



ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS UNION

UNION PANAFRICAINNE DES ETUDIANTS

UNIÃO DOS ESTUDANTES DE TODA A ÁFRICA

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ACRONYMS

ACDE	African Council for Distance Education
ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
ADEA	Association for the Development of Education in Africa
AEF	Africa Educators Forum
AU	Africa Union
CLFZ	Child Labour Free Zones
ESU	European Students Union
EUA	European Union Association
EUC	European Union Commission
GAWU	General Agriculture Workers Union
GSF	Global Students Forum
HEI	Higher Education Institution
NSU	National Student Union
NORFRED	Northern Friends of Education and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TUC	Trades Union Congress
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization
USA	United States of America
WHEC	World Higher Education Conference
YALI	Young African Leaders Initiative

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	i
Introduction	ii
Education & Students Rights	1
Digital Inclusion Campaign	12
Capacity Building	16
Migration & Mobility	25
Democracy & Good Governance	29
Gender Advocacy	33
Pan-Africanism & African Culture	40
Environment & Climate Action	45
Secretary General's Corner	50
Gallery	57



FOREWORD

It has been an eventful year. People everywhere are once again happy. The world is slowly starting to take form again. We may go about our daily lives with no restrictions, regaining our mobility, communication, humour, and health. However, along with this newfound independence has come a hatful of problems that have arisen because of the pandemic itself. There are economies that need to be rebuilt, classrooms that need to be modernized, and young people who need to learn to value digital inclusion to succeed in the post-covid economy. This list is as full as a bucket. What are some strategies for taking on larger quantities of work? Should we take on more responsibility, and what kind of ideas has the most chance of bringing solutions to these challenges?

Throughout the year, we worked hard to fulfil the hopes and dreams of our members and partners, paving the way for positive change in Africa's academic landscape. Positive developments have been made in STEM, TVET, digital education and inclusiveness, and the harmonization of curricula and qualifications throughout Africa. To address the gender gap, females are now the focus of a greater degree of specialized education and support. More emphasis is placed on teacher training and improvement in the coming year. All actors must participate in the policy process to recommend what, where, and how of this rebuilding process.

The goal of the All-Africa Students Union is to make ensure students' concerns and hopes are considered when shaping and enforcing policy across the African continent. To achieve this goal is to give students in Africa a stronger say in the decision-making process. The Union maintains that there is an urgent requirement for a broad-based collaboration that honours the efforts of students to realize the sustainable development goals of transforming education in Africa.





INTRODUCTION

The All-Africa Students Union commenced 2022 on a strong, positive note in building on the previous year's gains. This year served as a period for reflection and reorganization as we commenced our golden jubilee celebrations this year under the theme: "50 Years of Defending Students' Rights: Leveraging the Power of Student Activism to Achieve the Agenda 2063". We recognize that we have come a long way over the last fifty years yet there is still a long way to go to realize the aspirations of students on the African continent.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063 has been at the core of our activities. We, therefore, set out to contribute to furthering the African Union's Agenda 2063 by leveraging the student base and decades of experience at the forefront of activism to promote inclusion and development across Africa. We are also, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063, working to support the agenda of repositioning Africa to become a more formidable partner in the global arena, and fostering relations with contemporaries in other continents to build a strong global coalition of students.

As a founding member of the Global Students Forum (GSF), AASU continues to assert itself in the international space as a reliable global partner in student and youth development. This has earned AASU recognition from the United Nations and UNESCO among other global organizations. We remain committed to our African constituency but are also mindful of the need to expand our reach beyond Africa.

These considerations provided the framework for the implementation of programmes for this year. This report gives an overview of the activities implemented by the Secretariat for the year 2022.





**EDUCATION AND
STUDENT RIGHTS**
WORKING GROUP



Global March Against Child Labour



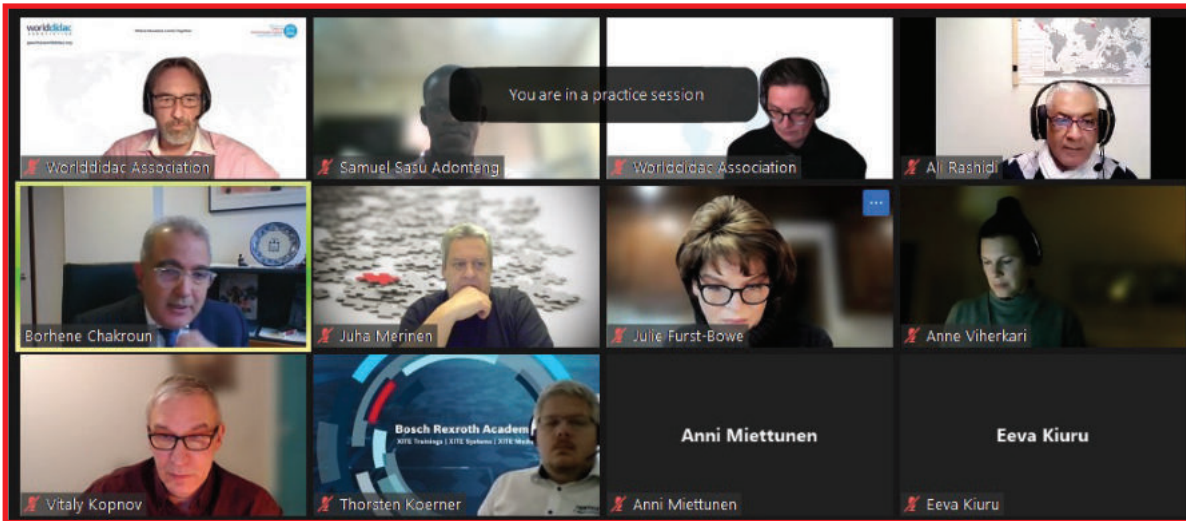
GLOBAL MARCH

Against Child Labour
Contra el Trabajo Infantil
Contre le Travail des Enfants



In line with the goal of the All-Africa Students Union to get every child out of child labour (especially its worst forms) and enrol them into mainstream formal education or complementary forms of learning as the circumstances may determine, the General Agriculture Workers Union (GAWU) of the Trades Union Congress (TUC)-Ghana, joined forces with the All-Africa Student Union (AASU) on 7 February 2022 to conduct a sensitization campaign and stakeholder engagements at the national level geared towards ensuring Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZ). Activities included a visit to a school in a cocoa farming community in the Eastern region of Ghana to sensitize parents and students about the implications of child labour and their role in achieving SDG target 8.7 which aims at eliminating the worst forms of child labour as well as Aspiration 5 of the AU Agenda 2063. The Global Virtual March was organized with support from 100 Million, ahead of the Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in South Africa in May 2022.

Worlddidac Forum on TVET



On 27 January 2022, Samuel Sasu Adonteng, Programmes Officer for Education and Students Rights of AASU, was invited by Worlddidac to join a panel discussion on “Schools Without Walls: The Implications on TVET”. The session focused on assessing the impacts of the digitalization of education on TVET (SDG 4.3). Participants were drawn from different regions of the world including student representatives, higher education leaders, business leaders, and government representatives. The discussion covered initiatives to enhance the quality assurance of TVET in a digitalized setting; private and public sector partnership in strengthening TVET education; leveraging on micro-credentials as the way forward in enhancing skill and knowledge development; investments to enhance digital inclusion; and the partnership between industry and HEIs to develop consistent curriculum, skills, and knowledge. Speakers at the event included: Bohrene Chakroun, Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division, UNESCO, Dr. Danny Gauch, Director General, Worlddidac Association, Switzerland, Albert Nsengiyumva, Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), Thorsten Koerner, International Sales Manager, Bosch Rexroth AG, Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe, Teacher and Consultant specialized in accreditation and performance excellence, University of Wisconsin-Stout, USA, Prof Vitaly Kopnov, Project Manager, Russian State Vocational Pedagogical University, Anni Miettunen, Vice Principal, Education Consortium OSAO, Oulu, Finland, Dr Ali Rashidi, Director Department for International Cooperation, Folkuniversitetet Uppsala Sweden, Anne Viherkari, Education Designer, University of Oulu, Finland.

AASU Hosts UNESCO - WHEC Africa Students' Consultative Forum

WHEC UNESCO
2022 World Higher
Education
Conference

**WHEC Student
Consultation
Africa**

The All African Student Union (AASU) collaborated with the Global Student Forum to host the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC) Africa Students' Consultative Forum on 24 January 2022. The objective of the Forum was to raise the awareness of National Students Unions across Africa about the WHEC '22 and capture the inputs and demands from the international student movement.

The SWOT framework was used to ascertain the views of student unions on each of the ten conference themes namely: Higher Education & Covid-19, Higher Education & Inclusion, Higher Education & Sustainability, Higher Education and Digital futures, Youth and Governance in Higher Education, Higher Education and Indigenous Youth, Higher Education and Migration, Higher Education and the Professional World, Higher Education and Well-being and Financing of Higher Education.

Moderators included Samuel Sasu Adonteng, Rexford Akrong, Bismark Amefianu Kudoafor, all officers of AASU, and Sebastien Berger from the Global Students Forum. A total of 56 representatives of students and student Union Leaders participated in the forum.

An appreciable number of students joined the various thematic sessions. Lessons learnt include the importance and usefulness of harnessing consultative approaches to engage students as it allows them to share insights to help shape policies. It is important to emphasize the need for adequate publicity before such major events to allow more National Student Unions (NSUs) to join and share their thoughts on Higher Education partners for further actions.

EU-AU Summit Students' Side-Event



The All-Africa Students Union collaborated with the Global Students Forum to host a virtual session for students and youth before the commencement of the EU-AU summit. The objective was to launch the EU-AU Student Declaration which spells out students' expectations and demands for the 6th AU-EU Summit. It also contributed to an increase in students' awareness and understanding of the EU-AU Partnership, including the policy frameworks, initiatives, and programs it encompasses. It also sought to provide knowledge on how student union leaders across Africa and Europe can engage and influence their governments on the EU-AU Partnership and advocate for stronger participation of students and their representative organizations in subsequent EU-AU Summits. The summit came off on 15 February 2022.

Some of the key resource persons included Prof. Goski Alabi, the President of the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE), Peter Kwasi Kodjie, Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), Martina Darmanin, President of the European Students Union (ESU), Michael Gaebel, Director of the Higher Education Policy Unit of the European Union Association (EUA) and Mrs Themis Christophidou, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport & Culture of the European Union Commission (EUC). The moderator was Samuel Sasu Adonteng, Programmes Officer for Education, and Students Rights at the All-Africa Students Union.

Some of the key highlights from the discussion included the need to establish a relationship of equals between the EU and AU, the contextualization of projects and programs under the EU-AU partnership, and the enhancement of the voices of students in key decisions.

Participants recommended that an in-person or hybrid side-event should be organized as a follow-up to create a more impactful, affordable, and better networking and engagement in the thematic areas of the Summit.

Commemoration of International Mother Language Day



The 2022 International Mother Language Day was commemorated by the All-Africa Students Union with a webinar under the theme “Using Technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities” on 21 February 2022.

The expressed objectives were to explore the diversity of languages in Africa and how they can impact socio-cultural development; assess the impact of indigenous languages on the attainment of educational outcomes, and share thoughts about the proliferation of new technology and how it impacts indigenous languages and multilingual pedagogy.

The facilitators included Effie Ochieng of the University of Nairobi and Madam Margaret Oti-Mensah, of Garnet Martmag Ventures, a book publishing company. The participants included students, student leaders, media, and academic staff. Among the recommendations from the participants was the need to make such events more practical and have more members' unions engaged accordingly.

African Youth Forum on Infrastructure

The African Youth Network Movement and the Mandela Institute for Development Studies partnered with AASU to organize a virtual event on 7 March 2022 to discuss the impact of inadequate infrastructure as a barrier to education access. Facilitators included Ibrahim Awal from the Northern Friends of Education and Development (NORFRED), Bonte Kuru from YALI, Frank Nkinda from the All-Africa Students Union/TAHLISO, and Christian Kayembe from Classroom Buddies Organisation.

Participants included student representatives, student leaders, and other professionals. The areas covered by the discussions included: The role of government in enhancing education financing; and the assessment of domestic and alternative financing for public education.

There was a broad consensus among participants that involving student leaders in discourses on education and youth, in general, makes it easier to understand the views of students to shape education policy programs, and projects.

