Mrs. Mounia Belafia.

9.2 Purpose:

- To engage selected CAFOR members in designing the roadmap for the identified projects.
- Review Outcome, set up a joint committee, and plan implementation.

9.3 Outcome:

- Selection of members for the technical committee.
- Agreement on Terms of Reference for the committee.

9.4 Benefits for CAFOR:

- Enhanced coordination, active member engagement, and progress in joint initiatives.

Achievements:

- **CAFOR:** Strengthened partnerships, contributed to continental mandates, implemented joint projects, and enhanced visibility and credibility.
- **ACBF:** Collaboration with CAFOR on impactful projects, resource mobilization, and coordination with AU for better Outcome.
- **Partners:** Increased collaboration, sharing of expertise, and potential for resource mobilization and joint programming.

Working Session 10 - Africa CDC Seminars (April 2021 and ongoing):

Participants: Dr. Lawalley Cole, representatives from Africa CDC.

10.1 Purpose:

- To participate in discussions on Africa's vaccine manufacturing for health security and how these will enhance Africa's education systems.

10.2 Outcome:

- Support for the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) initiative.
- Collaboration on vaccine manufacturing projects to achieve self-reliance in Africa.

10.3 Purpose:

- Discuss Africa's vaccine manufacturing and health security.

Benefits for CAFOR:

- Stay informed, contribute to health-related discussions, and potentially advocate for education in health emergencies.

Working Session 11- CWPC Working Group – World Day on Social Justice (20 February 2021):

Participants: CAFOR staff and Representatives from CWPC Working Group.

11.1 Purpose: Interventions and preparations for the World Day on Social Justice.

11.2 Outcome: Active participation in promoting social justice.

Working Session 12 - Education International Africa Webinar (27 May 2021):

12.1 Dr. Lawalley Cole addressed the Education International Africa Webinar on progress towards SDG4 and CESA objectives.

12.2 Purpose:

- Evaluate the advancements and challenges faced in achieving the SDG4 and CESA **12.3**

Benefits for CAFOR:

- Increased awareness of the progress, bottlenecks, and opportunities related to SDG4 and CESA objectives.

12.4 Outcome:

- Evaluation of progress, bottlenecks, and opportunities for achieving education goals.

12.5 Achievements:

- The main achievement in the Education International Africa Webinar on May 27th, 2021, was assessing progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) objectives.

12.6 Benefits for CAFOR included:

- **Increased Awareness:** The webinar likely contributed to increased awareness among participants, including Dr. Lawalley Cole, Dr. Denis Sinyolo, Education International representatives, and CAFOR staff, regarding the progress, bottlenecks, and opportunities related to SDG4 and CESA objectives.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Through evaluating progress, participants gained insights into the status of education goals, identifying bottlenecks that may hinder progress, and recognizing opportunities for improvement. This information is valuable for informed decision-making.

- **Collaboration and Networking:** The webinar provided a platform for collaboration and networking among key stakeholders in the education sector, including Dr. Lawalley Cole, Dr. Denis Sinyolo, Education International, and CAFOR staff. This collaboration could lead to coordinated efforts and partnerships to address challenges and work towards achieving common goals.
- **Policy Insights:** Assessing progress towards SDG4 and CESA objectives likely provided valuable policy insights. The evaluation Outcome could inform the development or adjustment of policies and strategies to advance education in Africa.
- **Monitoring and Accountability:** The assessment of progress served as a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of education-related initiatives. It helps hold relevant parties accountable for their commitments and encourages transparency in reporting progress.

In summary, the main achievement of the Education International Africa Webinar was the comprehensive assessment of progress towards SDG4 and CESA objectives, leading to increased awareness, informed decision-making, collaboration, policy insights, and improved monitoring and accountability in the pursuit of education goals in Africa.

Working Session 13 - EMSA Activities – Ethiopia: Information Ecosystem Assessment Launch (5 July 2021):

Participants:

CAFOR staff and representatives from EMSA and Ethiopian media.

13.1 Purpose:

- The event's purpose was to discuss the role of media in a democratic space, media sustainability challenges, and the impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian media. The event's Outcome included gaining insights into media challenges and emphasizing the need for media literacy. The participants in the event included representatives from EMSA and the Ethiopian media.
- This type of activity suggests a focus on addressing the challenges faced by the media industry in Ethiopia and recognizing the importance of media literacy, especially in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and fostering democratic values, and discussions like these can contribute to finding solutions for sustaining a free and effective media landscape.

13.2 Outcome:

- Insights on media challenges and the need for media literacy.

13.3 Overall Achievements and Benefits:

While the information provided outlines the purpose, Outcome, and participants of the EMSA Activities in Ethiopia on July 5th, 2021, it doesn't explicitly mention the overall achievements and benefits resulting from the event. However, based on the outlined purpose and Outcome, one may infer some potential overall achievements and benefits:

- **Increased Awareness:** The discussion on the role of media in a democratic space and its challenges contributed to increased awareness among participants and the broader public regarding the importance of free and responsible media.
- **Identification of Challenges:** By gaining insights into media challenges, the event helped identify specific issues faced by the Ethiopian media industry. This understanding is crucial for developing targeted strategies and interventions.
- **Promotion of Media Literacy:** The emphasis on the need for media literacy suggests a commitment to enhancing the public's ability to critically engage with media content. This can contribute to a more informed and discerning audience.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Bringing together representatives from EMSA and Ethiopian media provides a platform for collaboration. This could lead to partnerships, shared initiatives, and coordinated efforts to address challenges and promote media sustainability.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Discussions on media sustainability challenges led to formulating policy recommendations or suggestions for improvements in the regulatory framework to better support the media industry.
- **Networking and Relationship Building:** The event facilitated networking opportunities among participants. Building strong relationships within the media industry and with regulatory bodies can foster a supportive environment for addressing challenges.
- **Resilience Building:** Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian media is crucial for building resilience. By recognizing the challenges posed by the pandemic, stakeholders can work towards developing strategies to ensure the media's continued operation and effectiveness during such crises.

Working Session 14- Briefing Session of the CAFOR Executive Board (27 January 2022)

On this date, the CAFOR Secretariat convened a Briefing Session for the Executive Board. Dr. Lawalley Cole, the Executive Director, addressed challenges such as membership fees and resource mobilization. Key points included recruitment updates, engagements with diplomatic communities, post-MOU with the African Union, and interactions with donors like ACBF, UNICEF, GIZ, AU Sports Council, and AUDA-NEPAD. Discussions emphasized the importance

of member engagement and fulfilling their financial commitments, contributing actively, and the urgency of prioritizing programs. The session highlighted ten projects with an estimated cost of US\$354,632,883. Board members commended regular updates and suggested enhanced visibility and social media presence. The board recommended prioritization, low-cost impact strategies, and consultations for future meetings.

Working Session 15 - CAFOR Relations with AUDA-NEPAD (20 May 2022)

Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke met with Ms. Aïssatou Hayatou, AUDA-NEPAD Principal Program Officer. The meeting focused on strengthening partnerships, particularly in implementing CAFOR projects and capacity building. Ms. Aïssatou suggested a virtual meeting or visit to South Africa to deepen discussions. Collaboration areas were identified, and potential benefits included mutual support in achieving organizational goals. Ms. Aïssatou pledged to identify a suitable NEPAD department for in-depth discussions.

Working Session 16- Children Without Parental Care (7 July 2022)

Dr. Lawalley Cole chaired the UNICEF Children Without Parental Care Working Group Meeting. Topics covered included care work stream activities, advocacy, CWPC study, secretariat establishment, study validation, capacity building, and resource mobilization. The necessity for UNICEF support was emphasized, aligning with CAFOR's commitment to children's welfare.

Working Session 17- AU-EU Youth Lab Online Consultation (29 November 2022)

Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke participated in the AU-EU Youth Lab online consultation. The focus was co-creating a shared vision, enhancing youth participation in governance, and strategic opportunities for learning, exchange, and networking to foster collaboration with organizations in youth development.

Working Session 18- Promotional Meetings (Various Dates)

CAFOR engaged with private sector stakeholders, including Mr. Hailé Gebre Selassié, Ms. Wudassie Enquberhan, Mrs. Hadia Gondji, Mr. Wilson Daryl, and Ambassador Ali Sultaiman. These discussions aimed to promote active private sector participation in developing skills for African youth and sponsoring the CAFOR Roundtable. Consultations with development partners like GIZ and the European Union Delegation were also conducted.

Working Session 19 - CAFOR Delegation Visit to Tegnareid TVET School College (25 January 2023)

Led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, a CAFOR delegation visited the Tegnareid Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) School College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The delegation engaged with college officials, emphasizing the institution's 80-year progress, strategic objectives, good infrastructure, and the necessity for digitalization in education. The visit encompassed departments like General Metal, Electronic Workshop, Construction, ICT, Garment, Bio-medical, and Woodwork. The potential for collaboration with CAFOR was also discussed.



Figure 8: CAFOR Delegation Visit to Tegnareid TVET College

Working Session 20 - CAFOR Roundtable on Transforming Education in Africa with Digitalization

20.1 CAFOR's Roundtable Conference on February 15 2023, aimed to support the African Union's Education, Science, and Technology initiatives. Despite logistical challenges that led to a change in venue, the Roundtable gathered various stakeholders, policymakers, and experts to address the education-financing gap in Africa, particularly in the context of COVID-19 recovery.

20.2 The main achievements of the Roundtable include:

- **Focus on Education Transformation:** The Roundtable emphasized innovative practices in education, particularly on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), to enhance youth advancement and employment opportunities in Africa.
- **Strategic Projects:** The conference centered around four major projects – the Digital Community Platform, African Digital Schools Initiative, African Digital Books Library, and Innovative Skills for Africa's Youths. These projects aimed to create measurable impact, provide value for rural areas, and support the urgency for change in African education post-COVID-19.
- **Alignment with AU Initiatives:** The Roundtable responded directly to the African Union's call for support in implementing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) and Education-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Enhanced Partnerships and Resource Mobilization:** CAFOR pledged to enhance partnerships and mobilize resources for its program, which consists of ten projects, over the next four years. It also committed to designing a long-lasting financing management plan in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners.
- **Database of Partners:** CAFOR is actively working on a database of prospective technical and financial partners to support collaborative efforts with the African Union Commission, seeking confirmation of pledges and support from African leadership and commitments from technical and financial partners.
- **Post-Roundtable Activities:** CAFOR plans to engage in post-Roundtable activities, including reviewing the work plan of the African Union's ESTI Department and focusing on the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security with significant components on education, training, and skills development for Africa's youth.



Figure 9: CAFOR's Roundtable Conference on Transforming Education in Africa through Digitalization

Overall, the Roundtable served as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and strategic planning to address challenges and drive positive change in education across the African continent.

Working Session 21- Meeting between CAFOR and UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa (14 September 2023)

20.1 In a meeting between the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR) and the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa, led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, the Executive Director of CAFOR, and Dr. Matthias Zana Naab, the Director of UNDP Regional Service Center, several key achievements were highlighted

20.2 Historical Overview and Collaboration:

Dr. Cole provided a historical overview of CAFOR, emphasizing its role in implementing African Union policies and instruments, including Agenda 2063, CESA16-25, STISA, TVET, and SDGs. The meeting showcased the collaboration between CAFOR and the African Union Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security.

20.3 Expansion Efforts:

CAFOR is undergoing expansion efforts with plans to establish regional offices in five African regions and offices in Europe, the Central African region, and the United States. These expansions aim to address peace and conflict prevention education.

20.4 Initiatives and Partnerships:

CAFOR has developed initiatives in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills, focusing on enhancing education quality and providing non-formal TVET. Partnerships with the European Business University, the University of Pécs in Hungary, and potential collaboration with the University of Edinburgh in Scotland were highlighted.

20.5 UNDP Regional Service Center Overview:

Dr. Matthias Zana expressed gratitude for the visit and outlined the role of the UNDP Regional Service Center as part of a global network of five centers. The center serves as a principal contact point for UNDP with regional entities and supports 46 country offices in sub-Saharan Africa, emphasizing employment opportunities for young people and leadership training, focusing on empowering women.

20.6 Collaboration Goals:

Dr. Matthias expressed eagerness for collaboration with CAFOR through strategic linkage engagement and synergy with UNDP country offices, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIDO, and FAO. The collaboration aims to facilitate technical discussions and consolidate efforts across UN agencies and partners to revolutionize African education.

20.7 Future Dialogue and Exchange:

Dr. Matthias conveyed his willingness to organize a future meeting to dialogue with United Nations agencies, exchange perspectives, and consolidate efforts toward enhancing and revolutionizing education in Africa.

The meeting underscored the historical significance of CAFOR, its expansion plans, ongoing initiatives, and the potential for collaborative efforts with the UNDP Regional Service Center and other UN agencies to advance education and development in Africa.

Working Session 22 - Meeting between CAFOR and Dr. Laila O. Gad, UNICEF Representative to the African Union (8 September and 30 November 2023)

In the meeting between CAFOR and Dr. Laila O. Gad, the UNICEF Representative to the African Union, several key achievements and collaborative efforts were highlighted. CAFOR, led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, presented itself as a nonprofit organization actively contributing to education and development in Africa. The organization has been actively involved in aligning global and continental policy agendas, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Continental Strategy (TVET).

Dr. Cole emphasized CAFOR's collaboration with UNICEF, particularly in areas such as Children without Parental Care (CWPC), Education for Peace and Conflict Prevention, and Education in Emergencies. Additionally, CAFOR has been engaged in various projects related to TVET, digitalization, and partnerships with organizations such as ATUPA, the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills, the European Business University, PEC's University, and the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa.

Dr. Laila shared insights from a UNICEF Executive Board session focusing on education and climate change. The meeting discussed policy documents, digital learning, TVET, and the Committee on Welfare and Rights of Children. UNICEF intended to work closely with the African Union's ESTI Department during the AU Year of Education 2024, focusing on ending learning poverty and implementing the DOTSS Framework. They also discussed the 25th anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2024.

