



Conference Report and Recommendations

*Thematic Conference on the Educational Challenge
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
16 June 2008*



The Africa Commission

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Content

Introduction	3
Themes of discussion and recommendations.....	3
1. A comprehensive approach to the educational sector	4
2. Primary education	5
3. Secondary education, including technical and vocational education and training - skills development.....	6
4. Higher education and research.....	7
5. Equal access to education, including gender equality	7
6. Education in post conflict countries and countries in fragile situations.....	8
The way ahead	9
Annex I: About the Africa Commission	10
Members of the Commission.....	11
Annex II: Agenda	12
Annex III: List of participants	13
Annex IV: List of working groups	18

Introduction

The first thematic conference of the Africa Commission dealt with the educational challenge related to youth and employment in Africa and took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 16 April 2008. The aim of the Conference was to engage African experts and practitioners in education and stakeholders of international development cooperation with Africa in identifying best practices and tentative recommendations for the Africa Commission.

The Conference was hosted by three of the 18 members of the Africa Commission: The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas; The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj; and the Vice-Chancellor of Aarhus University, Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen. The 100 participants were representatives from various education initiatives as well as representatives from NGOs, regional organizations, the African Development Bank, African governments and youth organizations.

The participants addressed the educational challenges in working groups on the themes: 1) A comprehensive approach to the educational sector; 2) Primary education; 3) Secondary Education, including technical and vocational education and training – skills development; 4) Higher education and research; 5) Equal access to education, including gender equality; 6) Education in post-conflict countries and countries in fragile situations.

The deliberations of the working groups were centred on identifying the needs. The recommendations were targeted at the African youth; African governments; NGO and civil society; international organizations; the African Union and other relevant stakeholders, which the working groups found relevant.

The following report builds on discussions from the working groups. The present report will be widely circulated and feed into the work of the Africa Commission at its second meeting in Addis Ababa on 20 November 2008.

Attached in annex I is information about the Africa Commission, in annex II the agenda of the conference and in annex III and IV the list of participants and the working groups.

Themes of discussion and recommendations

The Conference confirmed that education is not only a right of all children, but that it has an indisputably positive impact on employment generation, economic growth and poverty reduction.

There was a call for more investment in education at all levels and for more effective measures in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration of Effective Aid for enhancing education of children and youth in Africa in general from African governments, the private sector and multilateral and bilateral development partners.

The importance of promoting education in the mother tongue was emphasized by several of the working groups. Education given in the children's first language has shown very positive results for future learning,

The strong link between education and job opportunities – both employment and self-employment – was emphasized. It was fundamental to the Conference that education of children and youth should be of higher quality and provide for a skilled and competent workforce that meets the needs of society in general and of the private sector in particular. Otherwise there would be a risk of educating people for unemployment and limiting the growth of the private sector due to lack of skilled labour.

1. A comprehensive approach to the educational sector

The responsibility for improving the education sector lies primarily with Governments. However, it was also emphasized that the private sector, civil society and multilateral and bilateral development partners play key roles and must step up their engagement in and support for the education sector.

The conference generally backed the need to take a comprehensive approach to education considering all levels and kinds of education in a comprehensive manner. Primary education has been the focus of much attention in all countries and at the international level. The conference found in addition that early childhood development and post primary education, as well as adult education and alphabetization are important elements in ensuring a qualified and skilled workforce that can contribute to employment, growth and poverty reduction.

The link between the education levels must also be strengthened so that a completed primary education leads into secondary or technical education and so forth. It was generally felt that more attention must be given to completion rates at all levels of education, especially post-primary, where the drop-out rates are high, particularly for girls.

The conference presented a large number of concrete recommendations and ideas to be considered in the further work of the Africa Commission. Together these recommendations and ideas point to the following tentative suggestions:

- African Governments should develop and/or strengthen comprehensive national policies towards education for all levels of education, including ensuring adequate financing. Such policies should involve key stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and sub-regional stakeholders. Policies should take into account more directly the needs of the public and private sectors with a view to ensuring that resources invested in education results in the creation of better and more productive jobs.
- There is a need to increase the quantity and quality of post-primary education. This will require more funds for education in absolute terms, and more funds for the post primary level in relation to the total funding of education. The benchmark of around 20

per cent of the state budget going to education, of which half should go to primary education, should be pursued.

- More work has to be done on the issue of technical and vocational education and training to ensure that this area of the educational sector is further developed in close collaboration between governments, the private sector and social partners.
- Special efforts should be undertaken to ensure gender equality and access of underprivileged groups to education at all levels. This could include special scholarship programmes for girls and female students at secondary and tertiary levels.
- The African Union should implement its action plan for the decade for education and harmonise regional norms and standards related to education. There is scope for regional and sub-regional cooperation in developing regional centres of excellence in specific areas. Regional and sub-regional organizations should play a more active role in promoting development of these, in developing regional cooperation in the provision of tertiary education and research to take advantages of economies of scale. Regional and sub-regional organizations should take on a role as peer reviewers of policies and strategies and their implementation in line with the principles of the African Peer Review Mechanism.
- The multilateral and bilateral development partners should increase development assistance to education, including ensuring more investment in post primary education. This would involve longer term commitment of support going beyond 3-5 years. This should be done in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It could be considered whether the Fast Track Initiative mechanism could be an effective vehicle for accelerating investments in post primary education.