Global Students and Youth Caucus

AASU, represented by the Chief Technical Officer, participated in the Global Students and Youth Caucus hosted by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) at the MS Training Centre in Tanzania from 18 to 20 March 2022. The main objectives of the forum were to bring together students and youth organizations across the globe to discuss, input, and identify key strategic objectives for the GCE Youth Engagement Strategy. It also provided a platform for ideating and planning for cross-regional activities among students and youth groups. Representatives of the Global Students Forum, the European Students Union, GPE Youth Ambassadors, ANCEFA, and GCE were also in attendance. Among the key outcomes of the Student and Youth Caucus was the review of the criteria and Terms of Reference for the Youth and Student Action Group. Ms Luftiyya Dean, the policy advisor for political affairs, was nominated to represent the All-Africa Students Union on the YAG.



Autism Awareness Campaign

As part of World Autism Day on 2 April 2022, the All-Africa Students Union encouraged African youth and students to sign a petition to create awareness about autism while pledging to support persons living with autism. This was against the backdrop of increased stigma against autistic persons in some rural parts of Africa and reported cases of killings of children with autism by their parents.

Autism spectrum disorder has become a globally recognized form of disability since over 75 million people (1% of the world's population) around the globe are living with this disability (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021). In the education sector, this disorder has received little attention both in policy and academic circles. Although there have been notable interventions in developed countries to ensure inclusive education for persons living with autism spectrum disorder, opportunities to promote teaching and learning for autistic persons in developing countries are dwindling. To this end, the Education and Students Rights Working Group developed a policy brief to analyze the key factors affecting the low investment in interventions for autistic children in Africa.

The analysis revealed the need for increased sensitization programmes, capacity development for teaching and non-teaching staff, infrastructural development to support the education of students with autism and development of classroom practices that allow for the inclusion of persons with autism and restructuring of curriculum to accommodate the needs of autistic persons. The Working Group, therefore, recommends appropriate policies that can ensure the reimagining of the educational sector of developing countries to enhance an inclusive education for persons with autism, thereby reducing learning losses and promoting educational growth among this marginalized group.

Disruptive Literacy

The All-Africa Students Union partnered with DEVI Sansthan in a new project which is expected to bridge the learning gap for African students by providing learning materials or resources. The project intends to localize learning opportunities as much as possible and ensure that every child retains their right to education in line with SDG4 targets. DEVI Sansthan in 2014, DEVI launched a highly innovative toolkit to promote literacy, the Global Dream program in collaboration with Target Plus. The Global Dream Toolkits are used as the curriculum to teach illiterate people to read.

The evidence shows that this curriculum enables learners to perform much faster than other existing primers and curriculums with an average learner beginning to read within three months with a single 15-minute teaching session per day. Concerning the above, AASU has signed an MOU to carry out this project across the African continent. Consequently, the All-Africa Students Union organized an informative session between its members and the partner organization on Tuesday 31 May 2022 via Zoom. The event was attended by 15 member unions as well as the leadership of Devi Sansthan. It allowed the member unions to understand the project and how they can get involved.

Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour



The Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour took place from 15 to 20 May 2022 in Durban, South Africa. It marked the first time the conference was being held on African soil. Also, it was the first-time children's and young people's voices were actively engaged and included in the outcome document. The All-Africa Students Union was represented at the conference by Samuel Sasu Adonteng Programme Officer for Education and Students' Rights. The All-Africa Students Union also nominated Lucky Agbavor, Selimatha Salifu, Esther Gomani, and Emmanuella Yiadom Boakye to attend the event as child labour survivors and share their unique stories. The participation of the representatives was facilitated by the 100 Million Campaign and the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation. Lucky Agbavor, at the opening ceremony, had the opportunity to speak alongside the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi, and Guy Ryder, Director of the International Labour Organization. He shared his survival story and called for governments and all partners to act immediately to End Child Labour everywhere. Lucky, Selimatha and Esther participated in all the Child and Youth sessions where Samuel was a facilitator alongside other colleagues. Samuel also spoke at the side event organized by the 100 Million Campaign dubbed the Survivors and Youth-Led Event. He emphasized why education is an important tool in fast-tracking the processes toward ending child labour. Samuel spoke alongside Ms. Leymah Gbowee, Esther Gomani, and Amar Lamal. The session was moderated by Winnie Nyandiga of the 100 Million Campaign. In all, the conference was a success, as it provided young people, students, and survivors the opportunity to influence the outcome document and key decisions of the conference.

Transforming Education Summit

AASU was invited to participate in a national consultative workshop aimed at developing a shared vision, commitment, and alignment of action across constituencies towards transforming education between now and 2030. The meeting, which was held in Accra-Ghana, brought together stakeholders in the education sector to deliberate on the policy, planning, and budgetary changes required to recover learning losses and get the SDG4 back on track and reimagine education into the future. About 100 participants drawn from the education sector and other relevant sectors participated in the one-day meeting. Key takeaways from the summit include the need to equip the youth with transferable 21st-century skills by focusing more on promoting STEM, TVET, and climate change in schools. Other important areas highlighted in the discussions were the need for effective regulation of digital learning; the need to review the teaching of TVET; generating reliable data to inform policies and establishing mechanisms to effectively track the implementation of policies. The deliberations informed a National Statement of Commitment to Transform Education which was presented at the Transforming Education Summit hosted by the UN Secretary-General in September 2022.

The Global Students Forum also hosted a Global Student Consultation in August 2022 to collate perspectives of the students' movement on the five thematic tracks ahead of the Transforming Education Summit. The gathering provided key recommendations on inclusivity, life skills and sustainable development, teachers and teaching, digital learning, and education financing. The Secretary-General of AASU joined other student leaders around the globe at the Transforming Education Summit to ensure that the voice of students was recognized and included in the deliberations.

High-Level Sensitization Workshop on ODeL

The Education and Students Rights Working Group participated in a two-day high-level policy dialogue on effectively integrating Open, Distance, and e-learning in Ghana hosted by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission in partnership with Laweh Open University. A study on the status of ODeL in Ghana was presented to representatives from Higher Education Institutions in Ghana and thoroughly discussed. Some issues raised by participants for policy consideration include: clarifying the definition of ODeL, establishing an accreditation framework, instructional design, regulatory mechanisms and connectivity, standards and indicators for managing OdeL, IT infrastructure, capacity building, support services for students and staff, quality assurance mechanisms, gender parity, recognition and acceptance, required competencies for faculty learning environment, 4IR skills requirement for all students, comparability or parity of OdeL and F2F certificates, recognition of prior learning, TVET, OdeL adoption in various disciplines, assessment, resource sharing and collaboration among institutions and special needs.

40th African Students Day Event

THE 40TH AFRICAN STUDENTS DAY
Thursday, 16, June, 2022

WATCH LIVE ON AASU'S FACEBOOK CHANNEL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Maxwell Diani
Regional Director
Southern African Youth
Students' Network (SAYSN)

MODERATORS
Samuel Sasu Aderang
Programme Officer, Education and
Students Rights
EE Africa Students Union
Rexford Akwang
Programme Officer, Student
Welfare
EE Africa Students Union

SESSION 1
TOPIC:
Nothing For Us Without Us: The
Student Voice In African Education
Policy.
TIME: 11:00 AM GMT

SPEAKERS
Dennis Appiah Larbi-Ampah
Regional Director
Southern Africa Students Union
Ester Simon
Secretary General
Southern Africa Students Union
Joseph Nyamaya
Secretary General
Development National Students
Union
Dr. Eyasu Getu
President
Greater Africa Students and
Youth Organization (GASO)

SESSION 2
TOPIC:
Reimagining Approaches To Defending
Students Rights In The 21st Century.
TIME: 11:40 AM GMT

SPEAKERS
Daniel Jaarwe
Kingshah Akpanwasi
General Coordinator
SAYSN
Wilanga Yusuf
President
Youthful National Students
Association
Marie Aimee
President
DRC, Catholic University of Kinshasa
Ashleigh Phonyo
Training Coordinator
Africa
Global Student Forum

On the 16th of June 2022, the Education and Students Rights Working Group organized a webinar to commemorate the 40th African Students' Day. The event was held under the theme: "Beyond the Revolt: Engaging Students as Equal Partners in Education Policy Development". The first session of the event focused on the theme "Nothing for us Without us: The student voice in African education policy."

The speakers for the first session emphasized the need for young people to prioritize education, and as activists, share in the responsibility of engaging stakeholders to ensure access to free, quality, and relevant education.

Participants also condemned the colonization of the African education curriculum and called for its decolonization. The heavy reliance on theoretical approaches with very little attention to practical application in the African education system was also strongly denounced. Consequently, the panel for the first session recommended that students should be involved in policy making and the curriculum must be more practical and contextualized to fit the scenario of African states and less theoretical.

The theme for the second session was “Reimagining Approaches to Defending Students’ Rights in the 21st Century.” The panel shared thoughts about students’ heroes who overcame ineffective educational systems and advocated for the need for progressive change. Speakers emphasized the need for Africa’s educational systems to churn out more job creators and not job seekers and called for more workshops to be organized to build the capacity of students on the continent. The importance of career guidance from an early age for African students was also stressed by the speakers. There was unanimous agreement among participants on the need for the student’s voice in African education policy and the need to rethink some of the approaches to student activism which may include “expertisation”, policy engagements, and social media campaigning. Finally, participants demanded the full fulfilment of the responsibility of African governments to make education accessible and affordable and called on students, activists, and the government to work together to achieve our common goals and aspirations.

Education Supplies Project



The All-Africa Students Union through the Education and Students Rights Working Group made a donation of educational materials to pupils at the basic levels in the Kwahu sub-area in the Eastern Region of Ghana in line with the objectives Education Enrolment Programme. The donation exercise was carried out in Ahodwo Nana Koree M. A. Junior High School & Obo Presbyterian Primary B. Schools both of which have a considerable lack of school supplies typical of schools located in the rural parts of the country. Students often must provide their writing materials, leaving the poorest children from being able to fully and meaningfully participate in quality education. Teachers and other education officers sometimes use their finances to support such students. By giving them these resources, the All-Africa Students Union’s reaffirmed its objective of making education delivery of a higher quality and more meaningful to the African child.

198 students of Ahodwo and 105 students of Obo School received a lot of educational donations which included colouring materials, notebooks, exercise books, pens, mathematical sets, rulers, and erasers from the Education and Students Rights Working Group. Additionally, awareness was created to urge students to take their education seriously while community leaders and parents were also encouraged to keep their children in school.

Conference on Education Financing in Ghana

The All Africa Student's Union (AASU) was invited to participate in a conference on education financing organized by the Africa Education Watch at the Kofi Annan ICT Centre of Excellence, Accra Ghana on 18th October 2022. The Union was represented by the Education and Students Rights Working Group comprising Samuel Sasu Adonteng and Rexford Akrong, and the Secretary for Press and Information Vanessa Kokoe Augustine. Other participants included members of CAPCOE (Coalition Against the Privatization and Commercialization of Education) of which the All-Africa Students Union is a member. The conference highlighted the findings of research conducted the Africa Education Watch which showed that poor learning outcomes and access challenges are due to inadequate and inequitable investment in education coupled with poor spending efficiency to address drivers of poor learning outcomes such as poor school infrastructure and facilities, lack of teaching and learning aids, and lack of seating and writing places. The report, which was officially launched at the conference, also noted that the percentage of Ghana's Gross Domestic Product investment in education over the last eight years (2012 to 2020) has declined from 7.9% to 4.6%, with education expenditure as a percentage of government spending also reducing from 27.2% to 17.6%.

Africa Educators Forum



On 28 October 2022, the Education and Students Rights Working Group organized the second edition of the Africa Educators' Forum 2022. The forum served as an opportunity to hold the Africa launch of the UNESCO GEM Youth Report 2022. The forum was held under the theme "Right the Rules: Reimagining Non-State Actors' Role in Education". The forum brought together policymakers, CSOs, students and student leaders.

The Africa Educators' Forum is held annually to bring stakeholders in the education space and students and student leaders to address pertinent issues in the African education sector.

The forum prioritizes students' voices around African educational issues and presents important thoughts about how to promote inclusive and quality Education at diverse levels. The previous version of the forum focused on prioritizing students' voices around African education issues and presented important thoughts about promoting inclusive and quality Education at diverse levels.

This year's forum AEF was held virtually and sought to highlight the recommendations of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Youth Report and the proposals to increase inclusivity and public funding for Education through the regulated and meaningful participation of non-state actors. It included keynote speeches, a plenary session, and a breakout session. The breakout sessions were an opportunity for students and student leaders to share their thoughts on the four sub-themes: i) Education Financing: Who Chooses? Who Loses? ii) Education: A Right and Not a Privilege, iii) Righting the Rules: Leveling the playing ground for all learners and iv) Looking forward: How do we support innovations in Education? Speakers included Manos Antoninis Director, GEM Report, Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO Country Director, and Dr Dennis Sinyolo Regional Director, Education International – Africa.

