



ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS UNION  
UNION PANAFRICAINNE DES ETUDIANTS  
UNIÃO DOS ESTUDANTES DE TODA A ÁFRICA  
اتحاد طلاب عموم إفريقيا

# Annual Report 2023







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## **ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| AASU     | All-Africa Students Union  |
| AAU      | Association of African Universities  |
| AfDB     | African Development Bank   |
| AMACE    | Africa Music and Art and Cultural Exhibition   |
| B.ISA    | Be Inspired with Stories from Africa   |
| COP      | Convention of Parties  |
| COREVIP  | Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors, and Presidents of African Universities                |
| CSO      | Civil Society Organisation   |
| CSPR     | Center for Security Policy and Research  |
| CRS      | Catholic Relief Services   |
| DSF      | National Union of Students in Denmark (DSF)  |
| ECOWAS   | Economic Community of West African States  |
| EQA      | External Quality Assurance   |
| FOSDA    | Foundation for Security and Development in Africa  |
| GAYO     | Green Africa Youth Organisation  |
| GCE      | Global Campaign for Education  |
| GDP      | Gross domestic product   |
| GIZ      | Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit   |
| HAQAA    | Harmonization, Quality Assurance, and Accreditation of African Higher Education                |
| IQA      | Internal Quality Assurance   |
| ILO      | International Labour Organisation  |
| KNUST    | Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology   |
| LCOY     | Local Conference of Youth  |
| NQF      | National Qualifications Frameworks   |
| NaCCA    | National Council for Curriculum and Assessment   |
| ProVETSA | National Peace Council under the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Social Accountability |
| SDG      | Sustainable Development Goals  |
| STEM     | Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics  |
| TVET     | Technical Vocational Education and Training  |
| UNHCR    | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  |
| UNESCO   | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization                               |



## About the All-Africa Students Union

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU) is the umbrella organisation for all African students from the basic level to higher learning institutions and a very dominant force on the African continent and beyond. With over 75 member unions across the continent, AASU represents over 170 million students in Africa and the diaspora.

Since its inception in 1972, AASU now has a presence in 54 countries in Africa. The Union played an important role in the struggle against colonialism in Africa and the ending of apartheid in South Africa. Today, AASU is at the forefront of the fights for equal access to quality education, quality assurance in higher education, harmonisation of higher education systems, with key emphasis on the mobility of academics and comparability of qualifications, democratic governance, defending students' rights, promotion of gender equality and African culture, sustainable development, entrepreneurship, fostering of academic freedom, freedom of research, autonomy of higher institutions of learning, and the promotion of peace and democratic values, among other noteworthy objectives.

AASU's core activities are focused on a broad range of issues that affect students, including but not limited to the 7 Strategic Priorities of the Union - Education & Students Rights, Capacity Building, Gender Advocacy, Environment & Climate Action, Pan-Africanism & African Culture, Migration & Mobility, Democracy & Good Governance. Our Strategic Priorities are fully aligned to the UN development priorities as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, these priorities complement the global efforts to build a relevant contemporary human capital capable of fitting into the global citizen ecosystem.

The Union is wholly student-run and student-led, autonomous and representative, and operates according to democratic principles.





# Foreword by the Secretary General

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This year, we stood resolute, leading robust advocacy efforts to ensure the voices of African students are not only heard but valued. ”

**Peter Kwasi Kodjie**  
Secretary General





## Foreword by the Secretary General

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As we approach the year's end, we pause to reflect on the significant strides achieved by the All-Africa Students Union in 2023. This year, we stood resolute, leading robust advocacy efforts to ensure the voices of African students are not only heard but valued. Through impactful collaborations with the Global Student Forum and the 100 Million Campaign, we stood in unyielding solidarity against human rights violations.

Our initiatives have left an indelible mark, empowering over 250,000 students and reinforcing our commitment to the fundamental goal of making education a right, not a privilege. Collaborating with civil society, international NGOs, global organizations, and governments, we expanded our reach and deepened our impact, implementing programs that champion sustainability, gender parity, inclusive and quality education.

In 2023, we embraced the strength in our diversity, recognizing that our differences are assets fortifying our collective determination. While 2023 has seen remarkable success, there is much more to achieve in our pursuit of a sustainable world and the Africa we envision. As 2024 dawns, marking the African Union year of education and the second half towards the Sustainable Development Goals deadline, the Union fervently urges all partners to recommit to fostering inclusivity, increasing investments in sustainable education, and advancing a brighter future for Africa.

We use this opportunity to present a detailed report of our journey in 2023. Together, let's forge a compelling path toward a future where every African student can actualize their full potential.

Our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and partnership.

In Solidarity,



Peter Kwasi Kodjie  
Secretary General  
All-Africa Students Union



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# Introduction

This report gives an overview of the activities implemented by the All-Africa Students Union for 2023. The Union commenced 2023 on a strong, positive note, building on the previous year's gains. The theme of the year was "Partnerships to Transform Education in Africa - Spotlight on Students' Agency to Drive the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA)". The theme was in line with addressing the gaps, inconsistencies, and inadequacies in implementing the African Union's flagship education document, the Continental Education Strategy (CESA 16-25). Specifically, there is a lack of emphasis on the pivotal role of students in achieving sustainable development objectives, especially in education.

We recognise the significance of partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063. As we approach the mid-point for achieving the SDGs and get closer to the end of the CESA 2016-25, it is more evident than ever that effective partnerships are essential in achieving sustainable development. While considerable progress has been made in Africa's education system, particularly in vocational and technical education, digital education, STEM education, girls' education, and inclusion, the policy capacity to effectively address the needs of young people, particularly students, still lags.

AASU remains committed to championing students' voices in critical decision-making spaces and ensuring their needs and aspirations are included in policy implementation. We acknowledge students' efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals and call for broad-based collaboration to recognise these efforts. These considerations provided the framework for the implementation of programmes for the year 2023.





# Key Statistics

## Reach



Overall, AASU reached **1,000+** policymakers (stakeholders) and **250,000+** students and youth through various advocacies and programmes.

Over **1,000+** youth and students converged at the first Africa Music Arts and Cultural Exhibition organised by the Union, exploring the multimillion-dollar industry, with African youth and students at the forefront.



Over **3,500+** students and youth came together under the Justice for Africa campaign to demand the delivery of the right to education for all in Africa and highlight growing inequality in education budgets. The campaign resulted in feedback from the UN Secretary-General, the Africa Development Bank, the Swiss Government and the German Government supporting our demands.

## Capacity Development



**200+** student leaders were equipped with the requisite advocacy skills on how to present critical issues in education to policymakers.

**60+** young girls were trained in STEM subjects, increasing awareness of potential careers, refining presentation abilities, developing personal portfolios, and fostering entrepreneurial acumen in STEM.



**200+** female student leaders trained through the feminist circle organised in partnership with the Global Student Forum

The capacities of **35** students and youth activists were enhanced to develop strategic approaches for integrating climate action into education.





## Capacity Development



**1,000+** seedlings were planted in academic institutions supporting a bigger call to green education institutions across Africa.

The Union notably participated in the Forging Futures conference and the COP28 aimed at influencing policy on Climate Education and Climate Protection measures.



**COP28**  
**UAE**



**1,500+** young girls were reached through the Keep A Girls In School Campaign. The girls received free health screening, sanitary pads, and learning materials.

## Digital Footprints



We reached **100K** users on social media. Our content received interaction from **12K** users. In 2023, we increased our fellowship by **25%**. Our social media advocacies got **50k** plus reactions.







# Education & Student Rights





# 01 Fresh Futures – A Global Education Climate Caucus

AASU, represented by the Programmes Officer for Education and Student Rights, participated in a series of conversations in Copenhagen, Denmark organized by the Global Student Forum. The first part of the engagements included a workshop for student and youth leaders from every continent in the world. The workshops were dedicated to orienting the attendees about climate action and how they can participate in the actions to avert the climate crisis. The workshop also focused on producing a student and youth declaration ahead of COP28. Read the student declaration [here](#).

The second component of the engagements was the session co-organized by the Global Partnership for Education, Oxfam International, and UNESCO titled Forging Futures: A Global Climate-Education Caucus. The session brought together different stakeholders, including students, youth, policymakers, and teachers, to discuss the nexus of climate and education. At the event, which was attended by high-level guests, including the CEO of the Global Partnership for Education, Md. Laura Frigenti. At the session, the AASU officer spoke on the panel organised by UNESCO alongside a teacher in Denmark and the Minister of Education in Sudan. AASU made a strong call for the contextualisation and decolonization of education curriculum as a very strong path towards the greening of education systems.

On the sidelines of the event, the officer used the opportunity to connect and strengthen relationships with partners, including Oxfam, UNHCR, and UNESCO.





## 02 Global Campaign for Education - Workshop on Education in Emergencies And Digital Inclusion

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU), in collaboration with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), has successfully executed a multifaceted project aimed at addressing key issues related to digital inclusion and education in emergencies across Africa. The project comprised virtual consultative meetings, stakeholder engagement, and active participation in international events, showcasing a comprehensive approach to advocacy. Notable achievements include AASU's participation in the Youth Connekt Africa Summit 2022, where they hosted a masterclass on digital leadership, significantly contributing to the discourse on Africa's development through digitalization. The union's engagement in the GCE World Assembly and Learning Planet Festival further demonstrated its commitment to global collaboration and knowledge exchange in the pursuit of equitable access to quality education.

The project's success was underscored by the mobilization of students and youth for various initiatives, such as the Africa Music and Arts Cultural Exhibition event in Zambia. AASU's strategic involvement in global assemblies, virtual consultative meetings, and workshops showcased its dedication to empowering youth advocates, fostering digital inclusion, and addressing educational challenges during emergencies. The outcomes of these activities, including approved campaign messages, increased awareness, and support for AASU's agenda, reinforce the organization's pivotal role in advancing the rights of African students and ensuring their active participation in decision-making spaces. The lessons learned, particularly the identified areas requiring urgent attention from policymakers, will undoubtedly inform AASU's future advocacy campaigns and contribute to the ongoing dialogue on digital inclusion and education in emergencies in the region.

