

AFRICAN UNION

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INNOVATING EDUCATION IN AFRICA EXPO

4th – 6th October 2018

Dakar, Senegal

Draft Communiqué

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INNOVATING EDUCATION IN AFRICA EXPO

We, the participants at the 1st Innovating Education in Africa Expo held in Dakar, Senegal from 4th to 6th October 2018 approve and adopt the following Communiqué.

Acknowledging:

- a. The support of the people and government of the Republic of Senegal towards the successful hosting of the Expo;
- b. Africa's sustained growth, competitiveness and economic transformation will require investments in new technologies and innovations as well as recognising the need for enhancement of opportunities for youth;
- c. The importance of integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools for enhancing access and quality in education provision;
- d. The need for promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education at all levels to enhance Africa's global competitiveness;
- e. That Africa needs functional and strengthened Education Management Information Systems for effective sector planning and accountability;
- f. Expanding effective literacy programmes in rural areas and disadvantaged groups contributes to sustainable development in Africa;
- g. Innovation in Education is imperative to the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy for Africa and achievement of both Agenda 2063 and the global Education Agenda 2030;

Recommend the following:

- i. Encourage the piloting of innovative approaches, methods and tools in education towards up-scaling and replication in AU Member States.
- ii. Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders including the private sector and development partners to spur and leverage innovations that are tailored to the needs of their contexts.
- iii. Ensure intellectual property rights for innovators to protect and encourage new innovations in the education sector and beyond.

- iv. Facilitate regular knowledge and experience sharing on innovation to promote educational development at national, regional and continental levels, thereby catering for the changing needs of Member States and taking on board advances in technology.
- v. Support and scale up innovations that ensure that children develop strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, including the ability to read and write in their mother tongue.
- vi. Encourage innovations that support the preservation and development of African culture and values and indigenous knowledge.
- vii. Support and scale-up innovations that promote girls and women's education for enhancing gender equality, focusing on STEM and promoting jobs for women in the applied sciences.
- viii. Learners must be stimulated and encouraged to take on STEM at an early age as this is an enabler for transformation; Curricula should be tailored to encourage STEM, while low-cost teaching and learning materials should be used to enhance access to STEM education.
- ix. There is need for assessment studies on curriculum reforms and refurbishment of schools to ensure responsiveness of the education system to existing and emerging issues.
- x. Strengthen and leverage on emerging and innovative digital technologies including digital media and social networks for education development in addition to empowering teachers with the necessary ICT skills for the 21st Century.
- xi. Showcase lessons learnt in TVET and support evidence based policy processes; and thereby foster innovation. The African Skills Portal for Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship (ASPYEE) should be utilised in this respect.
- xii. Promote social innovations for inclusive education focusing on disadvantaged groups including refugees, and persons with disabilities and the mainstreaming of human rights and peace education; and ensure protection of the right to education during emergency situations.
- xiii. Policy recommendations should be evidence based and linkages should be established between policies and practice. In addition, African Union Commission should coordinate Member States to report regularly on their best innovative practices in education.

- xiv. Establish a Network of African Education Innovators, including youths to give visibility to their innovations, have them deliberately promoted, effectively packaged and supported by all stakeholders, for further development and scale-up.
- xv. Convene “Innovating Education in Africa Expo” as an annual event to keep momentum and attract young innovators across the continent.

In this respect we appreciate and support the offer of the Republic of Botswana to host the next Innovating Education in Africa Expo in 2019.

Dakar, Senegal, 6th October 2018