Among the recommendations made to guide future education policy engagements was the need for African governments to consider ways to standardize education delivery and ensure that schools are receiving the needed infrastructure support. Additionally, all players need to monitor effectively to ensure the provision of quality education by both state and non-state providers and the need for enforcement of regulations to protect education from commercialization. Finally, African governments were urged to prioritize inclusivity in education delivery.

Pan African Students Conference

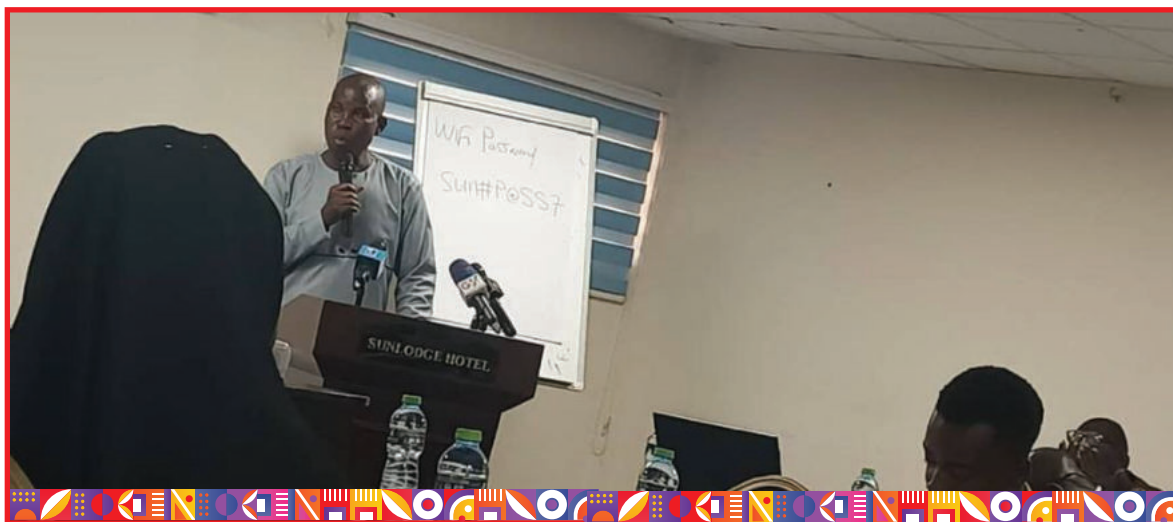


The Pan African Young Diplomats Forum (PAYDF) in concert with All-Africa Students Union (AASU), and Africa Foreign Students Association, Ghana Chapter (AFSTAG) held its 2nd Pan African Students Conference on the theme: “Bridging the Education Engagement Gap: Immigration and Inter-Cultural Dialogue”, on 14th October 2022 at the Pentecost University Campus in Ghana.



Personalities present at the event included Steve Stroot who delivered a presentation on the effects of stress and techniques to improve learning. Dr. Akosua Abdallah, the Director of Community Education and Youth Development at the Community Youth Cultural Center (CYCC), Creative Art Council of Ghana, spoke about the role of students in promoting cultural diplomacy. H. E. Fidelia Graand Galon, the Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Suriname to Ghana, emphasised the importance of Afro-centred development. Also present was a representative of the Center for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling. An Expert panel made of Ilo Ikenna Valentine, Asst. Com. Saado, Dr Prince Hamid Armah, and Isa Ishaq Ishaq also shared some insights and recommendations.

Launch of Report on Overcrowding in Urban Classrooms in Ghana



AASU participated in the launch of a report on Overcrowding in Urban Classrooms in Ghana by the Campaign Against Privatization and Commercialization of Education (CAPCOE) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on 9 November 2022. Other attendees included representatives from various organizations in the education space including the Tertiary Education Workers Union, the Ministry of Education of Ghana, the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the National School Inspectorate Authority, the National Council for Curricular and Assessment and the media. The Union was represented by Bismark Amefianu Kudafour Programs Officer for Capacity Building, Memunatu Abubakari, Programs Officer for Pre-Tertiary Education and Maxwell Ampofo, an Intern with the Education and Students Right working group.

The report revealed that there is no significant correlation between PTR and class sizes in Ghana. According to the report, between 2010 and 2021 the population of Greater Accra grew by about 36% from 4.01 million to 5.45 million but there was only an 11% increase in the number of public basic schools in the region and in Adenta, the number of public schools has only increased by 4% in the past 10 years, obviously, the growth in the greater Accra urban population has outpaced its growth in public basic schools over time, causing pressure and overcrowding in the few available classrooms. It was concluded that there is inadequate attention to providing primary education by the government of Ghana as the government is still refusing to remove the cap on the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) allocation for basic schools. It was therefore recommended that Ghana's Ministry of Education must adopt measures to reduce class sizes in urban schools by rolling out a deliberate program to build more classrooms in overcrowded schools. •

The Ministry of Education was also asked to engage the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education and the Ministry of Finance on amending the Earmarked Funds Capping and Realignment Act, 2017 (Act 947) to exempt the GETfund so that resources can be released for basic education infrastructure expansion.



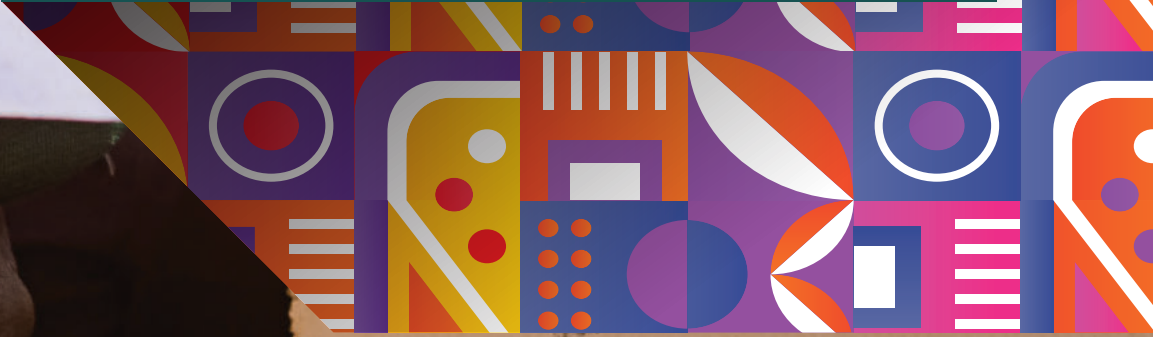
DIGITAL INCLUSION CAMPAIGN

Only 3 per cent of learners aged below 25 years in the poorest families have access at home. Only 40 per cent of similar age learners in the richest families have access at home.

DigitalInclusion



DIGITAL INCLUSION CAMPAIGN



DIGITAL INCLUSION CAMPAIGN



#Data Must Fall

Despite significant progress in Africa's education sector, challenges that impede the rights to education and equal access to education persist. These problems have been exposed to and exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic led to a massive transformation in the education sector given that teaching and learning transitioned from in-person to online. This 'new normal' required infrastructure including electricity and the internet to ensure access to education. However, many countries in Southern Africa are characterized by inadequate infrastructure as regards electricity and access to the internet. Students are not spared from these challenges.

Access to education during COVID-19 was largely limited to students from affluent homes and urban areas who had access to the internet, electricity, and information and communication technology (ICT) tools which can be used to access the internet to ensure participation in online teaching and learning. On the other hand, students from relatively poor households and rural areas were involuntarily excluded from education due to their limited access to infrastructure that can promote their participation in online teaching and learning. Even when internet and electricity were available, many students could not afford the costs. This has over the years been a barrier to access to the internet and a more pronounced barrier to education in recent times.

Against this backdrop, the Union commenced a continent-wide digital inclusion campaign, beginning with the Southern and Central Africa region, with the aim of strengthening the technical capacity of student leaders to organize and advocate for students' digital and educational rights by pushing a significant reduction or a total elimination of data costs for students in the Southern Africa sub-region.

Objective 1: Strengthen the technical capacity of student leaders in 11 countries to effectively organise and advocate for the rights to education and digital rights

To build the technical capacity of student leaders in 11 countries to effectively organize and advocate for the rights to education and digital rights, the project began with training trainers for three (3) days. The training involved training five student leaders each from 11 countries in the SADC region. Major themes of the training include principles and elements of advocacy, lobbying, relating lobbying to advocacy, stakeholder mapping, stakeholder engagements, identification of advocacy spaces, managing successful advocacy campaigns, and handling rebuttals and aggression from advocacy targets. The participants of the training shared their experiences which helped to make the training process context specific. All assignments given after the training as regards stakeholder mapping and identification of advocacy spaces were satisfactorily completed. This marked the success of the training.

After the successful training of trainers, the 55 trained student leaders from 11 different countries proceeded to train additional 15 student leaders on advocacy and campaign based on the subjects covered in training. This led to the development of the capacity of 20 student leaders from 11 different countries to advocate for the reduction in data costs in their respective countries. In total, about 220 student leaders have been trained for advocacy.

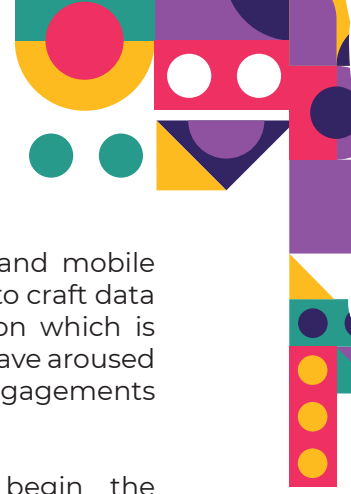
The success of the training is evidenced in their ability to organize events, including stakeholder engagements and COVID-19-compliant demonstrations, to exert pressure on the government and relevant ministries on the need to reduce data costs. With the help of translators, we managed to overcome all language barriers. To that effect, the objective was successfully achieved.



Objective 2: Increase pressure on relevant government ministries, internet service providers and mobile telecommunications network operators (e.g., MTN, Airtel) on the right to access education in the backdrop of online learning

This objective was marked with several activities including stakeholder engagements, radio and TV engagements, peaceful demonstrations, and an active social media campaign. We at the All-Africa students union deem this objective as the main objective of the project, hence the most demanding. Nevertheless, significant milestones have been achieved. The breakdown of the milestones per country is attached to this report. The various project coordinators in the project countries were tasked to activate social media accounts on platforms including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. The most vibrant has been Facebook. These accounts were intended to enhance the traction of the campaign. Considering the likes and comments on the project activities which have been posted on the various social media platforms, we can conclude that these platforms have been functional in making the campaign popular.

Secondly, we have successfully organized stakeholder engagements in 9 of the project countries, except Angola and Mozambique. Main participants in these stakeholder engagements included representatives from academia (universities), relevant government ministries (ministries of education and ministries of communications), internet service providers and mobile network operators. Overall, the outcome of these meetings were quite heterogeneous.



Some countries secured favourable deals from internet service providers and mobile network operators. The governing bodies of some universities also promised to craft data policies. There have also been parliamentary debates on the data inclusion which is because of the stakeholder engagements. Finally, the stakeholder meetings have aroused press engagements. Overall, these outcomes indicate that the stakeholder engagements were successful.

Namibia and Eswatini. Other countries are currently planning to begin the demonstrations. The demonstrations in Eswatini were met with police brutality and had to be halted given that students had to run for safety. The demonstrations in Namibia were relatively peaceful and the largest so far. In fact, the demonstrations in Namibia attracted massive attention in the media and have led to meetings with government representatives and policy makers. The country coordinator has been invited by several media houses (TV) and has appeared in newspapers for hosting such demonstrations. Malawi has a lot of lessons to show. In fact, the demonstrations in Malawi were the most challenging as compared with the former. Preparations towards the demonstrations were met with unfavourable responses from security forces (the police) as well as government ministries. Regardless, the demonstrations have been successfully held. The country coordinator in the country has gained massive attention and has been granted several radio and TV interviews. We are currently actively organizing demonstrations in eight (8) other countries. The major challenge is that the political situations and attitudes of governments towards student unions in these countries have caused delays since there have to be several legal processes and bureaucracies required to hold demonstrations.

Overall, the stakeholder engagements and the demonstrations have yielded positive impacts and have accounted for the success of the campaign so far. Specifically, the reactions of the stakeholders engaged during the stakeholder meetings indicate that we have secured buy-ins for the campaign. On the other hand, the reactions of governments during the demonstrations imply that we are actively exerting pressure on government and policy makers on the background of education and students' rights.





