



Preface to the Strategic Plan

Africa is an emerging continent with its people driving deep transformations. Africa's future resides in especially its women and youth. Caring for the education of its children is the start of our vision.

The Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal number 4 on Quality Education, as well as the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, remain the guideposts driving the Africa Deans of Education mission.

Our close link with the UNESCO Teacher Task Force and the commitment of the Steering Committee to integrate the outcomes of its Global Report regarding teacher shortages around the world have been at the heart of our consideration to draft this strategic plan whose focus is on strong leadership, the development of collaborative partnerships and research capacity to develop evidence driven practices.

ADEF's Background and Leadership

The African Deans of Education Forum (ADEF) was launched in July 2013 at the Distance Education and Teachers' Training (DETA) 2013 Conference in Nairobi, Kenya with Prof Irma Eloff as Chair and lead facilitator from 2013 - 2018. Prof Antonio Cipriano Goncalves, the Dean of Education at Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique took over the Chair and lead facilitator role of ADEF from 1 January 2019 until the end of 2023

Prof Gbolagade Adekanmbi, Dean of the School of Education at the Botswana Open University now serves as Chair and lead facilitator of ADEF since early 2024.

Purpose

The purpose of the Forum is to facilitate dialogue on critical issues in teacher education among the leadership of African faculties and schools of education.

The role of ADEF as a focal point of the UNESCO Teacher Task Force was discussed at the University of Rwanda in Kigali in August 2017. Ideas for a cohesive project that would leverage the expertise and capacity of ADEF to support Sustainable Development Goal 4 was discussed. The idea to create a doctoral network with a focus on teacher education in Africa received the full support of the meeting. The Steering Committee was mandated to explore and develop the idea of a doctoral network in teacher education.

Dr Edem Adubra (Head of the Secretariat, International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All (EFA, UNESCO) accepted ADEF as a recognised member of the [UNESCO](#) International Teachers Task Force and to serve as the voice of African deans on the platform.

Mission:ADEF forum aims to elevate the teaching profession and improve African educational outcomes

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Purpose	Strategic Actions	Indicator	Time Frame
Enhancing educational leadership by developing a network of collaborative partners with a wide lens perspectives on the continent	Transforming the African School to meet Sustainable Development Goal no 4 requires visionary and agile leadership. The challenge of maintaining a school environment which attracts and retains teachers requires that schools of education double down on providing for the professional learning needs of educational leaders.	Seek a collaboration with African Centre for School Leadership	Link established and one area of collaboration identified	Jun-25
	Develop a scientific approach to data gathering, update and dissemination regarding the leadership education initiatives of the Schools/ Faculty of Education on the continent to enable inter institutional collaborative work in the field of educational leadership	Create an up to date database of Deans of Schools and Faculty of Education with a repertoire of ongoing leadership oriented projects (with leads contact details and time lines) which is uploaded on ADEF website and link integrated on the website of all Schools of Education in Africa	Data base created after 12 month	Aug-25

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Internationalising doctoral student experience through collaborative African networks	Ensure the successful implementation of the DNTEA programme by seeking and allocating funding specifically for the network's activities, including conferences, workshops, and research projects.	Create buy in for the DNTEA by establishing a formal network of at least 4 initial partnering institutions with secure budget	Membership of DNTEA confirmed by partnering institutions through a Multilateral MoU possibly under the aegis of UNESCO	Dec-25
			Financial and programmatic involvement secured	Jan-26
		identify at least 4 institutions for possible doctoral students to spend at least a month in a host institution	Number of students having completed an exchange programme for at least 15 weeks or one semester	Mar-26

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Develop an enhanced Social Media presence		Develop and host a full fledged ADEF website which is used for both information sharing and knowledge creation and dissemination by means of relevant regular updates, blog articles, research findings, and relevant news in the field of teacher education in Africa should to engage and inform the network's audience	A regular newsletter featuring actionable knowledge briefs on teacher education in Africa developed.	Jun-26
		Active social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn should be created and maintained		Sep-24
Take a more collective and public stance on regional HE education policies and practices that support quality in Africa's HE		Establish a discussion forum: The ADEF should create a platform where members can discuss, share ideas, and collaborate on relevant topics related to African teacher education. This forum can be an online platform or regular in-person meetings.	Online platform activated or 2 in-person synchronous seminar held	Jun-25
		Seek a publishing space with University world news magazine once every 3 months	Two articles written in University World news	Jun-25