

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Ababa, Ethiopia

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

States, higher education systems and university associations in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have inaugurated a process of interregional policy dialogue and cooperation to support the implementation of regional strategies for higher education aimed at addressing current regional development challenges.

To this end, interregional cooperation should seek to:

- Transform and revitalize education as a vehicle for sustainable development
- Employ inter-institutional collaboration to create common knowledge to generate joint solutions for shared problems
- Promote intercultural dialogue, plurality and academic traditions and identities based on a relationship of solidarity

#### **POLICY BACKGROUND**

The African Union's Agenda 2063 states that "the education and skills revolution in science, technology and innovation" must be 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

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relevant place in the international community and in the knowledge economy, aims to provide the human resources necessary to achieve this goal.

The Regional Conference on Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda adopted by UNESCO, established 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 3rd 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 EFFORTS

In this context, OBREAL and partners from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have promoted the meetings between the main participants in these dialogues, facilitating 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-organized with the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Ministry of Education of Argentina, and CELAC, and was held on November 23, 2022 in Barcelona.
- 1st Interregional Dialogue on Education and Development in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. From March 28 to March 31, 2023, Argentina hosted an international event co-organized by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina, the African Union, and OBREAL. Representatives from 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 during the Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities (COREVIP) on July 4–7, 2023 in Windhoek, Namibia. Co-organized by the African Association of Universities and OBREAL, the purpose of the meeting was to set 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 efforts, 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 requiring 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 Brazilian Ministry of Education and Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation (CAPES), the Association of African Universities, and OBREAL are organizing the 2nd Interregional Dialogue on Education and Development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, which is to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 22–24, 2024, at the African Union Commission headquarters.

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