A future collaboration between UNICEF and CAFOR was agreed upon, specifically in advocating for the campaign to end learning poverty and securing funding. Additionally, discussions were held about organizing a side event during the 37th African Union Heads of States and Government Summit, emphasizing the importance of an advocacy and communication strategy for popularizing the AU Year of Education. Dr. Laila requested CAFOR's support in providing ECOSOCC connections to ensure African citizens' voices are heard. The meeting concluded with plans to meet again to discuss the campaign to end learning poverty and its funding further.

Overall, these working sessions with partners have enhanced collaboration, addressed challenges, and laid the groundwork for impactful projects, aligning with CAFOR's commitment to education and development in Africa.

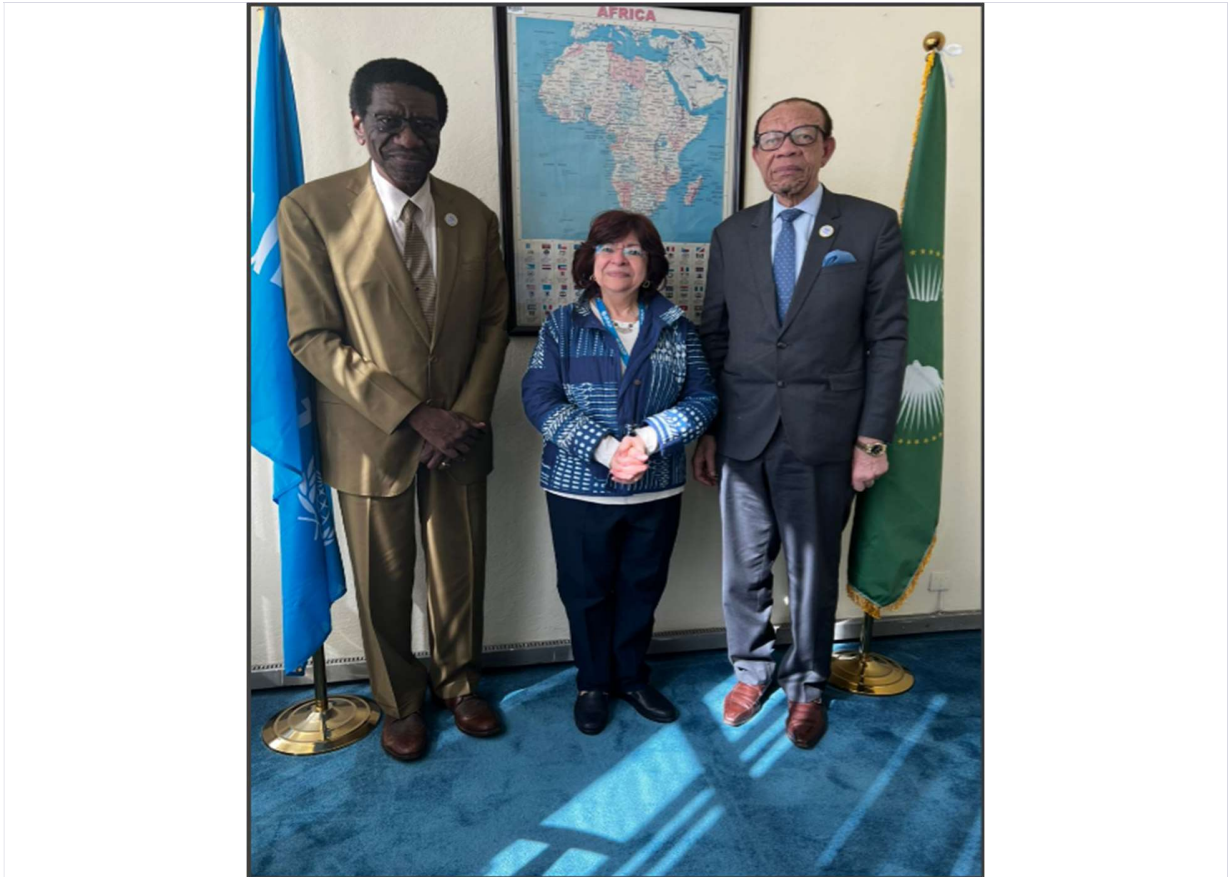


Figure 10: Meeting between CAFOR and UNICEF Representative to the African Union

Chapter 6 - Meetings with Ambassadors and Diplomatic Missions

CAFOR engaged in various working sessions with ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions in Ethiopia during the triennial period from 2021 to 2023. These meetings aimed to enhance partnerships, seek financial support, and promote collaboration in education and development initiatives. These sessions were strategically planned to foster cooperation, discuss key initiatives, and seek support for CAFOR's projects in alignment with the African Union's educational goals. The Outcome of these sessions contributed to CAFOR's strategic objectives and raised awareness of its vision and mission.

1.1 CAFOR Goodwill Ambassador Appointment Date: 16th November 2021

Participants: Mr. Serawit Fikere, Mr. Debebe Fikadu, Mr. Shewa, CAFOR Secretariat Staff led by Dr. Lawalley Cole

1.2 Purpose:

- Mr. Serawit Fikere appointed as CAFOR Goodwill Ambassador to mobilize resources for global education projects.

1.3 Outcome:

- Goodwill Ambassador Advisory Support outlined for awareness and fundraising. Inauguration ceremony held on 2nd December 2021.



Figure 11: Signing Ceremony with Mr. Serawit Fikere, Goodwill Ambassador

2.0 CAFOR-German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) Meeting

- **Date:** 19th November 2021
- **Participants:** GIZ representatives Jean Paul Brice Affana, Mr. Aron Senay, CAFOR Secretariat Staff led by Dr. Lawalley Cole

2.1 Purpose:

- Enhance partnership between CAFOR and GIZ, seek financial support for CAFOR projects.

2.2 Outcome:

- GIZ commits to supporting Pan African University, calls for collaboration with Skills Initiative for Africa.

3.0 Audience with Turkey Ambassador

- **Date:** 3rd August 2022

Participants: CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Turkey Ambassador Yaprak Alp, Ms. Funda Tara Erginay

3.1 Purpose: Discuss the Joint Action Plan from the Third Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit.

3.2 Outcome: Turkey expresses willingness to support CAFOR's projects, requests formal sponsorship requests.



Figure 12: CAFOR delegation audience with Turkey Ambassador 3rd August 2022

4.0 Audience with Belgian Ambassador

- **Date:** 9th August 2022
- **Participants:** CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ambassador Stefaan Thijs

4.1 Purpose:

- Revive and strengthen relations, explore collaboration in education matters.

4.2 Outcome:

- Belgium Ambassador expresses support for linking CAFOR with potential partners in Belgium.



Figure 13: CAFOR delegation audience with Belgian Ambassador

5.0 Audience with EU Delegation to AU

- **Date:** 5th December 2022
- **Participants:** CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, H.E Riccardo Mosca, Ms. Maria Luisa Troncoso

5.1 Purpose:

- Build a lasting working relationship, discuss the Concept for the forthcoming Roundtable in February 2023.

5.2 Outcome:

- EU expresses interest in collaboration, shares information about its initiatives.

6.0 Meeting with IOM Director

- **Date:** 16th March 2023
- **Participants:** CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Mariama Mohamed Cisse

6.1 Purpose: Discuss migration issues and collaboration on skills development programs.

6.2 Outcome: Agreement to work closely on skills development and community practices.



Figure 14: CAFOR delegation meeting with IOM Director

7.0 Audience with Francophonie Representative

- **Date:** 24th March 2023
- **Participants:** CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Dr. Tsedey Shume, Ms. Nefertiti Mushiya Tshibanda

7.1 Purpose: Present CAFOR's projects and explore collaboration with La Francophonie.

7.2 Outcome: Agreement to deepen areas of collaboration, share thematic information.



Figure 15: CAFOR delegation meeting with Francophonie

8.0 Audience with Ireland Ambassador

- **Date:** 11th April 2023
- **Participants:** CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Ambassador Nicola Brennan, Ms. Deirdre Toomey

8.1 Purpose: Introduce CAFOR and explore partnership opportunities with Ireland.

8.2 Outcome: Ireland expresses interest in working with CAFOR, emphasizing areas of cooperation.



Figure 16: CAFOR delegation meeting with Ireland Ambassador

9.0 Audience with Iran Ambassador

- **Date:** 4th September 2023
- **Participants:** CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Dr. Tsedey Shume, Ambassador Samad Ali Lakizadeh, Mr. Seyed. Mohammad Ali Shamsipou

9.1 Purpose: Present CAFOR, seek cooperation in science, technology, and education.

9.2 Outcome: Iran expresses interest, asks questions about CAFOR's structure, financial system, and working relations.

10.0 Audience with H.E. Berk Baran, Ambassador of Turkey to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union

Date: September 7th, 2023

Participants: CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, accompanied by Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke

10.1 Purpose and Outcome:

- Overview of CAFOR's role as a pan-African non-profit supporting African Union policies.
- Emphasis on ongoing projects aligned with the Africa-Turkey Joint Action Plan.
- Discussion on CAFOR's regional offices and collaborations with partners like UNESCO, UNICEF, AAU, and ATUPA.
- Ambassador Berk Baran expressed Turkey's commitment to education, peace, security, and support for CAFOR's proposed projects.



Figure 17: CAFOR delegation meeting with Turkey Ambassador

11.0 Audience with H.E. Pietro Mona, Switzerland Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the African Union

Date: September 11th, 2023

Participants: CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, accompanied by Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke and Dr. Tsedey Shume

11.1 Purpose and Outcome:

- Presentation of CAFOR's historical trajectory and endorsement by the African Union.
- Overview of CAFOR's engagement in education, science, and technology aligned with AU strategies.
- Discussion on potential collaborations with Switzerland in various areas, including TVET programs.
- Ambassador Pietro Mona highlighted Swiss initiatives in migration, youth mobility, and contributions to health initiatives in Africa.

12.0 Audience with H.E. Victor M. Trevno, Mexico Permanent Representative to the African Union

Date: November 16th, 2023

Participants: CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, accompanied by Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke and Ms. Maria Del Rocio Rodriguez Echeverria

12.1 Purpose and Outcome:

- Presentation of CAFOR's preparations for the Africa Year of Education and its objectives.
- Exploration of potential partnerships with Mexico in science, technology, and innovation.
- Ambassador Trevno expressed Mexico's interest in strengthening partnerships, particularly in education and TVET.
- Agreement to explore tangible projects to streamline collaboration between CAFOR and Mexico.



Figure 18: CAFOR delegation meeting with Mexico Ambassador

Audience with H.E. Sinikka Antila, Finland Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the African Union

Date: November 23rd, 2023

Participants: CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, accompanied by Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke

12.1 Purpose and Outcome:

- Presentation of CAFOR as a non-profit supporting AU policy, focusing on media support in education.
- Discuss inclusive and equal education opportunities, knowledge-sharing, and building lasting partnerships.
- Ambassador Antila highlighted Finland's education-related cooperation in Africa, particularly through Finn Church Aid.
- Commitment to working together and exploring joint projects in line with CAFOR's flagship initiatives.

13. Overall Impact:

- These diplomatic engagements facilitated a deeper understanding of CAFOR's mission and objectives.
- Acknowledgment and support from diplomatic missions underscored the importance of CAFOR's initiatives in education, technology, and innovation.
- The commitment to exploring collaborations and tangible projects enhances CAFOR's potential impact and reach in Africa.
- Achievements:
- Strengthened partnerships with countries committed to supporting education and development in Africa.
- Increased visibility and recognition for CAFOR's role in advocating for inclusive education.
- Potential funding opportunities and collaborative projects to advance CAFOR's objectives

14. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the meetings held by CAFOR with the Ambassadors and heads of Diplomatic Missions in Ethiopia during the triennial period 2021-2023 have been instrumental in achieving CAFOR's objectives. These meetings have strengthened existing partnerships and paved the way for new collaborations, innovation, and technology integration into African education and development initiatives.

Through these sessions, CAFOR was able to establish valuable connections, exchange ideas and knowledge, and forge partnerships that are mutually beneficial to both CAFOR and the African Union. CAFOR's networking, partnerships, and resource mobilization efforts were enriched through engagement with ambassadors and diplomatic missions, enabling CAFOR to garner financial support, technical expertise, and increased visibility.

By dedicating itself to building meaningful partnerships and leveraging diplomatic relations, CAFOR has demonstrated its commitment to advancing education in Africa. The organization's strategic projects were well received, and these meetings have played a vital role in securing support and fostering collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Moving forward, the collaboration between CAFOR and diplomatic missions and international organizations is poised to advance education and development initiatives across the continent. The success of CAFOR's programs and initiatives can be attributed to these fruitful interactions, and the organization remains optimistic about the future as it continues to deepen existing partnerships, seek new collaborations, and raise awareness about its mission and objectives. Ultimately, these consultations underscore CAFOR's dedication and effectiveness in utilizing diplomatic engagements to advance African education, as they offered an opportunity to share ideas, exchange knowledge, and establish partnerships that could benefit CAFOR and the African Union's education policies and initiatives.

Chapter 7 - Meetings with Senior Government Officials

1. Meeting with H.E Dr. Teshale Berecha, the Ethiopian State Minister for Labour and Skills (31st March 2023)

On March 31, 2023, a CAFOR Delegation, including Executive Director Dr. Lawalley Cole, Senior Advisor Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, and Special Assistant Dr. Tsedey Shume, held discussions with His Excellency Dr. Teshale Berecha, the State Minister for Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) at the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills. Other attendees included Dr. Habtom Gebre Egziabher, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at the Ethiopian Technical University, and Ms. Kalkidan Tadesse, International Relations Coordinator for the Ministry of Labour and Skills.

Dr. Lawalley Cole presented an overview of CAFOR's mission, emphasizing its role in developing a new learning ecosystem to transform education in Africa, aligning with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) and the Sustainable Development Goals related to education. A remote presentation by Mr. Brian Baptista from London showcased CAFOR's digital TVET Library and learning platform. This platform was presented as an innovative solution to address limited access to education, providing practical training for skills development and addressing unemployment challenges.