2. Primary education

Great progress in gross enrolment has been made in Africa. However universal primary education has not yet been achieved. The conference found that the physical environment, the availability of teaching material, the quality and relevance of the curricula, as well as the quality of teaching are still very poor in many countries and especially in rural (and remote) areas.

The conference presented a large number of concrete recommendations and ideas to be considered in the further work of the Africa Commission. Together these recommendations and ideas point to the following tentative suggestions:

- Continue to enhance support for universal primary education and support the implementation of the Education for All initiative, MDG 2 and 3 and the Dakar Framework through increased funding from governments and international development partners and improve aid effectiveness in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
- Make education free and provide better physical school environment with adequate number and quality of books and furniture. This should be the responsibility of government. However, there is also a need to strengthen community and private sector involvement in primary education at all levels in order to have a school that is inclusive of all and has a relevant curricula.

- There is a need to consider the responsibilities of central governments and local governments with a view to ensure equal access to quality primary education. Rural and remote areas face the double challenge that they normally have less resources to invest and that they are less attractive for good teachers to work and live in. Improving teachers' living and working conditions and provide incentives e.g. for the acquisition of housing and transport and improve their capacity through in-service training are some incentives that could be considered.
- Curricula should be adapted to the socio-economic needs of communities and countries and teachers trained in the curricular.

3. Secondary education, including technical and vocational education and training - skills development

The conference confirmed that demand for secondary education is growing as a consequence of the expansion of primary education and that the supply of secondary schooling is not in line with demand. At the secondary level, including both general and technical education, there are often formal and informal, public and private education systems, which are frequently working in parallel and with some inconsistency. Technical and vocational education and training was found to be lacking in both quantity and quality, but was also found to be important for providing opportunities for young people for better employment.

The conference presented a large number of concrete recommendations and ideas to be considered in the further work of the Africa Commission. Together these recommendations and ideas point to the following tentative suggestions:

- African governments and international development partners should increase financing for secondary and technical and vocational education and training. The private sector should be closely involved, as it can help ensure the relevance of training and curricula as well as service providers. Possibilities of public-private partnerships include participation in development of policies and strategies, co-financing and other activities such as apprenticeship and/or practical programs.
- Donors should engage in dialogue on technical and vocational education and training, but respect strategic choices made by individual countries. Donors should also increase finance to technical and vocational education and training either directly or as part of a comprehensive support to the education sector.
- Entrepreneurship-initiatives, and if possible financing initiatives, should be included in secondary education and technical and vocational education and training. These could include access to microfinance, access to land/office facilities etc. that would be complementary to the skills acquired.
- Good practice in Africa with targeting vocational training specifically to rural areas and the key trades in these areas, e.g. agriculture, fishing and agro-industry, with a focus on improving agricultural productivity should be systematised and disseminated.

4. Higher education and research

It has been generally acknowledged that the private returns to education increase with the level of education, while the social returns diminish. However, the public benefits of higher education could have been underestimated, calling for more targeted investments. Recent research suggests that national governments and international donors should invest more in African higher education and research because of the potential role this could play for economic growth and poverty reduction.

The conference presented a large number of concrete recommendations and ideas to be considered in the further work of the Africa Commission. Together these recommendations and ideas point to the following tentative suggestions:

- Governments and regional organisations should promote regional universities and centres of excellence as a strategy to help improve the quality of tertiary education and create critical mass for more stimulating and productive professional environments. Moving towards virtual universities can facilitate this.
- There should be an increased focus on science and technology in tertiary education.
- National research policies and strategies should be developed that take into account the needs of the private sector. Governments should consider setting up competitive research funds geared towards a strategic research agenda. The private sector and industry could do the same or contribute to government research funds.
- Governments should create incentives for lecturers, e.g. scholarships, in-service training and competitive salaries; ensure intellectual property rights but encourage publication in public domain.
- Encourage female students to move up through the different levels of education and change perception of limits to what they can do. Introduce affirmative action to enable females to stay longer in school.
- International development partners should increase support to tertiary education and research in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

5. Equal access to education, including gender equality

77 million children are out of school, mostly for reasons of poverty. 57 per cent of these are girls. Two thirds of the world's illiterates are women. The gender gap is narrowing in many countries but is still significant, especially at post primary levels.