## 03 Partnership with GCE Germany Youth Task Force

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) – Germany Youth Task Force is a strategic partnership aimed at addressing global challenges related to Gender, Climate, Migration, and Education. The MOU establishes a framework for collaboration, emphasizing the joint efforts of the two organizations in designing and implementing projects, both funded and non-funded, to promote sustainable development and positive societal change. Notably, the commitment to co-design and implement an International Dialogue Campaign underscores the intention to raise awareness, stimulate discussion, and drive action among young people from Germany and Africa, fostering international cooperation and mobilizing stakeholders. This strategic collaboration sets the stage for impactful initiatives in the specified thematic areas, promoting international cooperation and positive social change. In 2024, the partners will seek to implement the agreed activities indicated under the MOU.

## 04 AASU Participation in the 22nd COREVIP and HAQAA III Launch Steering Committee Meeting

The participation of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) in the 22nd Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors, and Presidents of African Universities (COREVIP) in Windhoek, Namibia, showcased the organization's proactive engagement in higher education discussions. Samuel Sasu Adonteng, representing AASU, played a pivotal role in key side meetings, including productive discussions with the European Union Commission and a Chinese delegation, exploring potential collaborations and student exchanges between Africa and these international partners. The AASU-NANSO meeting demonstrated the organization's commitment to aligning with regional student movements, sharing experiences, and fostering collaborative efforts for the betterment of African students' education. Additionally, AASU successfully organized a thought-provoking side event on "Students' Engagement in Building a Resilient African Education Ecosystem," emphasizing the crucial role of students in shaping the future of higher education on the continent.





AASU participated in the launch Steering Committee Meeting of the Harmonization, Quality Assurance, and Accreditation of African Higher Education Phase 3 (HAQAA3) where the organization showcased the organization's commitment to quality education. As a designated member of the Steering Committee, AASU will play a crucial role in Work Area 1, focusing on capacity building and training in Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) and External Quality Assurance (EQA). The initiative aims to enhance the quality of African higher education through collaborative efforts, with AASU leading student trainings and engagement in the quality assurance assessment procedures.



## 05 AASU Participation at the ECOWAS Parliament Special Workshop on “The Eradication of Child Labor - Taking Stock and Sustaining the Commitment of the ECOWAS Parliament”

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU) actively participated in the ECOWAS Parliament Special Workshop on "The Eradication of Child Labor - Taking Stock and Sustaining the Commitment." Samuel Sasu Adonteng, the Programs Officer for Education and Students' Rights at AASU, played a significant role in the workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria, on May 18, 2023. The event aimed to assess the progress made by ECOWAS member states in combating child labor, identify challenges, and explore sustainable strategies. AASU, in collaboration with partners like the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, has been committed to ensuring the freedom, safety, and education of African children. The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including governmental agencies, civil society organizations, and international bodies, providing a platform for fruitful discussions and the sharing of insights to advance the fight against child labor.

The workshop proceedings were structured into five sessions, covering topics such as the overview of initiatives undertaken by the ECOWAS Parliament, building alliances against child labor, and sharing national good practices. Samuel Sasu Adonteng emphasized the importance of engaging the voices of students and young people in the fight against child labor during the session on building a strong alliance. The recommendations gleaned from the workshop included underscoring the need for strengthened collaboration, contextualized approaches, knowledge sharing, political support, and continuous monitoring and evaluation to effectively combat child labor in the ECOWAS region.







## 06 Justice for Africa Campaign

The All-Africa Students Union, in unison with the 100 Million Campaign and the Global Student Forum, worked under the umbrella of the Justice for Africa Campaign to demand for the delivery of the right to education for all in Africa, and highlighting growing inequality in education budgets. The first mobilization took place in February 2023, coinciding with the World Social Justice Day. Over 20 student and youth organizations came together to press the demands home which resulted in feedback from the UN Secretary General, the Africa Development Bank, the Swiss Government and the German Government supporting our demands.

The second mobilization took place on 20 October 2023 which saw an increased number of organizations engaged and a key success recorded in Ghana with the National Union of Ghana Students. For each of the mobilization exercises in each country, an allocation of 500 USD was made to support the local actions. One of the key successes recorded was the release of the funding for Special Education by the Minister of Education.





## 07 Youth Talks Initiative

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU) has entered into a strategic partnership with the Higher Education For Good Foundation (HEGF) to collaborate on the Youth Talks Initiative. The goal of this ground-breaking initiative, which HEGF is leading, is to raise the voices of young people all over the world and solicit their opinions on the future of education. A key component of the initiative involves an online questionnaire designed to gather thoughts and opinions from students and young individuals. AASU, recognising the significance of this initiative, has actively supported the cause by promoting the questionnaire through its social media channels, databases, and at the union's side event during the Learning Planet Festival. A special side meeting was organised to train the 53 African ambassadors affiliated with AASU, representing the largest proportion of ambassadors from a single organisation. These ambassadors play a crucial role in promoting the Youth Talks initiative, organising activities to gather young people, and facilitating the collective sharing of ideas, concerns, dreams, and expectations for the future of education.

As part of their role, AASU-affiliated ambassadors stand to benefit from engaging in this initiative. They will receive a certificate recognising their efforts, have opportunities for meetings and exchanges with the global Youth Talks ambassador community, and gain valuable skills in community management and activity hosting. The initiative garnered over 45,000 responses globally, reflecting its success in reaching a diverse and extensive audience, and the active involvement of AASU underscores its commitment to empowering youth voices in shaping the future of education.

## 08 AASU Participation in the NACCA Workshop on a New Curriculum for Senior High Schools in Ghana

On August 23, 2023, the All-Africa Students Union actively participated in an event titled "The Future of Secondary Education Provision in Ghana: The Path Towards Reforms" held at the Volta Serene Hotel. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) organized the event, which unveiled the main components of a proposed curriculum reform for senior high schools in Ghana. Notable aspects included a reduction in the number of subjects to streamline the curriculum, a shift from program-based to flexible subject selection based on students' interests, the introduction of flexible pathways to accommodate diverse talents, and the incorporation of physical education (PE) as an elective subject. Additionally, the event reflected global educational trends by introducing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as a new subject area. The All-Africa Students Union, represented by Mr. Peter Kwasi Kodjie and Miss Jennifer Ajah Mensah, actively contributed to discussions, providing valuable insights on behalf of the student community.

The event marked a significant step in NaCCA's vision for the future of secondary education in Ghana, fostering engagement with civil service organisations to implement proposed curriculum reforms. The highlighted changes, emphasizing subject reduction, flexible pathways, and the inclusion of new subject areas, signal a transformative shift in Ghana's education landscape. These reforms aim to offer students a more tailored and comprehensive education, aligning with their interests and career aspirations. The active involvement of the All-Africa Students Union underscores the importance of student perspectives in shaping the educational landscape, making this event a pivotal milestone in Ghana's journey towards educational progress and reform.







09

## AASU Side Event at the Learning Planet Festival

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU) successfully organized a significant side event, "Reimagining Approaches for Transformative Education and Climate Justice: The Agency of Students," as part of the Learning Planet Festival on January 25, 2023. The event, hosted on Zoom and streamed live on AASU's Facebook page, aimed to unite student unions and leaders globally to raise awareness about their initiatives on climate action and equitable access to quality education. With a total of 51 participants from various African and European countries, the webinar featured insightful discussions, engaging speakers, and valuable takeaways, emphasizing the proactive role of student unions in addressing climate change, the importance of student engagement in policy making, and the potential for collaboration among student organizations and development partners to promote transformative education and climate justice. The success of the event was evident in achieving its objectives, providing a platform for student unions to showcase initiatives, exchange ideas, and collaboratively work towards meaningful contributions in climate policies and education.

The speakers, including representatives from Global Student Forum, AASU, Higher Education for Good Foundation, and student leaders from Namibia, Ghana, and Congo Brazzaville, demonstrated their knowledge and practical insights. The active participation of attendees in the open forum showcased a keen interest in exchanging ideas on the subjects discussed. The event's success highlights the pivotal role students can play in policy formulation and implementation, particularly in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.



# 10

## AASU Participation in the ACQF Workshops

The training program of the project ACQF-II in 2023 contributed to enhancing knowledge and understanding on the development and operationalization of NQFs: moving from initial ideas to policies and from policies to action. AASU participated in the workshops which took place in Kenya, Mozambique, and Ghana. The workshops were focused on:

1. Capacity development, networking, and mutual learning.
2. Support to countries and regions on NQF development and implementation.
3. Governance and implementation capacity: Governance set-up. ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform. Referencing NQF-ACQF. Common profiles of qualifications

AASU officers were deployed to attend these workshops with the aim of building capacity on the key components of the workshop while also presenting the perspectives of students on qualification frameworks. The AASU Secretary General participated in the final workshop in Mozambique, where he shared the aggregated perspectives of African students on qualification frameworks. He also spoke on the essence of including climate interventions in the grand scheme of qualification frameworks. Essentially, the climate and education are intertwined. Hence, he called on education policymakers to appreciate this understanding and explore how this relationship can be clarified to ensure that key objectives are achieved in the long term.



# 11

## AASU GAWE Project

The 2023 Global Action Week for Education was held under the theme "Investing in a Just World: Decolonizing Education Financing Now!" The theme highlighted the critical need to address and challenge the colonial legacy within education financing systems worldwide. In line with this, the Global Campaign for Education provided funding to support youth and student-led advocacy to demand the decolonization of education financing.

AASU received funding to organise a workshop and to support local advocacy actions. The AASU project achieved substantial milestones, providing student leaders with the requisite advocacy training and presenting key issues to policymakers like the Vice President, Minister of Education, and GET Fund administrator. Aligned with the call to action, the workshop equipped Ghanaian student unions with essential skills for engaging effectively



with duty-bearers. Advocacy by the student unions was focused on the uncapping of the Ghana Education Trust Fund as a means to ensure the sustainable financing of education in Ghana.