H.E Dr. Teshale Berecha shared insights into the Ethiopian government's National Plan of Action for Job Creation (NPAJC) 2020-2025, aiming to create 14 million jobs by 2025. While the national plan focused on various sectors, CAFOR's pilot project centered on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an enabler for job creation in the services sector, particularly in ICT-focused agriculture, industry, and tourism.

The key outcome of the session was a mutual agreement between the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills and CAFOR to collaborate closely on the pilot project. The focus is on enhancing access to non-formal TVET to accelerate job creation, and both parties committed to formalizing this collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is expected to outline specific areas of cooperation, project design, and training programs for technical capacity building and skills development.



Figure 19: CAFOR delegation meeting with state minister of Ministry of Labor and Skill

2. Meeting with Ethiopian Education Minister, Prof. Berhanu Nega (26th April 2023)

On the 26 of April 2023, Dr. Lawalley Cole, accompanied by the CAFOR delegation including Senior Advisor Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Technical Advisor and Representative to Europe Mr. Brian Baptista, and Indigenous Languages Expert Mr. Harpreet Banger, met with His Excellency Ethiopian Minister of Education, Prof. Berhanu Nega. Mr. Solomon Shiferaw, Advisor to the Minister, also attended the meeting.

Dr. Lawalley Cole provided a comprehensive overview of CAFOR, from its initiation to the signing and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union. He highlighted CAFOR's collaboration with the African Union's Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation and the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security. The discussion highlighted CAFOR's commitment to supporting education and youth skills development, especially in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), in

collaboration with key partners such as the MasterCard Foundation, the World Bank, and the Education Above All Al Fakhoora Foundation.

The meeting explored potential areas of cooperation between CAFOR and the Ethiopian Ministry of Education. CAFOR expressed its intention to open representation offices in various regions, including Europe and the United States, and engage the African Diaspora in supporting education on the continent.

Mr. Brian Baptista presented the Africa Digital Library project, emphasizing its role in converting learning materials into sustainable digital formats for TVET. The Indigenous Languages Expert, Mr. Harpreet Banger, emphasized the importance of language learning technology to reach young people effectively.

Prof. Berhanu Nega appreciated CAFOR's strategic initiatives in supporting education in Africa. He provided an in-depth analysis of Ethiopia's education state, highlighting challenges and emphasizing the government's commitment to fostering a robust education system. Prof. Berhanu expressed concerns about international partners' intrusion and stressed the importance of projects aligning with national considerations. The Education Minister then welcomed the collaboration with CAFOR, expressing willingness to work closely, and requested the submission of project concepts for further consideration by his ministry.

The achievements of CAFOR and its representatives, Dr. Lawalley Cole and his team, in discussions with H.E Dr. Tesfaye Gemechu (State Minister for Labour and Skills) and H.E Professor Berhanu Nega (Minister of Education) are evident in the successful collaboration and agreements reached during the meetings.

3. Meeting Summary with H.E Dr. Teshale Berecha (State Minister for Labour and Skills):

Alignment with National Plan of Action for Job Creation: CAFOR's vision of developing a new ecosystem of learning to transform education in Africa aligns with the Ethiopian government's National Plan of Action for Job Creation (NPAJC), which aims to create 14 million jobs by 2025.

- **Focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** While the government's plan emphasizes high-yield sectors, CAFOR's pilot project highlights the role of ICT in creating job opportunities, particularly in the services sector.
- **Collaboration on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET):** Both parties agreed to collaborate closely on the pilot project, specifically focusing on improving access to non-formal TVET to accelerate job creation.
- **Benefits:** The collaboration allows CAFOR to align its efforts with the government's job creation initiatives, tapping into the resources and expertise of the Ministry of Labour and Skills. The potential impact is strengthened access to quality education and skills training

for young Africans, contributing to the goals of both CAFOR and the Ethiopian government.

4. Meeting Summary with H.E Professor Berhanu Nega (Minister of Education):

- **Overview of CAFOR's Initiatives:** Dr. Lawalley Cole provided an overview of CAFOR's collaboration with the African Union and its projects supporting education and youth skills development across Africa.
- **Presentation of Flagship Project - Africa Digital Library:** CAFOR presented the Africa Digital Library, emphasizing converting learning materials into sustainable digital formats for TVET.
- **Commitment to Collaboration:** Professor Berhanu Nega appreciated CAFOR's initiatives, highlighting his commitment to fostering good governance, quality education, and innovation. The Ministry of Education expressed willingness to collaborate closely with CAFOR.
- **Concerns and Emphasis on National Considerations:** Professor Berhanu expressed concerns about international partners disregarding national considerations. He emphasized the importance of considering country-specific facts rather than relying solely on research data.
- **Benefits:** The meeting allowed CAFOR to partner with the Ministry of Education, aligning its projects with the government's vision for education in Ethiopia. The collaboration can potentially enhance education and youth skills development in Ethiopia, addressing the challenges identified by the Ministry of Education.

In both instances, the agreements to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) demonstrate a commitment to formalize the collaboration, outlining specific areas of cooperation. These collaborations benefit CAFOR and the respective ministries by leveraging each other's strengths to address shared educational goals, skills development, and job creation. Overall, the working sessions allowed CAFOR to partner with the Ethiopian Ministries and align its projects with the government's vision for education in Ethiopia. This collaboration can potentially enhance education and youth skills development in Ethiopia, benefiting both CAFOR and the two Ministries in their respective endeavors.

Chapter 8 - Audiences with African Union Commissioners

1. Meeting with H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation

On March 23, 2022, the CAFOR Secretariat Delegation, led by Executive Director Dr. Lawalley Cole, met with H.E Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, recently elected Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation. Dr. Cole congratulated Prof. Belhocine on his election and provided an overview of CAFOR's vision, mission, and progress with the African Union under the MoU. Despite pandemic disruptions, Dr. Cole emphasized the need for a collaborative roundtable with the ESTI Department to support African innovative education systems. Commissioner Belhocine acknowledged the challenges posed by rising oil prices and the war in Ukraine, expressing interest in CAFOR's achievements and assuring continued support for advancing education, science, technology, and innovation in Africa.



Figure 20: CAFOR delegation audience with ESTI's commissioner

2. Second meeting with H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine for CAFOR Roundtable

On July 5, 2022, the CAFOR Delegation, including Dr. Lawalley Cole and Senior Advisor Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, held a second meeting with Commissioner Belhocine. The purpose was to discuss plans for a resource mobilization roundtable, seeking his involvement as Chief Guest of Honour. The roundtable aimed to strengthen partnerships and reimagine education, focusing on digital technology, teacher and student digital skills, eLearning, TVET, and sustainable financial mechanisms. Commissioner Belhocine highlighted upcoming activities and hoped for Africa-focused efforts in the UN's education initiatives. Dr. Cole expressed CAFOR's active role in the Special Technical Committee and preparation for the Declaration on Transforming Education, proposing a postponed roundtable after September 2022 to accommodate the Commissioner's schedule.

3. Meeting with African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security

On August 5, 2022, Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke met with H.E. Ambassador Adeoye Bankole, the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace Security. The meeting acknowledged the collaboration between CAFOR and the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security. Dr. Cole expressed satisfaction with the ongoing efforts and announced a strong CAFOR delegation's participation in a validation workshop in Cote D'Ivoire, organized by the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department. The collaboration aligned with the AU's strategic pillars, focusing on early warning systems, conflict prevention, mediation, counterterrorism, democracy, good governance, and partnerships for human security. H.E. Ambassador Bankole welcomed CAFOR's involvement, inviting participation in the Post-Conflict, Reconstruction, and Development (PCRD) week and the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts.



Figure 21: CAFOR delegation meeting with PAPS commissioner

4. Meeting Benefits with H.E Prof. Mohammed Belhocine (Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation):

4.1 Achievements:

- **Establishment of collaboration:** The CAFOR Secretariat Delegation established collaboration with Commissioner Belhocine, recognizing the importance of working together.
- **Recognition of challenges:** Commissioner Belhocine acknowledged the challenges faced by the Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) Department and expressed interest in addressing them.

- **Interest in collaboration:** Commissioner Belhocine expressed interest in working with CAFOR and recognized the urgency of supporting Africa's future through education, science, technology, and innovation.
- Benefits:
- **Potential for a roundtable:** Dr. Lawalley Cole emphasized the need for collaboration on organizing a roundtable on innovative education systems in Africa, indicating potential future initiatives.

5. Second meeting with H.E Prof. Mohammed Belhocine to solicit him as Chief Guest of Honour:

5.1 Achievements:

- **Discussion of Roundtable plans:** The meeting discussed plans for a resource mobilization Roundtable focusing on innovative educational practices, digital technology, and financial mechanisms to support CAFOR's initiatives.
- **Commissioner Belhocine insights:** Commissioner Belhocine shared information on upcoming activities and expressed hope for 2023 to be the year of the African Union Theme on Education.
- **CAFOR's active role:** Dr. Cole highlighted CAFOR's active role in the Fourth Specialized Technical Committee n Education, Science and Technology and proposed updates for the pledging roundtable conference.

5.2 Benefits:

Commissioner as Chief Guest: The meeting sought Commissioner Belhocine's participation as the Chief Guest of Honour for the Roundtable, indicating support and endorsement for CAFOR's initiatives.

6. Audience with H.E Ambassador Adeoye Bankole (Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security):

6.1 Achievements:

- **Collaboration satisfaction:** Dr. Cole expressed satisfaction with the existing collaboration between CAFOR and the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security.
- **Highlighting CAFOR's willingness:** CAFOR was willing to forge a strategic partnership to integrate various AU policies for Africa's development.

- **Discussion of priority plans:** H.E Ambassador Bankole shared the priority plans of his department, emphasizing areas like conflict prevention, mediation, and strengthening democracy and good governance.

6.2 Benefits:

- **Invitation to events:** H.E Ambassador Bankole invited CAFOR to participate in the Post-Conflict, Reconstruction, and Development (PCRD) week and the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts, providing opportunities for collaboration and engagement.
- These meetings facilitated collaboration, recognizing challenges, and exploring potential partnerships, contributing to advancing education, science, technology, innovation, and peace and security in Africa.

Chapter 9 - Commemoration and Celebrations of Special Events

1. *African Union Celebration of International Day of Education Webinar*

On January 24, 2021, CAFOR joined the African Union Commission to mark the Third International Day of Education. The webinar, organized by the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, celebrated the resilience of students, teachers, and families, as well as innovations in digital and distance learning to ensure that education continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The event called for the restoration of education as a priority, the provision of teacher training and the use of blended learning methods.

Date: January 24, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, African Union Commission, UNICEF

1.1 Purpose: Tribute to resilience amid COVID-19, emphasizing global partnerships for education fund, innovations in learning, and the urgent need to revitalize education.

1.2 Outcome: Commitments to protect education, support recovery measures, and promote inclusive and quality education.

2. *Kick-Off: UK – Norway Sustainable Finance Action Platform*

Date: February 2, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, British Embassy, United Nations Global Compact

2.1 Purpose: Contribute to COP26 campaign, shape sustainable finance policy, and foster public-private partnerships.

2.2 Outcome: CAFOR noted best practices and principles for sustainable finance, gaining insights into global initiatives.

3. *Commemoration of the Sixth African Day of School Feeding*

On the 1st of March 2021, CAFOR, represented by Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, and Ms. Hemalatha Vanam, participated in the 6th African Day of School Feeding, which was celebrated under the theme "- Harnessing Africa's Traditional Knowledge and Food to support Home-Grown Feeding Programmes and Systems during COVID-19 and Beyond." The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of school feeding, particularly the homegrown feeding program, and urged Member States and development partners to take action.

Date: March 1, 2021

Participants: CAFOR Secretariat, African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO

Purpose: Advance the school feeding agenda, emphasize home-grown feeding, and seek commitments to restore and prioritize school feeding.

Outcome: Call for action, gratitude expressed to Dubai Cares for support, and formulation of actions for Global Coalition on Food Feeding.

4. *Commemoration of the 7th Africa Day of School Feeding (February 28 to March 1, 2022)*

In February 2022, CAFOR actively participated in the commemoration of the Seventh Africa Day of School Feeding. Dr. Lawalley Cole, the Executive Director of CAFOR, and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Senior Advisor, attended the event, which focused on the theme "Nutrition and human capital development in Africa through increased investment in Home-grown School Feeding." The commemoration aligned with Agenda 2063, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25), and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). It served as a platform to reinforce political will for school feeding and promote the adoption of pro-school feeding policies and programs. The event also coincided with the launch of AUDA-NEPAD School feeding guidelines, emphasizing the role of school feeding in promoting agricultural and rural development and improving access to education. Dubai Cares pledged 4 million dollars to support the Home-Grown School Feeding Agenda in partnership with the World Food Program, further highlighting the importance of investing in school feeding programs.

4.1 Purpose and Outcome:

The event focused on nutrition and human capital development through increased investment in home-grown school feeding. The commemoration reinforced political will, launched AUDA-NEPAD School feeding guidelines, and called for support from Member States and partners.

4.2 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Nutrition and Human Capital Development
- Home-Grown School Feeding
- AUDA-NEPAD School Feeding Guidelines
- Political Support for School Feeding
- Investment in Education and Agriculture

4.3 Achievements:

- Reinforcement of Political Will
- Launch of AUDA-NEPAD Guidelines

- Support for Home-Grown School Feeding

5. *Celebration of World Teachers Day 2021*

CAFOR, in collaboration with the African Union, marked World Teacher Day with a focus on revitalizing the teaching profession during the Covid-19 pandemic. The celebration focused on the theme "Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future" and the sub-theme "Revitalizing the Teaching Profession to Ensure Quality and Relevance Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic." A panel discussion addressed policy-level support, teacher skills development, online assessment, and parental involvement. CAFOR's involvement emphasized media and technology in education.

