



2023



# MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

## ADEA HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM

### ON FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING

31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER – 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2023  
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA



Association for the  
Development of  
Education in  
Africa



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
Ministry of Education

# **ADEA HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM ON FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING**

**TAJ PALMODZI HOTEL, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER – 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**WE**, the Ministers of Education from Zambia, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, The Gambia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Ministerial representatives from Benin, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Senegal, and Tanzania, congregated in Lusaka, Zambia, for the ADEA High-Level Policy Dialogue Forum on Foundational Learning from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023, under the theme ***"Crafting a New Africa by Rethinking Foundational Learning"***:

**AFFIRM** that foundational skills are the building blocks for future learning. Africa's future depends on its children's foundational learning. Demographically, the African continent is the youngest in the world, and will be for the next 26 years. This holds tremendous promise for the continent. The human capital investments we make today to build these foundational skills for our young children will help us realize the continent's potential and ambitions today and in the future.

**NOTE** that foundational learning skills are critical for all learners, and the early years allow learners to acquire these skills, which will support their future learning and predispose them to success.

**RECOGNIZE** that African learners are struggling to acquire the basic literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional skills they need to succeed in learning, a reality all countries present have acknowledged, confirmed, and agree that requires immediate action.

**URGE** for strengthened commitment and action by African governments, and concerted efforts with partners and stakeholders. At the continental, regional and national levels, this will require a comprehensive and coordinated action plan that can only be achieved through strengthened collaboration and partnerships.

**REITERATE** that strong foundations for Africa's children call for intentional efforts by governments to safeguard children's access to high-quality education.

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that not every intervention is relevant for each context. Interventions related to teacher training and support, evidence-based approaches such as teaching at the right level and structured pedagogy, involvement of the community members in promoting foundational learning, playful learning, use of locally made teaching and learning materials, and having policies that address out of school children have been demonstrated to be effective in furthering foundational learning.

**EMPHASIZE** the importance of using data at the classroom level and during policy decision-making, which will require continental action, to enable national targets to be set and monitored.

**REITERATE** that realizing the AU Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want - depends significantly on how much Africa invests in her youth and children with quality foundational learning.

### **WE therefore RESOLVE:**



To develop and adopt a starter pack model for foundational learning as a resource guide to ensure uniformity, continuity, and sustainability.



To urge our respective Heads of State to be “Champions of Foundational Learning” to create visibility on its importance.



To work with ADEA and partners to collect relevant data to inform policy and decisions on foundational learning and foster dialogue, peer learning, and sharing of good practices on what works to further foundational learning, in line with the 2024 Year of Education for Africa.



To strengthen links between Early Childhood Education and Early Grade Education and advance the adoption of structured pedagogy and age-appropriate and level-appropriate teaching methods.



To harness the power of technology to increase the number of qualified teachers and enhance their well-being.

*Adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at the ADEA High-Level Policy Dialogue Forum on Foundational Learning in Lusaka, Zambia.*

## LIST OF MINISTERS, SECRETARY OF STATE, MINISTER'S OF STATE AND DEPUTY MINISTERS

1	Angola	Hon. Pacheco Francisco	Secretary of State	Ministry of Education
2	Côte d'Ivoire	Hon. Mariatou Koné	Minister	Ministry of National Education and Literacy
3	Ghana	Hon. John Fordjour	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education
4	Malawi	Hon. Madalitso Wirima	Minister	Ministry of Education
5	Namibia	Hon. Faustina Caley	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
6	Sierra Leone	Hon. Conrad Sackey	Minister	Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
7	South Africa	Hon. Matsie Angelina Motshekga	Minister	Department of Basic Education
8	The Gambia	Hon. Claudiana Ayo Cole	Minister	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
9	Uganda	Hon. Joyce Kaducu Moriku	Minister of State for Primary Education	Ministry of Education and Sports
10	Zambia	Hon. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima	Minister	Ministry of Education
11	Zimbabwe	Hon. Torerayi Moyo	Minister	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education

## LIST OF MINISTERIAL & COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

1	Benin	Mr Raliou Akanda Olouwa Arinloye	Deputy Director of Cabinet	Ministry of Pre-school and Primary Education
2	Botswana	Ms Catherine Rapelang Bogatsu	Chief Education Officer	Ministry of Education and Skills Development
3	Democratic Republic of Congo	Mr Jean Luc Kacyobo Kazadi	Adviser to the Minister for International Cooperation	Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education
4	Eswatini	Ms Nanikie Mnisi	Acting Principal Secretary	Ministry of Education and Training
5	Kenya	Dr Elyas Abdi	Director General of Education	Ministry of Education

6	Lesotho	Ms Seriti Joy Morojele Dotoro	Regional Inspector	Ministry of Education and Training
7	Madagascar	Mrs Eliane Ranosy	Director General in charge of Schools	Ministry of National Education
8	Mauritius	Mr Kistomohun Yasdev	Deputy Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology
9	Senegal	Mrs Ndeye Aby Ndaw	Director of Primary Education	Ministry of National Education
10	Tanzania	Dr Lyabwene Mtahabwa	Commissioner For Education	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology



Ushirika wa Maendeleo ya Elimu Barani Afrika  
الرابطة لأجل تطوير التربية في إفريقيا  
Association for the Development of Education in Africa  
Association pour le développement de l'éducation en Afrique  
Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Educação em África