



Association for the  
Development of  
Education in  
Africa

**WORKING GROUP ON HIGHER EDUCATION (WGHE)**

**A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the African  
Higher Education and Research Space (AHERS)  
Through Institutional National Regional and  
Continental Collaboration**

**AFRICAN TECHNOLOGY POLICY STUDIES NETWORK (ATPS)**

**International Conference 19-21 November 2012 Addis Ababa**

# Rationale

- Knowledge not natural resources a key factor in determining Africa's sustainable development & global competitiveness and H E plays key role
- Africa desperately needs a strong H E sector to assist in its rapid development (leap frog)
- Africa needs to produce seek and adapt knowledge, in particular, STI in order to overcome its developmental challenges
- Due to limited resources this is best achieved through collaboration among African countries and their H E systems RECs and continental



**PAU**

Pan African University  
Université PanAfricaine

# Challenges

- Africa's higher education and research space presently is made up of disparate systems (Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, Arabophone)
- This handicaps academic mobility especially within the continent
- Quality we also know continues to decline due to numerous factors
- Africa's H E should be fit for purpose and serve the needs of our societies

# The Good news !!

- H E is one of AU's 8 priorities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade of Education and receiving increasing attention
- Revitalization of H E is well under way in most countries and almost every REC has identified H E and STI as a major area for reform/funding
- African H E and STI is also receiving a great deal of support from international partners
- In 1981 Africa's Leaders promulgated the Arusha Convention long before the Bologna Process which is facilitating Europe's H E Area

# Background to AHERS

- In 2008 a Task Force UNESCO & ADEA established to prepare Africa for the 2009 UNESCO WCHE+10
- Identified the creation of a H E & Research Area as a strategic orientation for Africa
- The 2009 WCHE+10 Communiqué emphasises the need to develop an **African HE & Research Area** through institutional, national, regional & continental collaboration
- Creating a H E & Research Space fits in with the AU's H E Harmonization Strategy

# Background to AHERS cont..

- The Steering Committee of ADEA-WGHE in July 2009 decided to explore this concept of creating an African H E & Research Area through **an analytical study**
- ADEA/WGHE convened small group of key stakeholders to a Brainstorming Workshop in Accra in December 2010
- Meeting supported by AUC and hosted by AAU



# Accra Brainstorming Workshop

- Important outcomes of Accra Workshop :
  - Concept Note now available in French, English, Arabic, Portuguese and widely shared with stakeholders
  - Decision to undertake study through Research Cluster Teams and detailed proposals
  - Africa to report outcomes of its efforts at the 2019 UNESCO World Conference on H E +20
  - Hence the urgent need to mobilise support and consensus around the concept and effort



# 5 FINAL CLUSTER REPORTS SUBMITTED

- Role and Contribution of an Africa Regional Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF) in Strengthening and Sustaining the African Higher Education and Research Space by OKEBUKOLA, Peter and SHABANI, Juma.
- Role and Contribution of Research and Postgraduate Training to Strengthening and Sustaining the African Higher Education and Research Space by URAMA, Kevin; SWILLING, Mark and ACHEAMPONG, Ernest
- The Role and Contribution of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Open and Distance Learning (ODL), and Open Educational Resources (OERs) by BUTCHER, Neil et al.

# SYNTHESIS REPORT IN PROGRESS

- Life Long Learning strategies for strengthening and sustaining the African Higher Education and research space by OKETCH, Moses and MABANDE, Peter
- Role and Contribution of Regional and Continental Qualification Frameworks and Harmonization of Degree Structures by OLUSOLA, Oyewole and MOHSEN Said
- **Synthesis Report by Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai in progress**
- ADEA plans to organize stakeholders' consultations to build consensus around report and recommendations
- Publish and disseminate widely

# WHAT IS ADEA?

- Established in 1988 as a forum for Donors to African Education (DAE)
- 1989 transformed into a Network of African Ministers of Education and Partners that support education development in Africa
- ADEA functions largely as a forum for policy dialogue based on evidenced-based research
- ADEA Working Groups are the intellectual arms that carry out analytical work and propose recommendations for all stakeholders

# HOW TO CONTACT AHERS

**AHERS welcomes your views and contributions**

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