Through the project activities, the All-Africa Students Union gained insights that strengthened its advocacy for education financing and empowered student unions in Ghana. Key lessons include the impactful role of student advocacy in influencing policy, emphasizing the need to empower students with skills. Evidence-based arguments and data presentation proved crucial for constructive dialogue on education financing challenges. Advocacy for compliance with global benchmarks underscored the importance of aligning national policies with international standards. Collaboration with like-minded stakeholders was recognized as invaluable for sharing best practices and amplifying collective voices. Government officials' commitment highlighted the necessity for continuous engagement and follow-up to ensure sustained progress and implementation. These lessons collectively enhance the organization's advocacy approach, empowering them to navigate the complexities of education financing more effectively.





# 12 International Association of Universities (IAU) Event

The All-Africa Students Union participated in the International Association of Universities 2023 International Conference held in Doha, Qatar, hosted by Qatar University from November 25 to 27, 2023. The event, which is a global forum for higher education leaders and stakeholders, was attended by AASU's Programmes Officer for Education and Student Rights, who presented in the first plenary session titled "The Intercultural Imperative in a World of Deglobalization?" alongside other HEI leaders from various backgrounds. During his presentation, he explained how deglobalization has affected how intercultural ties are formed and its impact on higher education, and he suggested ways by which the challenges can be overcome for the end of building peace, global citizenship, and social responsibility across the world.

In the second part of the session, the Programmes Officer participated in a panel discussion, during which he addressed various issues and questions that came up during the discussion session. He also used the platform to advocate for students' rights to attain higher education, particularly international education, and called upon all stakeholders to support the efforts made by higher education institutions in fostering intercultural ties and learning.

In addition, AASU through the Programmes Officer made new connections and strengthened existing ones with partners at the conference. Notable among them are UNESCO, Qatar University, and Quality Assurance Agency - UK.





# Environment and Climate Action





# 01 Post-COP27 Debriefing Event (LCOY 2023)



The Environment and Climate Action Working Group, in collaboration with the Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO), organised a post-COP27 debriefing event under the theme 'Reflecting on Policy Decisions and Climate Action'. The specific objectives of the event were to critically reflect on the policy decisions made during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) and engage in discussions about the necessary actions. Participants at the event included members of the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) who are

involved in climate-related activities, officials from the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana and the United Nations Agency in Ghana, and climate youth negotiators who participated.

The discussions revolved around key themes such as mitigation efforts, adaptation strategies, financial support mechanisms, technology transfer, capacity building, and the role of various stakeholders in achieving climate goals. Also, the event provided a platform to address the urgent need for enhanced global cooperation, innovative solutions, and ambitious actions to combat climate change.

# 02 March for Climate Action

March for Climate Action, as initiated by the Environment and Climate Action Working Group at All-Africa Student Union (AASU), is an endeavor that aims to draw attention to the alarming and devastating effects of climate change on our planet and to call upon leaders to take immediate and decisive action to prioritize protection of the environment and work towards a sustainable future. This action aligns with SDG 13 (Climate Action), advocating for urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts. Furthermore, this initiative aligns with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as it emphasises the importance of collaborative partnerships to address complex global challenges such as climate change.

In line with the objective of the campaign, AASU, in partnership with the Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO), participated in Ghana's National Independence Day Parade held in the Volta Region on March 6, 2023, to raise awareness and urge leaders to prioritise the environment. AASU's involvement supports the global goal of taking concrete action to mitigate climate change and the aspiration of a sustainable and environmentally conscious Africa. This great initiative received recognition from the Presidency of the Republic of Ghana, indicating the importance of advocating for urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts.





## 03 National Climate Change and Green Economy Week

The All-Africa Students Union participated in the National Climate Change and Green Economy Week organised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Information (MESTI) of Ghana from March 29 to March 31, 2023. The National Climate Change and Green Economy Week consisted of a Climate Education Day, a Procession and Durbar, a National Symposium and Exhibition, an Information Session with Contestants, and a Grand Durbar. The aim was to promote education on climate change through the integration of climate education into the curriculum from the basic level and unify organisations dedicated to climate advocacy to work together with the Government of Ghana in raising awareness of the effects of climate change.

Representatives of various organisations, including the Climate Communications and Local Governance-Africa (CCLG), Youth Climate Council (YCC), Centre for Climate and Sustainability Empowerment, AbibiNsroma, the Pentecost University, Data King Consulting (Lab), VIT Centre for TVET Policy and Education, Business and Economic Policy House and Author AID Ghana Hub, Ghana Cassava Centre for Excellence (GCCE), EU LEAN and AASU, gave presentations related to the theme of the event, "Climate Change: A Threat to Our Livelihoods." Other attendees included students, patrons, and teachers across the country, MESTI, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), civil society organisations, tertiary institutions, and the media.



## 04 AASU Golden Jubilee Planting Ceremony

The Union, in collaboration with the Renewable Natural Resources Students Association (RENARSA), the Ghana Institute of Foresters KNUST Chapter, the Environmental Science Students Association (ENSSA), and the Agriculture Department KNUST, with support from the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, embarked on a tree planting exercise across the Konongo Odumasi Secondary School in the Ashanti region to contribute to increasing forest cover and reducing the carbon footprint in the country. The primary objectives were to mark Green Ghana Day, enhance environmental sustainability, and educate participants on the importance of trees in carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and providing ecosystem services.

The event resulted in the planting of 500 seedlings donated by the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission of Ghana at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) campus and Konongo Odumasi Secondary School in the Ashanti region. The Students of Konongo Odumasi Secondary School were educated about the ecological role of plants in carbon sequestration and ecosystem services, the importance of sustainable environmental practices, and environmental conservation.





## 05 The Guiding Green Growth Africa Summit.

The Guiding Green Growth Africa Summit was a storytelling competition that brought together young participants from across Ghana in the creative industry to explore indigenous knowledge in climate action under the themes of cutting emissions and adapting to climate impact. On the theme of cutting emissions, the speakers opined that without formal education and the use of a foreign language as instruction mode, indigenes ‘instinctively’ or culturally adopted practices to preserve the ecosystem and reduce emissions in their everyday lives. For instance, in the northern and southern parts of Ghana, it is quite common to see locals preserve water in eco-friendly clay pots which keep it fresh and cool without the use of plastic, electricity and carbon emissions of carbon through CFC and HFC. On the theme of adapting to climate impact, they sought to delve into ways in which groups adapt to the changing scenes of the climate. The perspective of the contestants was that, by drawing on the wisdom of Africa’s ancestors and combining it with modern technology and scientific innovation, communities can build resilience to climate change and create a more sustainable future for themselves and future generations.

The summit was hybrid. Prior to the main competition, a virtual workshop was held for participants. The main event, however, took place at the Dr. Hilla Limann Hall – University of Ghana. About 50 participants from Accra, Takoradi, Sunyani and Mankessim were in



attendance. The partners of the Guiding Green Growth Africa Summit included: Be Inspired with Stories from Africa (B.ISA), the Climate Sociologist, Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO), GAYO- ECO Club, Cook Clean Ghana, Wilmar Africa Productions, YFM, Africa Global Radio, BoA Organics Ghana, Marina Mall and Eigen Shower Gel. The keynote speakers for the grand finale were Ms. Anita Ofori, co-founder of Women for Sustainability Africa, and Ms. Yasmin Bitungu, CEO of Africa Global Radio.



## 06 Local Conference of Youth in Ghana (LCOY 2023)

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), co-organized by the All-Africa Students Union, Children and Youth Constituency of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, provided an opportunity to promote local youth climate action ahead of the international UNFCCC conference. In Sub-Saharan Africa, young people have actively called for climate action through initiatives such as climate strikes and social media. They demand a shift in the approach to climate action and challenge global leaders to take their commitments seriously.



The objectives of LCOY Ghana 2023 were to deepen awareness of the climate emergency, generate political and financial support for climate action, provide a forum for stakeholder collaboration, showcase creative youth-led solutions, and create or introduce the National Youth Climate Action Plan. The conference focused on accelerating youth-led climate action for a sustainable future, exploring themes such as climate change, biodiversity, energy efficiency, green jobs, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Emmarnyn Leuzzi moderated the discussion, featuring speakers such as Dr. Antwi-Boasiako Amoah, Prof. Nana Ama Browne Klutse, Dr. Prince Ansah, Roselyn Adjei, and Chibeze Ezekiel.

LCOY Ghana 2023, the largest gathering of youth climate groups and stakeholders, was hosted by the Green Africa Youth Organisation and Youth Climate Council Ghana. The conference provided a platform to advance Ghana's National Youth Statement by developing a climate action plan. Key partners included UNICEF Ghana, ARocha Ghana, Fidelity Bank, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, GYEM, the Youth Alliance Ghana, and AASU.



## 08 Climate Education and Student Activism Learning Project

The Climate Education and Student Activism Learning Project took place in Accra, Ghana, with the aim of creating a project focused on climate education and student activism for climate justice. The primary objectives were to enhance the capacities of participants and develop strategic approaches for integrating climate action into education, led by students and youth activists. The collaborative efforts of ActionAid Denmark, the National Union of Students in Denmark (DSF), Oxfam IBIS, PlanBornefonden, and the All-Africa Students Unions made this event possible.

The workshop, conducted in October 2023, brought together 35 participants from Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Denmark, Uganda, and Togo. The diverse group collaborated to co-create programs and campaigns aimed at advancing targets in climate advocacy. The overall success of the events was marked by the absence of major challenges, indicating a fruitful and collaborative effort among the organizers and participants. This initiative reflects a commitment to fostering climate education and empowering student activists to champion climate justice on a global scale.





# Gender Advocacy





## 01 Keep A Girl in School (KAGIS) Campaign

The Keep A Girl in School (KAGIS) Campaign was implemented across five African countries—Ghana, Uganda, Liberia, Malawi, and South Africa—aiming to bolster girls' education by addressing major dropout factors: menstrual health, education in crises, teenage pregnancy, gender stereotypes, and Gender-Based Violence. Primarily, the campaign targeted girls aged 10–20 from disadvantaged backgrounds or those at risk of dropping out due to various reasons. Also, parents, community leaders, and authorities in these regions were involved in the campaign. The objectives encompass empowering girls, educating communities on sanitation and reproductive health, combating stereotypes, advocating for safe educational environments, crisis-resilient education, and reducing teenage pregnancies and early marriages. The campaign's key impacts included awareness campaigns in target countries and direct aid, such as donating sanitary pads, uniforms, and shoes to schools in Malawi and Ghana while actively engaging with local stakeholders. In the next phase of the campaign, we are seeking to diversify funding sources through grants, sponsorships, crowdfunding, and partnerships with corporate and philanthropic entities aligned with the project's goals to expand the campaign to other countries.

