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The 3rd African Continental Conference on Curriculum

The Gambia, 23-26 May 2022



The 3rd African Continental Conference on Curriculum Concept Note

Context

Africa like any other continent around the globe is experiencing rapidly changing demands to respond to economic, environmental, social and political transformations. Technological advances, climate change, migration, the COVID–19 pandemic and other factors all have an impact on these demands. These rapid disruptions imply the usage of innovative and higher-order competencies (knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and their application). Within this global context, education is not only expected to meet the novel demands, but also to prepare students for a future where the competencies they will need in order to succeed are constantly changing. Indeed, the process of high technological advancement has led the world to become a global village. This is an era in which children need to mobilize their cognitive, emotional, and social competencies, among others, to critically and ethically leverage technology for their learning and development.

There is considerable need for national curricula to reflect on the changes that are taking place in the world inside and outside educational institutions. Many educationalists are now reflecting on (i) what a “quality curriculum” in a technological era should look like, and (ii) how to make the necessary changes in education to realise such a curriculum. This requires rigorous deliberations, as well as coordinated efforts in aligning curriculum and related processes for learning in the technological era – characterized by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and big data, which constitute the key elements of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

Quality education is at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Continental Strategy for Africa also advocates for increasing access to quality and relevant education and learning. The quest for lasting solutions to education problems in Africa requires that practitioners dialogue and come up with strategies to address the challenges in a holistic way.

The Conference

It is in this context that the 3rd African Continental Conference on Curriculum is conceived, whereby participants will have the opportunity to reflect on possible mismatch between the intended, the implemented, and the achieved curriculum. Moreover, the Conference will allow participants to explore the potential of technology and innovations to enhance curriculum processes and products.

Co-organized by the African Curriculum Association (ACA), UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE), the CESA Curriculum cluster of the African Union (AU), and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education of The Gambia, the 3rd African

Continental Conference on Curriculum will bring together curriculum developers, implementers, education administrators, partners, teacher trainers, and other key stakeholders to discuss and find solutions to meeting some of the above-mentioned challenges in education. The discussions are hoped to lead to recommendations on how Africa can make progress towards holistic, quality curricula and education using hybrid modes. This will require that many countries re-design their national curricula in order to prepare young people for critically addressing current and coming challenges.

The Conference will also provide an opportunity to consider the curricular implications of translating global goals into national contexts. This will include discussions about the initiatives and efforts of the Conference's co-organizers, as well as those of UNESCO National Commissions, UNESCO Headquarters and Field Offices, other line Ministries, the national steering committees on SDGs, and the UN co-conveners of the Education 2030 Agenda, including the ILO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, and the World Bank.

Objectives

The objectives of the Conference are to:

1. Achieve a shared understanding of how the misalignment between school curriculum, teacher education, and learning assessment affects the quality of education;
2. Make recommendations on how to apply technology in the process of aligning school curriculum, teacher education, and learning assessment in Africa;
3. Investigate the potential of technology and innovation in enhancing curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation;
4. Discuss and make recommendations on how Africa can make progress toward hybrid modes of education, learning, and assessment combining in-person and distance learning;
5. Elect new members of the ACA Executive Committee.

Expected Outcomes

1. Participants' knowledge and experience will be shared on the different themes presented;
2. Participants will have better understanding of the need for curriculum, teacher education, learning assessment, and other related processes to be aligned;
3. Recommendations will be made on the application of technology in curriculum, teacher education, learning assessment and other related processes, as well as in the process of aligning them;
4. The Conference will also lay the foundation for long-term partnerships between the co-organizers and other institutions.

Themes

The Conference presentations will address all levels of basic education and focus on the following themes and subthemes.

Themes	Sub-themes
1. Curriculum Transformation and Responsiveness	1.1 Innovations in curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation 1.2 Integration of technology into the curriculum at various levels 1.3 Alignment with teacher education, professional development, learning, and assessment 1.4 Curriculum enrichment/innovations related to current issues, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Life skills, future/transformational competencies ii. Language and culture, including African history and cultural heritage iii. Global citizenship education iv. Good governance v. Cyber security and the digital transformation of education vi. Peace building and conflict resolution vii. Self-reliance skills to address migration, unemployment, and other issues confronting youth viii. Inclusive, liberating, creative, and transformational curriculum emphasizing 21st Century competencies ix. Sustainable development x. International comparative criteria for developing and evaluating hybrid modes of education
2. Teacher education and professional development	2.1 Technology to empower curriculum implementation 2.2 Innovations in teacher education and professional development 2.3 Collaboration and networking through a learning community of practice (LCoP)
3. Learning Assessment	3.1 Improving learning assessment in Africa 3.2 Alignment of learning assessment and school curriculum 3.3 Assessing learners' competencies in a competency-based curriculum 3.4 Innovations in assessment <i>of</i> learning and <i>for</i> learning 3.5 Application of digital technology in assessment: methods, techniques and challenges 3.6 Distance teaching and learning assessment

Conference Participants

The Conference will bring together education experts, civil society, development partners, and research institutions, as well as private and corporate sector representatives from Africa and beyond. The goal is to build a dialogue in order to share experiences and best practices on curriculum-related issues and to forge a way forward for ensuring SDG 4 implementation. It is expected that 250 people will attend.

Conference Format

1. Plenary sessions
2. Presentations
3. Breakaway sessions
4. Workshops
5. ACA General Assembly at the closure of the Conference
6. Tour of the most important sites in The Gambia

Papers submission

All participants are welcome to submit a paper based on the three themes mentioned above, and following the timelines below:

- Submission and review of abstracts: **8th April 2022**
- Submission of feedback on full papers: **20th April 2022**
- Final submission of full papers: **30th April 2022**
- Development of Conference Schedules: **6th May 2022**

Conference Modalities

The event will be held from **23 to 26 May 2022** at the **Sir Dawda Kairaba Conference Centre in Kololi, The Gambia**. It will be organized in **hybrid mode** to cater for those who are unable to travel to The Gambia. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French.

Registration modalities

All participants are required to register on this Website: [ACA Conference Registration \(nust.na\)](https://nust.na). The Conference fee is **USD 150 for presential participation** and **USD 50 for virtual participation**. Information about the payment is provided on the same website. It will also be possible for participants to finalize payment at the Conference venue.

More information

Contact: ACA Secretariat at info@acuass.org

Relevant links for the Conference:

- [Continental Curriculum Conference – Gambia 2022 \(acuass.org\)](https://acuass.org/continental-curriculum-conference-gambia-2022)
- <http://www.oicgambia.org>.
- www.edugambia.gm
- www.acuass.org