Date: October 5, 2021

Participants: CAFOR Secretariat, UNESCO-IICBA, Education International, African Union Commission, Education International, Policy Makers, Practicing Teachers

5.1 Purpose: Recognize teachers' role in education recovery post-COVID-19 and discuss ongoing initiatives for teacher professional development.

5.2 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Revitalizing Teaching Amidst Covid-19
- Policy-Level Support
- Teacher Skills in Educational Technologies
- Online Learning Assessment
- Parental Involvement in Teacher Development

5.3 Outcome: Emphasis on reimagining education, revitalizing the teacher profession, and fostering discussions on teacher development.

Achievements:

- Emphasis on Media and Technology in Education
- Collaboration on Teacher Development
- Advocacy for Quality Education

6. *World Day of Social Justice: A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy*

Dr. Lawalley Cole presented CAFOR's initiatives, including the Digital Schools Initiative and the African Digital Library, emphasizing the organization's commitment to promoting social justice through education projects. The virtual meeting format facilitated transparent communication and showcased CAFOR's dedication to fostering equitable opportunities.

Emphasizing initiatives on Quality Education and Innovative Skills for Youth Development, Dr. Cole highlighted strides in bridging educational gaps, promoting gender equality, and enhancing educational infrastructure. CAFOR's collaboration with governments and stakeholders seeks to create a just and equitable education system. Virtual meetings were underscored for their inclusiveness, enabling global participation, transparency, and accountability, thereby strengthening CAFOR's impact.

Date: February 20, 2021

Participants: CAFOR Executive Director- Dr. Lawalley Cole, UNICEF, Stakeholders, Experts, Scholars, Policymakers

6.1 Focus: Commemorate World Day of Social Justice with a focus on issues affecting children without parental care in the digital economy.

Call for upholding social justice, particularly for vulnerable children, and addressing online and offline dangers.

6.2 Purpose and Outcome:

Theme: A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy.

Addressed digital economy's impact on the world of work and existing inequalities.

6.3 Achievements:

- Highlighted CAFOR's projects promoting social justice, emphasized the role of technology in bridging gaps.
- Enhanced Impact through Virtual Platforms
- Broadened Stakeholder Engagement
- Strengthened Transparency and Accountability

6.4 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Quality Education in Africa
- Gender Equality in Education
- Innovative Skills for Youth Development
- Collaboration with Governments and Stakeholders
- Virtual Platforms for Inclusive Discussions
- Transparency and Accountability in Achievements

7. *UNCRC Day of General Discussions*

Date: April 8, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, UNCRC, various stakeholders

7.1 Purpose: Address the needs of children without parental care, promote mutual accountability, and gather submissions on Convention implementation.

7.2 Outcome: Emphasis on collaboration, support structures, and advocacy for children without parental care.

8. *Commemoration of International Day of Families*

Date: May 15, 2021

Participants: CAFOR Team, UNICEF, AUC

CAFOR co-organized a webinar on "Family System Strengthening in an Era of Technologies" in collaboration with the African Union Department of Humanitarian, Health, and Social Affairs and UNICEF. Dr. Lawalley Cole highlighted the importance of nurturing families to achieve Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, addressing stressors such as urbanization, poverty, conflict, and technology.

8.1 Purpose and Outcome:

- Webinar on Family system strengthening in an era of technologies.
- Addressed stresses on traditional families from urbanization, poverty, and technology.

8.2 Achievements: Acknowledgment of family challenges and their impact on societal strength.

8.3 Purpose: Raise awareness on family-related issues, advocate for policy instruments, and discuss the role of technology in family life.

8.4 Outcome: Emphasis on legislation strengthening, digitalization laws, and integration of positive parental programs.

9. *UNCRC Day of General Discussion 2021*

Date: July 8, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, UNCRC, government representatives, civil society, children, and youth

9.1 Purpose: Facilitate meaningful participation, share experiences of alternative care, and encourage submissions on CRC implementation.

9.2 Outcome: Public consultation, inclusion of diverse perspectives, and submissions on alternative care challenges.

10. UNICEF- UN Days of General Discussion

10.1 On April 8, 2021, CAFOR took part in the Day of General Discussions organized by the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The meeting focused on addressing the needs of children without parental care and promoting mutual accountability within the system.

10.2 From 16th – 17th September 2021, CAFOR participated in the UN Day of General Discussions in relation to Access to Justice and Accountability for Children and Young People in Alternative Care, their families, and adults who grew up in care. The discussions emphasized that the Digital technology has changed children's lives and livelihoods, making them more vulnerable to online and offline dangers.

Date: September 16-17, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, UNICEF, global participants

10.3 Purpose: Discuss access to justice and accountability for children and young people in alternative care.

10.4 Outcome: Acknowledgment of the committee's role, promoting Africa's vision of alternative care, and calls for international support.

11. Africa Day Celebration

Date: May 25, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, African Union Commission

11.1 Purpose: Celebrate the AU Year of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage, emphasizing the role of cultural identity in achieving Agenda 2063.

11.2 Outcome: Prioritization of activities related to arts, culture, health, African languages, history, and heritage.

12. *The Best Invest Supporting Teachers in COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond- Teacher Task Force Webinar*

On July 21, 2021, CAFOR attended the Best Invest Supporting Teachers in COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond- Teacher Task Force Webinar, organized by UNESCO to address the critical need for sustained international financing in investing in teachers in the aftermath of the persistent Covid-19 crisis, particularly in training them for blended learning.

Date: July 21, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, UNESCO, global stakeholders

12.1 Purpose: Discuss financing global partnerships for education and highlight the critical need for sustained investment in teachers post-COVID-19.

12.2 Outcome: Calls for increased domestic budgets to support quality learning, addressing teacher motivation, safety, and well-being.

13. *Education International's Webinar on The Future of the Teaching Profession in Africa*

On September 30, 2021, CAFOR joined the Education International's webinar, jointly organized by the African Union Commission, UNESCO-IICBA, and International Labour Organization (ILO), focusing on the future of the Teaching Profession in Africa. The event discussed the quality of teaching and the importance of teacher working conditions, as well as policy reforms and curriculum changes, to improve social dialogue between teachers and government authorities for national education governance.

Date: September 30, 2021

Participants: CAFOR, African Union Commission, UNESCO-IICBA, Education International, ILO

13.1 Purpose: Discuss the future of the teaching profession in Africa, emphasizing effective policies and social dialogue.

13.2 Outcome: Recognition of the crucial role of teacher working conditions, the need for effective policies, and the importance of social dialogue in education governance.

14. *Fifteenth General Conference - Association of African Universities (AAU) General Conference 2021*

Date: 5-8 July 2021

Theme: The Future of African Higher Education

14.1 Key Topics: Membership expansion, constitution amendments, ICT in education, Erasmus+2021-227 priorities.

14.2 Collaboration Areas: Assurance and Accreditation Systems, Science and Math Curricula, mobility promotion.

Participants: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam.

14.3 Achievements: Networking with 400 AAU Member Vice Chancellors, access to current initiatives, and opportunities for African Higher Education stakeholders.

14.4 Summary:

CAFOR actively participated in the AAU General Conference, themed "The Future of African Higher Education." Dr. Lawalley Cole, CAFOR's Executive Director, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Senior Advisor, and Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam, Regional Programme Officer, engaged with 5,000 participants globally. The event facilitated networking with 400 AAU Member Vice Chancellors and showcased emerging projects for African Higher Education. Notably, 11 new applications were accepted as Full Members, and key amendments in the AAU's Constitution were highlighted. CAFOR leveraged this platform to gain firsthand information, building a network and exploring opportunities for African Higher Education stakeholders.

15. *Education Cannot Wait – Meeting Education Needs of Displaced Children and Young People*

Date: 27 July 2021

Theme: The Education Needs of Displaced Children and Young People.

Key Topics: Challenges in education for displaced youth, role of international community, promising practices.

Participants: Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam.

15.1 Achievements: Insight into challenges faced by displaced children, highlighting promising practices, and potential areas for collaboration.

15.2 Summary:

CAFOR, represented by Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke and Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam, participated in the side event of the Global Education Summit, focusing on displaced children's education needs. The session addressed challenges and promising practices to overcome barriers facing children affected by conflicts and crises. The event emphasized the role of the international

community in supporting displaced children, aligning with CAFOR's mission to address education challenges in crisis-affected regions.

16. *Virtual Global Education Summit*

Participants: Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam.

CAFOR's Secretariat attended the Virtual Global Education Summit, co-hosted by H.E Uhuru Kenyatta and H.E Boris Johnson. Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, and Ms. Hemalatha Vanam participated, contributing to raising a record US\$ 4 Billion for the Global Partnership for Education. CAFOR advocated for increased domestic budgets for education financing and highlighted the role of education in poverty alleviation, climate change, and health Outcome.

Date: 28-29 July 2021

Purpose and Outcome:

- Raised US\$ 4 Billion for Global Partnership for Education.
- Co-hosted by H.E Uhuru Kenyatta and H.E Boris Johnson.
- Emphasized education's role in poverty reduction, climate change, and health improvement.

Achievements: Platform for global collaboration, contributed to education financing, increased visibility.

17. *Regional Innovation Forum 2021-ITU- Building Partnerships to Mainstream Entrepreneurship & Innovation*

Date: 28 October 2021

Participant: Dr. Lawalley Cole.

Theme: Mainstream Entrepreneurship-Driven Innovation and Competitive Digital Ecosystems.

- Focus on regional capacity building, successful projects, and digital innovation.

17.1 Purpose and Outcome:

- Keynote by Dr. Lawalley Cole on accelerating capacity development in ICT ecosystems in Africa.
- Emphasis on ICT's role in improving education and addressing challenges.

17.2 Achievements:

- Advocacy for ICT in education, suggestions for capacity development, and networking opportunities.
- Dr. Lawalley Cole, as a panelist, participated in the Regional Innovation Forum that aimed to build regional and national capacities for competitive digital innovation ecosystems. CAFOR explored potential collaborations, gaining insights into successful projects and initiatives for fostering digital innovation.
- Dr. Lawalley Cole, as a keynote speaker, addressed the importance of accelerating capacity development in Africa's ICT ecosystems. CAFOR advocated for the integration of ICT in education to address challenges and improve access to quality education.
- Further insights into digital innovation, networking opportunities, and potential partnerships for resilience.

18. *Virtual CAPA-ATUPA International Conference*

Date: August 30 – 31, 2021

Participant: Dr. Lawalley Cole.

18.1 Purpose and Outcome:

CAFOR actively engaged in the virtual CAPA-ATUPA International Conference on "The Future of Jobs: Training, Workforce Development, and Reskilling Africa." Dr. Lawalley Cole's participation allowed CAFOR to share insights and expertise, contributing to discussions on the evolving job market and potential collaborations with technical education institutions.

18.2 Achievements:

- Knowledge sharing, insights into future job trends, and potential collaborations.
- Focus on Fourth Industrial Revolution impact on jobs in Africa.

19. *World Day of Social Justice*

On February 22, 2021, CAFOR participated in the World Day of Social Justice organized by UNICEF, which focused on promoting social justice in the digital economy. The event called for promoting the rights of deprived populations, including children without parental care, through policies addressing poverty, exclusion, gender equality, and social protections.

20. World Press Freedom Day (May 3, 2021)

Participants:

- 3,000 participants from 145+ countries
- Achievements:
- Reinforced Commitment to Press Freedom
- Global Collaboration and Awareness
- Highlighted Contemporary Press Freedom Issues

20.1 Purpose and Outcome:

World Press Freedom Day gathered 3,000 participants globally, commemorating the Windhoek Declaration's 30th anniversary. Achievements included the approval of the Windhoek 30+ Declaration, the launch of studies on online violence against women journalists, and a report on transparency in the digital age. The event fostered collaboration, highlighted contemporary press freedom issues, and maintained the spirit of the Windhoek Declaration.

20.2 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Windhoek 30+ Declaration
 - Online Violence Against Women Journalists
 - Transparency in the Digital Age
 - Press Freedom Challenges
 - Global Trends in Journalism

21. Africa Youths SDGs Summit (March 9, 2022)

Participants:

Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Youth Leaders, Diplomats

The summit focused on the theme "Youth Resilience in the COVID-19 pandemic: Pathway to accelerating actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals." The meeting aimed to review youth-led social accountability and foster the achievement of SDGs in Africa. It addressed topics such as organizational development and capacity building for youth-led organizations, youth-led accountability, leveraging digital platforms to track progress towards commitments in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25), and the contribution of youth-led organizations in the voluntary national review processes. Additionally, the summit focused on movement building and mobilizing young people to end child marriage and female genital mutilation. The objective of the summit was to promote multi-stakeholder engagement and secure commitments and high-level support from different stakeholders. During the occasion, Dr.

Lawalley Cole was honored with an outstanding Diplomat award for his work in youth development.

21.1 Purpose and Outcome:

Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke attended the summit focusing on youth resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic. The summit addressed organizational development, youth-led accountability, and the digital platform's role in achieving SDGs. Dr. Cole received an outstanding diplomat award for youth development.

21.2 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Youth Resilience in the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Youth-led Social Accountability
- Digital Platform for SDGs
- Youth-led Accountability Practices
- Movement Building for Social Change

21.3 Achievements:

- Recognition in Youth Development
- Engagement in SDGs Advocacy
- Strengthened Youth-led Initiatives



Figure 22: CAFOR delegation attending African Youths SDGs summit

22. Youth Leadership Conference and MOU Signing (August 26, 2022)

Participants:

Dr. Lawalley Cole, Her Excellency Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, Ambassadors, Safe Light Initiative, Sport for Change

22.1 Purpose and Outcome:

Safe Light Initiative and Sport for Change organized a Youth Leadership Conference, followed by a Diplomatic Dinner. Dr. Lawalley Cole delivered the keynote address, and CAFOR signed an MOU with the organizers for collaboration in various activities, projects, and programs.

