



Association for the
Development of
Education in
Africa



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
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Concept Note of Planning Meeting of the Inter Country Quality Node on Early Childhood Development (ICQN-ECD), 8-10 April 2015, Mauritius

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and the Working Group on Early Childhood Development (WGECD) is organising a Planning Meeting of the Inter Country Quality Node on ECD (ICQN-ECD) from 8 to 10 April 2015 in Mauritius.

Background

The ADEA has since 2006 created Inter-Country Quality Nodes (ICQN) that seek to provide a platform for policy dialogue and collaborative action among African Ministries of Education, strategic partners as well as Experts to address issues designated as national and regional priorities. ICQNs serve as catalysts in the process of store-housing diversely-sourced information generated from innovative educational experiences in Africa. These subserve the interests of individual countries or group of countries in learning from the good practices and modeling their country interventions after due adaptation to their own contexts. ICQNs address specific thematic areas that are a major concern for different countries on the Continent.

One such theme is Early Childhood Development (ECD) which is a priority area of the African Union's Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education in Africa, and proposed for inclusion in the UN Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015. The proposal is thus formulated: *"by 2030 ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education"* (target 4.2, 19 July 2014).

ECD has so far been coordinated by the ADEA Working Group which, since its creation in 1993, has been very active in supporting and promoting integrated approaches to the development of the young child.

In line with ADEA's new strategic policy of setting up ICQNs as a novel mechanism for networking of countries around shared challenges and themes, the WGECD has handed over its leadership role in that sector to the newly-created ICQN- ECD that is now hosted in the Ministry of Education and Human

Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research of Mauritius. The ICQN-ECD was officially launched on 9th February 2015 during the sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Objectives of the Planning meeting

The objectives of the meeting are to:

1. articulate the vision and mandate of the ICQN and facilitate a smooth migration of the ECD Working Group to the new ICQN-ECD platform
2. define the role and articulation between the decision-making, coordinating and executing organs of the ICQN-ECD
3. Prepare the guidelines for the drafting of a Strategic Plan, inclusive an Action Plan, for the ICQN for the period 2015-2017
4. To facilitate the technical handing over from UNESCO to Mauritius

Expected outcomes of the Planning Meeting

The meeting is expected to yield the following deliverables:

1. MoU between ADEA, WGECD and ICQN-ECD on the hosting Agreement finalized.
2. Parameters for the integration of activities of the ADEA Working Group ECD within the ICQN-ECD laid down.
3. Roles and functions of the various organs of the ICQN (Steering Committee, Coordination Committee and Secretariat) defined.
4. The Terms of reference of an Expert Group in support of the ICQN-ECD Africa worked out.
5. Detailed guidelines for a Strategic Plan for the ICQN-ECD 2015-2017 drafted , in line with the ADEA's Strategic Plan
6. Plan for mobilisation of resources (human, material, financial) milestone for successful implementation of the first phase of the Strategic Plan, formulated.

The Way Forward

On the basis of the above, the ICQN-ECD Strategic Plan will be peer-reviewed, validated and adopted by the Steering Committee. This document, after adoption, will be shared with ICQN countries after initial dissemination among focal points. An Action Plan for implementation of activities identified in the Strategic Plan will then be formulated for the period 2015-17.