

2nd 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 22-25, 2024



Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

States, higher education systems and university associations in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have inaugurated a path of interregional policy dialogue and cooperation to support the implementation of regional strategies of higher education to deal with the current developmental challenges that regions are facing.

To this end, interregional cooperation should advocate for:

- transforming and revitalizing education as a vehicle for sustainable development,
- inter-institutional collaboration for the creation of common knowledge to generate joint solutions for shared problems,
- promoting intercultural dialogue, plurality and academic traditions and identities based on a relationship of solidarity.

POLICY BACKGROUND

The African Union's Vision 2063 states that "the education and skills revolution in science, technology and innovation" is considered a priority to achieve the goal of educated and skilled citizens, with the aspiration of contributing to the achievement of a prosperous continent based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Likewise, the African Continental Strategy for Education (CESA) 2016-2025, adopted to contribute to the vision of a peaceful, integrated, citizen-led continent, occupying a place

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of relevance in the international community and in the knowledge economy, aims to provide the human resources necessary to achieve this realisation.

The Regional Conference on Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean - 2018, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 of the 2030 Agenda adopted by UNESCO, establishes the need to "ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education" to advance in social and economic transformations that enable the region's countries and citizens to develop the knowledge, competencies and skills necessary to effectively integrate into a complex and uncertain global dynamic.

The Declaration of the III Ministerial Meeting on Education of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) agreed on the configuration of a "regional space for higher education as an instance of academic integration and solidarity-based cooperation that facilitates dialogue and synergies with extra-regional partners - with special emphasis on South-South cooperation - in close collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education (ENLACES), to advance with the agreements proposed in the framework of the Regional Conferences on Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean".

INTERREGIONAL ACTIONS

In this framework, OBREAL and partners from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have promoted the meeting of the main actors of these dialogues, enabling and leading the following events:

- Dialogue Meeting on the role of South-South-North interregional cooperation in higher education for development: focus on Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. This event was co-organised with the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Ministry of Education of Argentina and CELAC and held on 23 November 2022 in the city of Barcelona.
- 1st Interregional Dialogue on Education and Development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. From 28 to 31 March 2023, Argentina hosted an international event co-organised by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina, the African Union and OBREAL. Representatives of the African Union and the CELAC and their governments met with representatives of continental, regional and national university associations to initiate a policy dialogue on the role of universities and university systems in the sustainable development.
- Africa - LAC Stakeholder Meeting, held in the context of the Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities (COREVIP) held from 4 to 7 July in Windhoek, Namibia. Co-organised by the African Association of Universities and OBREAL, the purpose of the meeting was to set up an agenda for the 2nd interregional dialogue on education and development in the context of the African Union Commission Year of Education 2024.

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As a result of the previously mentioned actions, governmental and academic representatives from more than 30 countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have discussed and exchanged information on priority development issues that make up an agenda of shared and pressing challenges that require common solutions:

- Food security and health
- Climate change and risk mitigation
- Joint research and open access
- University, technical and vocational education and training and skills

The African Union Commission in the context of the African Year of Education 2024, the Ministry of Education and the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Association of African Universities and OBREAL organize the 2nd Interregional Dialogue on Education and Development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, from 22 to 24 July 2024, at the African Union Commission headquarters.

This meeting will ensure the continuity of the policy dialogues between governments, university systems and academic and scientific communities of the countries of the AU and the CELAC and will offer a program to discuss and exchange ideas and design common actions on priority areas for both regions in terms of sustainable development.

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