22.2 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Youth Leadership and Diplomacy
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Framework for Cooperation
- Joint Activities and Projects

Achievements:

- Collaboration with Safe Light Initiative and Sport for Change
- Framework for Joint Activities
- Diplomatic Recognition and Support



Figure 23: Youth leadership conference, Keynote speeches from Dr. Lawalley Cole with her H.E Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs of FDRE

23. Transforming Education Summit (September 19, 2022)

Participants:

Dr. Lawalley Cole, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, United Nations General Assembly

23.1 Purpose and Outcome:

Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke attended the virtual summit convened at the United Nations General Assembly. The summit focused on elevating education as a top global priority, launching six global initiatives, and a Call to Action on Educational Investment.

23.2 Key Topics and Areas of Collaboration:

- Transforming Education Summit
- Global Initiatives for Education
- Call to Action on Educational Investment
- Addressing Learning Losses

- Digital Transformation in Education

23.3 Achievements:

- Global Visibility and Advocacy
- Contribution to Educational

24. The African Union Policy Conference on Promoting Peace and Security and the Development Nexus in Africa – Tangier, Morocco (25 - 27 October 2022)

The inaugural AU Policy Conference on Promoting Peace and Security and the Development Nexus in Africa took place in Tangier, Morocco, from October 25th to 27th, 2022. Attended by the Executive Director, Dr. Lawalley Cole, the event facilitated collaboration between the AU, regional economic communities (RECs), and partners to devise strategies promoting development, regional integration, peace, and security. Notable participants included high-profile representatives from the AU, RECs, governments, academia, defense and finance officials, private sector, civil society, and development partners.



Figure 24 Vice-Présidents and other senior staff of the African Development Bank with CAFOR Executive Director in Tangier, Morocco.

Key discussions encompassed addressing root causes of insecurity, combating corruption, tackling youth unemployment, mitigating extreme rural poverty, and addressing climate change. Participants explored financial instruments to safeguard investments, livelihoods, and rehabilitate infrastructure in regions affected by insecurity. The conference also aimed to enhance synergies between development, regional integration, and peace and security. Dr. Lawalley Cole emphasized the centrality of education and youth development in ensuring continental peace and security, asserting CAFOR's commitment to promoting dialogue and systemic change through its communication-focused initiatives.

The Tanger Declaration, adopted at the meeting's conclusion, reaffirmed Africa's dedication to addressing linkages between peace, security, and sustainable development within the Agenda 2063 framework. The conference's Outcome underscored the need for regular meetings, contingent on available resources, to sustain the momentum of collaborative efforts.



Figure 25 AUDA-NEPAD CEO Ms. Nardos Bekele Thomas and other participants at the Tangier high level conference organized by the AU, with CAFOR Executive Director.

25. The African Union Continental Teacher Award Ceremony (30 November 2022)

On November 30, 2022, the Continental Teacher Award Ceremony transpired under the auspices of the African Union's Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation. Dr. Lawalley Cole, CAFOR's Executive Director, and Senior Advisor Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke attended the event, with Dr. Cole serving as a jury member. The ceremony aimed to honor outstanding teachers, aligning with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA-16-25). Acknowledgments extended to AU Member States, the EU, and education partners, highlighting the pivotal role of teachers in fostering quality education. H.E Mr. Riccardo Mosca, Deputy Ambassador EU Delegation to the AU, emphasized the EU's commitment to supporting education and recognized teachers as fundamental to educational quality. Challenges such as staff shortages, governance issues, and gender disparities were identified, emphasizing the imperative to address these issues for sustained educational development.

26. Human Rights Day Celebration (8 December 2022)

Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, CAFOR's Senior Advisor, participated in the 2022 Celebration of Human Rights Day on December 8. Co-organized by UNESCO, OHCHR, and the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, the event centered on transforming education through human rights. It aimed to deepen dialogue with policymakers and involve youth in understanding the transformative potential of human rights for societies. Key topics included experiences, good practices, and the role of human rights education in implementing the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education. Emphasis was on lifelong learning in the context of today's realities.

27. CAFOR Roundtable on Transforming Education in Africa with Digitalization

On February 15, 2023, CAFOR orchestrated a pivotal Roundtable Conference, originally intended for the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This gathering aimed to unite over 200 participants, including international diplomats, African leaders, and experts, to discuss innovative practices in Education, Science, and Technology, particularly emphasizing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for African youth development and employment opportunities.



Figure 26 CAFOR and SafeLight Ambassadors With H.E. Ambassador Al Busrya Basnur, Ambassadeur of Indonesia to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union.

Regrettably, logistical challenges compelled a shift to a local hotel, impacting the attendance of VIPs. Despite this setback, the Roundtable sought to bolster the African Union's educational initiatives in the face of budget constraints and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAFOR emphasized the need for African education to instill learners with agency, purpose, and the skills essential for personal and societal contributions. Given the substantial financing gap and slow recovery, the focus must be on reversing the decline in domestic and international resources for African education.

The Roundtable served as a platform for collaboration among policymakers, academics, school networks, teachers, and various stakeholders. It aligned with the African Union's commitment, as declared in New York on September 20, 2022, to prioritize transforming education in Africa, aligning with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA16-25) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4).

CAFOR's response to the African Union's invitation underscored the importance of partnerships with Member States, development partners, civil society, and the private sector. The Roundtable centered on four strategic projects - the Digital Community Platform, African Digital Schools Initiative, African Digital Books Library, and Innovative Skills for Africa's Youths - designed to address post-COVID educational challenges, especially in rural areas.

Post-conference, CAFOR pledged to strengthen partnerships, mobilize resources, and implement a ten-project program over the next four years. Collaboration with the African Union Commission and member states would involve designing a sustainable financing management plan.

CAFOR is in the process of creating a database of potential partners, confirming pledges and support from African leadership, and seeking commitments from technical and financial partners. This proactive engagement will facilitate the establishment of new financing mechanisms for CAFOR networks across the 55 member states of the African Union. Additionally, CAFOR plans to review the work plan of the ESTI Department and shift focus towards the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, which plays a significant role in education, training, and skills development for Africa's youth.



Figure 28 Awarding of certificates at the Roundtable Conference



Figure 27 Awarding of certificates to the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia at the Roundtable Conference

Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke participated in the International Day of Families 2023 commemoration on May 15th. The event focused on families and demographic changes, particularly their implications for children without parental care (CWPC). Discussions highlighted challenges faced by CWPC and advocated for data-driven policy development, regional collaboration, and family-centered reforms to support comprehensive care frameworks.

29. Digital Transformation: Towards Collective Response to Global Challenges (16th June 2023)

CAFOR Senior Advisor, Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, attended a seminar organized by the Indonesia Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event, commemorating the MIKTA 10th Anniversary, explored digitalization for peace and conflict resolution. Participants shared knowledge on leveraging digital technology for global governance and discussed opportunities and challenges associated with digital transformation.

30. Commemoration of 2023 World Children's Day (20th November 2023)

CAFOR, led by Dr. Lawalley Cole and Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, participated in a webinar on the 2023 World Children's Day. Organized by the Africa Working Group on Child Without Parental Care and partners, the event focused on advocating for children's rights within safe and loving family environments. The discussions emphasized the need for access to health, nutrition, education, and protection for every child, while also addressing care system challenges on the continent.

During several of these occasions, CAFOR organized and collaborated with other organizations to host webinars, conferences, or panel discussions on the role of media and technology in revitalizing the teaching profession and ensuring quality education amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. These provided insights, expertise, and resources on using media and technology effectively in remote or blended learning environments.

The celebrations aimed to highlight the challenges faced by teachers during the pandemic and emphasized the need for revitalizing the teaching profession and ensuring quality education for all students. This effort is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063 vision of integration, peace, and prosperity.

Many African countries honored the occasion by holding various events and initiatives focusing on the importance of teacher well-being, professional development, and access to quality education for all. Discussions revolved around the strategies and tools that teachers utilized to ensure that education continued despite the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 crisis.

Furthermore, the celebrations stressed the importance of addressing the specific challenges faced by teachers, including access to technology, training, and support. Efforts were made to advocate

for improved working conditions, enhanced training opportunities, and increased investment in the education sector and the teaching profession.

Overall, CAFOR's active participation in the World Teacher Day celebrations demonstrates the organization's commitment to promoting social justice through quality education and enhancing the teaching profession in Africa. By leveraging media and technology in education and engaging with other stakeholders, CAFOR can contribute to building a brighter and prosperous future for all students in Africa.

31. Overall Achievements:

By participating in these events, CAFOR contributed to the development and implementation of sustainable policies in various thematic areas, including education, social justice, alternative care for children, and forest conservation. CAFOR benefited from these events by enhancing its knowledge base, fostering productive relationships with partners, and participating in joint initiatives.

Participating in these events allowed CAFOR to strengthen its partnerships, collaborate with stakeholders, and further its mission of promoting social justice and quality education in Africa. The organization benefits from the sharing of best practices, knowledge exchange, and fostering collaborations that enhance its projects on quality education, innovative skills for youth development, and media and technology in education. These technical meetings provide CAFOR with valuable insights, perspectives, and resources to drive its initiatives forward effectively. Additionally, engaging in these events increases CAFOR's visibility, credibility, and influence as a dynamic and results-oriented organization.

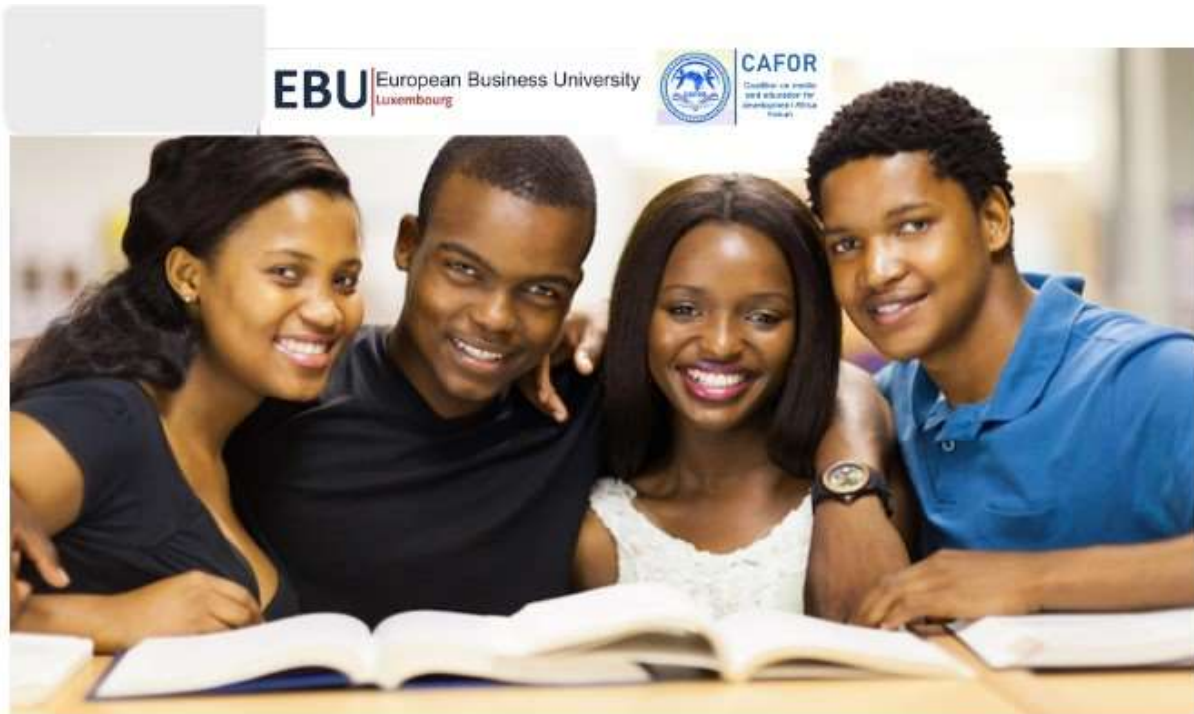
In summary, these events allowed CAFOR to engage in crucial discussions, network with global partners, and contribute to shaping policies and initiatives in education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and social justice, aligning with its mission of promoting media and education for development in Africa. The organization leveraged these opportunities to share insights, advocate for inclusivity, and establish collaborations for a positive impact on the African continent.

The events allowed CAFOR to actively contribute to discussions, share expertise, and explore collaborations with partners. The organization gained insights, networked with stakeholders, and advocated for education, innovation, and social justice in Africa. The virtual format enhanced inclusivity and communication, contributing to CAFOR's mission of promoting media and education for development in Africa.

Chapter 10 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signings Overview

1. CAFOR-European Business University Scholarship Program (June 24, 2021)

The MoU signed on June 24, 2021, between CAFOR and the European Business University establishes a scholarship program. This program aims to increase access to quality education for underprivileged individuals in developing countries. Both organizations commit to specific obligations, including scholarship provision, promotion, and collaborative efforts to bridge workforce gaps and enhance entrepreneurial success.



The CAFOR Scholarships for Online Certificate Courses by the European Business University (EBU), Luxembourg

Figure 29: MoU between CAFOR - European Business University Scholarship Program

2. CAFOR-O-YES Global Foundation Collaboration (July 15, 2022)

On July 15, 2022, CAFOR entered a MoU with O-YES Global Foundation, a youth-focused global organization. This collaboration seeks to design and implement youth development programs, emphasizing leadership, entrepreneurship, and life skills. CAFOR expresses its dedication to prioritizing youth issues in Africa, working closely with youth-led organizations to promote development and empower African youth.



Figure 30: MoU between CAFOR - O-YES Foundation

3. CAFOR-AYDEC Partnership (July 22, 2022)

On July 22, 2022, Dr. Lawalley Cole, CAFOR's Executive Director, signed a MoU with Mr. Fuad Gena, Director-General of the Africa Youth Development and Excellence Center (AYDEC). This partnership aims to collaborate on youth development projects, entrepreneurship support, and sustainable strategic partnerships across Africa. CAFOR commits to advocating for education and

skills development, emphasizing the shared goal of poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.



Figure 31: MoU between CAFOR - AYDEC

4. CAFOR-University of Pécs Collaboration (September 15, 2022)

Following a lecture on Education and Science Day, CAFOR signed a MoU with the University of Pécs on September 15, 2022. This collaboration focuses on various areas of mutual interest, including research, capacity building, and skills development for African youth. The partnership aims to increase access to quality education, contributing to the academic and entrepreneurial success of underprivileged individuals in Africa.