**CAPACITY
BUILDING**
WORKING GROUP

Student Leaders Training



The student leaders' training was organized in partnership with the Global Student Forum. The training modules focused on building the capacity of students on finances and sustainable funding of student organizations and movements; an overview of the SDGs; Environmental Justice; Democracy, Human Rights, and Active Global Citizen Education.

The resource persons included Hugh Mclean the Senior Advisor to the Open Society Foundations Education Program; Antonia Wulff, the Director of Research, Policy, and Advocacy at Education International (EI), and Alex Rafalowicz, the Director of Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; Dr Katarina Popovic the Secretary-General of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and Dr Henry Charles, the Youth, and Policy Development Expert.

Participants were students and youth leaders of the various National Student Unions and youth organizations globally. There was a total of 60 participants for the modules held between October 2021 and June 2022. The sessions were very participatory with the speakers and participants having open discussions on various topics. The speakers highlighted the need for student leaders to take up the challenge of leading the activism and advocacy for removing the structural inequalities and injustices in their respective countries.

The student leaders' training session is a timely and important intervention for building the capacity of student leaders to deliver quality leadership that positively impacts their constituents. The session was very educative and provided varied perspectives on funding NSUs and ensuring that they are free from political infiltration by funders.

International Day of Sports for Peace and Development



The webinar discussed the role of sports in peace, development, and youth economic development. April 6 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) in 2013 in recognition of the positive impact of sports on attaining sustainable development and the advancement of human rights, promotion of peace, tolerance, and understanding and bringing people together across boundaries, cultures, and religions.

In Africa, leveraging sports for development is a novel concept yet to be fully tapped. The African region is widely recognized as the future of global markets, with its burgeoning youth population. There is, therefore, an urgent need to equip the youth with the skills required to engage constructively and empathetically within an increasingly diverse world. Governments and the non-government sector continue to seek ways to mitigate the growing unemployment rates. Sports is seen as one of the most engaging methods to orient the youth towards better livelihood options and prevent crime.

The objectives were therefore to understand how sports can be used as a medium for building peace and to explore the positive role that sports can play in youth development as well as sports value chains and the opportunities for monetizing sports. Abdul Karim Ibrahim, a broadcast journalist from Ghana moderated the discussion. The resource persons included Leslie Koroma, Founder/CEO, Africa Sports Ventures Group based in Sierra Leone, Hussein Alhassan, a lecturer at the University of Professional Studies, Accra, and Derrick Okpoti Charway, PhD. Candidate, Norwegian School of Sports Sciences.

The webinar revealed the potential of sports in attaining peace, development, and economic growth. Sports boost employment creation for the sports persons as well as their coaches, medical teams, analysts, researchers, and media personnel. Sports creates business opportunities for sports start-ups as well as the engineers and technicians who build sports infrastructure. Sports bring together people of various ethnicities, races, and backgrounds, thereby fostering oneness. Sports also help to promote a country's brand; it helps market the country to the world and improves its image. International media exposure can convey a strong positive image of a country, which can help reach businesses and investors across the globe, creating business opportunities and increasing the chance of attracting various investments into the economy. This can aid in job creation and ultimately economic growth. It also assists companies to market their products

World Creativity and Innovation Day



The Capacity Building Working Group organized a series of activities to mark World Creativity and Innovation Day on April 21 as designated by the United Nations under the theme “Collaboration” to increase awareness of the role of creativity in all facets of human development. AASU however marked the day from 19-21 April 2022.

The activities to mark the celebrations included Awareness creation of the Day on the global theme, sharing videos of creatives sharing their thoughts on the various areas of creativity, and a Young Creatives Meetup which brought together young creatives across the spectrum enabling networking, collaboration, and development.

Experts on different issues in the creative and innovation space were also invited to share perspectives. Karl Carter, Founder, and CEO of Snake Nation spoke about “what the world needs now more than ever; creatives and innovators?” which can be accessed here:

((243) [What the World Needs now More Than Ever - Creatives and Innovators? - YouTube](#)). Annicken Day, Founder and CEO of Corporate Spring, shared a message on the topic “Unlocking your Creative and Innovative Potentials”. The video can be accessed here: ((243) [Unlocking your Creative and Innovative Potentials #wcid #AnnickenDay #CorporateSpring - YouTube](#))

The event was publicized on the AASU social media handles, i.e. Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The event was also registered with the World Creativity and Innovation Week ([Home - World Creativity & Innovation Week \(wciw.org\)](#)), the worldwide community dedicated to celebrating all forms of creativity. The link to the registered event can be found here ([Ghana - World Creativity & Innovation Week \(wciw.org\)](#))

Expert Opinion Series (TVET and AfCFTA)



The Capacity Building Working Group organized the maiden Expert Opinion Series (EOS) to discuss how Technical and Vocational Skills can drive the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to success. The goal was also to highlight the need to rejuvenate the Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, and to lay out key actions that the African States in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat can take to make TVET more attractive for the youth.

The Executive Director of Africa Education Watch, Mr. Kofi Asare was featured in the maiden session.

The discussions covered the state of TVET institutions in Africa, the commitment of African governments to the development of TVET, and the myths surrounding the TVET space. The discussions also covered the role of various stakeholders especially the State signatories to the AfCFTA.

The major takeaway from the session was that investment in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) will provide a better alternative to solving the fast-growing unemployment situation in Africa. With a focus on technologies and science, practical skills, attitudes, and knowledge for specific occupations, TVET could be the key to increasing youth employability. Programs that offer skills training to the youth have the power to both solve the continent’s development challenges and generate new job opportunities for the youth population. With the right support, TVET institutions should be able to provide the right skills to young people to start their businesses and grow their businesses to employ large numbers.

Faced with ever-changing labour markets and demographic trends, many African countries must work to renovate and strengthen their TVET systems. Developing skills, including vocational and technical skills, and enhancing employability must be strategic objectives of the AfCFTA Secretariat. The Secretariat and the signatory countries must collaborate to digitalize the learning environments, optimize vocational integration, promote the adaptation to new skill needs of the labour markets, and provide the necessary funding to rejuvenate the TVET space in Africa.



Workshop for Senate Members of GRASAG-UG



On 20th May 2022 the Capacity Building Working Group led a training session for Senate Members of the Graduate Students Association of Ghana (GRASAG) at the University of Ghana. The training was offered during the GRASAG Leadership Workshop organized under the topic: Enhancing the Capacity of the Student Leader for Effective Student Governance. Bismark Kudoafor, the Capacity Building lead for AASU exposed the student leaders to the changing dynamics of the issues that affect students and the need for student leaders to leverage local and international collaboration to address these issues. Among the issues discussed were the rising cost of data, the autonomy of Higher Education Institutions, the commodification of education, climate change, and others. The training also touched on how to leverage student activism and campaigns to draw attention to these issues.

World Youth Skills Day

The Capacity Building Working Group collaborated with the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) to organize a physical event at Don Bosco Technical Institute to mark World Youth Skills Day on 15 July 2022. The event was held under the theme: Unlocking the full potential of the Ghanaian Youth through TVET. The activity was geared towards achieving SDGs 4 and 8 by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all through quality education. The specific objectives were to reflect on how TVET stakeholders may work to scale up skills development and help bridge the urgent need for accelerating the transition to sustainable development and discuss the possibilities for skills development and the labour market, as well as the efficacy of national recovery programs and development partner assistance.





The event comprised a panel discussion and an exhibition. The panelists included Ing. Peter Antwi Boasiako (Deputy Director General of CTVET-Ghana), Mr. Nelson Owusu Ansah (Deputy CEO, National Youth Authority of Ghana), Mr. Samuel Amegayibor (Chairperson, Sector Skills Bodies of CTVET-Ghana) and Mr. Ahmed Akusie Osei (Ghana National Union of Technical Students National President). The discussions addressed pertinent challenges facing the youth and students in the TVET space, the role of government and stakeholders in making TVET more attractive to the youth, and ways by which TVET can be leveraged to address youth unemployment. There was also an exhibition by the Don Bosco Technical Institute on various projects undertaken by students of the institute in engineering, electricals, catering, and cosmetology among others.



International Youth Day



To celebrate this year's International Youth Day on 12 August, the Capacity Building Working Group, based on this year's theme, Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages, put together a short video on the dynamics of intergenerational solidarity. It highlighted the key issues around collaboration among people of all ages to combat the issues that modern development challenges including climate change, youth unemployment, and social vices and the role of International solidarity in driving efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. It also made recommendations to enable a harmonious coexistence of the different generations.

Video link: (<https://fb.watch/fQ8utJeEKb/>)

International Technopreneurship Conference

In collaboration with Snake Nation, AASU organized a side event at the Inclusive Technopreneurship conference 2022 (ITF-2022) on the theme 'Students & Graduates' Technopreneurship Onboarding and Graduate Employability on The African Continent'. The ITF-2022 was organized as a hybrid event with the physical event held on 17 August at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. The event attracted over 50 speakers, and 1500 online viewers, with various sessions including workshops and panel discussions.



Discussions centred on the need to offer requisite training in entrepreneurial skills to students and appropriate support provided to enable them to set up new businesses as viable career options. AASU and other participants called for Technopreneur Trainee Programmes to nurture and groom new cohorts of future entrepreneurs to unleash their innovativeness and impact, as well as create inspiration for others. There were also calls for adequate exposure in various industries to broaden the knowledge and experience of youth on the continent. The panelists included Esther Gomani – Deputy Secretary General, Southern Africa Students Union, Esther Ndeme Assiene, Vice President for Central Africa, All-Africa Students Union, Dennis Appiah Larbi-Ampofo, President, National Union of Ghana Students, Brenda Kiconco, Secretary for Female Affairs, National Youth Council, Uganda. The event helped to highlight the special role of technopreneurship in empowering the youth economically and brought student perspectives to the discussions on graduate employability.





The capacity-building program on the 4th Industrial Revolution, Africa 4.0 Project, rolled out by AASU gained the attention of several organizations that have indicated their readiness to support the initiative.

Youth Connekt Africa Summit 2022

With the support of the Global Campaign for Education and the National Youth Authority of the Republic of Ghana, the All-Africa Student Union participated in the Youth Connekt Africa Summit 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda from 13 - 15 October 2022. This year's summit was on the theme: 'Accelerating Investments in Youth: Resilient Youth, Resilient Africa.'



The opening ceremony brought together participants from 30 African countries to discuss and chart a way forward on how to involve the youth in Africa's trade, health, climate resilience and financing, technology, and skilling for the future, among other topics. Among the dignitaries present at the opening was the President of Rwanda, H.E Paul Kagame, H.E Macky Sall of Senegal, H. E Hage Geingob of Namibia, H.E Rigathi Gachagua the Vice President of Kenya, the ambassador of the Republic of South Korea and representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

AASU organized the second masterclass series under the theme: Devising a Digital Future for Africa: Students and Youth at the Forefront. The aim of the session was to provide a platform for reputable practitioners and experts within the digital space to interact with African students and youth leaders on emerging trends in digital technology and provide practical guidance on how to maximize existing and emerging opportunities. The session also sought to introduce the youth to available opportunities in employment and entrepreneurship, and equip participants with knowledge and skills to harness available opportunities in the digital technology ecosystem while iterating the case for increasing investment in digital infrastructure to foster Africa's development.



The session brought the conversation on technology upfront and enabled the African youth to come to terms with futuristic skills and opportunities. Speakers for the master-class included Dr Hind Abou Nasr Kassir (Founder & CEO of Seeds Arab), Dr Karl Carter (CEO of Snake Nation), Dr Lyn Ametewee (CEO, Founder and Principal of Silverstool) and Erickson Mugisha (Students Guild President, Rwanda) and moderated by Hilda Nyarkoa Bekoe, Programme Officer for Migration and Mobility at AASU. The speakers shared insights on effective leadership through innovation, creativity and inclusivity, the importance of investing in infrastructure in order to expand access to digital skills and digital literacy in Africa, and the need to have policies and orient users to protect human rights within the digital era among others. A total of 60 participants from different nationalities across the African continent participated in the masterclass session.





**MIGRATION AND
MOBILITY**
WORKING GROUP



Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



The migration and mobility working group, as part of its expert opinion series, hosted Amílcar Sanatan, a former steering committee member of the Global Students Forum (GSF) to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2022. The aim was to highlight the issues of racial discrimination faced by students, specifically African migrant students across the globe, and how we can come together as young people to fight the canker of racism.