The conference presented a large number of concrete recommendations and ideas to be considered in the further work of the Africa Commission. Together these recommendations and ideas point to the following tentative suggestions:

- Governments in collaboration with civil society, the private sector and development partners should increase efforts to address all barriers, including “hidden” barriers to access to education, especially primary education for girls, the disabled and other marginalized groups. Governments should set up special initiatives to cater for this,

such as scholarships for needy students, including girls and girl mothers; school feeding programs in poor areas, day care centres for girl mothers' children, encourage community ownership and increase the relevance of education, promote first language learning, where appropriate, assign teachers with adequate skills in local language, facilitate female teacher recruitment, combat sexual harassment and exploitation of girl students etc.

- Governments should pay attention to early childhood education and early learning; diversify paths for education, e.g. by articulating formal and non-formal as well as complementary education.
- International development partners should provide increased support to governments that adopt initiatives to promote equal access to education.

6. Education in post conflict countries and countries in fragile situations

In post-conflict societies all of the challenges addressed in previous sections are exacerbated. The education system, including the recruitment and training of teachers, is often close to collapse. In addition there is a special and very serious challenge in addressing the teenagers and young adults who have not been engaged in any form of education due to the conflict. Furthermore, the young may be traumatized physically and mentally from the conflict and thus need alternative and/or tailored education and training.

In post-conflict societies, education represents normalization and is an important peace-dividend. Education is also typically in strong demand as it bears hope of peace and development.

The conference presented a large number of concrete recommendations and ideas to be considered in the further work of the Africa Commission. Together these recommendations and ideas point to the following tentative suggestions:

- International donors should address the funding gap between humanitarian and development work and pay special attention to education as experience shows that parents respond positively and are eager to send their children to school or learning spaces as soon as the conditions in terms of peace and security are provided. Quick responses are essential so that the children get immediate attention and parents begin to believe in benefits of educating their children.
- The support should be based on a two-pronged approach:
 - One which addresses the most urgent demands for education of children of primary school age and young people who have been out of school partially or the whole of their school age. It is necessary to fast-track completion of primary school, which most often is a prerequisite for acquiring the necessary basic skills for future employment.
 - And one which supports longer-term development to build up a coherent education system, which will eventually be able to take over the responsibility for the education.

- Pooled funding is an effective mechanism for strengthening support to post-conflict situations and fragile states. When reconstructing the education system, local capacities both public and private should be built upon and further developed. In this context, bilateral donors should be open to new types of partnerships with the participation of NGOs and UN agencies. Experience shows that harmonised funding mechanisms can be set up and made to work despite institutional differences.
- Minimum standards on education should be set by AU and ECOWAS and there should be emphasis on promoting these standards in all post conflict and fragile states. The African Peer Review Mechanism should monitor the application of these standards.
- Special attention should be paid, and funding allocated to the needs of traumatized, e.g. disabled, children and youth.
- Education interventions should be accompanied by activities aiming at increasing citizens' awareness on the need to stay and help rebuild the society instead of leaving.

The way ahead

Following the working program adopted at the first meeting of the Africa Commission, four additional thematic conferences will follow prior to the second meeting of the Commission in Addis Ababa on 20 November 2008. Members of the Commission will participate and co-chair each conference.

The reports and the recommendations from the conference on the Educational Challenge and the subsequent four conferences will be gathered in a catalogue for the Commissioners to consider at their Second meeting in Addis. The catalogue will be made available on the website of the Africa Commission and the participants from the thematic conferences will be invited to comment on the chapter pertaining to the conference that they participated in.

It is the aim to continue the dialogue with African and international partners throughout the work of the Africa Commission and even after the Commission present its final report in May 2009. Participants are encouraged to engage in the online debate forum and subscribe to the newsletter on www.africacommission.um.dk and to present discussion papers on relevant best-practices, ideas and recommendations.

Annex I

About the Africa Commission

The aim of the Africa Commission is to improve international development cooperation with Africa and find new and innovative strategies for creating job opportunities for the youth of Africa. The Commission builds upon and seeks to contribute to the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Africa EU Strategic Partnership agreed in Lisbon in December 2007.

At the first meeting in Copenhagen on 16 April 2008, the Commission identified a number of areas where more action is required: The first is to give the youth in Africa better opportunities for education and employment. The second is to ensure that Africa is able to adapt to climate change and exploit opportunities created by mitigation. The third is to empower women economically to foster gender equality and welfare. Increased and sustained growth that benefits all is a necessary condition to meet these challenges. But it is not a sufficient condition. Specific policy actions, tailored to country and sub-region specific conditions, are required that address each of the challenges. The Commission will seek to strengthen enterprise-led efforts at development as well as donor support to government-led initiatives. The Commission agreed on its primary objectives, which are:

- To be a Commission *with* Africa that seeks *international partnerships to support African solutions to African problems*.
- To enhance the focus of the international community on job opportunities for young Africans.
- To assist in creating ways to improve the impact of international development assistance.
- To renew thinking on how long-term programmable international development assistance can strengthen African economic performance.
- To leave a permanent mark on the way in which international development assistance programmes are structured in order to achieve the greatest possible employment effect.