Figure 32: MoU between CAFOR - University of Pecs

5. CAFOR-Safe Light Initiative and Sports for Change (November 17, 2022)

On November 17, 2022, CAFOR signed a transformative MoU with Safe Light Initiative (SLI) and Sports for Change (SFC). This collaboration aims to empower African youth in alignment with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and CAFOR's strategic plans. The organizations commit to project referrals, knowledge and resource sharing, youth empowerment, events organization, and the promotion of Pan-Africanism, contributing to the well-being of African youth and communities.



Figure 33: MoU between CAFOR - Safe Light Initiative and Sports for Change

6. CAFOR-Ashagari Charitable Organization Collaboration (December 1, 2023)

CAFOR signed a MoU with the Ashagari Charitable Organization on December 1, 2023, emphasizing collaboration on advocacy, education, and cultural initiatives. This partnership aims

to empower women leaders and youth, aligning with CAFOR's commitment to support initiatives promoting a deeper understanding of African culture and fostering positive societal growth.



Figure 34: MoU between CAFOR - Ashagari Charitable Organization

7. CAFOR-Tallinn University Partnership (December 28, 2023)

On December 28, 2023, CAFOR initiated an agreement with Tallinn University in Estonia, focusing on education initiatives. Tallinn University, a prominent player in European higher education, collaborates with CAFOR to participate actively in education projects in Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, and Namibia. This partnership enhances knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and contributes to the development of participating nations.



Figure 35: MoU between CAFOR - University of Tallinn, Estonia

8. *Benefits to CAFOR from these MoUs:*

- **Enhanced Youth Development:** The partnerships underscore CAFOR's commitment to youth development, allowing the organization to actively engage in projects and initiatives that empower and equip young Africans.
- **Expanded Educational Initiatives:** Collaborations with institutions like Tallinn University, the University of Pécs, and the European Business University enhance CAFOR's capacity to contribute to education initiatives, fostering knowledge exchange and cultural understanding.
- **Diversified Focus Areas:** By partnering with organizations like AYDEC, O-YES Global Foundation, and Ashagari Charitable Organization, CAFOR broadens its focus to include entrepreneurship, leadership, cultural initiatives, and advocacy, aligning with the multifaceted needs of African youth.
- **International Collaboration:** Agreements with European institutions like the European Business University and the University of Pécs demonstrate CAFOR's commitment to fostering international collaboration, bringing global expertise and resources to benefit African youth.
- **Holistic Approach to Development:** The collaboration with Safe Light Initiative and Sports for Change reflects CAFOR's commitment to a holistic approach to development, addressing educational needs and empowerment through sports and community well-being initiatives.

Overall, these strategic partnerships position CAFOR at the forefront of fostering positive change, empowering African youth, and contributing to the continent's sustainable development. The signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between CAFOR and its various partners

from January 2021 to December 2023 has led to several key benefits and achievements for the parties involved:

- **Promotion of Youth Development:** The MoUs emphasize a shared commitment to youth development. By collaborating with organizations like AYDEC, O-Yes Global Foundation, Tallinn University, Ashagari Charitable Organization, European Business University, Safelight Initiative, and Sports for Change, CAFOR aims to empower African youth through various initiatives. These initiatives include entrepreneurship programs, leadership development, educational scholarships, and mentoring programs, fostering positive growth and skills enhancement among the youth.
- **Enhanced Relevance of Education Systems:** The collaboration with Tallinn University focuses on research and capacity-building for higher education. This indicates a commitment to improving the quality and relevance of education systems in African Union member states. The exchange of knowledge and cultural understanding between Estonia and African countries is expected to contribute to the overall improvement of educational standards.
- **Empowerment of Women Leaders:** The MoU with Ashagari Charitable Organization specifically targets the empowerment of women leaders and youth through culture-focused initiatives. This reflects a commitment to gender inclusivity and recognizes the importance of women's participation in leadership roles for positive societal growth.
- **International Collaboration and Networking:** Through partnerships with organizations like Tallinn University, European Business University, and Safelight Initiative, CAFOR establishes connections on an international level. This fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, contributing to a broader network that can benefit all parties involved.
- **Implementation of Scholarship Programs:** The partnership with the European Business University involves the implementation of the EBU scholarship program in developing countries. This initiative is designed to provide underprivileged individuals with skills necessary for academic and entrepreneurial success, addressing workforce gaps and promoting inclusivity.
- **Advocacy and Education:** The collaboration with Safelight Initiative and Sports for Change aims to empower African youth by providing mentoring and educational programs. This demonstrates a commitment to advocacy and education as tools for positive change, aligning with broader goals such as Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Positive Societal Impact:** Overall, the MoUs are geared towards initiatives that have a positive societal impact, including economic development, cultural understanding, gender empowerment, and sustainable development. These collaborations contribute to the realization of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring a comprehensive and holistic approach to youth development in Africa.

In conclusion, the MoUs signed by CAFOR reflect a strategic and multi-faceted approach to promoting youth development and enhancing education systems in Africa. The partnerships forged through these agreements are expected to yield mutual benefits for all parties involved, creating a positive and sustainable impact on the African continent.

Chapter 11- Youth Summits and Conferences

Youth Summits and Conferences: CAFOR's Engagements (January 2021 - December 2023)

Africa Youths SDGs Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (9th March 2021): CAFOR actively participated in the 4th African Youth SDGs Summit, emphasizing Youth Resilience in the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement in Africa. Dr. Lawalley Cole, CAFOR's Executive Director, raised key issues such as organizational development, youth-led accountability, digital progress tracking for International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) commitments, and mobilizing against child marriage and female genital mutilation. The Summit aimed to foster multi-stakeholder engagement among youth and drew commitments from various stakeholders. Dr. Cole received an Outstanding Diplomat Award for Youth Development.

1. *Africa Youths SDGs Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (9th March 2021)*



Figure 36 CAFOR Executive Director in a panel discussion at the Youth Summit

1.1 Purpose:

- Promote multi-stakeholder engagement among youth, draw commitments and high-level support from stakeholders.

1.2 Focus:

- Youth resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Key issues raised by Dr. Lawalley Cole: Youth-led social accountability, utilizing digital platforms to track progress towards International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) commitments, youth participation in voluntary national review processes, movement building to end child marriage and female genital mutilation.

1.3 Outcome:

- Dr. Cole received an outstanding Diplomat award for Youth Development.

2. *Young Physicists Forum Workshop (January 2022):*

- Organized by the African Strategy for Fundamental and Applied Physics (ASFAP)
- **Focus:** Identifying challenges and opportunities for young African physicists
- Key issues raised by Dr. Lawalley Cole: Support and promotion of science and innovation in Africa, particularly in the field of physics.
- **Purpose:** Engage young physicists, gather, study, and debate major issues in their research careers.

2.1 Outcome:

- Preliminary survey results highlighted lack of research funding and equipment as major challenges faced by young African physicists.

CAFOR, represented by Dr. Lawalley Cole, actively engaged in the Young Physicists Forum Workshop organized by ASFAP—YPF. The workshop gathered young physicists from across Africa to discuss challenges and opportunities in their research careers. Dr. Cole, as a panelist, highlighted the importance of supporting initiatives like ASFAP—YPF and expressed CAFOR's commitment to collaborate in promoting science and innovation in Africa, especially in the field of physics.

3. *Africa-Asia Youth Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (22 July 2022):*

CAFOR, represented by Dr. Lawalley Cole and Senior Advisor Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, participated in the Africa-Asia Youth Summit. Dr. Cole delivered a keynote address, highlighting leadership challenges in Africa and advocating for a new generation of leaders. The event emphasized collaboration between CAFOR and O-Yes Global Foundation, marked by a signed Memorandum of Understanding, aiming to empower youths in Africa and Asia through joint initiatives. Dr. Cole's insights focused on learning from Asian experiences and fostering a new brand of African leadership.

The Africa-Asia Youth Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (22 July 2022)

- Organized by the O-Yes Global Foundation
- Focus: Empowering and supporting youth in Africa and Asia through youth-focused initiatives and development programs

- Key issues raised by Dr. Lawalley Cole: Challenges in leadership in Africa and the need for new leaders who can learn from Asian counterparts
- Purpose: Foster collaboration between African and Asian youth and promote youth development.
- Outcome: CAFOR and O-Yes Global Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in promoting youth development in Africa.

4. Youth Leadership Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (26 August 2022):

CAFOR, represented by Dr. Lawalley Cole, played a significant role in the Youth Leadership Conference organized by Safe Light Initiative and Sport for Change. Dr. Cole delivered a keynote address at the diplomatic dinner, emphasizing the importance of the African Union's Agenda 2063 in enhancing youth development. The conference provided a platform for youth to engage in U.N. Simulation, fostering leadership and diplomacy skills. CAFOR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Light Initiative and Sport for Change to collaborate on youth development initiatives.



Figure 37 Executive Director with youth from the continent during the Youth Diplomatic dinner in Addis Ababa

Highlights of the Diplomatic Youth Conference

- Organized by Safe Light Initiative and Sport for Change
- Keynote address delivered by Dr. Lawalley Cole
- Purpose: Provide a platform for youth to experience leadership and diplomacy through a U.N. simulation and learn about African Union's Agenda 2063.
- Key issues raised by Dr. Lawalley Cole: Importance of African leaders with social consciousness, education and skills revolution, promoting science and technology, and good governance.
- Outcome: CAFOR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Light Initiative and Sport for Change, fostering cooperation in youth development.



Figure 38 Safelight, Sports for Change and CAFOR begin a new partnership

5. Benefits and Influence on Policy Decisions:

Participation in these events provides CAFOR with opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and network expansion. Dr. Lawalley Cole's statements, advocating for youth development, new leadership, and collaboration, can influence policy decisions at both national and continental levels. The emphasis on Agenda 2063 and the need for intelligent, visionary leaders aligns with CAFOR's commitment to catalyzing education, skills revolution, and promoting science and technology in Africa.

6. Conclusion:

CAFOR's active involvement in these youth summits and conferences reinforces its commitment to fostering positive change in Africa, particularly in youth development and leadership. The Memoranda of Understanding signed and the accolades received highlight the tangible Outcome of these engagements, positioning CAFOR as a key player in shaping Africa's future.

7. In Summary, the benefits for CAFOR as an organization are as follows:

- Enhanced collaboration and partnerships with youth-led organizations and stakeholders.
- Increased visibility and recognition through awards and keynote addresses.
- Development of frameworks and Memorandums of Understanding to facilitate cooperation in youth development.
- Influence policy decisions related to youth development and scientific research in Africa and at the African Union level.

Chapter 12 - Establishing Global Partnerships in Higher Learning

CAFOR has established several partnerships with institutions of higher learning around the globe in various subject areas, including education, TVET, agriculture, AI, digital programs, medical programs, archiving and digital preservation, open-source digital property, connectivity, and learning. These partnerships have been established to improve the quality of education, support skills development, foster international cooperation, contribute to the development of participating nations, and influence policy decisions related to education and agriculture.

Some of the notable partnerships include the Riara University Meeting, the African Academic Diaspora Homecoming 2021, and the 15th Quadrennial General Conference of African University Leaders, the Europe Business University Partnership Meetings, and the partnership with the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. These partnerships have been significant in influencing policy decisions related to higher education, providing opportunities for knowledge exchange, increasing the reach of CAFOR, and promoting collaboration between African and European universities.

CAFOR has also proposed a strategic partnership with the Institut Supérieur de Statistique de Kinshasa to integrate their existing vocational programs into CAFOR's TVET initiative, empowering education and employment opportunities in underserved areas.

Introduction: The CAFOR Triennial Report spanning from January 2021 to December 2023 highlights the organization's dynamic partnerships with renowned institutions of higher learning worldwide. This summary emphasizes the objectives, collaborative activities, Outcome, and the significance of these alliances in shaping policy decisions in Africa and at the level of the African Union.

1. Riara University Meeting (17th March 2021): CAFOR, led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, engaged in fruitful discussions with Riara University on collaborative projects spanning journalism, international relations, teacher education, and more. Key Outcome include the potential for joint projects, involvement of Riara University in CAFOR's agenda, and the exploration of TVET programs with partner organizations.

2. African Academic Diaspora Homecoming 2021 (27-29 September 2021): Dr. Lawalley Cole participated in this significant event, fostering collaborations among African higher education stakeholders. The focus on education quality and well-being aligns with CAFOR's mission, reinforcing the importance of global partnerships in achieving continental goals.

3. 15th Quadrennial General Conference of African University Leaders (5th – 8th July 2021): Under the patronage of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo, CAFOR actively contributed to discussions on "The Future of African Education," strengthening ties with African academics, policymakers, and institutions. Valuable insights were shared, influencing CAFOR's approach to education development in Africa.

4. Africa Week Celebrations and MOU with the University of Pécs (15th September 2022): CAFOR's collaboration with the University of Pécs in Hungary, signed during Africa Week celebrations, signifies a commitment to research, capacity building, and skill development for African youth. Dr. Lawalley Cole's address emphasized the transformative potential of education and CAFOR's dedication to advancing Africa's education systems.

5. European Business University Partnership Meeting (11th October 2022): A partnership with the European Business University in Luxembourg, initiated through a MOU, demonstrates CAFOR's commitment to providing educational opportunities for African youth in business administration. The meeting explored program expansions and options for free tuition, marking a strategic alliance for education and capacity building.

6. ERASMUS+ Online Contact Seminar with Africa (15-16 November 2022): Dr. Lawalley Cole's presentation at this event aimed to encourage higher education institutions in Africa to engage in Erasmus+ programs in Hungary. The focus on cooperation and best practices aligns with CAFOR's mission to enhance educational systems on the continent.

7. Commemoration of Africa Day with Wageningen University (31st May 2023): Dr. Lawalley Cole delivered a keynote speech on sustainable agricultural practices and food security, emphasizing the role of African youth in transforming the agriculture sector. CAFOR's commitment to providing skills development for the agriculture sector was highlighted.