## 02 Girls in STEM Boot Camp

The Girls in STEM Boot Camp was held in Accra-Ghana from August 30th to September 1st, 2023, in partnership with Academic City University College and Akosua & Associates. The aim of the project was to empower girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) over three days. Its focus was bridging the digital gender gap by equipping girls with practical skills in selected STEM courses, including machine learning, animation, coding, AI, robotics, electronics, cyber security, career guidance, and bolstering resume-building and entrepreneurial skills. A total of sixty participants from diverse backgrounds, representing ten schools in Ashanti, as well as individuals from the Central, Eastern, and Greater Accra Regions, were in attendance. Noteworthy institutions included Anglican SHS, Kumasi Academy, and Yaa Asantewaa Girls SHS, with representation from both university and junior high school graduates. The programme yielded significant impact by enhancing participants' comprehension of STEM subjects, increasing awareness of potential careers, refining presentation abilities, developing personal portfolios, and fostering entrepreneurial acumen in STEM. Key outcomes included the empowerment of individuals with pertinent skills, the promotion of STEM pursuits, the cultivation of community and networking, and the bolstering of self-confidence. In the upcoming project phase, we plan to introduce mentorship programmes, broaden collaborations, and conduct follow-up sessions to perpetuate STEM interest and foster continued growth among participants.









## 03 Breast Cancer Awareness Creation and Screening

The successful collaboration between the All-Africa Students Union, Prescott Medical Centre, Accra College of Education, and the Eva Sackey Foundation culminated in a transformative breast cancer screening and awareness event on October 26, 2023, at Accra College of Education. Designed to elevate awareness, educate, and provide free screenings for early detection, the event attracted tertiary students, school staff, and community members alike. The event's key impact was evident through its comprehensive approach. A 20-minute educational session preceding the screenings delivered crucial insights into early detection, risk factors, self-examination techniques, and available treatments, effectively dispelling myths and imparting accurate information. A total of 156 individuals underwent professional and sensitive breast cancer screenings administered by qualified medical professionals, sparking meaningful discussions on breast health concerns within the community. The synergy achieved through collaboration played a pivotal role in the event's success, underscoring the profound impact of partnerships in community health initiatives. The event stands as a pivotal step in advancing breast health awareness and early detection, making a tangible impact on lives, and advocating for community health through education and accessible screenings.





## 04 GCE Workshop on Digital Inclusion and Education in Emergencies

The virtual workshop, held in collaboration with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) on March 30, 2023, addressed the critical themes of education during emergencies and digital inclusion across African countries. Drawing together a diverse group of 28 participants, including students, educators, policymakers, and representatives from targeted nations such as South Africa, Uganda, Liberia, Malawi, and Ghana, the workshop sought to make a lasting impact. With a dual focus on exploring innovative strategies for ensuring ongoing education during crises in African countries and examining the role of digital technologies in fostering inclusivity within education, the workshop provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and skill development. Participants gained insights, exchanged ideas, and cultivated skills crucial for effective advocacy campaigns in their respective regions. The workshop also aimed at equipping participants with practical tools to navigate challenges during emergencies, particularly by utilising digital platforms such as the GCE learning hub and online resources. Famous speakers, such as Joey Hanson from Atlantic Fellows, Abigail Ansah from Ghana's Cybercrime Unit, and Tendaishe Tlou from the GCE Secretariat, contributed to the sessions by sharing their expertise on these crucial subjects.

However, a recognised challenge surfaced during the workshop: the cost of data for participants, highlighting barriers to sustained engagement. In response, AASU recommended the continuation of similar workshops and events to promote digital inclusion and education continuity across African nations. They also advocated for ongoing support mechanisms to help participants implement the acquired knowledge within their communities. Furthermore, the suggestion to implement regular evaluations and feedback mechanisms was emphasised to enhance the efficacy and impact of future workshops. This workshop served as a pivotal catalyst for knowledge dissemination, skill enhancement, and networking among diverse stakeholders. It underscored the urgency of digital inclusion and continuous education in African countries, especially in times of emergencies, setting the stage for ongoing initiatives and collaborative efforts in the pursuit of impactful change.

## 05 Virtual Consultative Meetings with Student Leaders on Education in Emergencies And Digital Inclusion

The virtual consultative meetings held in February 2023, in collaboration with the Global Campaign for Education, proved instrumental in addressing the crucial themes of education during emergencies and digital inclusion. Targeted towards youth and student leaders, the two sessions drew the participation of 30 and 32 attendees, respectively, with a primary focus on raising awareness and arming participants with tools for impactful advocacy. The overarching goals of these sessions were to instill a shared understanding of emergency education and digital inclusion, facilitating the exchange of advocacy experiences among African students and youth activists. Participants, hailing from South Africa, Uganda, Liberia, Malawi, and Ghana, included students, activists, and leaders of youth organisations.

Notable outcomes emerged, including the endorsement of campaign messages awaiting dissemination, a collective understanding of the issues at hand, participant commitment to future project support through activities like marches and social media campaigns, and the identification of strategic engagement opportunities at national and international forums, as exemplified by the IMF-WB Spring Meetings. Key impacts were evident through heightened awareness, the empowerment of participants as campaign ambassadors, and the identification of strategic opportunities for advocacy at various levels. There is the need for the continuity of similar meetings to sustain awareness and advocacy momentum,



calling for regular follow-ups, stakeholder collaboration, and the leverage of international platforms for impactful advocacy. Addressing meeting challenges and incorporating participant feedback into future initiatives were suggested to enhance the overall effectiveness of such events. The consultative meetings served as a pivotal platform that not only fostered awareness and advocacy but also facilitated strategic engagement within the African youth community regarding digital inclusion and education during emergencies. Their impact resonates through the commitment of participants and the tangible steps outlined for sustained advocacy and awareness efforts

## 06 **The 67th Commission on the Status of Women Side Event**

The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held as a side event in collaboration with the Global Students Forum, All-Africa Students Union, and UN Women on March 13th from 12–3 pm CET, brought the theme of innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age to the forefront. This event aimed to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, focusing on inclusive education and gender-responsive pedagogy. With 90 women participants and a male moderator, the event facilitated crucial discussions engaging various stakeholders in the promotion of women and girls' inclusion in education. Key takeaways from panel discussions underscored the imperative need for inclusive education systems that address marginalized communities, the strategic use of technology for gender equality while acknowledging associated risks, the enhancement of teacher training, and the fostering of collaborations to involve women and girls in policy decisions.

The suggested next steps are evidence of the event's significant impact. These included advocating for inclusive education policies, developing gender-responsive curricula, fostering partnerships, and increasing funding for research and innovation to support evidence-based policymaking. The success of the gathering lay in its ability to convene global stakeholders and address the pivotal role of education and technology in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls, especially in the digital era. The outcomes and recommendations generated from this event are poised to have a tangible impact on policy making, influencing global education initiatives to advance gender equality. The collaborative efforts of diverse stakeholders in this session have set the stage for meaningful changes in education systems and practices worldwide.

## 07 **Feminist Solidarity Meeting**

The inaugural feminist solidarity meeting, jointly organized by the Global Students Forum and the All Africa Students Union on January 18, 2023, marked a significant milestone in fostering global collaboration among feminist students. Conducted on Zoom from 12:00 to 1:30 pm GMT and facilitated by Alex Seyball from the Global Students Forum, the meeting convened approximately 50 participants, with 75 percent representing the AASU network. The meeting's thematic focus was gender advocacy. Commencing with an introduction from the organizers, Seyball delivered a presentation outlining the meeting's goals. Subsequently, participants were divided into regional breakout sessions to delve into gender issues specific to their respective areas. A notable outcome was the unanimous agreement to conduct these meetings on a monthly basis, demonstrating the meeting's impact and the shared commitment of participants.

Key highlights emerged during the regional breakout sessions, where participants shared and discussed gender-related challenges. The meeting fostered an environment that encouraged open dialogue, providing a platform for participants to connect over shared experiences. The immediate outcome reflected a collective call for solutions to address gender stereotypes and violence issues, with an emphasis on participants becoming vocal advocates in their regions and campuses. The first feminist solidarity gathering that the Global Students Forum and AASU organized was a success. It not only provided a platform



# Capacity Building





# 01 Grab-A-Skill Project

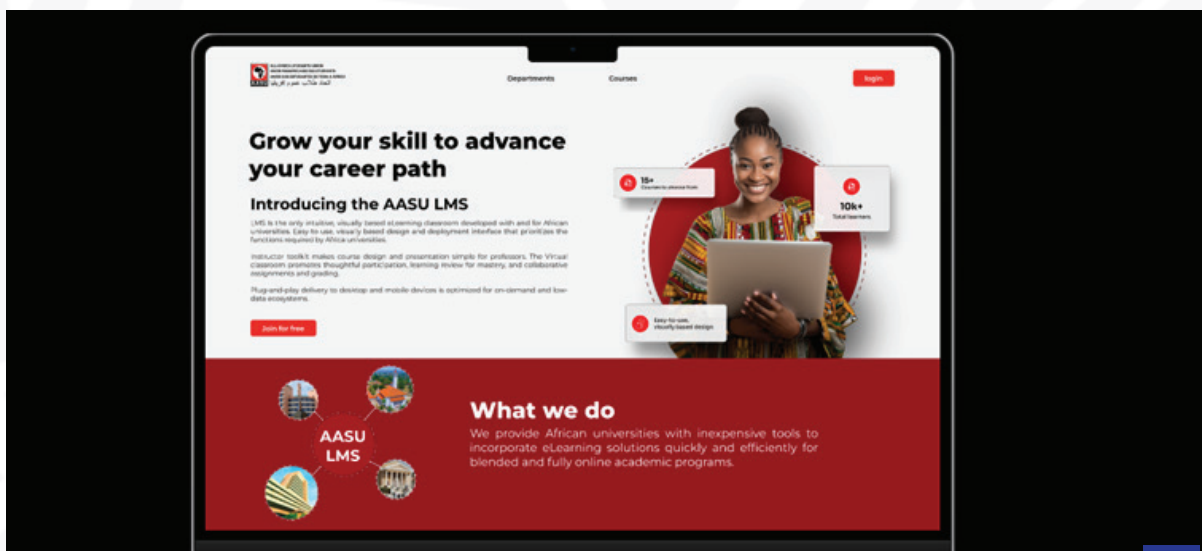
The GRAB-A-SKILL project, initiated by the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) at the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), stands as a pivotal endeavor aimed at fostering youth skills development and sustainable job creation opportunities across the African continent. This initiative underscores AASU's commitment to encouraging entrepreneurial spirit, innovative thinking, and the establishment of collaborative partnerships between African youth, public and private sectors, and civil society. By uniting these stakeholders, the project seeks to forge new avenues for employment and economic empowerment.