The members of the Commission represent key stakeholders in international development cooperation with Africa, notably African governments, representatives from the major donor agencies, experts and representatives from NGOs as well as business people.

The Commissioners will meet three times before submitting recommendations for more effective development cooperation with Africa. The first meeting took place in Copenhagen on 16 April 2008. A second meeting will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 20 November 2008. The third and final meeting will take place in Copenhagen in May 2009.

The Commission organizes a series of thematic conferences in Africa between the first and the second meeting of the Commission. The conferences will include broad participation of relevant stakeholders from regional organizations, youth organizations, women organizations, government, civil society, private sector, academia and international resource persons.

Members of the commission

1. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark (Chairman)
2. Christian Friis Bach, International Director of DanChurchAid
3. Klaus Bustrup, Chairman of the Board for International Development Cooperation
4. Robert Calderisi, Economic consultant, teacher and writer
5. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission
6. Luísa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister of Mozambique
7. Mo Ibrahim, Founder of Celtel
8. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank
9. Jakaya Kikwete, President of Tanzania
10. Ellen Margrethe Løj, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Liberia
11. Betty Maina, Executive Director of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers
12. Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary-General
13. Greg Mills, Director of the Brenthurst Foundation
14. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen, Rector of Aarhus University
15. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director of the World Bank
16. Jean Ping, Chairman of the African Union Commission
17. Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark
18. Koen Vervaeke, European Union Special Representative and Head of the European Commission Delegation to the African Union

Annex II



The Africa Commission *Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa*

**Thematic conference in Ouagadougou, 16 June 2008
on the Educational Challenge**

AGENDA

- 08.30 Registration at AZALAI Hôtel Indépendance
- 09.15 Welcoming remarks by Commissioner Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of ECOWAS
- Commissioners Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen, Rector of the University of Århus, Denmark and Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj, Special Representative of the Secretary General in Liberia
- Key note speech: Ms. Odile Bonkougou, Minister for Basic Education and Literacy
- Commissioner Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen to introduce the working methodology, aim and intended outcome of the working groups.
- 10.30 Working Session: The participants divide into working groups with more focused sub-themes (within the overall theme)*.
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.15 Working groups continued (including refreshments and a coffee break)
- 15.40 In plenary: Presentations by each working group on recommendations and Q&A
- Summary of the discussion, presentation of tentative list of recommendations and future steps by the hosting Commissioners
- 18.20 Concluding remarks by State Secretary, Ambassador Ib Petersen on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation
- 18.40 Press Conference for Commissioners only
- 20.00 Dinner hosted by the Africa Commission at AZALAI Hôtel Indépendance

*The aim of the working group sessions is to develop concrete, applicable and operational recommendations, which can feed into the Commission's work. Each group will be represented by a moderator. Commissioners will participate in discussions where appropriate.

Annex III



The Africa Commission *Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa*

Thematic conference in Ouagadougou, 16 June 2008
on the Educational Challenge

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Titel	Organization	Country
Commissioners			
Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas	President	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj	SRSG in Liberia	UN	Liberia
Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen	Rector	University of Århus	Denmark
Ministers			
Ms. Odile Bonkougou	Ministre de l'Enseignement de Base et de l'Alphabétisation	Ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation	Burkina Faso
Mr. Joseph Pare	Ministre	Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESSRS)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Justin Koutaba	Ministre	Ministère de la Jeunesse et de l'Emploi (MJE)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Gayflor Vabah	Minister	Ministry of Gender and Development	Liberia
Mr. Ousséni Tamboura	Ministre Délégué de l'Alphabétisation et de l'Education non Formelle	Ministère de l'Enseignement de Base et de l'Alphabétisation (MEBA)	Burkina Faso
Mr. James Roberts	Deputy Minister of Education	Ministry of Education	Liberia
Participants			
Mr. Abdel-Fatau Musah	Conflict Prevention Adviser	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Mr. Abukari Dokuruğu	Chairman	Youth Forum 2008 Steering Committee	Ghana
Mr. Achille Denis Marie Ouedraogo	Membre de CESAM	Cellule de Solidarité et d'Assistance Mutuelle	Burkina Faso
Mr. Adama Samassekou	Secrétaire Exécutif a.i.	Académie Africaine de Langues (ACALAN)	Mali
Mr. Ahmed Hamza Tijani	Programme Director, Basic Education Programme	Ibis West Africa	Ghana