8. University of Edinburgh Partnership Meeting (28th August 2023): A landmark meeting with the University of Edinburgh explored collaboration in digital programs, medical initiatives, digital humanities, archiving, TVET programs, global impact, AI for social good, and the establishment of University branches in Africa. The partnership focuses on innovation, societal impact, and positive change.

9. Tallinn University Partnership Agreement (28th December 2023): CAFOR's agreement with Tallinn University in Estonia aims to support and actively participate in education initiatives in Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, and Namibia. This collaboration enhances knowledge exchange and cultural understanding between Estonia and African Union member states.

10. Institut Supérieur de Statistique de Kinshasa Partnership (Upcoming): CAFOR's strategic partnership with the Institut Supérieur de Statistique de Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo focuses on enhancing TVET programs, curriculum development, faculty capacity building, resource access, industry partnerships, certification, and monitoring and evaluation.

11. Oromia State University (Upcoming): CAFOR is entering into a new Agreement through a Memorandum of Understanding with Oromia State University in Ethiopia to work jointly in the areas of education, research, capacity building, and supporting leadership training and skills development for Ethiopia and Africa at large in a way that promotes Pan-Africanism.

12. Conclusion: CAFOR's global partnerships reflect a commitment to advancing education, research, and societal impact. These collaborations contribute to the organization's mission of

fostering skills development, improving education quality, and influencing policy decisions in Africa and at the African Union level. The partnerships established by CAFOR with institutions of higher learning have yielded several significant achievements and conclusions. These include:

- **Improved quality of education:** Through collaborations with various universities, CAFOR has been able to enhance the quality of education by sharing best practices, exchanging knowledge, and implementing joint projects. These efforts have contributed to the overall improvement of the education systems in participating nations.
- **Skills development and employment opportunities:** CAFOR's partnerships have supported skills development initiatives, particularly in underserved areas. The integration of vocational programs into CAFOR's TVET initiative, as proposed with the Institut Supérieur de Statistique de Kinshasa, aims to empower education and employment opportunities in these regions.
- **International cooperation:** The partnerships established by CAFOR have fostered international cooperation between African and European universities. These collaborations have facilitated knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and the exploration of joint initiatives that address common challenges and opportunities.
- **Influence on policy decisions:** CAFOR's partnerships have played a crucial role in shaping policy decisions related to higher education. By participating in conferences, meetings, and events that focus on policy discussions, CAFOR has been able to contribute valuable insights, influence policy directions, and advocate for the development and improvement of education systems in Africa.
- **Increased reach of CAFOR:** Through these partnerships, CAFOR has expanded its network and increased its reach globally. Collaborations with renowned institutions of higher learning have raised the organization's profile, improved its credibility, and attracted more partners and stakeholders to its initiatives.

Overall, the partnerships established by CAFOR have resulted in tangible achievements and have enhanced the organization's ability to make a positive impact on education, skills development, and policy decisions in Africa and beyond. These collaborations emphasize the importance of global partnerships in advancing higher learning and contributing to the development of participating nations.

Chapter 13 - Other Special Events

1. *Farewell to Director ESTI, Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo - Date: February 27, 2022*

The ESTI Department orchestrated a poignant Commemoration on February 27, 2022, bidding farewell to Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Director of the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. The ceremony witnessed the presence of numerous participants, including esteemed partners expressing gratitude for Dr. Mahama's decade-long service as a civil servant. Dr. Lawalley Cole, speaking on behalf of the CAFOR Chairperson, acknowledged Dr. Ouedraogo's exceptional leadership, fairness, and understanding. Additionally, Dr. Cole conveyed CAFOR's appreciation for the attention given to the organization's specific needs, facilitated by Dr. Ouedraogo's instrumental role in settling within the African Union Commission post the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Union.



Figure 39 CAFOR Executive Director with Dr Mahama Ouedraogo, former Director, ESTI

2. *Farewell to Commissioner Sarah Anyang-Agbor - Date: March 23, 2022*

CAFOR Executive Director Dr. Lawalley Cole, alongside Senior Advisor Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, actively participated in the Farewell Commemoration organized by the ESTI Department on March 23, 2022. The event honored H.E Prof. Sarah Anyang-Agbor, the outgoing Commissioner of the Department of Education, Science, and Technology and Innovation, upon completing her mandate at the African Union. Numerous addresses during the event underscored Prof. Anyang-Agbor's vision and leadership, particularly in addressing critical issues affecting education in Africa. Notable initiatives included the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25), the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA

2024), and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), among others. Dr. Lawalley Cole was honored with a Certificate of Recognition for the comprehensive partnership from Prof. Sarah Anyang-Agbor.



Figure 40 H.E. Professor Sarah Anyang-Agbor, former Commissioner, ESTI

3. Dr. Lawalley Cole's Tribute to Commissioner Anyang-Agbor - Date: March 23, 2022

On March 23, 2022, Dr. Lawalley Cole paid tribute to H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang-Agbor, marking the three-year anniversary of CAFOR signing an MoU with the African Union Commission. Dr. Cole congratulated Prof. Anyang-Agbor on her successful term as Commissioner, expressing gratitude for her efforts in promoting education, science, and technology, particularly for the youth in Africa. He highlighted Prof. Anyang-Agbor's pivotal role in garnering attention, time, and resources from institutions and organizations across the continent, and external partners invested in Africa's youth, especially regarding education and employment. Dr. Cole extended an invitation for continued collaboration within CAFOR, emphasizing the organization's readiness for new challenges in the post-COVID-19 era.

4. *Benefits to CAFOR and Policy Influence:*

These partnerships hold immense significance for CAFOR as they fostered understanding, collaboration, and support within the African Union. The collaborations, marked by farewell events, not only celebrated individual contributions but also reinforced the collective commitment towards education, science, technology, and innovation. Such collaborations enhance CAFOR's influence in shaping policies at both the continental and African Union levels, positioning the organization as a key player in advancing Africa's developmental agenda. The partnerships with Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo and Commissioner Sarah Anyang-Agbor not only displayed CAFOR's commitment to shared goals but also laid the groundwork for future engagements and endeavors. The CAFOR Executive Director, Dr. Lawalley Cole, received a Certificate of Recognition for his all-encompassing partnership.

Additionally, these partnerships with Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo and Commissioner Sarah Anyang-Agbor have strategic significance for CAFOR and its policy influence in Africa and the African Union. These collaborations have allowed CAFOR to address its specific needs and settle within the African Union Commission, positioning the organization as a recognized player in education, science, and technology initiatives. The support and attention invested by institutions and external partners in these partnerships have enabled CAFOR to champion the cause of education and employment for the youth of Africa. Moving forward, CAFOR looks forward to Commissioner Anyang-Agbor's continued involvement within the Executive Board as they navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 period, aiming to reach new heights in their endeavors.

5. *Summary:*

- Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo's exceptional leadership and understanding benefited CAFOR by addressing the organization's specific needs and facilitating their settlement within the African Union Commission.
 - The partnership with Dr. Ouedraogo strengthened CAFOR's influence in shaping policies at both the continental and African Union levels, positioning the organization as a key player in advancing Africa's developmental agenda.
 - Commissioner Sarah Anyang-Agbor's visionary leadership in addressing critical education issues in Africa benefited CAFOR by advocating for the implementation of various strategies and agendas, such as CESA 16-25, STISA 2024, and TVET.
 - The partnership with Commissioner Anyang-Agbor enhanced CAFOR's policy influence, positioning the organization as a recognized player in education, science, and technology initiatives.
 - The support and attention invested by institutions and external partners in these partnerships enabled CAFOR to champion the cause of education and employment for the youth in Africa.
 - CAFOR looks forward to Commissioner Anyang-Agbor's continued involvement within the Executive Board, as her expertise and partnership will be valuable in navigating challenges and achieving new heights in CAFOR's endeavors.
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Chapter 14 - Conclusions and Future Prospects

In the face of formidable challenges, including the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and significant personnel changes, CAFOR has adeptly steered its efforts towards prioritizing projects aimed at advancing education in Africa. A pivotal aspect of this endeavor involves actively engaging the private sector in educational investments, aligning with the African Union's vision for implementing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA). This collaborative and inclusive approach seeks to equip the youth of Africa with innovative skills and scientific knowledge.

Notably, CAFOR has encountered substantial hurdles in resource mobilization, recognizing that bolstering financial capacity is imperative to support the African Union's ambitious education programs and realize the goals outlined in Africa's Agenda 2063. Addressing this financial shortfall demands urgent and effective collaborative measures.

Looking ahead, CAFOR is resolute in its commitment to positively influence Africa and align its initiatives with the various Divisions within the African Union's Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) Department and the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department. This strategic alignment involves collaborative efforts, joint action plans, and adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Strengthening cooperation with the ESTI Department is a crucial focus to make a more substantial impact on Africa's education systems.

With 2024 designated as the "Year of Education in Africa" by the African Union, CAFOR and its partners are organizing working sessions to support the Union's innovative education initiatives. These sessions are geared towards implementing technical, vocational education, and training (TVET) to enhance opportunities for African youth, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAFOR has meticulously planned diverse activities at multiple levels, including national, regional, continental, and global, to commemorate the Year of Education in Africa. These activities are designed to operationalize declarations and action tracks related to transforming education while simultaneously fostering partnerships, mobilizing resources, and implementing ten projects over the next five years. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and leadership changes, CAFOR has remained steadfast in its mission.

CAFOR's proactive initiatives encompass scholarships, infrastructure development, teacher training, digital education, curriculum enhancement, a focus on education for girls and women, vocational training, community engagement, research, and innovation. A Roundtable Conference held in February 2023 served as a critical juncture for resource mobilization, partnership enhancement, and the determination of financing needs for program implementation over the next four years.

Presently, CAFOR is diligently developing a comprehensive database of prospective technical and financial partners, post-roundtable activities, and a thorough review of its work plan and how to

implement this with new strategies with its line Departments in the African Union Commission. The organization is strategically shifting its focus towards the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, acknowledging its significant role in African youth education, training, and skills development.

CAFOR firmly believes that education in Africa should empower learners with the skills and competencies necessary for shaping their lives and contributing to economic and social development. The organization envisions collaborating with various stakeholders to exchange ideas, share best practices, conduct research, and contribute to developing a new learning ecosystem. CAFOR is dedicated to supporting the African Union's efforts in transforming education and securing sustainable financing for education in Africa.

In conclusion, CAFOR remains resolute in its commitment to positively influence Africa, overcome challenges, and collaborate closely with the African Union and its partners to boost education across the continent significantly. Through implementing its multifaceted initiatives and cultivating partnerships, CAFOR aims to contribute significantly to the realization of the African Union's education objectives and the broader development agenda. This initiative involves active collaboration with policymakers, academic experts, school networks, teachers, education leaders, students, and social partners to create a conducive space for exchanging ideas and developing a new learning ecosystem that empowers learners with agency and purpose.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: CAFOR Budget as per 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total programme (core) costs	10,121,841	9,838,667	9,545,231	9,228,924	8,887,008
Total administrative cost	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 BREAKDOWN

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		5,445,243	5,767,070	6,114,608	6,490,876
	5,136,259				
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
Admin staff cos (including top-up)	482,453	494,517	506,581	518,762	531,136	(As per RT doc)	
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 per day	Return tkt
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		



Annex 3: Brighter Africa: Interview with Dr Lawalley Cole, Executive Director of CAFOR

Africa needs to concentrate on improving its educational system, making effective use of its resources, and having leaders who pay attention to the people rather than to third parties. Dr. Lawalley Cole, Executive Director of the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum, provides practical solutions to contemporary challenges the continent is facing.

Molding minds of African Youth: Dr Lawalley Cole Interview with Abyssinia Business Network



The African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) called for the establishment of a Coalition of Stakeholders to amplify the case for prioritizing and investing in education and ensuring better coordination and networking on education-related matters in Africa. In support of the calls by the African Union to mobilize stakeholders to support the implementation of CESA, the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum

(CAFOR) adds value by focusing on the communication dimension, which is its leverage point. CAFOR believes that Communication must be at the core of the business of planning education on the continent, ensuring that it is comprehensive and inclusive and that its style and content enhance dialogue in promoting all facets of education.

Abyssinia Business Network reporter Samuel Zewdie speaks with Dr. Lawalley Cole, CAFOR Executive Director, emphasizing the overall objective, mission, and the way forward in the African youth and education system. Born in the Gambia, and educated in Gambia, USA, Tanzania, Togo, and France, Dr. Lawalley Cole has worked primarily in The Gambia, Mali, Zambia, and Burundi (for UNICEF as Chief of Education for fifteen years) and for the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) at the African Development Bank in Benin, Tunisia and Ethiopia for ten years as Coordinator, Communication for Education and Development. He is currently based at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Established in 2018, the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa (CAFOR) is an international 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 60 individuals and relies a great deal on external experts and its networks of journalists, communicators, education experts, and advocates in the field for implementing activities.

“Four years ago, in 2018, we mobilized many partners throughout the African continent; we met diplomats, ambassadors, and various professionals in Africa and America before we started. We had a conversation with them and got much support.” Said the Executive Director.

The organization draws on the expertise of various areas related to its work: ministries of education, agriculture, employment, gender and women’s affairs, youth, economy, and finance through their communication or information units. Also, media specialized in learning and development reporting, communication researchers and trainers, education specialists, and development organizations engaged in areas of concern regarding training for youth development. Dr. Lawalley Cole said that CAFOR has stemmed from the idea that education for development systems works best in contexts of well-developed partnerships and trust between the multiple actors involved. In addition to the significant classroom partnership between the teacher and learners, CAFOR recognizes that education systems rely on connections and trust between school authorities.

“CAFOR is unique as it was formed by Africans and sprung from the spirit of OAU founding fathers such as His Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, and Jomo Kenyatta.” He noted.

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.

