

## El Africa's Proposals for the Post-2025 Education Strategy for Africa

### A. Introduction

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, including Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG) 4 on quality education, the following year the African Union adopted the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA): 2016 – 2025. CESA articulates the African Union and member states' education goals, in line with the vision and aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

CESA has 12 strategic objectives, focusing on revitalizing the teaching profession; providing educational infrastructure; harnessing the capacity of ICT; acquisition of knowledge and skills; achieving gender parity and equity; launching comprehensive literacy programmes; strengthening science and mathematics; expanding TVET opportunities; expanding tertiary education; promoting peace education; improving management of education systems; and building partnerships.

UNESCO data shows that, on current trends, the CESA objectives will be widely missed. Inadequate education financing, teacher shortages, poor infrastructure, insecurity and disease pandemics, in particular, COVID-19, have been the major bottlenecks to achieving SDG 4 and CESA objectives. Overall, CESA objectives remain relevant. Nevertheless, the African Union needs to develop strategies for addressing the major bottlenecks and accelerating progress towards the achievement of CESA objectives by 2025 and SDG 4 by 2030.

### B. El Africa's strategy and proposals for the post-2025 education strategy

Seriously concerned about the slow and uneven progress towards the achievement of SDG 4 and CESA objectives, El Africa proposes the following strategies by the African Union:

- 1) To carry out an assessment of progress towards the achievement of CESA objectives, involving education unions and other key education stakeholders. The proposed assessment would help identify the major achievements, bottlenecks and lessons learnt in order to inform the development of the African Union's post-2025 education strategy;
- 2) To come up with a robust mechanism for financing the post-2025 education strategy, with a clear goal and financing targets for member states; and,
- 3) To convene an education financing conference to solicit domestic financing pledges from member states and external support from development partners.

The post-2025 education strategy should focus the following priority areas:

- 1) Improving the supply, status and working conditions of teachers and education support personnel
  - ✓ Teacher training, professional development, recruitment and retention
  - ✓ Professional teaching standards
  - ✓ Teacher motivation, salaries and working conditions
  - ✓ Teacher safety and wellbeing
  - ✓ Social and policy dialogue

- 2) Education financing (both domestic and external)
  - ✓ Leveraging more domestic financing, including through fair and progressive taxation
  - ✓ Increasing external support, particularly for the least developed and conflict affected countries
  - ✓ Robust education financing mechanism
- 3) Provision of adequate and appropriate school infrastructure, teaching and learning resources
  - ✓ Classrooms, libraries, laboratories, play areas, furniture etc.
  - ✓ Textbooks and other teaching and learning resources
  - ✓ Closing the digital divide, appropriate and safe use of ICT
- 4) Gender equality, equity and inclusion
  - ✓ Human rights
  - ✓ Education for girls and women
  - ✓ Children with disabilities
  - ✓ Children in rural, slum and other marginalized areas
- 5) Peace education, school safety and health
  - ✓ Protecting schools and other education institutions from attack
  - ✓ Global citizenship and peace education
  - ✓ Psychosocial support
- 6) Climate change and environmental protection
  - ✓ Quality climate change education
  - ✓ Disaster preparedness and early warning systems
  - ✓ Greening schools and other education institutions
- 7) Expanding educational opportunities at all levels
  - ✓ Universal early childhood education (from zero to 8)
  - ✓ Free and compulsory primary and secondary education of at least 12 years, in line with SDG 4 commitments
  - ✓ Progressively free tertiary education, including Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education