Ms. Aïcha Ouédraogo	Assistante chargé de projet	Réseau Africain Jeunesse santé et développement (RAJS)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Alice Tiendrebeogo	Directrice Générale	Fonds pour l'Alphabétisation et l'Education Non Formelle (FONAENF)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Amadou Diemdioda Dicko	Président du Groupe Parlementaire Convention des Forces Républicaines (CFR)	Assemblée Nationale (Burkina Faso)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Anders Friberg	Special Advisor to the UN SRSG in Liberia	UN	Liberia
Mr. André Compaoré	Président	Conseil National Association Parents d'Elève du Primaire (CNAPEP)	Burkina Faso
Mr. André Komenan	Consultant	The African Development Bank	Tunesia
Ms. Annette Ching'andu	Research Associate	Khulisa Management Services (Pty) Ltd	South Africa
Mr. Antoine Bere	Directeur Général	Direction Générale de l'Enseignement secondaire technique et professionnel, Ministère des Enseignements secondaire, supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique	Burkina Faso
Ms. Assibi Damba Napoe	Chief Regional Coordinator	Education International	Togo
Mr. Atoumane Fall		ANCEFA (Africa Network Campaign on Education for All)	Senegal
Mr. Augustin Loada	Secrétaire Exécutif Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique	Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique	Burkina Faso
Mr. Ayignon Michel Wantchecon	Directeur de l'Enseignement Secondaire, par intérim	Ministère de l'Enseignement Secondaire et de la Formation Technique et Professionnelle	Benin
Ms. Bernadette Sanou	Directeur Général	Direction de la Recherche et du développement pédagogique (DGCRIFEF) Ministère de l'Enseignement de Base et de l'Alphabétisation (MEBA)	Burkina Faso
Dr. Bouma Jean-Paul Bazie	Conseiller Technique du ministre	Ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation	Burkina Faso
Dir. Boureïma Jacques Ki	Directeur	Direction Etude & Planification, Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESSRS)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Charles Fosu	National Chairperson Youth Wing	Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled - youth wing (GSPD-YW)	Ghana
Mr. Daouda Sonko	Project Manager	Catholic Relief Services	Senegal
Mr. Elias Tadesse Baraki	Program Manager	Save the Children Denmark, Somaliland Program	Kenya
Mr. Emmanuel Wollor Bropleh Jr	Student		Liberia

Mr. Enock Warinda	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)	Ethiopia
Mr. Eric Dourinaah	Coordinator	Northern Network on education development	Ghana
Ms. Esther Happy Edjeani	Assistant Director	Ministry of Education Science and Sports, Ghana Education Service (GES)	Ghana
Ms. Eva Iversen	Coordinator	The Danish NGO Education Network	Denmark
Dr. Evelyn Kandakai	Executive Director / Chairperson	LET (Liberia Education Trust) / FAWE (Federation of African Women Educationalist)	Liberia
Mr. Hajei Douri Bennin	Executive Director	Youth Action on Reproductive Order (Yaro)	Ghana
Mr. Hamidou Bilgo	Conseiller en Gestion d'entreprises	Maison de l'entreprise du Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Dr. Hamidou Boly	Président/Recteur	Université Polytechnique de Bobo Dioulasso	Burkina Faso
Mr. Herve Huot-Marchand, Expert Education	Expert Education	UNESCO-Breda	Senegal
Dr. King - David Kwao Amoah	National President	Farmers Organization Network in Ghana (FONG)	Ghana
Mr. Ibrahim Kaboré	Secrétaire Permanent	Plan Décennal de Développement de l'Education de Base (SP/PDDEP)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Idrissa Traore	Président	Conseil National Association Parents d'Elève Secondaire (CNAPES)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Irene Taama Duncan-Adanusa	General Secretary	Ghana National Association of Teachers	Ghana
Mr. Issaka Kargougou	Directeur Général	Maison de l'Entreprise du Burkina Faso (Secteur Privé)	Burkina Faso
Prof. Jean Kouliadiati	Président	L'Université d'Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso
Prof. Jerome Siau Djangmah	Chairman	West African Examinations Council	Ghana
Mr. James Brewah	Education Programme Officer	Save the Children	Sierra Leone
Mr. Jean-Martin Coulibaly	Chargé de programme Formation professionnelle	Bureau de Coordination de la Coopération pour le Développement, Ambassade d'Autriche au Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Mr. Joseph Ahanhanzo	Chargé de Programme Education	Royal Danish Embassy - Cotonou	Benin
Mr. Karifa Bayo	Président	Université Ouaga II	Burkina Faso
Dr. Koumba Boly-Barry	Coordonnatrice	Coopération Suisse ADEA, Programme Alpha	Burkina Faso
Mr. Kwabena Nyarko Otoo	Researcher	Ghana Trades Union Congress (Ghana TUC)	Ghana
Mr. Lawalley Cole	Coordinator	Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (WG COMED)	Benin