CAFOR believes that Africa must invest in letting its youth- its most significant population- get quality education and relevant skills and encourage them to work in Africa to enhance peace and security in the continent. The primary reason for forming, joining, or building this Coalition is to gain maximum influence and potential that an individual organization would otherwise be unable to have. The Coalition will achieve this impression by promoting Communication as a Core Element of Education and Youth Development that will focus on Youth Labour Force Participation with a focus on reform in the agricultural sector in Africa as a start. CAFOR will place Communication at the heart of education and youth development in Africa.

Speaking of the notable achievements CAFOR has made, Dr. Lawalley stated that CAFOR and the African Union had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which they agreed 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. It provides a continent-wide platform for exchanging information, experience, and practices about new technologies and innovations involving youths, especially in agriculture and other vocations, that will help curb internal and external migration.

The Executive Director emphasized the need to keep on advocating the importance of good communication practices among key stakeholders, building capacity to stimulate robust public debate, and promoting policy measures to create an enabling environment for young people to engage in innovation in Africa. Such changes will include access to funding, public access to ICT, skills development, and technology infrastructure.

Speaking of CAFOR's flagship projects, The Executive Director mentioned that the organization has already framed ten interventions to achieve its mission. These are the *Popularization of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA)*, *Quality Education, Innovative skills for Africa's Youth*, *Digital Schools Initiative*, *the African Virtual Library*, *Education in Emergencies & Conflict Situations*, *Street Children in Africa*, *Training for journalists and Communication Officers*, *Promoting CAFOR in member states*, and *Strengthening Institutional Capacity of CAFOR*.

“CAFOR and its networks will work closely with the various departments of the African Union Commission to popularize Agenda 2063 at the regional and country levels and will encourage the African Union to work with other African institutions.”

Agenda 2063 calls for the African continent to invest in skills, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics so that the African people can drive the continent's development agenda. In this respect, said Dr. Lawalley, Agenda 2063 has set up pillars for the priority areas that would make this vision a reality. One of the pillars of Agenda 2063 is the need to invest in the people of Africa as its most precious resource. These resources include nutrition and health, access to shelter, water, and sanitation, expanding quality education, and strengthening science, technology, innovation, and research. The AU contends that science, technology, and innovation would design, implement and synchronize continental, regional, and national programs to ensure that their strategic orientations and pillars are mutually reinforcing to achieve the envisaged developmental impact as effectively as possible. CAFOR would integrate this strategy into its advocacy and social mobilization programs to promote it at the continental level.

Dr. Lawalley stated that CAFOR would function as a broker of ideas and set up a continent-wide forum for knowledge sharing. The group will provide a platform for exchanging information, experience, and practices about new technologies and innovations among experts, government ministries, CSOs, NGOs, the media, youth, and communities. Through the forum, CAFOR intends to mobilize and sensitize various experts from different countries for information exchange, creating awareness, and planning for education sector reforms.

Over the last ten years, African countries have focused on addressing access to primary education as a critical milestone in supporting community development. Through education, they emphasized promoting gender equity and equality in remote or rural areas and communities and locations where men primarily dominated education. The gains in improving access to education on the continent have been impressive, but the main challenge is now to improve the quality of education. This issue has been articulated in several international frameworks (such as the [2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals](#) and Africa's [Agenda 2063](#)) from various Pan-African organizations, such as the African Union Commission, the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A), and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

Dr. Lawalley said, “CAFOR and its networks will work closely with the various departments of the African Union Commission to popularize Agenda 2063 at the regional and country levels and will encourage the African Union to work with other African institutions.” Adding that the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) “constitute key institutions that would strengthen scientific research and innovation through African networks of excellence.” added that CAFOR’s work requires adequate financial resources to achieve desired Outcome. CAFOR will mobilize most of the resources needed to finance programmatic activities and will institute a financing plan that identifies sources to raise external funds from all development cooperation agencies working in Africa and beyond, including the diaspora.

According to the Executive Director, CAFOR is owned by its members, combining resources and working together, where leadership becomes a shared activity, and accountability shifts from strictly individual to both individual and collective; the team develops its purpose and mission, and problem-solving becomes a way of life, not a part-time exercise.

In sum, CAFOR supports the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and all AU-related policy instruments. In this regard, CAFOR would catalyze education and the skills revolution and actively promote science, technology, research, and innovation. CAFOR would also support the management of knowledge, human capital capabilities, and skills to drive innovations

Annex 4: 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

SUMMARY OF CAFOR VISITS TO THE PERMANENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO THE AFRICAN UNION					
<u>No</u>	<u>INSTITUTION DESIGNATION</u>	<u>DATE (DD/MM/YYYY)</u>	<u>PERSON(S) SEEN AND RANK</u>	<u>MAIN REASON OF THE MEETING</u>	<u>OUTCOME</u>
1.	Embassy of Turkey	03/08/2022	H.E Ambassador Yuprap Alp	Introduction of CAFOR and 10 Flagship Projects.	Requests for Roundtable sponsorship and financial support for the implementation of CAFOR's flagship projects on quality education, digital school initiatives, street children, and education in emergencies and conflict situations
2.	Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium	9/08/2022	H.E Ambassador Stefaan Thijs	Presentation of CAFOR Vision and mission and exploration of fields of cooperation.	Advocacy to facilitate the building of a lasting relationship with the Belgian counterparts and to establish university cooperation with African Universities. Agreed to link CAFOR with the Belgian Vliros cooperation active in African countries.
3.	EU Delegation to the African Union	05/12/2022	H.E Riccardo Mosca EU-Deputy Delegation	Briefing on CAFOR, explore ways for partnership in support of Agenda	Looking forward to discussing the way forward to build inclusive partnerships to advance global and continental policies.

				2063 and other AU policy Instruments.	
4.	Embassy of Ireland	11/04/2023	H.E Ambassador Nicole Brennan	Extensive presentation of CAFOR and discussion on projects for Transforming Education in Africa with Digitalization.	Agreed Ireland would look forward to working with CAFOR and forging sustainable cooperation in areas of peace and security, governance, gender equality, and humanitarian.
5.	Embassy of Indonesia	16/07/2023	H.E Ambassador Al Busyra Basnur	Seminar Aimed to discuss the Digital Transformation Towards Collective Response to the Global Challenges	MITKA Countries: Mexico, Indonesia, Korea Republic, Turkey, and Australia agreed to share knowledge and expertise with African counterparts to bridge divides between developed and developing nations and to build consensus on Digitalization for peace and conflict resolution.
6.	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran	04/09/2023	H.E Ambassador Samad Ali Lakizadeh	Briefing on CAFOR and prospects for cooperation.	Following an exhaustive presentation of CAFOR, Iran agreed to facilitate interaction between CAFOR and relevant Iranian Institutions to collectively define areas of mutual interests Also recommended CAFOR to closely work with the South-South Organization of Education Cooperation (OEC) aimed at

					Technological Innovation and Digitalization Enhancement (OEC).
7.	Embassy of Turkey	07/09/2023	H.E Ambassador Berk Baran	Courtesy call and second round of talks with Turkey on the follow-up on sponsorship	Courtesy call and follow-up on the CAFOR request for financial support to implementation projects on quality education, TVET programs for the youth, education in emergencies, and South-South cooperation in technology and innovation. Finally, Turkey expressed its willingness to bring CAFOR programmes to the attention of a joint meeting of the A.U. Partners Group.
8.	Embassy of Switzerland	11/09/2023	H.E Ambassador Pietro Mona	Introduction of CAFOR in support of the African Union Policy Instruments and to address TVET education and training.	CAFOR Delegation led by Dr. Lawalley Cole, the Executive Director, comprised of Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke, Senior Advisor, and Dr. Tsedey Shume, Special Assistant to the Executive Director of CAFOR was received at the Switzerland Embassy by His Excellency Pietro Mona, Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union. In his preliminary remarks, the CAFOR Executive Director, Dr. Lawalley Cole, provided a comprehensive account of the organization's historical trajectory, spanning from its establishment to the African Union's endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement designated CAFOR as an entity that would support the implementation of various initiatives,

					<p>including Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). He further emphasized that CAFOR is engaged in collaborative efforts with many United Nations (U.N.) organizations, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNESCO-IICBA. The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), GIZ, KOICA, the European Union (EU), and the Organization International de la Francophonie (OIF) are among the entities considered as current or prospective partners. Therefore, CAFOR would like to forge a partnership with Switzerland-related institutions.</p> <p>The Ambassador of Switzerland stressed his country's various initiatives with a special focus on migration programs, youth mobility facilitated by the African Union, agricultural governance, risk insurance capabilities, the African Union's Peace and Security Council, and the initiation of capacity-building efforts in Africa He also provided a comprehensive overview of various Swiss initiatives with a specific focus on migration programs, youth mobility facilitated by the African Union, agricultural governance, risk insurance</p>
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					<p>capabilities, the African Union's Peace and Security Council, and the initiation of capacity building efforts in Africa. In addition, he stated Switzerland's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs, which have been effectively underway for the past 150 years. These programs have prominently depended on private sector involvement to enhance employability Outcome.</p> <p>He finally expressed the view that TVET programmes can be the most relevant for CAFOR's Partnership with Swiss counterparts.</p>
9.	Embassy of Mexico	16/11/2023	H.E Ambassador Victor Trevno	Discussed CAFOR preparations for the implementation of the roadmap for the AU Year of Education 2024	Shared Mexico's best knowledge and practices in Education toward integrated, inclusive, and quality education systems. CAFOR is eager to collaborate with Mexico on digitalization for peace and conflict Resolution. Mexico expressed its commitment to building a long-lasting working relationship with CAFOR.
10.	Embassy of Finland	23/11/2023	H.E Ambassador Sinikka Antila	Discussed the willingness to forge a lasting partnership with Finland	Two parties agreed to closely work with CAFOR through the non-governmental organization Finn Church Aid which works largely in the same fields, including the Teachers without Borders education engaged in quality education.

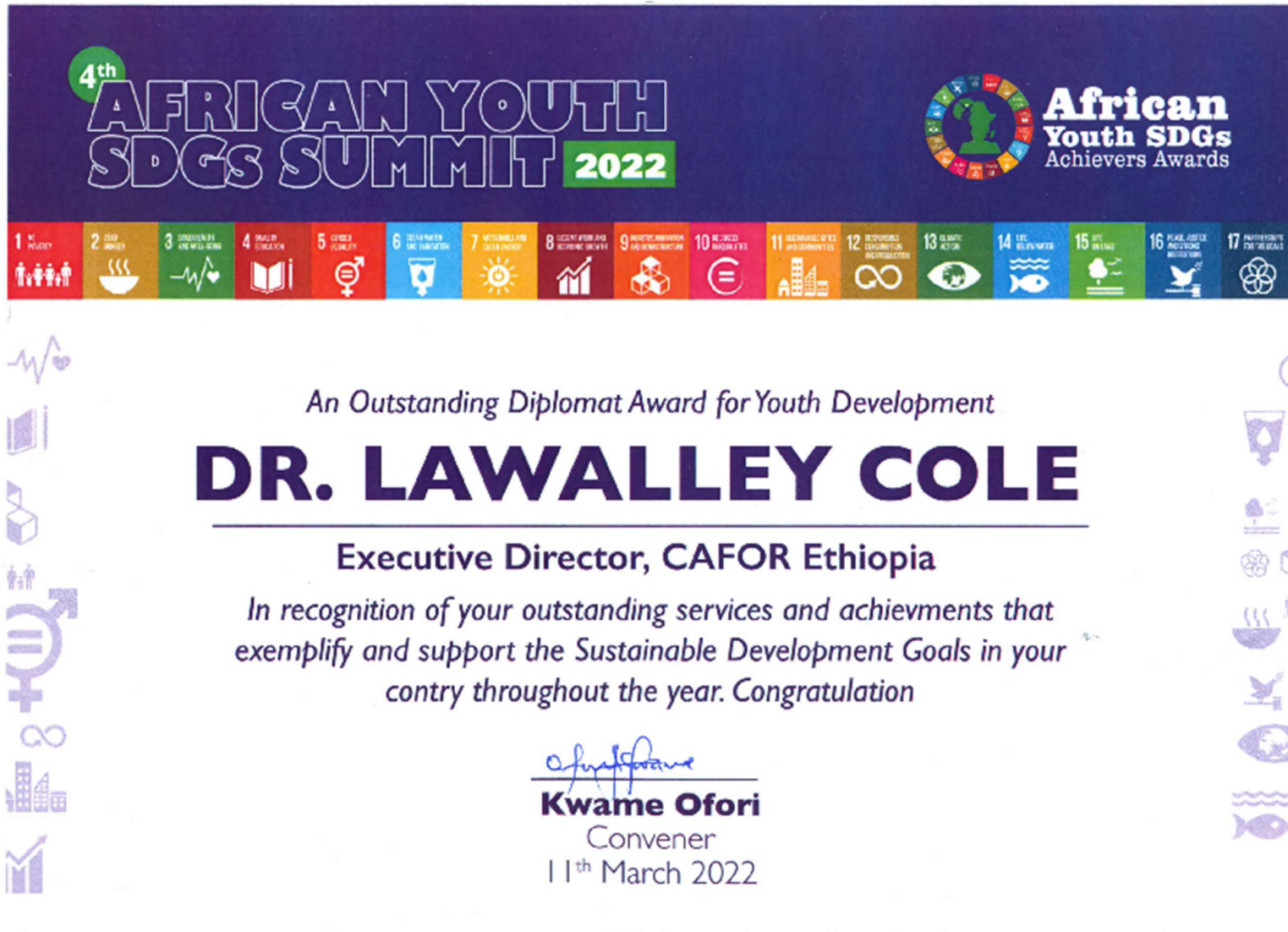
Annex 5: African Union Commission Appreciation for CAFOR with a Certificate of Recognition



ANNEX 6: Certificate of Appreciation from O-YES Global Foundation



Annex 7: SDG Youth Summit Outstanding Diplomatic Award for Youth Development



Annex 8: Africa-America Institute Certificate of Professional Development



Annex 9: ATUPA Certificate of Participation



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