In the year 2023, the focus of the GRAB-A-SKILL Project has pivoted towards securing funding for student businesses. To this end, the CBWG has diligently sought partnerships to bolster and sustain student enterprises. Notably, the CBWG is actively pursuing a collaboration with the WIDU owned by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The WIDU project is designed to enhance employment and income opportunities in six African countries, namely Ethiopia, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Togo, and Tunisia. Its primary mechanism involves leveraging diaspora remittances to stimulate economic growth. AASU has strategically aligned with WIDU to harness remittances from the Ghanaian diaspora in Europe. The objective is to channel these funds towards supporting micro- and small-scale student businesses in Ghana, thereby contributing substantively to job creation in the country.

The collaboration between AASU and GIZ/WIDU has progressed significantly. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been formally received from GIZ/WIDU, marking a crucial step in solidifying this impactful partnership. The finalization of the working agreement is anticipated to be concluded by February 2024.

# 02 4.0 Skills Training

The 4.0 Skills Training Program represents a strategic initiative designed to furnish students with a comprehensive Learning Management System (LMS) platform. This platform serves as a dynamic educational environment, facilitating the acquisition of essential digital and professional development skills crucial for both the contemporary workplace and personal growth. In collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AAU) and Elearn Africa, the Capacity Building Working of AASU has successfully conceptualized and implemented a foundational Learning Management System. The courses offered in the first phase of the 4.0 Skills Training Project are Basics in Digital Marketing, Basics in Machine Learning, Beginners Guide to Developing Networking Skills, Basics in Coding, Basics in Graphic Designing, Basics in Public Speaking, Social Media Marketing, Cybersecurity Tutorial, Personal Branding, and Quality Assurance through Student Lenses. Currently undergoing a design and upload phase, the suite of courses will be made available to prospective beneficiaries in June 2024.





## 03 Student Leaders Training

The Capacity Building Working Group, in collaboration with Equip Ghana - Beyond Success, organized a summit under the name "Leader-Shift Summit" for student leaders. This summit, held under the overarching theme of "Leading with Integrity: Transformation Begins with Me," served as a significant gathering point for students, student leaders, young individuals, corporate executives, and private business persons. The summit drew nearly 200 participants who collectively shared a common aspiration to enhance their leadership capabilities and effect positive change in their communities, organizations, and institutions.

The "Leader-Shift Summit" emerged as a focal point for collaboration and learning, providing a unique platform for attendees to engage with one another, exchange experiences, and glean valuable insights. The event showcased a diverse array of participants, underscoring the universality of the pursuit of leadership excellence.

At the heart of the summit's success was a lineup of esteemed speakers who expounded on topics crucial to personal growth in the 21st century and leading with integrity. The event not only facilitated intellectual discourse but also fostered an environment where attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the wisdom shared by these experts. The engaging sessions allowed participants to gain valuable knowledge and perspectives on leadership, thus contributing to their personal and professional development.





## 04 National Youth Technical Vocational Education and Training (Tvet) Forum

The Capacity Building Working Group of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) participated in the National Youth Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Forum, organized by the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA) in collaboration with OXFAM. This one-day event, characterized by presentations, panels, and plenary discussions, critically assessed the implementation of Ghana's 5-year TVET strategic plan (2017-2022) and delved into FOSDA's My TVET My Report project. The latter, a youth-led monitoring initiative, focused on key aspects of TVET, including accessibility, quality, infrastructure financing, and adaptation to Green TVET.

Stakeholders acknowledged the substantial implementation of the TVET strategic plan, citing achievements such as institutional realignment and infrastructure improvement. However, participants recognized persistent challenges, particularly in terms of infrastructure and teaching materials. Discussions highlighted the transformative potential of the green economy in job creation, necessitating alignment with evolving skill demands. The costliness of TVET education was acknowledged, prompting a call for increased investment and efficient spending to expedite transformation.

Additional key issues included strategies to improve accessibility, ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of TVET education, increased private sector involvement, improved information dissemination to the youth, and the expansion of informal TVET training. AASU actively contributed to a policy brief emerging from the forum, underscoring its commitment to influencing policies that advance technical and vocational education in Ghana. (Click [HERE](#) to access the policy brief).





# Migration and Mobility



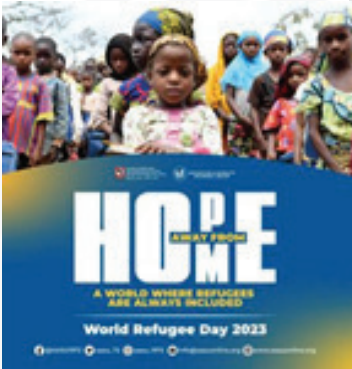


## 01 Data Training Project

The Migration and Mobility Working Group (MMWG) embarked on a transformative data training project in pursuit of the Migrant Students Network Initiative (MSNI). The MSNI is a comprehensive support initiative designed to create a unified platform for African students studying abroad, addressing the unique challenges they face. The overarching goal is to cultivate an environment that fosters academic success, personal growth, and cultural integration by providing a range of support services. To effectively implement the MSNI, a dedicated team under the guidance of the MMWG lead underwent an extensive database training programme. The training aimed to gather valuable data on student leaders in universities across Africa, African student groups on other continents, as well as civil society organisations (CSOs), ministries of education, embassies, and other relevant entities. The primary objective was to establish a robust and reliable database encompassing a wide range of stakeholders involved in supporting students.

Through the collection of this data, the MMWG seeks to enhance its understanding of existing resources and networks available to students, enabling the provision of more effective and targeted support. The completion of this exercise is anticipated to be highly beneficial, furnishing the organisation with valuable information and establishing crucial contacts to further its objectives. The training involved three distinct teams, each focusing on key areas: the Student Leaders Team, responsible for identifying student leaders in various universities in Africa and beyond; the Targets Team, focused on identifying parliamentarians, ministry of education officials, CSOs, and philanthropists interested in supporting students; and the Engagement Team, tasked with initiating contact with the identified parties and effectively communicating the organization's intentions and interests. Experts from the Global Student Forum and the 100 Million Campaign facilitated the training. This data training project signifies a pivotal step towards realising the impact of the MSNI. By systematically gathering information and establishing strategic contacts, the MMWG is poised to create a significant and positive change in the support provided to African students studying abroad.

## 02 Online Advocacy on World Refugee Day



The Migration and Mobility WG, under AASU, joined the world on June 20 to commemorate World Refugee Day. AASU joined the social media advocacy campaign to show solidarity to all refugees. AASU used the opportunity to call on African governments to prioritise the education of refugee children and youth to ensure a more inclusive and equitable Africa where every child, regardless of their status, has the opportunity to thrive.

## 03 Beyond Barriers, Reaching Futures Project

"Beyond Barriers, Reaching Futures" (BBRF) is an impactful initiative focused on advocating for inclusive education for refugee children and young individuals with special needs. The project's core objectives involve raising awareness, advocating for policy changes, and providing crucial support to ensure that refugee children and students with special needs have access to high-quality education. The project is slated for execution in Uganda and has successfully navigated the early planning stages. Critical steps have been taken in communication, with active engagement initiated with the All Africa Students Union's (AASU) regional coordinators in Uganda. These discussions are geared towards







comprehensive planning and coordination for the effective implementation of the project. Notably, the project has garnered the interest of OXFAM International, resulting in scheduled meetings to explore potential collaborative opportunities. This interest signifies the potential for a broader impact and increased support for the cause.

Originally scheduled for June, the project's timeline has been strategically adjusted, with implementation now set for the early part of 2024. This shift allows for a more extensive and impactful scope, facilitating financial mobilization and fostering efficient collaboration with emerging partners. The adjustment in the timeline demonstrates a commitment to optimizing the project's potential reach and effectiveness. The "Beyond Barriers, Reaching Futures" stands as a testament to the commitment to making a tangible impact on the lives of refugee

children and young people with special needs. The engagement with AASU and the interest from OXFAM International highlight the growing support and collaborative efforts that are poised to elevate the project's impact and contribute significantly to advancing inclusive education for this vulnerable population.

## 04 AASU's Participation in Youth Foresight Engagement



The lead for the Migration and Mobility Working Group (MMWG) actively participated in a significant coffee chat centred on the theme "Refugee Leaders Speak Up! Promoting Meaningful Youth Engagement." Under the umbrella of Advancing Young People's Engagement and Meaningful Participation in the PROSPECTS Partnership, ILO PROSPECTS, the Global Refugee Youth Network, and Decent Jobs for Youth organised this virtual event. The initiative With funding from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNICEF, and UNHCR are working together to implement the initiative. place on July 24, 2023. The primary objective of the programme was to facilitate engagement with young refugee leaders, providing a platform for them to share their stories, aspirations, and hopes for the future through informal conversations. The program mea sought to learn from these resilient young leaders who have overcome significant challenges to effect positive change in their communities, showcasing their potential as they navigate the complexities of rebuilding their lives, including accessing education, training, and opportunities for decent jobs.