Ms. Lawerene Dennis		Center for Peace Education and Democracy	Liberia
Dr. Leslie Casely-Hayford	Director and Senior Consultant	Associates for Change (AFC)	Ghana
Mrs. Lucy Page	Executive Director	CEP (Community Empowerment Programme)	Liberia
Ms. Maria Kere Sorgho	Directrice Exécutive	Fondation pour le Développement Communautaire	Burkina Faso
Mr. Matarr Suraa Baldeh	National Coordinator	Education for All Campaign Network	Gambia
Mrs. Miata Fahnbulleh	Executive Director	Obaa's Girls Educational Outreach	Liberia
Ms. Mimidoo Achakpa	Executive Director	Women's Right to Education Programme	Nigeria
Mr. Mohammed Kanneh	Project Officer	West Africa Youth Network	Sierra Leone
Ms. Nina Hermanson	Director	Børnefonden	Burkina Faso
Prof. Oumar Ndongo	General-Secretary	West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF)	Nigeria
Mr. Paul Effah	Executive Secretary	National Council for Tertiary Education	Ghana
Mr. Paul Kabore	Assistant culturel provincial	Ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation	Burkina Faso
Ms. Rachel Ogbe	Principal Programme Officer, Education	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Mr. Richard D. Zabadee		Ibis	Liberia
Ms. Rozanne Chorlton	UNICEF representative	UNICEF Liberia	Liberia
Mr. Saïdou Ouedraogo	Secrétaire Exécutif	Cadre de Concertation des ONG et Association actives en Education de Base (CCEB-BF)	Burkina Faso
Dr. Seglaro Abel Somé	Expert en Economie de Institutions	Centre d'Analyse des Politiques, Economiques et Sociale (CAPES)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Simon Taro	Ag. Director, Youth and Sports Development Centre	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Mr. Sulemana Saaka Osman	Programme Director	School for Life of GDCA	Ghana
Ms. Sylvie Dedewanou-Dovoedo	Directrice de la Formation et de la Qualification Professionnelles (Niveau central)	Ministry for Secondary education, Technical and Vocational Training	Benin
Mr. Tahirou Traore	Secrétaire Général	Syndicat National des Travailleurs de l'Education de Base (SY.NA.T.E.B)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Tore Asmussen	International Secretary	Danish Union of Teachers	Denmark
Mr. Victor Atta Amponsah	Training Manager	Ghana Employers' Association	Ghana
Mrs. Vigdis Cristofoli	Regional Education Specialist	UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa	Senegal
Ms. W. Micheline Kabore	Chargé des Programmes d'Education Formelle et Non Formelle	Réseau Africain Jeunesse santé er développement (RAJS)	Burkina Faso
Danish Embassy in Ouagadougou			

Amb. Mogens Pedersen	Ambassador	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark
Ms. Ulla Næsby Tawaiah	First Secretary	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark
Mr. Mikael Erbs-Jørgensen	First Secretary	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark
Ms. Ingrid Poulsen	Program Coordinator	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark
Mr. Abdoulaye Ouedraogo	Program Coordinator	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso
Ms. Birgitta Dam	Attach, Consul	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs			
Amb. Ib Petersen	State Secretary, Ambassador	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark
Mr. Ole Thonke	Deputy Head of Department, Africa Department	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark
Secretariat of the Africa Commission			
Mr. Casper Klynge	Head of Secretariat	The Secretariat of the Africa Commission	Denmark
Ms. Lene Mandel	Head of Section, General Issues	The Secretariat of the Africa Commission	Denmark
Mr. Adam Ravnkilde	Head of Section, Logistics	The Secretariat of the Africa Commission	Denmark
Journalists			
Mr. Jakob Stobbe	Journalist	Ritzau Bureau	Denmark
Mrs. Emma Charlotte Brumpton	Journalist	AP Television News	UK
Mr. Thorsten Overgaard	Journalist	Freelance	Denmark
Mr. Segun Adeymi	Journalist	Panapress	Nigeria

Annex IV



The Africa Commission *Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa*

**Thematic conference in Ouagadougou, 16 June 2008
on the Educational Challenge
As of 9 June 2008**

List of working groups

Working Group 1 (blue): A comprehensive approach to the educational sector

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas	President	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Ms. Rachel Ogbe	Principal Programme Officer, Education	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Ms. Alice Tiendrebeogo	Directrice Générale	Fonds pour l'Alphabétisation et l'Education Non Formelle (FONAENF)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Ibrahim Kaboré	Secrétaire Permanent	Plan Décennal de Développement de l'Education de Base (SP/PDDEP)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Lawalley Cole (Rapporteur**)	Coordinator	Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (WG COMED)	Benin
Mr. Amadou Diemdiouda Dicko	Président du Groupe Parlementaire Convention des Forces Républicaines (CFR)	Assemblée Nationale (Burkina Faso)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Atoumane Fall		ANCEFA (Africa Network Campaign on Education for All)	Senegal
Dr. Augustin Loada	Secrétaire Exécutif Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique	Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique	Burkina Faso
Ms. Eva Iversen	Coordinator	The Danish NGO Education Network	Denmark
Dr. Seglaro Abel Somé	Expert en Economie de Institutions	Centre d'Analyse des Politiques, Economiques et Sociale (CAPES)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Irene Taama Duncan-Adanusa (Moderator*)	General Secretary	Ghana National Association of Teachers	Ghana
Mr. Joseph Ahanhanzo	Responsible for the Education Program	Danish Embassy	Benin
Mr. Ole Thonke	Deputy Head of Department, Africa Department	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark

Working Group 2 (green): Primary education

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen	Rector	Århus University	Denmark
Mr. Sulemana Saaka Osman	Programme Director	School for Life of GDCA	Ghana
Dr. Bouma Jean-Paul Bazie	Conseiller Technique du ministre	Ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation	Burkina Faso
Ms. Rozanne Chorlton (Moderator*)	UNICEF representative	UNICEF Liberia	Liberia
Mr. Tahirou Traore	Secrétaire Général	Syndicat National des Travailleurs de l'Education de Base (SY.NA.T.E.B)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Achille Denis Marie Ouedraogo	Membre de CESAM	Cellule de Solidarité et d'Assistance Mutuelle	Burkina Faso
Mrs. Esther Happy Edjeani	Assitant Director	Ministry of Education Science and Sports, Ghana Education Service (GES)	Ghana
Mr. Paul Kabore	Assistant culturel provincial	Ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation	Burkina Faso
Ms. Nina Hermanson	Director	Børnefonden	Burkina Faso
Mr. Saïdou Ouedraogo	Secrétaire Exécutif	Cadre de Concertation des ONG et Association actives en Education de Base (CCEB-BF)	Burkina Faso
Mrs. Miata Fahnbulleh	Executive Director	Obaa's Girls Educational Outreach	Liberia
Ms. Bernadette Sanou	Directeur Général	Direction de la Recherche et du développement pédagogique (GCRIF) Ministère de l'Enseignement de Base et de l'Alphabétisation (MEBA)	Burkina Faso
Mr. André Compaoré	Président	Conseil National Association Parents d'Elève du Primaire (CNAPEP)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Ulla Næsby Tawaiah	First Secretary	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark

Working Group 3 (orange): Secondary education, including technical and vocational education and training - skills development

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen	Rector	Århus University	Denmark
Mr. Simon Taro (Rapporteur**)	Ag. Director, Youth and Sports Development Centre	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Mr. Issaka Kargougou	Directeur Général	Maison de l'Entreprise du Burkina Faso (Secteur Privé)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Sylvie Dedewanou-Dovoedo	Directrice de la Formation et de la Qualification Professionnelles (Niveau central)	Ministry for Secondary education, Technical and Vocational Training	Benin

Mr. King - David Kwao Amoah	National President	Farmers Organization Network in Ghana (FONG)	Ghana
Ms. W. Micheline Kabore	Chargé des Programmes d'Education Formelle et Non Formelle	Réseau Africain Jeunesse santé er développement (RAJS)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Victor Atta Amponsah	Training Manager	Ghana Employers' Association	Ghana
Mr. Ayignon Michel Wantchecon	Directeur de l'Enseignement Secondaire par intérim	Ministère de l'Enseignement Secondaire et de la Formation Technique et Professionnelle	Benin
Dir. Boureima Jacques Ki (Moderator*)	Directeur	Direction Etude & Planification, Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESSRS)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Assibi Damba Napoe	Chief Regional Coordinator	Education International	Togo
Mr. Hamidou Bilgo	Conseiller en Gestion d'entreprises	Maison de l'entreprise du Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Mr. Kwabena Nyarko Otoo	Researcher	Ghana Trades Union Congress (Ghana TUC)	Ghana
Mr. Jean-Martin Coulibaly	Chargé de programme Formation professionnelle	Bureau de Coordination de la Coopération pour le Développement, Ambassade d'Autriche au Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Mr. Idrissa Traore	Président	Conseil National Association Parents d'Elève Secondaire (CNAPES)	Burkina Faso
Dr. Antoine Bere	Directeur Général	Direction Générale de l'Enseignement secondaire technique et professionnel, Ministère des Enseignements secondaire, supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique	Burkina Faso
Ms. Ingrid Poulsen	Program Coordinator	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark

Working Group 4 (purple): Higher education and research

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Dr. Lauritz Holm-Nielsen	Rector	Århus University	Denmark
Prof. Jerome Siau Djangmah	Chairman	West African Examinations Council	Ghana
Mr. Paul Effah	Executive Secretary	National Council for Tertiary Education	Ghana
Mr. Daouda Sonko	Project Manager	Catholic Relief Services	Senegal
Mr. Hajei Douiri Bennin	Executive Director	Youth Action on Reproductive Order (Yaro)	Ghana
Ms. Annette Ching'andu (Rapporteur**)	Research Associate	Khulisa Management Services (Pty) Ltd	South Africa
Dr. Hamidou Boly	Président/Recteur	Université Polytechnique de Bobo Dioulasso	Burkina Faso