The interview, which was held virtually, focused on addressing and seeking reform in relation to all forms of racial discrimination with a special focus on African students across the globe. Amílcar Sanatan emphasized the following issues:

- a. Racism or racial discrimination adversely impacts the economic opportunities of its victims because they have less space to do work and fewer sectors in which they feel could apply their skill set.
- b. Education should not just be seen as a vehicle for individual mobility but also as the transformative potential to expand and empower our consciousness.
- c. Those involved in politics must listen, not to just say the right words but listen to the needs of the student populations including those in the diaspora.
- d. There is the need to invest in intercultural communication exchange among students and between students and communities.
- e. Racism has a live form in our social reality. Race is not just real but it is also a social fact.
- f. We need to be vested in using our imagination, knowledge, and approaches to development to solve our problems while we build the confidence of our people.
- g. There should be Africanization of our consciousness such that what we read in literature should represent our reality.

A recording of the interview was published on all AASU social media platforms. Link to video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOZfQgCWXck>



World Refugee Day



The Migration and Mobility Working Group joined the world on June 20 to commemorate World Refugee Day. The main objective for marking this day was to highlight issues on refugee status in Africa and how we can come together as a continent to provide the best possible solutions for an all-inclusive Africa – the Africa we want.

Ms. Andhira Kara Lead Country Researcher – Kenya, Local Engagement Refugee Research Network shared a goodwill message in pre-recorded video to observe the day.



In her speech, she commended the resilience and determination of refugee women striving to contribute positively to their various communities.

As a refugee herself, she commented that they look forward to a day where Africa will move from just celebrating resilience to making changes in policies for an inclusive Africa where refugees matter.

The video was shared on AASU’s social media [Facebook and YouTube]. Snippets from the video as also shared on social media to achieve the stated objective.

Find video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RVC-3JM9Mk>

International Day for Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

In line with the commemoration of the International Day for Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which happened on June 26, research was conducted on the impact of drug abuse amongst the youth in Africa and around the globe. The research was shared as a video to our constituents on social media to raise awareness and call on the youth to desist from substance abuse.





World Day against Trafficking in Persons



The All-Africa Students Union joined the world to commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, 2022. The theme for the year was 'Use and Abuse of Technology'. It was noted that human traffickers have become adept at using internet platforms including social media platforms, online market sites, free standing web pages etc to recruit victims as well as attract clients. To celebrate the day, AASU shared tips to its followers who are classified as vulnerable groups to enlighten them on ways to protect themselves from becoming victims.

Link to video can be found here: <https://fb.watch/fODIS2SZ5i/>





**DEMOCRACY AND
GOOD GOVERNANCE**
WORKING GROUP





Africa Students Governance Index

The democracy and good governance working group commenced research titled - Africa Students Governance Index - in partnership with the All Member Unions of the All-Africa Students Union. The planned period for the research is from January to April 2022. The objectives of this research were to examine the effective use of the tenets of good governance across the various Students' Unions in Africa and to promote the concept of good governance at the level of student leadership.

The main targets were university students who were reached through the deployment of an online survey to collect the responses. A total of 138 students responded to the questionnaire, with 78 being males and 58 being females.

Some of the challenges encountered while conducting this research included the low response rate of the leadership of the National Students Unions and their constituents to the survey. The responses received were therefore not as high as expected.

The lesson derived from this research is that National Students' Unions have not demonstrated adequate reliability in providing the required information to effectively implement projects of such nature. This is because it became clear that the leadership of the NSU's did not disseminate the information about the survey to their constituents even after their buy-in was secured at the design stage of the project.

AU Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa



Political and Social Affairs Officer, Mercedes Rowe Asamani, represented AASU at the AU Reflection Forum held in Accra, Ghana from 15 to 17 March 2022 under the auspices of H. E Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana. The objective of the forum was to reflect on the phenomenon of Unconstitutional Changes in Government (UCG) in Africa with the aim of proffering enduring solutions to the problem.

AASU proposed among other recommendations that there should be multi-level engagement mechanisms from local levels through to bilateral, regional and continental levels to tighten gaps in governance to stem the trend of unconstitutional changes in government. We also urged African leaders to come together as a people bound by the spirit of Pan-Africanism to resist unconstitutional changes in the government as it is the greatest obstacle in our way to achieving the "Africa We Want".



Nelson Mandela International Day

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY • LIVE WEBINAR
VIRTUAL PUBLIC LECTURE
Theme: Do what you can, with what you have, wherever you are
Monday, 18th July 2022 | 11:00 GMT - 12:00 GMT
13:00 SAST - 14:00 SAST
Join the conversation on **zoom** Meeting ID: 841 4334 6633
Passcode: 877217
Scan to join:
Facilitator
Ms Lutfiyya Dean
Policy Advisor, All-Africa Students Union (AASU)
Opening Statement
Ms Ester Simon
Secretary-General, Southern African Students Union (SASU)
Speakers
Mr. Johann Krige
Mandela Washington Fellow 2018
Ms Melene Rossouw
Mandela Washington Fellow 2019
www.aasufellow.org | info@sasufellow.org | @sasus_1972 | @AASU1972 | All-Africa Student Union | @aasus_72

The Democracy and Good Governance Working Group of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), in partnership with the Southern Africa Students Union (SASU), hosted a virtual public lecture on 18 July 2022 in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday. The purpose of Mandela Day is to instill hope in people and serve as a reminder that we can all make a difference, no matter how small or large our efforts may be.

The theme for the program "Do What You Can, With What You Have, Wherever You Are" was expounded on by Johann Krige, Public Policy & Governance Consultant (Mandela Washington Fellow, 2018), speaking on the topic: "Our voices and our Words: Championing Causes for The Biggest Social Justice Issues We Face Today", stressed on the importance of focusing on what the community does well rather than on its challenges, that way the community is given agency to take charge of its development.

Melene Rossouw, Founder of Women Lead Movement (Mandela Washington Fellow, 2019) addressed the topic "The Crucial Intersections: The People, Their Communities and Public Policy Today" and stated among other things that "Achieving social justice in our lifetime will require a sustained and proactive action program. It will also require us to act against all forms of racial discrimination, prejudice, and injustices that manifests to build a fair and inclusive society".

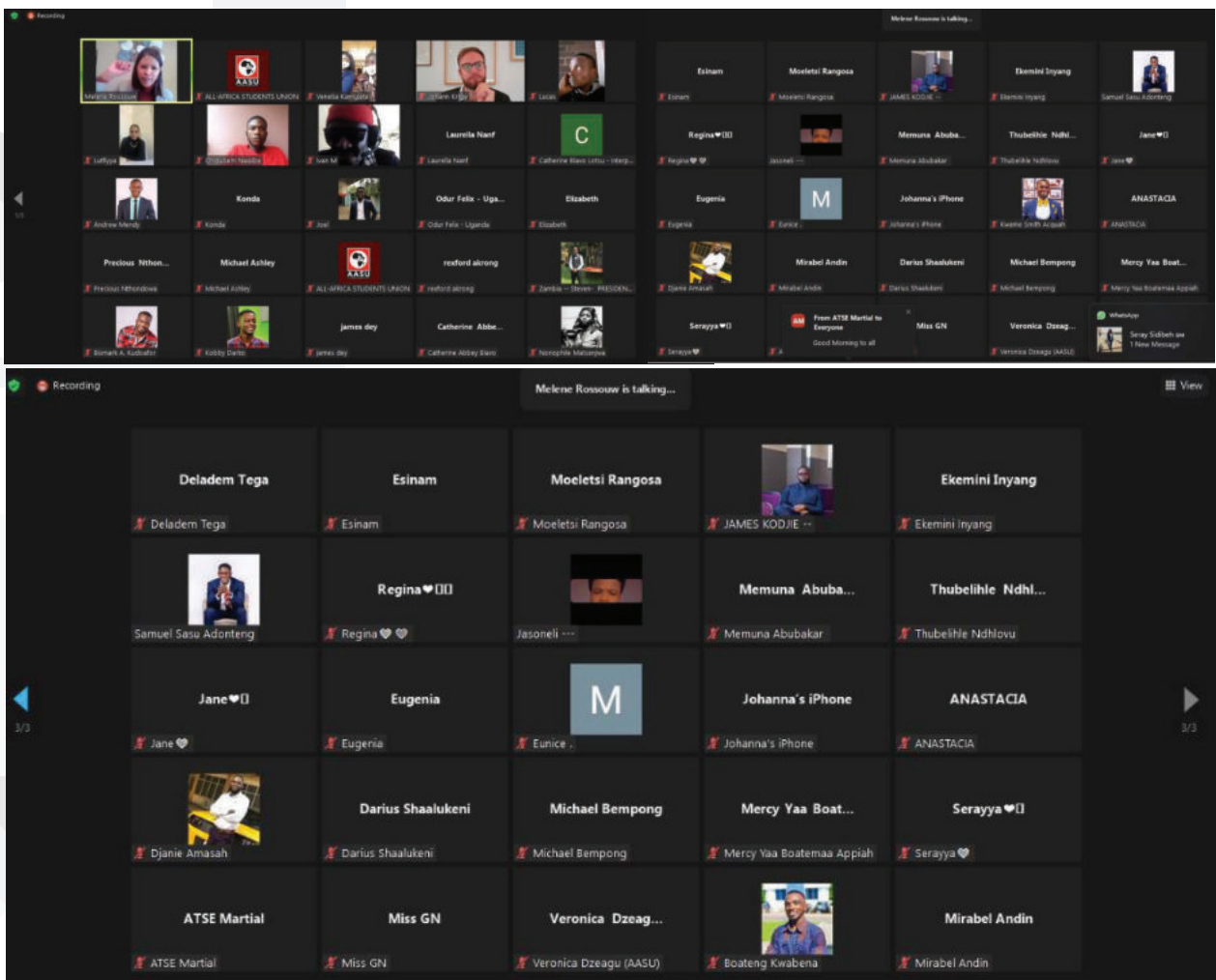
Both presentations also highlighted the unique contribution of Nelson Mandela in dismantling the legacy of apartheid by combating institutionalized racism and fostering racial reconciliation for South Africa and its people. Furthermore, both speakers emphasized the fact that "As we stand on the shoulders of the giants who stood and fought for this continent, we must reflect on how far we have come as young people. Criticism is necessary regarding how we continue the legacy of heroes such as Nelson Mandela" The lecture was facilitated by Lutifiyya Dean (Policy Advisor, All Africa Students Union).



Conflict Management Training

In collaboration with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) our partner, the All-Africa Student's Union (AASU) through the Democracy and Good Governance Working Group convened a two-day Conflict Management Training from 31st August to 1st September 2022. The training was aimed at equipping student leaders with basic skills to prevent and mitigate conflict that may arise within their universities and communities. Twenty participants were trained with gender representation being 50-50.

The training introduced participants to tools for conflict analysis, which can help student leaders better understand tensions and their possible trajectories within their university's spaces. The training allowed the participants to reflect on their leadership role and leverage constructive engagements with peers and management to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflict through a simulation exercise. The facilitators were Ms Rene Ngwenya from ACCORD supported by Mr Elorm Mawuli-Kwawu, Mr Shadreck Khanye and Ms Nobantu Modise.





***GENDER
ADVOCACY***
WORKING GROUP





Obaasima Summit



The Gender Advocacy Working Group of AASU partnered with the Obaasima Foundation to organize the Obaasima Summit at the University of Ghana and the University of Education, Winneba. The theme for the event was “Progressive Portrayal: Building Capacity for Elevation”. The goal was to empower young women with the skills they must have to be able to transition well from school to the world of work. Some of the topics covered included how to prepare for interviews, public speaking, teamwork, and networking. The summit brought together accomplished women from various backgrounds as resource persons including Joyce Bawa Mogtari, a former deputy Minister of Transport for Ghana, Sylvia Owusu Ankomah, Corporate Relations Director of Guinness Ghana, Ama Serwaa Nerquaye-Tetteh, Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, Petra Aba Asamoah, Marketing Manager of Akosombo Textiles Limited, Baaba Cofie, a public relations expert and Tangoba Abayage, former ambassador to Italy. Over 1,500 students were reached.

Launch of ESSA in Ghana



The Secretary General of AASU, H.E Peter Kwasi Kodjie, the Chief Technical Officer, Veronica Dzeagu, the Programme Officer for Gender, Claudia Quartey and the Research and Communications Lead, Elorm Mawuli-Kwawu participated in a forum organized by Education Sub Saharan Africa to launch their operations in Ghana. The Secretary General was on panel with Professor Goski Alabi, President of Laweh University and Rudolph Ampofo the Director of EdTech Ghana where he emphasized the need for stakeholders in the African education space to improve pedagogy by harnessing digital tools in order to be in tune with the dynamics of modern education.