Keynote speakers for the event included Deline Yihumutima Ramiro, Lead, Operations and Partnerships, Solidarity Initiative for Refugees; Faridah Luanda, Gender and Diversity Coordinator, Global Refugee Youth Network; Victor Mafigi Turatsinze, Co-Founder, Unleashed-Potentials in Motion; and Orcia Makonda, Gender, Diversity, and Education Advocate, Global Refugee Network. The event sparked demands for promoting comprehensive capacity-building, engaging forcibly displaced youth in policy and advocacy, fostering inclusive growth in youth employment programmes, and establishing a sustainable funding mechanism to support refugee-led initiatives, emphasising empowerment, representation, and targeted support for young women and youth-led groups. This event not only provided a platform for refugee youth to voice their experiences and aspirations but also generated concrete calls to action, emphasising the urgent need for comprehensive support, recognition, and empowerment of forcibly displaced youth on their journey towards a meaningful and sustainable future.

## 05

## Study Abroad Info Session: Ghana Career and Migration Fair 2023



The Migration and Mobility Working Group, in collaboration with the European Union in Ghana, DAAD Ghana, Campus France Ghana, ASAF, and Access Careers and Education Global Consult, orchestrated a transformative Study Abroad Info Session at the Ghana Career and Migration Fair on November 29, 2023. Held at the prestigious Kofi Ohene Konadu Auditorium at the University of Professional Studies in Accra, the event aimed to empower prospective students by providing insights and motivation for

pursuing study abroad opportunities.

Themed 'Exploring Global Opportunities: A Dialogue on International Education,' the information session addressed common concerns and challenges associated with studying abroad, including financial constraints, cultural adaptation, and academic expectations. By partnering with esteemed organisations and institutions, the MMWG ensured a comprehensive and enriching experience for attendees, leveraging the expertise and resources of each collaborator. The European Union in Ghana, DAAD Ghana, Campus France Ghana, ASAF, and Access Careers and Education Global Consult brought valuable insights to the table during the event. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, gained advice, and explored study abroad options. The session served as a platform for students to learn about scholarships, funding opportunities, and strategies to overcome financial barriers. Practical tips and guidance were offered for cultural adaptation, helping students navigate new environments.

The information session also shed light on academic expectations during study abroad, providing expert insights on programme, destination, and institution selection. Moreover, the project facilitated networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with experienced students, educational advisors, and alumni. This holistic approach aimed to not only provide information but also create a supportive network for aspiring students, ensuring they are well-prepared for their international education journeys. The Study Abroad Info Session made a significant impact by empowering prospective students with comprehensive knowledge, addressing challenges, and fostering valuable connections. The collaboration with reputable organisations elevated the quality of the information shared, contributing to the success of the event by equipping students for successful study abroad experiences.





06

## AASU at the 2nd Mediterranean Student Summit

Represented by our officers, Vanessa Kokoe Ajavon, Secretary for Press and Information, and Divine Edem Kwadzodeh, Policy Advisor on Education Policy and Advocacy, AASU was honoured to participate in the 2nd Mediterranean Student Summit held from Wednesday, September 20, to Friday, September 22, 2023 at the National School of Commerce and Management of Tangier (ENCGT), Abdelmalek Essaadi University, in Tangier, Morocco.

Organized by the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED) in collaboration with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and the Abdelmalek Essaadi University, the Summit



facilitated discussions and solutions to challenges related to student mobility across the Mediterranean.

During the Summit, AASU actively contributed to the discussions and proposed interventions aimed at enhancing educational mobility across both Sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean region. While emphasising the importance of adopting policies that enhance collaboration between African universities and institutions in the Mediterranean, we called for the exploration of a collaboration between the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), the Association of African Universities (AAU), and the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), to create a mobility programme for students and universities in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean (South Mediterranean and Europe), in order to foster student exchange and cooperation, break down geographical boundaries and promote intercultural learning between the two regions.

Furthermore, we presented on the challenges facing the internationalisation of higher education in Africa. We strongly urged the African Union and African countries to invest more in their education systems, with particular focus on the improvement of infrastructure and the internationalisation of their curriculums, in order to become world-class institutions of higher learning that provide quality education comparable to global standards.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to UNIMED, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), the National School of Commerce and Management of Tangier (ENCGT), and the Abdelmalek Essaadi University for their remarkable collaboration in organising this impactful Summit. We extend special thanks to UNIMED for inviting AASU to participate in this year's Summit, where we joined hands with other students from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Europe to promote student intercultural learning and dialogue between the Mediterranean region and Africa.

AASU returns from this insightful event with enhanced perspectives to better serve the African student population.







# Democracy and Good Governance



## 01 1st Africa Security Roundtable

The Democracy and Good Governance working group partnered with the Center for Security Policy and Research (CSPR) to organize the 1st Africa Security Roundtable, which was held on 28, 2023. The event focused on the theme, "The Accra Initiative Against Violent Extremism, the Role of Young People." It aimed to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the challenges posed by violent extremism in Africa and the critical role that young people can play in preventing and countering it.

The event featured distinguished speakers, including Brig. Gen. Moses Aryee, Former General Officer Commanding Northern Command, Ghana Army and a Board Member of CSPR, Amb. Maj. Gen. Francis Adu-Amanfoh (Ret.), Special Advisor to the President of Ghana on the Accra Initiative; H.E. Harriet Thompson, British High Commissioner to Ghana; Mr Wiisichong Bening Ahmed, Secretary-General of the Pan-African Youth Union; Ms Esenam Amuzu, a youth advocate, and Edmund Akoto Bamfo, Executive Director of CSPR. It was attended by diverse participants, including policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, students, and youth.

The panel discussions and Q&A sessions served as a platform for participants to engage with speakers on diverse topics related to the event's theme. Key themes included the vital role of youth in preventing violent extremism and the importance of locally rooted solutions. Speakers highlighted the effectiveness and sustainability of community-developed strategies while also addressing concerns about potential human rights abuses in using auto-response groups. Other topics discussed encompassed the role of education, building partnerships, and effective communication strategies in countering extremist narratives, offering valuable insights for future policy and programming efforts.

Key recommendations from the event include strengthening the Accra Initiative Against Violent Extremism with increased youth involvement, fostering intergenerational dialogue, enhancing education and employment opportunities in affected areas, and encouraging civil society and community leader engagement. Emphasising regional cooperation is crucial to addressing transnational threats, ensuring stability, and promoting security in Africa. These actionable steps will guide policymakers and stakeholders in fostering peace, security, and development.

## 02 Dissemination Workshop on the Contextual Analysis of Civilian-Security Challenges in Ghana and the Link to Violent Extremism

The Democracy and Good Governance working group participated in a dissemination workshop on the Contextual Analysis of Civilian-Security Challenges in Ghana and the Link to Violent Extremism, organized by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the National Peace Council under the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Social Accountability (ProVETSA) project. The PoVETSA project aims to translate an iterative learning process into a trust-building mechanism for Ghanaian national peace-building institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), security services, and civilians.

The workshop sought to bring together key stakeholders towards an integrated approach to improve public trust and civilian confidence in security services to prevent violent extremism. The workshop brought together a diverse array of stakeholders in peace and security, ranging from CSOs, NGOs, Security Agencies, Academia, and Ministries.

The findings on the Contextual Analysis of Civilian-Security Challenges in Ghana and the Link to Violent Extremism were presented, and participants shared invaluable feedback on other areas of the research that need improvement. The findings indicated that there was little evidence of the challenges posed by Violent Extremism and that there is a need to strengthen collaborations between stakeholders.









# Pan-Africanism and African Culture





## 01

## Africa Music, Arts and Cultural Exhibition (AMACE23)

The creative industry in Africa holds immense potential for job creation and economic growth, particularly for the youth who constitute a significant portion of the unemployed population. Recognizing the substantial opportunities within the arts and cultural sector, there is a possibility to generate around 20 million jobs and contribute an estimated US\$20 billion to Africa's GDP, as per the Creative Economy Report 2013 by UNDP and UNESCO. Leveraging the creative industry not only creates jobs but also reduces poverty and promotes sustainable development, with the potential to contribute up to 4% of Africa's GDP. Despite these prospects, the African Development Bank (AfDB) notes that numerous barriers hinder young people in Africa from fully realizing their potential in the creative industry. Insufficient access to funding, resources, and training are significant obstacles. To address these challenges, various initiatives and programs have emerged, aiming to provide the necessary support for young entrepreneurs in the creative sector. However, these efforts have been fragmented and lacked sustained investment.

Over the years, the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) has been at the forefront of advocating for unity and development in Africa. Realising the transformative power of arts and culture, AASU has consistently urged policy changes to position these sectors as drivers of pan-Africanism and job creation for the continent's youth. As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, AASU, under the auspices of H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and hosted by the Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Arts, organised the "Africa Music, Arts, and Cultural Exhibition" (AMACE23) from June 20-23, 2023, in Lusaka, Zambia. AMACE23, lasting four days, became a platform for high-level conversations and impactful programs focused on the structural transformation of Africa's creative arts and culture industry. Underpinning the event were twelve panel discussions featuring policy-makers, researchers, advocates, activists, and industry players from African countries and beyond. The discussions were intricately designed to explore the roles of arts and culture in achieving economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. AMACE23, driven by AASU's dedication and the collaboration of key stakeholders, stood as a pivotal moment in advocating for the recognition and empowerment of Africa's creative industry. The conference highlighted the transformative potential of technology in the arts, recognising its role in global artistic expression and collaboration. Challenges such as authenticity concerns and the digital divide were acknowledged, with a call for ethical technology use, digital literacy, and the preservation of artistic integrity in the evolving landscape. The identified next steps include fostering interdisciplinary partnerships and providing continued financial support for artists to leverage digital tools. Efforts should also focus on preserving artistic integrity, promoting inclusive access, and establishing ethical guidelines for responsible technology use in the arts. The impact-oriented discussions and programmes aimed to break down barriers, fostering a conducive environment for the flourishing of arts, culture, and economic prosperity across the continent.









