

Second Interregional Dialogue on

Education and Development in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa

Shared solutions for common challenges in the context of the African Year of
Education 2024 - July 23-25, 2024 – Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

Conclusions, Report and Next Steps



Background

International dialogue and cooperation in higher education (HE) take place within different frameworks: the "international" or "global" framework, which brings together actors from different countries around the world; the "multilateral" framework, under organizations such as the United Nations and UNESCO; and the "plurilateral" framework, which brings together specific groups of states, often with some taking the lead. Each framework has its own history, logic and legitimacy, but none can claim to absorb, control or ignore the others. The existence of all must be accepted, and no single institution can represent or be the voice of all.

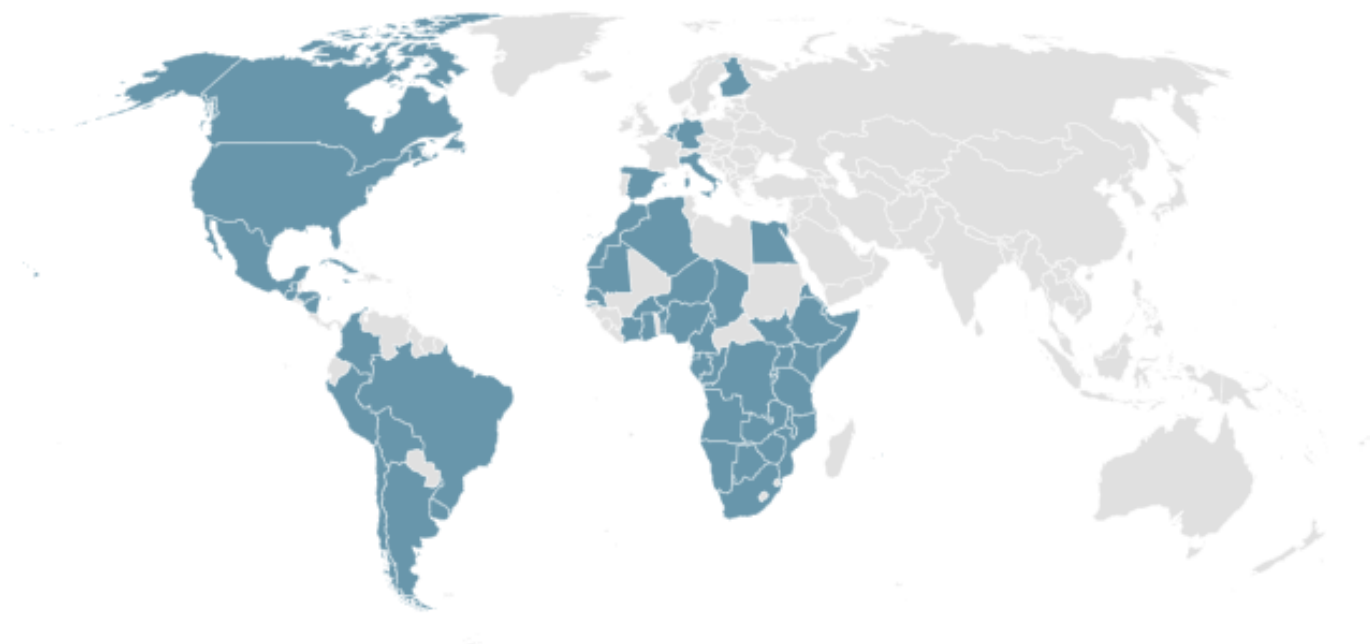
Since 2020, OBREAL has been [promoting an interregional South-South-North\(s\)](#) dialogue on higher education that seeks to integrate all these frameworks by:

- Combining political and university levels.
- Bringing together geographically and historically well-defined Associations of Universities that are open to all universities within their respective regions, ensuring inclusiveness.
- Embracing multilingualism as a reflection of the different voices from various regions entering the dialogue.
- Avoiding one-size-fits-all policies and outdated recommendations from the North, while recognising the diverse paths that regions in the South must take for HE policy reform.
- Balancing broad initiatives with the implementation of specific projects.

The inaugural meeting, combining the political and university levels, was organized by OBREAL in [Barcelona in November 2022](#), with the support of the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina representing the CELAC, the African Union Commission, AAU and ENLACES.

The first plenary meeting of the dialogue was held in [Buenos Aires in March 2023](#), co-organized by the Ministry of Education of Argentina, the African Union, OBREAL with the support of ENLACES and AAU.

The second plenary session, held in Addis Ababa on 23-24 July, was organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), the Government of Brazil and OBREAL, with the support of AAU, ENLACES and CAPES. It was attended by more than 200 representatives of organizations from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Bénin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Cape Verde Republic, Chad, Chad Republic, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



Participation map of the second Interregional Dialogue in Addis Ababa

Summary of the Content of the Addis 2024 2nd Interregional Dialogue

Governments from Africa and the Americas, the European Union, the African Union, and various university associations highlighted significant intersections that enable higher education systems and institutions to collaborate on HE policy and organisation. They addressed pressing challenges in key areas such as teacher training and professional development, green and digital transitions, climate change, skill development (including skilling, upskilling, and reskilling), and research and innovation to tackle developmental issues like food security, biotechnology, water management, and regional integration. The need to address gender issues across all these areas was also emphasized.

Funding agencies from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, and Brazil acknowledged the importance of investing in, sustaining, and enhancing long-term programs with higher education institutions and relevant ministries and agencies. They fostered a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration among actors from different regions of the South and North.

Several initial concrete actions between university associations and universities from different regions were showcased and discussed, including:

- [A series of courses offered at the Pan African University \(PAU\) by Argentinean universities.](#)
- [Online courses on Food Security co-created by universities from Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria, and Kenya, promoted by the Association of African Universities \(AAU\) and OBREAL.](#)
- A joint effort between the Colombian Association of Universities (ASCUN) and the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) to promote interregional discussions on university collaboration.
- The opening of an AAU office in Brazil.
- Collaborative research projects involving universities from Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Congo on Women and STEM, promoted by IDRC Canada.

- [A series of webinars on Women and Science produced by institutions from India \(SIU\), Colombia \(ASCUN\), Africa \(AAU\), and OBREAL.](#)
- Potential collaboration on sub-regional accreditation between the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES) and the Brazilian Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES).

The government of Colombia, the African Union, and OBREAL, along with AAU and ASCUN, committed to enhancing and deepening these actions, offering support to all actors willing to contribute to the interregional dialogue process.

→ [Read the full report of the sessions of the dialogue](#)



What happens next?

Colombia 2025

The third Interregional Dialogue on Education and Development will be hosted by the Ministry of Education of Colombia and co-organised by the Colombian Government representing CELAC, the African Union, and OBREAL, with support from ASCUN and AAU, in 2025. Governments, agencies, and university associations from Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa are invited to join in organising the activities leading up to the Third Dialogue and the preparatory actions.