Mr. Herve Huot-Marchand	Expert Education	UNESCO-Breda	Senegal
Mr. Karifa Bayo	President	Université Ouaga II	Burkina Faso
Mr. André Komenan (Moderator*)	Former Manager of Higher Education, Science and Technology	The African Development Bank	Tunisia
Mr. Matarr Suraa Baldeh	National Coordinator	Education for All Campaign Network	Gambia
Mr. Emmanuel Wollor Bropleh Jr.	Student		Liberia
Prof. Jean Kouliadiati	Président	L'Université d'Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso
Mr. Abdoulaye Ouedraogo	Program Coordinator	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso

Working group 5 (red): Equal access to education, including gender equality

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj	SRSB in Liberia	UN	Liberia
Mrs. Vigdis Cristofoli (Moderator*)	Regional Education Specialist	UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa	Senegal
Mr. Adama Samassekou	Secrétaire Exécutif a.i.	Académie Africaine des Langues (ACALAN)	Mali
Ms. Mimidoo Achakpa	Executive Director	Women's Right to Education Programme	Nigeria
Dr. Leslie Casely-Hayford	Director and Senior Consultant	Associates for Change (AFC)	Ghana
Mr. Charles Fosu	National Chairperson Youth Wing	Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled - youth wing (GSPD-YW)	Ghana
Mr. Enock Warinda	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)	Kenya
Dr. Koumba Boly-Barry	Coordonnatrice	Coopération Suisse ADEA, Programme Alpha	Burkina Faso
Ms. Aïcha Ouédraogo	Assistante chargé de projet	Réseau Africain Jeunesse santé et développement (RAJS)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Tore Asmussen (Rapporteur**)	International Secretary	Danish Union of Teachers	Denmark
Mrs. Lucy Page	Executive Director	CEP (Community Empowerment Programme)	Liberia
Ms. Maria Kere Sorgho	Directrice Exécutive	Fondation pour le Développement Communautaire	Burkina Faso
Mr. Mikael Erbs-Jørgensen	First Secretary	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark

Working Group 6 (yellow): Education in post conflict countries and countries in fragile situations

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj	SRSG in Liberia	UN	Liberia
Mr. Abdel-Fatau Musah	Conflict Prevention Adviser	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Dr. Evelyn Kandakai (Moderator*)	Executive Director / Chairperson	LET (Liberia Education Trust) / FAWE (Federation of African Women Educationalist)	Liberia
Mr. Richard D. Zabadee		Ibis	Liberia
Mr. Mohammed Kanneh	Project Officer	West Africa Youth Network	Sierra Leone
Mr. Anders Friberg	Special Advisor to the SRSG in Liberia	UN	Liberia
Mr. Eric Dourinaah (Rapporteur**)	Coordinator	Northern Network on education development	Ghana
Mr. Elias Tadesse Baraki	Program Manager	Save the Children Denmark, Somaliland Program	Ethiopia
Mr. Ahmed Hamza Tijani	Programme Director, Basic Education Programme	Ibis West Africa	Ghana
Mr. Abukari Dokurugu	Chairman	Youth Forum 2008 Steering Committee	Ghana
Ms. Lawerene Dennis		Center for Peace Education and Democracy	Liberia
Mr. James Brewah	Education Programme Officer	Save the Children	Sierra Leone
Ms. Lene Mandel	Head of Section, General Questions	The Secretariat of the Africa Commission	Denmark

Working Group 7: Policy Level Working Group

Name	Position	Organisation	Country
Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas	President	ECOWAS	Nigeria
Ms. Odile Bonkougou	Ministre de l'Enseignement de Base et de l'Alphabétisation	Ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation	Burkina Faso
Mr. Joseph Pare	Ministre	Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESSRS)	Burkina Faso
Mr. Justin Koutaba	Ministre	Ministère de la Jeunesse et de l'Emploi (MJE)	Burkina Faso
Ms. Gayflor Vabah	Minister	Ministry of Gender and Development	Liberia
Mr. Ousséni Tamboura	Ministre Délégué de l'Alphabétisation et de l'Education non Formelle	Ministère de l'Enseignement de Base et de l'Alphabétisation (MEBA)	Burkina Faso
Mr. James Roberts	Deputy Minister of Education	Ministry of Education	Liberia
Amb. Ib Petersen	State Secretary, Ambassador	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark
Amb. Mogens Pedersen	Ambassador	Danish Embassy - Ouagadougou	Denmark

*** Moderator/Un interlocuteur:** The moderator will be responsible for guiding the discussion and making sure that the discussion is canalized into concrete and implementable recommendations (cf. the discussion paper)/ L'interlocuteur sera responsable de la conduite de la discussion et assurera la bonne canalisation de la discussion pour de concrètes et exécutables recommandations (consulter le papier de discussion)

**** Rapporteur:** The rapporteur is responsible for taking notes and preparing a short written report, which reflects the discussions in the group and the suggested recommendations (cf. the template)/ Le rapporteur est responsable de la prise des notes et de la préparation d'un petit rapport écrit, qui reflète les discussions dans le groupe et les recommandations proposées (consulter le schéma)