## 02 Digital Divide and Data Inequalities: A Demand for Internet Data Justice

The workshop, a collaborative effort between the All-Africa Students Union, Zambia's Ministry of Tourism, and the Zambian National Students' Union, supported by funding from the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, targeted the persistent challenges of the digital divide and data inequalities in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Hosted at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, the event convened a diverse group, including policymakers, industry players, advocates, activists, and students from various regions. The workshop underscores the pivotal role of internet access in shaping educational opportunities and social inclusion. The workshop's overarching goal was to champion internet data justice through the "Data Inclusion Campaign" across 11 SADC countries.

This campaign aimed to addressing unequal access to digital technologies, focusing on infrastructure limitations, socio-economic disparities, and inequities in data availability and affordability. The workshop outlined four key expected outcomes, encompassing heightened awareness of the digital divide, the development of advocacy strategies, engagement with policymakers, and the formulation of policy recommendations to enhance internet and digital tool access. By strategically addressing infrastructure development, affordability, digital literacy, and content relevance, the workshop sought to create an environment where equitable access to digital tools empowers individuals irrespective of their background or location, fostering connectivity in an interconnected world. To comprehensively bridge the digital divide, the workshop emphasised infrastructure development, affordability, digital literacy, and content relevance. Additionally, in addressing data inequalities, a focus on privacy safeguards, promotion of data ethics, ensuring meaningful consent, empowering individuals, and reducing disparities in data collection, storage, and usage was underscored.

## 03 Student-led Consultative Forum on Pan-Africanism

The report encapsulates the outcomes of the student-led consultative forum themed "Voices of the Future: A Student-led Consultative Forum on Pan-Africanism." Conducted virtually on May 31, 2023, at 11:15 am GMT via Zoom, the forum brought together students to delve into the critical subject of Pan-Africanism. This report aims to succinctly outline key discussion points, evaluate the forum's effectiveness, and examine the implications of the participants' perspectives. The forum spotlighted pressing themes, advocating for Africans to prioritise gender equality, empower youth to articulate their views, engage in environmental awareness, champion harmonised higher education for regional integration and quality, and fully realise the potential of both young women and men in society. The workshop's impact was profound, generating a resounding call for action and underscoring the urgency of addressing these critical issues. Post-forum, the imperative lies in translating the impassioned discussions into tangible initiatives. The report underscores the need for collaborative efforts across sectors to combat gender inequalities, amplify youth engagement, promote environmental stewardship, and advocate for the harmonisation of higher education policies throughout Africa. The forum serves as a catalyst for transformative action, urging stakeholders to move beyond discourse and actively contribute to the realisation of these vital objectives in the Pan-African context.





# Press Statements and Advocacies





## Press Statements and Advocacies

Throughout the reporting year (2023), the Research and Communications Department of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) remained resolute in communicating AASU's commitment to advancing student rights, advocating for education, and standing in solidarity with the youth and students across Africa. This section presents a comprehensive overview of the press statements issued and advocacies undertaken by the Research and Communications Department, which address critical issues, commemorate significant events and observances, and advocate for positive change within the educational landscape and beyond.

### Key Areas of Advocacy

- **Solidarity with Students and Youth Affected by Conflict and Crisis:** AASU demonstrated unwavering support for students and youth caught in the crossfire of conflict and crisis, issuing timely press releases calling for humanitarian aid and advocating for the protection of their rights. This included situations in Sudan, Morocco, Gabon, and Uganda.
- **Promoting Education and Quality Learning:** AASU actively championed the need for improved access to quality education for all, raising concerns about inadequate funding and calling for increased investment in educational institutions across Africa. Statements were issued on International Day of Education, International Day of the Girl Child, and World Teachers' Day, highlighting these critical issues.
- **Upholding Human Rights and Student Activism:** AASU remained vigilant in defending the rights of students and condemned instances of arbitrary arrests, violence against student activists, and limitations on academic freedom. The department issued press releases condemning the military coup in Gabon, the arrest of student leaders in Zimbabwe, and the attack on Mpondwe Lubiriha Secondary School in Uganda.
- **Celebrating Achievements and Commemorating Important Occasions:** AASU marked significant milestones and commemorated international observances through press releases and social media campaigns. This involved celebrating International Students' Day, World Creativity and Innovation Day, International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, and Africa Youth Day.

### Impact and Achievements

- Increased awareness of critical issues impacting students and youth in Africa.
- Mobilization of support and solidarity for students in need.
- Holding governments and institutions accountable for their commitments to education and human rights.

### List of Press Statements

The advocacy, commemorative, and general statements issued by the department during the reporting period are as follows:



## AASU PRESS RELEASES, 2023

| DATE       | REF. NO      | TITLE AND SCOPE OF STATEMENT   |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 17/01/2023 | PR.SG.23.001 | <p data-bbox="906 405 1477 461"><b>RATIFY THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER - AASU URGES COUNTRIES</b></p> <p data-bbox="906 506 1465 763">This statement urged African countries to adopt the African Youth Charter. The statement highlighted the importance of the Charter in ensuring the protection of youth rights, promoting their participation in decision-making processes, and facilitating their development. AASU called on all African countries that haven't ratified the Charter to do so without delay and commit to implementing its provisions to create a brighter future for young people across the continent.</p> |
| 24/01/2023 | PR.SG.23.002 | <p data-bbox="906 842 1374 898"><b>AASU MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2023</b></p> <p data-bbox="906 954 1469 1211">While commemorating the International Day of Education 2023, this statement underscored the importance of quality education as a fundamental right and a key driver of progress. AASU, through this statement, called for increased access to education for all, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups. It emphasized the need for inclusive education systems that provide opportunities for lifelong learning and empower individuals to reach their full potential.</p>                |
| 07/02/2023 | PR.SG.22.003 | <p data-bbox="906 1267 1461 1323"><b>INCREASE FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA - AASU</b></p> <p data-bbox="906 1379 1453 1637">Highlighting the critical role of higher education in development, AASU released this statement to emphasize the need for adequate funding for universities and colleges across Africa to ensure quality education, research, and innovation. The statement called on governments and international donors to increase their investments in higher education to equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to contribute to the continent's development.</p>  |
|            |              | <p data-bbox="906 1682 1453 1883">Commemorating International Day for Women and Girls in Science 2023, this statement inspired girls and young women to pursue careers in science. AASU called for initiatives that encourage girls' interest in STEM subjects and provide them with access to the necessary resources and mentorship to succeed in science careers and address the gender gap in scientific fields.</p>   |



| DATE       | REF. NO      | TITLE AND SCOPE OF STATEMENT   |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 11/02/2023 | PR.SG.23.004 | AASU COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE 2023  |
| 21/02/2023 | PR.SG.23.005 | AASU CALLS FOR PEACE AHEAD OF NIGERIA'S FEBRUARY 25TH POLLS<br><br>Calling for peaceful elections in Nigeria ahead of the upcoming general elections, this statement emphasized the importance of conducting peaceful and transparent elections and urged all political actors in Nigeria to uphold the democratic process. AASU, through this statement, appealed to Nigerians to exercise their right to vote responsibly and refrain from violence or intimidation. |
| 02/03/2023 | PR.SG.23.006 | AASU CONGRATULATES H. E. BOLA AHMED TINUBU, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA<br><br>This statement conveyed AASU's congratulations to H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, newly elected President of Nigeria, and expressed hope for a prosperous and peaceful future for Nigeria. AASU encouraged the new President to prioritize education, youth development, and good governance to address the challenges facing the nation.                                |
| 15/03/2023 | PR.SG.23.007 | AASU COMMISERATES WITH STUDENTS AND PEOPLE OF MALAWI<br><br>AASU commiserated with the students and people of Malawi following the deadly cyclone that has killed scores of people in the country, causing loss of lives and properties  |
| 06/04/2023 | PR.SG.23.008 | AASU COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE 2023<br><br>This statement commemorated the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2023. The message highlighted the power of sport in promoting social cohesion, peacebuilding, and sustainable development in Africa, and encouraged the use of sport as a tool for positive social change on the continent.  |
|            |              | Urging governments to improve education financing in Africa, this statement was issued to highlight the critical need for increased funding for education across Africa to ensure quality education for all. The statement called on governments to allocate a larger share of national budgets to education and explore innovative financing mechanisms to bridge the education funding gap in Africa.  |

| DATE       | REF. NO      | TITLE AND SCOPE OF STATEMENT  |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 13/04/2023 | PR.SG.23.009 | DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FINANCING IN AFRICA - AASU  |
| 20/04/2023 | PR.SG.23.010 | AASU CALLS FOR CALM IN SUDAN<br><br>This statement was issued at the onset of the civil war in Sudan to express concern about the violence and urge all stakeholders to engage in peaceful dialogue and work towards a peaceful resolution to the political crisis. AASU emphasized the need for respect for the rule of law.   |
| 21/04/2023 | PR.SG.23.011 | ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS UNION (AASU) CELEBRATES WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION DAY 2023<br><br>This statement commemorated the 2023 World Creativity and Innovation Day and highlighted the importance of creativity and innovation as critical drivers of development and progress.   |
| 22/04/2023 | PR.SG.23.012 | AASU MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRLS IN ICT 2023<br><br>This message aimed to promote female participation in the STEM fields and encourage girls to pursue careers in technology. AASU, through this statement, called for initiatives and programs that empower girls to embrace technology and bridge the gender gap in the tech industry.  |
| 24/05/2023 | PR.SG.23.013 | AASU CONDEMNS ARBITRARY ARRESTS OF STUDENT LEADERS AND THE CONTINUOUS DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE<br><br>This statement denounced human rights abuses and the arbitrary arrests of student leaders in Zimbabwe, and called for the immediate release of all those detained unjustly by the Zimbabwean government. The statement also urged the international community to pressure the Zimbabwean government to respect human rights and uphold the rule of law. |
| 17/06/2023 | PR.SG.23.014 | AASU CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON MPONDWE LUBIRIHA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN UGANDA<br><br>Responding to the attacks on Mpondwe Lubiriha Secondary School in Uganda, AASU released this statement to condemn the violence and urge the Ugandan authorities to investigate and bring those responsible to justice. The statement also emphasized the importance of safe learning environments and the protection of students from all forms of violence.                                    |