As partners to ESSA, AASU participated in the research on women’s participation in leadership in Higher Education Institutions in Africa. AASU has also provided a platform for ESSA in expanding its reach to students and youth in Africa and beyond through joint projects and advocacy campaigns.





Commemoration of Girls in ICT Day



The All-Africa Students Union in partnership with Specsforlife, Kandifo Institute, and Idea Factor marked International Girls in ICT Day with an event dubbed “Tech-Girl Empowered” to create, sustain and increase the interest of young ladies to pursue courses in the area of Technology to explore the tech space. The goal was to encourage girls to pursue a profession based on their inclinations and talents, rather than gender stereotypes and other societal expectations.

The program was held at the Academic City University College Auditorium and brought together one hundred and twenty students (120) from the Association International School (AIS), Academic City University College, Valley View University, and the University of Professional Studies (UPSA). Six (6) seasoned speakers in the field of Information Communication Technology such as Paulette Watson (Managing Director of Academy Achievers), Foster Awintiti, (CEO Hacklab), Steven N. Boadi (Chief Enabler, Enable Growth), Dunstan Guba(Certified Ethical Hacker), Anne Amuzu Nutsuklo (Co-Founder and CEO of Nandi Mobile) and Zulaiha Dobia Abdullah (Co-Founder, Divaloper) were invited as resource persons. Topics covered by the speakers included ways to empower females for active involvement in digital transformation in the fourth industrial revolution; blockchain; the impact of ICT on girls' rights and public participation; careers in ICT, tech, and mathematics; and security and safety within the use of the internet

The program was co-moderated by Claudia Quartey, Gender Desk Officer of the All-Africa Students Union, and Eugenia A. Boadi of Specsforlife. In the opening statement by Eustache Ndayisaba, Secretary for Finance for AASU, he emphasized AASU’s commitment to bridging the gender gap in STEM fields.

Africa Health Exhibition and Conference

The Gender Advocacy Working Group in collaboration with the Egyptian Unified Procurement, Supply, and Medical Technology Management Authority facilitated the participation of 50 students (24 females and 26 males) in the maiden Africa Health ExCon Exhibition and Conference in Cairo, Egypt from 5 to 7 June 2022. The conference was opened by His Excellency the President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

The conference sought to position Africa as the hub for health innovation and trade by refocusing the minds of those in the Health and Pharma business on Africa's investment potential and healthcare industry in Africa.





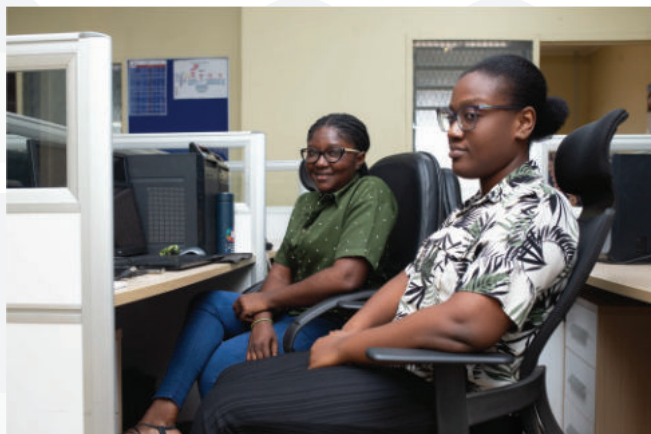
The conference sought to position Africa as the hub for health innovation and trade by refocusing the minds of those in the Health and Pharma business on Africa's investment potential and healthcare industry in Africa. It also sought to promote the right sourcing of products and equitable distribution in line with the continent's health agenda to ensure equitable access to quality health technology products and services in all African countries.

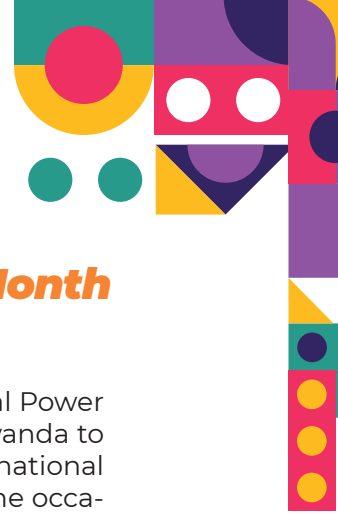
Other notable speakers at the conference were Dr. Khaled Abdelghaffar (Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Acting Minister of Health and Population), Dr. Harvey J. Alter (Awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology & Medicine), Dr. Raymond Francis Schinazi (Director of Laboratory Biochemical Pharmacology, Emory University) and Dr. John Ward (Director, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination).

International Day of the Girl-Child

AASU joined the official launch of the Equal Power Now campaign by Plan International in Rwanda to mark the 10th year celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child on 12 October, 2022.

The occasion was used to launch the #EqualPowerNow manifesto.





Commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (Pink October)



AASU joined the official launch of the Equal Power Now campaign by Plan International in Rwanda to mark the 10th year celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child on 12 October, 2022. The occasion was used to launch the #EqualPowerNow manifesto.

The discussions touched on the very essential points about breast cancer that every male and female must know including the statistics on the prevalence of breast cancer worldwide, the need for early detection, how to perform breast self-examination, changes to look out for, why one should get checked, the narratives that hinder early detection among others. The event received very positive feedback from the audience.

Quality and Safe Girls Education

The All-African Students Union (AASU) was invited to the launch of a report on issues affecting girls' education in Ghana by the Girls Excellence Movement (GEM) on 24th August 2022. The Union was represented by Secretary for Finance, Eustache Ndayisaba, Secretary for Press and Information, Vanessa Ajavon, Chief Technical Officer, Veronica Dzeagu and the programs officer for Gender Advocacy, Claudia Quartey.

The lunch was graced by Madam Monica Ankrah, a Regional Director of the Ghana Education Service, Dr. Angela Asante-Essah, Presidential Advisor on Gender and Development and Dr. Peter Anti Partey, Executive Director of the Institute for Education Studies, Ghana. Other participants included religious leaders, traditional leaders and civil society organizations.

The report titled "Sheltered Yet Exposed" revealed the high incidence of harassment and sexual abuse experienced mostly by girls in basic schools across Ghana. According to the report, 50.4% of girls experience financial difficulties, making them vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Furthermore, 43% of girls had experienced at least one form of abuse and 51.9% had been sexually abused. 50% of girls also reported that they found learning mathematics and STEM subjects difficult although they are aspiring to careers in the health and medical sciences.

The discussions covered various ways in which stakeholders could contribute towards curbing the menace of sexual abuse which is affecting the wholesome education of girls. The Program Officer for Gender Advocacy confirmed the findings of the report based on experiences from the Africa Girls Back to School Campaign and Girls in STEM project. Engagements with girls who participated in these projects showed that the major cause of sexual abuse and the destruction of female education was financial constraints and the unavailability of astute role models. She also highlighted the inadequacy of funds to support such vulnerable girls and called on the government of Ghana and other African countries and international agencies to direct more efforts towards supporting quality and safe girls' education.





GCE Youth Action Month 2022



The All-African Students Union (AASU) was invited to the launch of a report on issues affecting girls' education in Ghana by the Girls Excellence Movement (GEM) on 24th August 2022. The Union was represented by Secretary for Finance, Eustache Ndayisaba, Secretary for Press and Information, Vanessa Ajavon, Chief Technical Officer, Veronica Dzeagu and the programs officer for Gender Advocacy, Claudia Quartey.

The lunch was graced by Madam Monica Ankrah, a Regional Director of the Ghana Education Service, Dr. Angela Asante-Essah, Presidential Advisor on Gender and Development and Dr. Peter Anti Partey, Executive Director of the Institute for Education Studies, Ghana. Other participants included religious leaders, traditional leaders and civil society organizations.

AASU's Participation in The 7th World Assembly Of the Global Campaign For Education



AASU participated in the 7th World Assembly of the Global Campaign for Education which took place from 22nd to 24th November in Johannesburg, South Africa. Representing the Union were Claudia Quartey, Gender-desk officer, Lutfiya Dean, Policy Advisor for Education and Students Rights working group and Ester Simon who was re-elected to a three-year term on the GCE Board. The theme for the 7th GCE World Assembly was "The Future of Education Re-Imagined". Leonardo Garnier, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations, who gave the keynote address, and other seasoned speakers graced the event which hosted several insightful plenaries, group discussions and a policy forum over the course of the three days.





The Assembly featured an exhibition of youth and students-led initiatives themed 'GCE Youth and Students as Agents of Change.' AASU's representatives contributed to discussions, policies and reports and gave presentations on the organisation's various projects. Among the highlights of the World Assembly was the session on 'How Youth and Students Activism Has Changed and Evolved? - Strategies and Way Forward' where the Youth Research Report was launched. The new strategic plan of the 2022-2027 GCE Strategic Plan was also launched at the event. The next World Assembly will be held in 2026.

AASU Mental Health Campaign

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An expert on Mental Health, Dr. Lovelace Quarshie, was hosted by AASU for a one-day workshop on 18 November 2022 at the AASU Secretariat in Accra. It provided the staff of the Union an opportunity to deepen their understanding of how mental health presents among different groups and the options available for preventing and mitigating the effects.

The Union also signed a memorandum of understanding with 'ConnectedMinds', a global mental well-being platform to provide students with a safe space to discuss, give and receive support from others who are going through similar life situations at affordable cost.





**PAN-AFRICANISM
AND AFRICAN CULTURE**
WORKING GROUP





Launch of Pan African Heritage Museum



A delegation from the Union led by the Secretary for Finance, Eustache Ndayisaba, and the Secretary for Press and Information, Vanessa Adjavon attended the launch of the Pan African Heritage Museum, the first ever digital museum in the world, in Accra, Ghana on the Africa World Heritage Day which is on 5 May every year. The theme was “Presenting Our Unique Pan-African Heritage to the World”. Dignitaries at the event included the Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Ghana, the UNESCO Representative in Ghana, representatives from the Africa Union Commission, the South-South Cooperation Council, the Diaspora African Forum and other esteemed Pan-Africanists. The museum seeks to create a space to understand the heritage of Africa and its diaspora.



A statement delivered by Syliva Woyongo, Senior Protocol Officer and lead, of the Pan African Working Group of AASU, on behalf of the Secretary-General, urged African governments and institutions to preserve Pan-African principles to make them relevant for future generations. She also stressed the need to preserve Pan-African ideals by engaging more with young people as they remain relevant for Africa’s identity in our highly globalized world.

Flag Raising Ceremony in Commemoration of 59th Africa Day

The Secretary for Finance, Eustache Ndayisaba, and other staff of the Union joined Heads of Diplomatic Missions and other dignitaries at the flag-raising ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana in commemoration of the 59th Africa Union Day on 25 May 2022. The event was held under the theme “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development.





The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana, Honorable Shirley Ayorkor Botchway called on members of the African Union to work together for the implementation of the African Common Position for Sustainable food security and the Africa Emergency Food Production Strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent. The Dean of the African Group, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burkina Faso to Ghana, H. E Pingrenoma Zagre, on his part urged African governments to redouble their efforts towards addressing the issues of climate change, youth employment and terrorism being witnessed in parts of Africa.

AASU Dialogue Series: Business and Employment Opportunities for Africa's Youth



The Pan-Africanism Working Group in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana convened youth, professionals, and corporate leaders in the agriculture sector for a dialogue series to mark AU Day on 25, May 2022. The event themed: "Youth and Agriculture- Business and Employment Opportunities for Africa's Youth," focused on how African youth can leverage the agricultural industry to create jobs and assure food and security on the African continent.

The Secretary for Finance Eustache Ndayisaba delivered the welcome address. Other speakers at the program included Rocky Dawuni, a musician and UN Goodwill Ambassador for Africa (UN Environment), Klutse Kudomor, Director of Youth in Agriculture at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) in Ghana, Catherine Abekai Blavo Lotsu, founder of Abekai Afrifoods and Logistics, Catherine Oppong Adjei, Head of Environment and Safety at the Ghana Maritime Authority, and Charles Ossa, President of Ossa Foods Ghana Limited. The panel discussion was moderated by Elorm Mawuli Kwawu, Head of Research and Communications of the All-Africa Student Union.

The panelists shared various perspectives on the policies and strategies needed to encourage African youth to go into agribusiness. They also stressed the importance of ensuring that national food security policies are effectively aligned to open market food policies in other parts of the world while still protecting the interests of local farmers and ensuring equal access to food. Financing options available for young people to pursue agriculture were also explored given the bottlenecks that exist in securing financial resources in Ghana. There was a consensus among the panelists that agribusiness is a viable employment option for youth in Africa which requires more investment and encouraged the youth to venture into agriculture in order to assuage the unemployment levels on the continent.

