



Ushirika wa Maendeleo ya Elimu Barani Afrika  
الرابطة لأجل تطوير التربية في إفريقيا  
Association for the Development of Education in Africa  
Association pour le développement de l'éducation en Afrique  
Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Educação em África

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## BREAKOUT SESSION 1

### **Introduction to the HLPDF:**

The overall objective of this third Forum is to promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices, and lessons to inform policies and programmes on higher education and scientific research. The below sub-theme has cross-cutting issues, one of which is the gender dimension and more generally the issue of inclusion tackling different aspects. The discussions will be driven by guiding questions based on innovative experiences and success stories. The nature and diversity of the issues and challenges related to the theme make it essential that, as far as possible, all types of partners and stakeholders contribute to the discussions and the implementation of the results of the HLPDF.

### **Deep dive for peer learning, experience sharing, and knowledge exchange:**

#### **Break out session 1: Prioritising a digital environment to boost the higher education system:**

Improving remote education, and designing practical and innovative strategies for integrating new digital technologies that meet quality standards, while building teacher capacity in technology for effective delivery. Assessing the benefits of digital technologies in higher education to improve educational outcomes, and creating more STEM related courses to improve skills.

### **Challenges:**

- **An inadequate teaching and learning environment** with insufficient levels of qualified teaching staff, poor/obsolete digital infrastructure, resources, and equipment to cater for the increasing number of young people in higher education.
- **Underdeveloped remote education** due to lack of remote and online learning provisions following continental and global quality standards and the scarce knowledge of teachers in digital educational technology.
- **Not enough STEM and relevant courses are available**, making it difficult to improve skills, employability, and integration of graduates in digital, science, mathematics, and existing/future jobs.
- **Lack of consistent collaboration within Higher Education Institutions and Regional Communities** in the continent to facilitate regular peer learning and knowledge exchange

### **Guiding Questions:**

- 1) How can we leverage digital technology to boost the higher education system and national productivity and expand access by teachers and trainers to the right pedagogic skills?
- 2) How do we address the challenges in accessing quality higher education and support countries to drive change? (e.g., equipment; poor internet connectivity, ensuring accessibility of high-quality content online, unskilled teachers in ICT...) What is the role of the different actors (community, private sector, providers, governments, and development partners) in ensuring such a change?
- 3) How can alternative financing (e.g. from private providers, investors, innovative student financing, etc.) expand skills provision, the teaching and learning environment, and manage funding priorities appropriately?

### **Objectives of the session:**

- Present the emerging key findings, programs and activities of ASU and NUFFIC.
- Showcase examples of how higher education institutions, countries and private sector are using digital technology to improve the education system
- Discuss the challenges encountered by these institutions and different stakeholders in maximizing the impact of digital technology in the teaching and learning environment
- Propose a way forward to leverage the opportunities offered by digital technology in higher education with relevant stakeholders to improve accessibility, drive change and generate evidence on the impact of innovative solutions.

### **Agenda:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Who?</b>
13:10 (5 min)	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	Ms. Huba Boshoff, NUFFIC (Moderator)
13:15 (15 min)	<b>Case Studies Presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NUFFIC</li><li>• ASU</li><li>• Mastercard Foundation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Mark Vlek de Coningh</li><li>• Ms. April Edwards</li><li>• Ms. Diane Kwame</li></ul>
13:30 (30 min)	<b>Open Discussion and Questions</b>	Moderator, country representatives, audience
14:00 (5 min)	<b>Wrap-up and Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Huba Boshoff, NUFFIC (Moderator)</li><li>• Mr. Christian Elongue, ADEA (Rapporteur)</li></ul>

### **Join Zoom Meeting for Session 1 here:**

Link: <https://afdb.zoom.us/j/95082361856?pwd=a0FON2lpRTI2cnNQTXN6aJJsSIEvUT09>

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