| DATE       | REF. NO      | TITLE AND SCOPE OF STATEMENT  |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 23/07/2023 | PR.SG.23.015 | <p data-bbox="900 286 1463 371">AASU CELEBRATES THE RELEASE FROM DETENTION OF STUDENT ACTIVIST PATRICK ZAKI</p> <p data-bbox="900 416 1463 573">Welcoming the release of student activist Patrick Zaki, AASU released this statement expressing relief and joy at Zaki's freedom after being unjustly imprisoned for years. AASU called for governments and stakeholders to protect human rights and freedom of expression.</p>                               |
| 12/08/2023 | PR.SG.23.016 | <p data-bbox="900 658 1410 721">AASU COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY</p> <p data-bbox="900 770 1463 954">This statement celebrated International Youth Day 2023, while reaffirming AASU's commitment to advocating for the rights and opportunities of young people across Africa. It also called for increased youth participation in decision-making processes and investment in programs that empower young people to reach their full potential.</p> |
| 30/08/2023 | PR.SG.23.017 | <p data-bbox="900 1039 1463 1066">AASU CONDEMNS MILITARY COUP IN GABON</p> <p data-bbox="900 1124 1463 1281">Condemning the military coup in Gabon, this statement called for a swift return to democratic rule and respect for the constitutional order. AASU urged the international community to take necessary actions to ensure the safety and well-being of the Gabonese people</p>   |
| 10/09/2023 | PR.SG.23.018 | <p data-bbox="900 1344 1431 1406">SOLIDARITY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MOROCCO</p> <p data-bbox="900 1456 1463 1563">AASU extends its deepest sympathies to the Moroccan government and all those who have endured losses or hardships due to the earthquake, which tragically resulted in widespread loss of lives.</p>  |
| 05/10/2023 | PR.SG.23.019 | <p data-bbox="900 1630 1463 1693">AASU COMMEMORATES WORLD TEACHERS' DAY 2023</p> <p data-bbox="900 1738 1463 1895">This message expressed appreciation for the dedication and hard work of educators who play a vital role in shaping the future of young people. AASU called for improved working conditions, professional development opportunities, and increased support for teachers globally.</p>   |
| 11/10/2023 | PR.SG.23.020 | <p data-bbox="900 1962 1410 2024">AASU COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2023</p> <p data-bbox="900 2069 1463 2226">While celebrating International Day of the Girl Child, this statement highlighted the need to address gender inequalities and promote the empowerment of girls. AASU called for increased access to quality education, healthcare, and protection for girls around the world.</p>  |

| DATE       | REF. NO      | TITLE AND SCOPE OF STATEMENT   |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 17/10/2023 | PR.SG.23.021 | <p data-bbox="900 309 1479 365">AASU COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY 2023</p> <p data-bbox="900 421 1453 622">In observance of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023, AASU released this statement to communicate its recognition of the devastating impact of poverty on individuals and communities worldwide. AASU emphasized the importance of education and economic opportunities as critical factors in breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting sustainable development.</p>            |
| 01/11/2023 | PR.SG.23.022 | <p data-bbox="900 719 1382 745">AASU MARKS AFRICA YOUTH DAY 2023</p> <p data-bbox="900 804 1458 985">This message highlighted the crucial role young people play in Africa's development and emphasized their potential to drive positive change across the continent. AASU called on governments and stakeholders to invest in youth empowerment and create opportunities for young people to contribute meaningfully to society.</p>   |
| 07/11/2023 | PR.SG.23.023 | <p data-bbox="900 1025 1474 1137">JUSTICE FOR CHIBUIKEM: STATEMENT ON THE TRAGIC KILLING OF NIGERIAN STUDENT, CHIBUIKEM EMMANUEL CHUKWUNEKE IN THE PHILIPPINES</p>   |
| 17/11/2023 | PR.SG.23.024 | <p data-bbox="900 1442 1474 1525">CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE OF STUDENTS: AASU COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY 2023</p>   |
| 28/11/2023 | PR.SG.23.025 | <p data-bbox="900 1771 1474 1854">A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY AND HUMANITARIAN AID FOR SUDANESE STUDENTS AND YOUTH AFFECTED BY THE ONGOING CONFLICT</p> <p data-bbox="900 1901 1458 2103">In response to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, AASU issued this statement urging the international community to provide immediate support to students and young people facing hardships due to the conflict. The statement highlighted the need for humanitarian aid, educational resources, and psychological support to help them cope with the crisis.</p> |



## Partners



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International  
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ASSOCIATION



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
And Regional Integration  
Republic Of Ghana



Rocky Dawuni  
FOUNDATION







# The Secretary General's Corner

The Secretary General has been involved in a spectrum of impactful activities that have significantly shaped the trajectory of the organization. From engaging in high-level diplomatic affairs to spearheading grassroots community initiatives, the Secretary General's involvement has spanned a diverse array of responsibilities, each underscored by a steadfast commitment to addressing multifaceted challenges. Advocating for sustainable development, fostering international collaborations, and championing initiatives aimed at promoting student rights, the Secretary General has played a pivotal role in steering the organization toward meaningful change. Some of the Secretary General's activities include;



## Virtual launch event for the Laureates and Leaders for Children and 100 Million report

The Secretary General of the All-Africa Students Union, actively participated in the virtual launch event for the Laureates and Leaders for Children and 100 Million report. His attendance underscored commitment to addressing modern injustices in Africa, emphasizing the need for international support and collaborative solutions. His ongoing work with the Justice for Africa initiative was recognized as pivotal.

## Youth Summit on Human Fraternity & Compassion in Jaipur

The Secretary General played a pivotal role at the Youth Summit on Human Fraternity & Compassion in Jaipur. As a speaker, he highlighted challenges facing Africa's children, aligning with the summit's mission. His presence emphasized the importance of fostering bonds for positive global change.

## 1st Extraordinary General Assembly of the Organization of Educational Cooperation (OEC)

The Secretary-General attended the 1st Extraordinary General Assembly of the Organization of Educational Cooperation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As an Associate Member, he actively participated in the historic event, contributing to deliberations on the full operationalization of the Organization for Education and Culture (OEC). Peter engaged in discussions on significant agenda items, including the election of the 1st President of the General Assembly. His presence underscored the collaborative efforts between OEC Member States and Associate Members, fostering dialogue and interaction essential for the Organization's executive phase. The event marked a crucial milestone, bringing high-level representatives together in person for the first time since the founding Summit, and Peter's involvement played a pivotal role in shaping the deliberations. Since he participation AASU has been involved in all activities of the organization including the development of Greater South Information System (GreSIS) and Framework to Reinforce Exchanges Between Youth and Regions through Education (FREYRE).

## African Continental Qualifications Framework Workshop in Maputo, Mozambique

The Secretary General participated in the 2023 Final ACQF Workshop in Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop is organised under the theme: "Making National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) operational in a changing world". The training program of the project ACQF-II in 2023 contributes to enhance knowledge and understanding on the development and operationalization of NQFs: moving from initial ideas to policies, and from policies to action. The Secretary General in his presentation at the workshop, made a strong call for the ACQF and NQFs to engage students and student unions in a manner which ensures the inclusion of the voices of the direct beneficiaries of education. He also shared that in the processes leading up to harmonising these frameworks, we cannot lose sight of the realities in our world today. He highlighted specifically, that sustainability measures should be prioritised, as climate change has a direct impact on education as seen in many parts of the African country such as Somalia. He reiterated that AASU remains committed to enhancing the quality of education delivery across the continent and will remain a strong partner in achieving this objective.

## Conclusion

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU) has actively worked towards empowering students, advocating for their rights, and contributing to the socio-economic and cultural development of Africa. AASU has provided dynamic platforms for collaboration, experience exchange, and insights, fostering the holistic development of student and student leaders. These efforts align with our broader vision for the advancement of education and leadership in Africa. Active participation in forums and events has showcased our commitment to influencing policies that shape educational landscapes. AASU has consistently engaged in discussions and contributed to initiatives that address challenges and promote positive changes in various spheres.

The initiatives undertaken by AASU in the realm of Migration and Mobility echo our broader commitment to inclusivity and support for vulnerable populations. By addressing the unique needs of African students abroad and advocating for the educational rights of refugee children, we aim to contribute to a more equitable and compassionate global community. Through these efforts, AASU strives to uphold its values of unity, education, and empowerment, fostering positive change in the lives of those who face distinct challenges in pursuit of education and a brighter future.

AASU's commitment to promoting democracy and good governance is evident in the strategic organization of impactful discussions. These platforms serve as catalysts for engaging stakeholders in thought-provoking dialogues on pressing security challenges faced by nations. By facilitating these discussions, AASU aims to contribute substantively to the formulation of comprehensive and effective strategies that can address the multifaceted nature of contemporary security issues. AASU's endeavors in the realm of democracy and good governance extend beyond mere discussions; they represent a commitment to actively contribute to the creation of secure, stable, and transparent societies. By addressing security challenges and civilian-security issues, AASU aims to be a proactive force in shaping governance structures that align with democratic values, foster public trust, and actively involve the youth in building a better future.

Our engagement in initiatives related to Pan-Africanism and African culture highlights the transformative power of the arts and culture sector in job creation and economic growth. AASU advocates for policy changes to position these sectors as drivers of unity and development in Africa. Addressing the digital divide and data inequalities, AASU emphasizes the importance of equitable access to digital tools for all. The workshop initiatives underscore our commitment to internet data justice and advocate for inclusive digital access. Lastly, the student-led consultative forum provides a platform for meaningful discussions on critical issues, generating calls for action on matters such as gender equality, youth empowerment, environmental awareness, and harmonized higher education policies.

As we reflect on the past year's achievements, AASU remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a united, prosperous, and empowered Africa through the education and engagement of its students. We look forward to continued collaboration, innovation, and impact in the years to come.



## PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

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