Participants included the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS), Ghana Union of Professional Students (GUPS), and PUSAG. The total number of participants was fifty (50) comprising 30 males and 20 females.



The closing remarks were given by Madam Sylvia Woyongo, Lead for the Pan-Africanism and African Culture Working Group at the All-Africa Students Union (AASU). The program ended with the presentation of citations to the speakers by Jemilatu Mamshie Bawa, the Chief Operations Officer at the All-Africa Students Union, and Veronica Dzeagu, Chief Technical officer of the Union.

Pan-Africanism and Student Activism in Africa

Pan Africanism & Student Activism in Africa
30th August, 2022 11:30am GMT

Moderator

Speakers

Elorm Kwawu

Maxwell Dlamini
Former Dep.
Secretary General of SASU

Hon. Emmanuel Jay Banda
Mp, Petauke Central,
Zambia

Mr. Shyaka Michael Nyarwaya
Comm. of Political
Integration & International
Relations at Pan African
Movement Rwanda - Chapter.

The All Africa Student Union convened a webinar on Tuesday 30th August 2022. The event, titled "Pan-Africanism And Student Activism in Africa" focused on the WHO, WHAT and HOW of Pan-Africanism and Student Activism on the African continent. It also looked at the revolutionary history of Pan-Africanism and Student Activism.

The seminar was moderated by Elorm Mawuli Kwawu, Head of Research and Communications of the All Africa Student Union. The speakers of the program were Shyaka Michael Nyarwaya, Commissioner of Political Integration & International Relations at Pan African Movement Rwanda – Chapter, Hon. Emmanuel Jay Banda, MP, Petauke Central, Zambia, Victor Otienor, Global Director of Pan African Clubs, United Pan Africanist Movement.

The speakers talked about how Africans can help in building a great future in Africa with the spirit of Pan-Africanism. They examined the significance of student activism and Pan-Africanism and how they can be major tools to help the course of African liberation from racial abuse and black inferiority. This webinar helped African students to understand that belief in ourselves as Africans and African ideologies help bring an end to neo-colonialism.





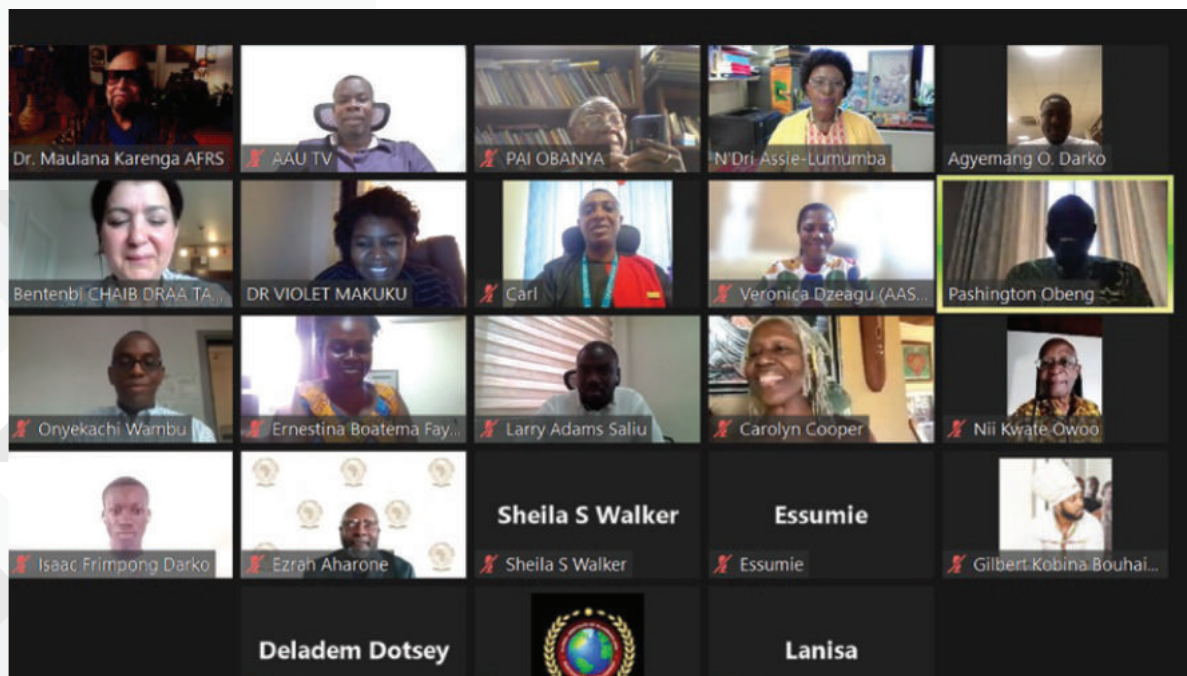
World Conference on Education and Restitution

AASU participated in the World Conference on Education and Restitution hosted by the Association of African Universities (AAU) in partnership with the Pan African Heritage Museum (PAHM) and UNESCO from 30th August to 1st September 2022. The conference theme was: “The Past, The Present, and the Future: Afrofuturism and Africa’s Development”.

The Chief Technical Officer and Programme Officer for Pan-Africanism and African Culture Working Group of AASU represented the Union at the session moderated by Professor Margaret King of the Global Institute of Planning and Sustainable Development themed “The Upcoming Disruption In Higher Education” as discussants. Other notable participants included Dr. Bentebi Chaibdra Tani (Higher Education Consultant & former Associate Professor, University of Oran, Algeria) Mr Sampson Kofi Adotey (African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Dr. Muhindo Binzaka Roger (Free University of the Great Lakes Countries) and Emeritus Prof. Nelson Ijumba (Former Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Rwanda).

The session sought to establish an international dialogue on the needs and priorities for promoting and implementing an emerging digital ecosystem as a multiplier of growth in education. The discussants laid emphasis on how the future is intertwined with technology and how leveraging the opportunities that technology could offer a great promise for the growth of Africa and its people across all sectors.

Further, they brought to bear the importance of context in education which allows young people to unlearn, learn and relearn essential skills which can lead to a relevant change in Africa’s economy. Additionally, it was noted that one of the biggest disruptions in education happened during the peak of the COVID pandemic which forced academia to make quick adjustments in favour of an online approach to pedagogy and assessment. Yet, while the disruption provided an opportunity to reprioritize and gain a deeper understanding as regards to digital education, it excluded millions of children and students in marginalized communities from formal education. To reverse this phenomenon and prevent it from re-occurring, discussants recommended an increase in investment in digital infrastructure and jobs by both state and non-state actors, investment in improvement in the quality of public education generally, and the need for countries to enforce national and international laws which protect women, girls and children.





AASU



**ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE ACTION**
WORKING GROUP

EMPIRE
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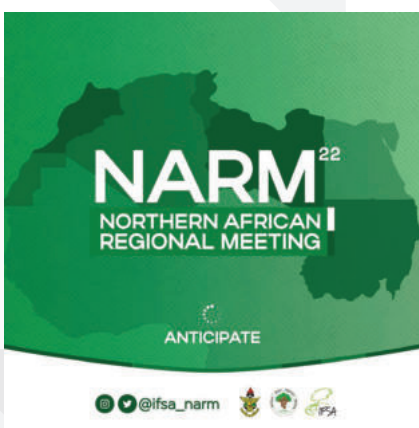


World Wetlands Day Commemoration



The event comprised a panel discussion and an exhibition. The panelists included Ing. Peter Antwi Boasiako (Deputy Director General of CTNET-Ghana), Mr. Nelson Owusu Ansah (Deputy CEO, National Youth Authority of Ghana), Mr. Samuel Amegayibor (Chairperson, Sector Skills Bodies of CTNET-Ghana) and Mr. Ahmed Akusie Osei (Ghana National Union of Technical Students National President). The discussions addressed pertinent challenges facing the youth and students in the TVET space, the role of government and stakeholders in making TVET more attractive to the youth, and ways by which TVET can be leveraged to address youth unemployment. There was also an exhibition by the Don Bosco Technical Institute on various projects undertaken by students of the institute in engineering, electricals, catering, and cosmetology among others.

AASU Hosts IFSA Northern Africa Regional Meeting



Under the auspices of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), the Renewable Natural Resources Students Association in partnership with the Environment and Climate Working Group of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) hosted the 2022 IFSA Northern Africa Regional Meeting. The meeting was under the theme: 'Nature's Job for All'. The hybrid event witnessed 115 physical participants from five African countries including 7 universities from the Northern Africa Region and two, (Nigeria and Ghana) from the remaining three countries.

The meeting focused on espousing the potential of green jobs and on underlined activities which usually require massive participation of local communities for their sustainable management. Amongst the subject areas discussed are micro-watershed management, irrigation water management, soil and water conservation, community forestry, community-based coastal zone fisheries management, and conservation of biodiversity. Facilitators provided special guidance to students on how to carry out the identification of current and anticipated skill green jobs under nature's jobs which are the blue (aquaculture), green (forestry) and brown(wildlife) jobs. Key among the facilitators were Hon Andy Osei Okrah, (Founder and President of the Young Professionals and Youth Coalition),



Mr. Japheth Samuel (Regional Representative of IFSA) and Mr. Daniel Onwonah-Owiredu (Programmes Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change-AASU). Participants were mobilized to undertake a tree planting activity at the Appiadu Roman Catholic Basic School in Kumasi where 500 seedlings of four plant species were planted to restore 10 acres of land to mark Green Ghana Day. For sustainability, all trees planted were assigned to individual students for a duration of two years a team will return to assess the state of each tree. Participants were also exposed to the intricacies of the forest-life nexus on a field study trip to the Bunsu Arboretum and Eco-Park.

World Water Day

World Water Day, held annually on 22 March focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources and builds support for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 by 2030. A short video was developed and shared on all official social media handles of the All-Africa Students Union. The objectives were to educate members and the public on the sustainable use of water; advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources, and highlight the need to protect water with an emphasis on the role of the youth and students in safeguarding available water resources.

World Oceans Day

AASU joined forces with the Rocky Dawuni Foundation and other NGOs to undertake a clean-up exercise at Labadi Beach in Accra, Ghana. The objective was to raise awareness about the crucial role oceans play in our lives and the ways people can help to protect them. Participants were educated about the ecological benefits of the ocean including the fact that the ocean is the largest carbon sink on earth and is responsible for producing more than 70 per cent of the earth's oxygen. The team had cleared about 3 tonnes of waste from the beach, of which about 60% were plastics. The activity highlighted the need to improve the coastal and ocean ecosystem and protect marine life by removing toxic material regularly.

Africa Students Climate Change Education Programme

A memorandum of understanding was signed between AASU and GAIA Education to deliver an online course on climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to students across the African continent. Also involved in the project are the Association of Universities (AAU) and the SDG Centre for Africa, the African Union Commission and the Africa Capacity Building Foundation. The goal of this project is that by the end of 2023 every African undergraduate student will have access to online courses on Climate Change and the SDGs which will be designed by African university Champions and Pioneers who have specialized expertise in these areas. Through these online courses, the students will be encouraged to make life choices for themselves, their families, and the communities around them that will be positive for their own environment and the African continent. The expectation is that through their participation in these courses, every African student, irrespective of their subject specialization will be empowered to become champions for climate change.

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Convening

On the 7th and 8th of October, AASU co-organized the Local Conference on Youth (LCOY) together with the United Youth Initiative for Africa and Green Africa Organization in Ghana. The event was hosted under the theme "Unifying for a Green Future" as part of the global movement of youth climate conferences in the run-up to COY17 and COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in November. Over 200 delegates participated in the event which was hosted by the Association of African Universities. The Outcome Statement fed into a Global Youth Statement which was presented to the COP Presidency.

Global Students COP27 Pre-Summit



The Global Students COP27 Pre-Summit was organized by the Global Student Forum and the All-Africa Students Union in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana. The Summit was held from 10 to 15 October 2022 at the Ange Hill Hotel in Accra – Ghana. The organizing organizations invited various stakeholders, including students, student leaders, climate activists, and political decision-makers. In all, 60 participants from over 15 countries travelled to Ghana to contribute to policy formulation ahead of COP27 in Egypt.

The rationale behind the event is to synergize student voices ahead of COP27. As students, we listen to and stand behind the scientific community and understand that we need to act in unity and with urgency, to defend current and future generations and our ecosystem at large. We also recognize the importance of amplifying the leadership of countries and communities most impacted by climate change yet have contributed little to its creation, including the Global South and Indigenous Peoples.

