BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Introduction to the HLPDF

The overall objective of this third Forum is to promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices, and lessons to inform policies and programmes on higher education and scientific research. The below sub-theme has cross-cutting issues, one of which is the gender dimension and more generally the issue of inclusion tackling different aspects. The discussions will be driven by guiding questions based on innovative experiences and success stories. The nature and diversity of the issues and challenges related to the theme make it essential that, as far as possible, all types of partners and stakeholders contribute to the discussions and the implementation of the results of the HLPDF.

Deep dive for peer learning, experience sharing, and knowledge exchange:

Break out session 3: Access to quality education and improving quality assurance approaches: Maintaining quality academic standards and assessment in study programs and learning experience of students. Promoting inclusive and equitable opportunities for youth in higher education.

Challenges:

- **Strengthening of quality assurance systems** and bringing them up to international standards to improve the quality of higher education.

- **Lack of access to higher education** that ensures inclusion and equal opportunities for all students.

- **Lack of effectiveness and efficiency in the use of resources/funding** provided by the government and private sector institutions to improve educational programs and research, and educational outcomes.

Guiding Questions:

1) How can governments and stakeholders improve and put in place a strong quality assurance system to support universities?

2) What strategies to be used leveraging digital technology (innovative Internet connectivity, ICT devices...)?

3) How can alternative financing (e.g. from private providers, investors, innovative student financing, etc.) expand skills provision to vulnerable groups?

Objectives of the session:

- Present the emerging key findings, activities and programs of AfDB, ANAQ-Sup, ATUPA-SIFA, and Higher Education Commission, Mauritius

- Showcase examples of how higher education institutions, countries and private sector are promoting inclusive and equitable opportunities to all vulnerable groups (youth, women, remote/ rural communities) through the support of digital technologies.

- Discuss challenges in strengthening quality assurance systems and bringing them up to international standards.

- Propose a way forward to leverage the opportunities offered by digital technology in higher education to improve accessibility and generate evidence on the impact of innovative solutions.

Agenda:

Time	Agenda	Who?
13:10 (5 min)	**Welcome and Introduction**	Ms. Keiko Takei, AfDB/AHHD (Moderator)
13:15 (15 min)	**Case Studies Presentations:** • **ANAQ-Sup** • **AfDB/University of Zambia** • **ATUPA-SIFA** • **Higher Education Commission, Mauritius**	• Mr. Boubacar NDIAYE • Prof. Jewette Masinja • Ms. Jahou Faal • Ms. Anjusha Durbarry
13:30 (30 min)	**Open Discussion and Questions**	Moderator, country representatives, audience
14:00 (5 min)	**Wrap-up and Closing**	• Ms. Keiko Takei, AfDB/AHHD (Moderator) • Ms. Helene Charpentier, ADEA (Rapporteur)

Join Zoom Meeting for Session 3 here:

Link: https://afdb.zoom.us/j/95054582439?pwd=cml5ZkFQc3pQT1lhNFBqa2I2NDZ2UT09
Meeting ID: 950 5458 2439
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