

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRIKA



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**Call for Action & Recommendations of the African Union's
1st Pan-African Conference on Girls' and Women's Education
in Africa (AU/PANCOGE1)**

***“Prioritizing girls, and women’s education: A strategy for
increased access to inclusive, lifelong quality and relevant
learning in Africa”***

We, African Union Member States and Representatives in charge of Education, gender and social development with Official delegates from respective United Nations agencies, development partners, CSOs, religious and traditional leaders, Youth and children led-associations and participants of the African Union's 1st Pan-African Conference on Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/PANCOGE1) held in Addis Ababa on the 2nd - 5th July 2024, as part of the implementation of the roadmap related to the AU Theme of the year 2024:

Call upon all AU Member States – primarily governments, but also non-governmental actors – with the support of the African Union Commission Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) through its Technical and Specialized Office, the African Union International Centre for Girls and Women's Education, the AU/CIEFFA to:

- 1. Prioritize** legal frameworks, legislative and policy reforms to guarantee reintegration and ongoing education for all children, especially for girls and adolescents in and out of school; and strengthen implementation of national policies and plans to prevent and respond to school-related gender-based violence, and to provide all learners with information and knowledge about healthy and respectful relationships including through engaging men and boys.
- 2. Acknowledge** the intersectional barriers faced by many adolescent girls – including those who are part of indigenous communities, living in rural areas, those with disabilities, on the move, pregnant and/or young mothers – and **ensure** they are participating in formal education and access informal learning opportunities, including in STEM education and TVET, benefiting from multiple alternative learning pathways.
- 3. Strengthen** follow-up on commitments made at the 2022 Transforming Education Summit, and the 2022 African Union Gender Experts Meeting to the Dakar Declaration, to guarantee fundamental education and mitigate learning losses during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and **integrate** holistic learning approaches in curriculum development and policymaking.
- 4. Promote gender-responsive** financing policies to guarantee equitable interventions, promoting and protecting girls' education including foundation learning, including the provision of standard WASH facilities, menstrual health and hygiene, school-feeding programmes and climate adaptive strategies, thereby increasing performance and retention rates of all children.
- 5. Promote generation of gender-disaggregated data in education management information systems** and research on multiple vulnerabilities that impact girls' and women's education, to inform data-driven advocacy, gender-responsive legislation, and policies.

6. **Promote** women's leadership in and out of schools including women school heads and teachers, role models and networks to empower future generations of girls and women and close the gender gap especially in the male dominated fields.
7. **Close** the gender gap in digital literacy and advance digital literacy among learners and teachers by incorporating it in learning recovery and at foundational strategies.
8. **Recommend** for AU Member States to adopt and launch the *#AfricaEducatesHer* Campaign at national level.
9. **Recommend** that the AU PANCOGED be a biennial event of the ESTI/AUCIEFFA in collaboration with AU Member States and the relevant partners.
10. **Recommend** this call of action to be presented to the AU Specialized & Technical Committee on Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation as an outcome document in line with the AU Theme of the year 2024 on Education.

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES:

1. Algeria
2. Benin
3. Burundi
4. Cameroon
5. Central African Republic
6. Chad
7. Côte d'Ivoire
8. Democratic Republic of Congo
9. Egypt
10. Eswatini
11. Ethiopia
12. Ghana
13. Kenya
14. Lesotho
15. Madagascar
16. Malawi
17. Mauritania
18. Mauritius
19. Morocco
20. Mozambique
21. Namibia
22. Nigeria
23. Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic
24. Senegal
25. Seychelles
26. Sierra Leone
27. South Africa
28. South Sudan
29. Tanzania
30. The Gambia
31. Togo
32. Tunisia
33. Uganda
34. Zambia
35. Zimbabwe

AFRICAN UNION ORGANS

1. AUC Departments
2. ACHPR
3. ACERWC
4. AfCFTA
5. AUDA NEPAD
6. ECOSOCC

UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES

1. UNAIDS
2. UNESCO
3. UNFPA
4. UNGEI
5. UNICEF
6. UN WOMEN
7. WFP

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

1. Norway
2. Permanent Mission of Japan to the African Union
3. European Union
4. World Bank
5. Global Partnership for Education

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

1. Action Aid
2. AFLATOUN
3. AfECN
4. ANCEFA
5. BAKHITA Partnership for Education
6. CARE
7. FAWE
8. GIRLS NOT BRIDES
9. HUMANITY INCLUSION
10. Global Campaign for Education
11. JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES
12. ImpactHER Foundation
13. OXFAM
14. Plan International
15. Schlumberger Foundation
16. UMUZI
17. World Vision

Adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 5th of July 2024