The summit structure included plenary sessions attended by all participating delegates and masterclasses to catalogue shared experiences about the impact(s) of climate change on education, youth, jobs and life across the world and the key political actions needed to adopt sustainability initiatives to safeguard education.

The main recommendations were that students and climate activists intensify advocacy campaigns and build solidarity amongst themselves to make greater impacts. It also emerged that educational curricula must be redefined at all levels to include sustainable climate education. The Summit ended with a global statement, co-created by the delegates, which indicated a high level of consensus over the key issues which the Summit was aiming to impact.

AASU's Participation in COP27



The All-Africa Students Union participated in the 27th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP27) held in Sharm el Shiek, Egypt from 6-19 November 2022. Daniel Owiredu, Programme Officer in charge of the Environment and Climate Action Working Group participated in the conference on behalf of the Union. AASU was joined by Ambassador Tim Clarke from GAIA Education, the SDG Centre for Africa and other civil society representatives for a panel discussion on Climate Change and Education in Africa themed 'Mobilising Youth and Transforming Communities - Embedding the SDGs in Formal and Informal Education.' AASU emphasized the importance of establishing a comprehensive climate education programme which has students at its core in all educational institutions across the African continent.

SDG- Climate Education for African Universities

The partnership with GAIA Education and the SDG Centre for Africa, which has been working yearlong to produce the first ever continental curriculum for climate education in all universities and tertiary institutions in Africa, was successfully launched at COP27 amidst a lot of positive reception from all stakeholders gathered. 10 Universities in Africa have already signed on to co-develop the curriculum to reflect the context and promote indigenous knowledge. Speaking at the event, Daniel Owiredu, representing AASU, indicated the commitment of the student front to climate action and called for accessible funding mechanisms for youth and student-led climate activities.



**SECRETARY GENERAL'S
CORNER**

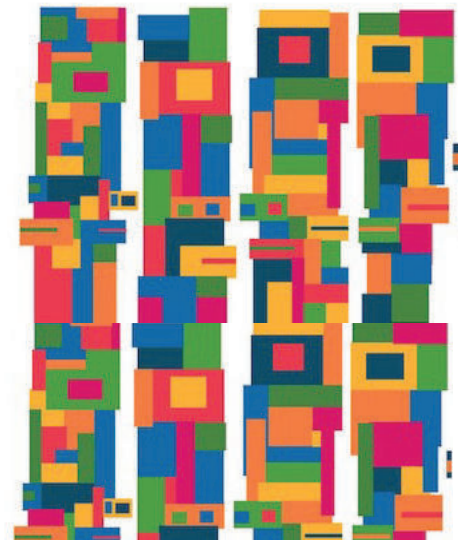
SECRETARY GENERAL'S CORNER

The Secretary-General undertook some key activities within the year. From thought-leadership programmes to joining physical and virtual campaigns, the SG participated in several activities.

UNESCO WHEC Consultation



The objective of this student consultation for the African region was to raise students' awareness for WHEC 2022 and capture the inputs and demands of the international student movement. The consultation served as a kick-off to launch a worldwide student union campaign aimed at lobbying national delegations to include elected student leaders into their ranks at the World Higher Education Conference in Barcelona, Spain to engage students in building a safe Ghana by providing a forum for dialogue.



NUGS Security Conference

The SG participated in a one-day conference on the theme; The Role of Students in Promoting Multi-Agency Cooperation and Safeguarding the Security of The State. The conference took place on the 3rd of February 2022 and was set to bring together young people and other eminent personalities. This initiative sought to engage students in building a safe Ghana by providing a forum for dialogue, education, and discussion with the various security agencies.



EU-AU Student Leaders' Roundtable Discussion

Ahead of the 6th EU-AU Summit, AASU partnered with the Global Students Forum and the European Students' Union to issue a joint declaration of student demands for the EU-AU Summit. Consequently, the virtual roundtable discussion was slated for 15 February on the theme: "The perspectives of student union leaders in pursuit of a stronger AU-EU partnership". This enlightened the student movement about the EU-AU partnership and explored how National Student Union leaders can engage their governments on the strategies and programmes of the partnership.



EU-AU Summit

The Executive Council of the University of The Gambia Students' Union invited the Secretary-General to its Students' Week on the theme: "UTG in the frontline: Action for peace, social cohesion and national security in the post-elections Gambia", including other sub-themes scheduled from February 20th to March 1st, 2022, in Tendaba, Kiang, Lower River Region.

AASU Central Africa Meeting

The Secretary-General participated in a virtual event organised by the Central Africa region of the All-Africa Students Union on the general vision for AASU and the specific direction for Central Africa.

AASU CENTRAL AFRICA MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH AT 3PM GMT

MODERATOR:

- ESTHER NDIEME ASSIENE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- VARNEY ALIEU JARSEY
PRESIDENT
- PETER KWASI KODJIE
SECRETARY GENERAL
- SADDAM ANNOUR
TREASURER
- FOLABIT LENA NOVEL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER
GLOBAL STUDENT FORUM

JOIN US ON MEETING ID: 666 1512 9298
PASSCODE: 428919

East Africa University Leaders' Online Dialogue

The East Africa Students Union and Dreams Inspiration Tanzania invited the SG to participate in the East Africa University Leaders' Online Dialogue on the topic "The African Youth We Want in Developing Africa."

Æfrotopia awards



The SG served as a jury member for the 2022 Æfrotopia awards of the International Black Economic Forum. The event was organized to recognize individuals and organizations with outstanding commitment and leadership in promoting and accelerating wealth creation in black communities in Canada and beyond.

NYA Programme - International Youth Day 2022

The SG addressed a gathering, under the auspices of the NYA on international youth day under the theme "Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for all ages"

The 17th National Students' Congress-NANSO

The SG was invited to participate in NANSO's 17th Congress in Namibia from 3 to 7 May on the theme: "Shaping Education post-pandemic: Enhancing organizational capacity-Fostering unity".

Launch of Virtual Museum

The SG was invited to participate in the launch of the digital version of the Pan African Heritage World Museum on the theme "Presenting our unique Pan-African Heritage to the World".

Beyond Success Ghana Launching and Inauguration Ceremony

The SG was invited to the induction and inauguration ceremony to recruit and train facilitators who will, in turn, introduce, train and drive transformation in their family, workplace, church, community and the nation at large.

ASAF Annual General Forum 2022

The SG was invited to the "ASAF Annual General Forum 2022" in Dar El Salaam, Tanzania at the Ramada Resort Hotel by Wyndham from 15-20 June 2022

Global Scholar Program

The SG was invited to speak at a global leadership training for high school youth from around the world, focusing on global citizenship, our greatest global challenges, and social entrepreneurship.

Youth Connekt Africa Pre-Summit Thought Leadership Workshop

The SG participated in the workshop which was a consultation of stakeholders to identify the most important issues at the summit and compile them into a resolution.

1ST Annual Consultative Dialogue of African Youth Leaders

The Pan African Youth Union invited the SG to this high-level consultative framework with the objective to rally all energies within the youth ecosystem and to forge solid and effective partnerships, aimed at addressing the fundamental challenges confronting young people in Africa. The event was hosted under the theme “Consolidating our gains: Forging Partnership towards the African Renaissance Agenda.”



The event created a participatory platform to promote and strengthen developmental dialogue between the youth and opinion leaders for nation-building.

HAQAA2 PAQAA Stakeholder Consultation



The Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission, invited the SG to present and debate the results of the consultation on the set-up of the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency.

Education Financing Conference

The SG spoke at the one-day Africa Education Watch event that discussed a framework for an equitable and efficient resource allocation in the education sector.

Policy Conference on Peace, Security and Development Nexus - The promise of regional integration

At the invitation of the AU Commission and in partnership with the African Development Bank, UNECA, the African Export-Import Bank; and the AUDA-NEPAD, organized the event in Tangier, Morocco. The conference offered the opportunity for the AU and other stakeholders to collectively reflect on strategies and measures to simultaneously promote sustainable development, regional integration, peace and security efforts.

Two-Days Capacity Building Workshop on Best Practices in NGO Sector Management

The Secretary-General was invited to a two-day event under the theme "Best Practices in NGO Governance for Young Leaders". The workshop aims to instil the principles, values and best practices in Not-for-Profit Sector Governance in Ghana.

MISK Global Forum

The Secretary-General participated in a two-day global gathering of the Misk Global Forum (MGF), organized by the Mohammed Bin Salman "Misk" Foundation. The event was organized under the theme "Generation Transformation- GEN T" which serves as a catalyst for the great rethinking that is happening amongst global youth, impacting how we think, dream, and design the world.



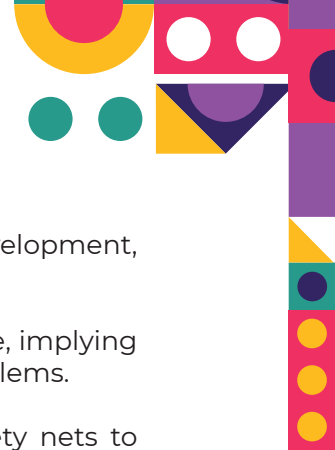
9th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

The Secretary-General participated in the Youth Event at the 9th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). The forum brought together official delegations representing UNAOC's Group of Friends, political leaders, representatives of international and regional organizations, religious leaders, faith actors, youth, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia, arts, sports, and media, as well as donor agencies and foundations.

The Secretary-General engages Sierra Leone government functionaries on education policy and practice.

The leadership of AASU ably led by the Secretary-General, Hon. Comrade Peter Kwasi Kodjie on a five-day working trip to the Republic of Sierra Leone visited the offices of key ministers of state on 2 August 2022; namely, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education Hon. Dr Alpha Tejan Wurie, the Deputy Minister 1 for Basic Education Hon. Mrs Emily Gogra, The Minister of Youths Hon. Orman Mohammed Bangura and the Commissioner of National Youth Commission Mr Thomas Ngolo Keita.





The delegation discussed issues bordering on investments in the development, promotion and advancement of EdTech and Innovations in schools.

The Secretary-General emphasized the need for education to be fit for purpose, implying the need to build academic-industry linkages to solve the unemployment problems.

Mr Kodjie, also highlighted the need for governments to provide social safety nets to ensure that girls return to school post-COVID.

Furthermore, he commended the government of the President of H.E Dr Julius Maada Bio for prioritising Education and his commitment in promoting Free Quality Education in Sierra Leone.

AASU urges the preservation and transmission of Pan-African principles to future generations.

The Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union, H.E. Peter Kwasi Kodjie, has urged African governments and institutions to preserve Pan-African principles to make them relevant for future generations. In a statement delivered on his behalf at the launch of the Pan-African Heritage Digital Museum on May 5, 2022 in Accra, Ghana, Mrs Sylvia Woyongo, Senior Protocol Officer of AASU, stressed on the need for preserving Pan-African ideals as they remain relevant for Africa's identity in a world that is increasingly tilting towards globalisation. The program which was organised by the Pan-African Heritage Museum, sought to divulge and deepen the understanding of African people on the importance of Pan-Africanism to the development of the continent.



On Wednesday 31 August, 2022, the All-Africa Students UNION (AASU) led by the Secretary-General, His Excellency Peter Kwasi Kodjie and the Secretary for Finance and Administration H.E. Eustache Ndayisaba paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, the High Commissioner of Rwanda to Ghana. The delegation updated the High Commissioner on the works of the Union for the 50 years of its existence and how formidable its relationship with the Government of Rwanda has been. The Secretary-General thanked the Government of Rwanda for its support to the cause of students and young people in Africa over the period. In her remarks, the High Commissioner commended the Republic of Ghana for hosting the Union's Headquarters. She also assured the Union of continuous cooperation with the Rwandan Government to create spaces for youth empowerment and employment on the continent.



CONCLUSION

AASU appreciates all its partners for their considerable support towards the continuous growth of the Union and looks forward to stronger partnerships to empower and expand opportunities for African students on the continent and the diaspora.

PARTNERS



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES
اتحاد الجامعات الأفريقية



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
And Regional Integration
Republic Of Ghana



Rocky Dawuni
FOUNDATION

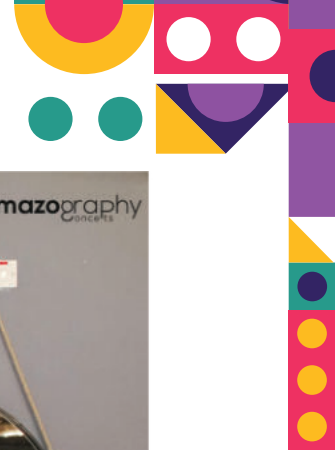




GALLERY

























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