ENHANCING OUR
INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT
FOR THE RIGHTS
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN’S EDUCATION
13 MAY 2017
MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

CONCEPT NOTE

“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela
I. INTRODUCTION

African Union (AU) Member States have placed education at the center of its development programs and have adopted and ratified various legal instruments and frameworks on Education and particularly on girl’s and women’s education not only to accelerate the social changes in this domain, but also to process the inclusive socio-economic development in Africa. During the course of the last 20 years, Africa has put together remarkable efforts and actions at both political and technical levels to improve access of girls and women in education and enable them to participate in innovative initiatives. Improvements are observable, statistics show progress almost everywhere. However, there are still challenges remaining such as the effective inclusion and the use of efficient rights-based approaches enabling parity, equity and equality. Therefore, it appears that Africa must engage in a paradigm shift to accelerate and sustain these changes, to bring more quality and sustainability in changing mentalities, and cultural behavior.

AU/CIEFFA would like to engage with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) in an institutional and legal pathway to consider how well these instruments are adopted, ratified and implemented in Member States in view of ensuring access and retention of girls and young women in the educational system.

AU/CIEFFA is thus organizing a capacity-building session at the Headquarters of the PAP in Midrand, South Africa on 13 May 2017 to acquaint Members of the PAP on the status of existing legal instruments, policies and any other frameworks pertaining directly or indirectly to girls’ and women’s education in Africa.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION

This Session has the following objectives:

- Present a Compendium on global, continental, regional and national legal framework and policies, relating to education;
- Identify existing national and regional legal and political frameworks pertaining to girls and women’s education adopted and ratified.
- Share best practices on existing policies taken by national Parliaments and Governments, and outline the reasons that explaining why retention, transition and achievement rates are still very low in Africa.
- Identify key strategies for reinforcing legal instruments/frameworks in Africa for girls and women’s education in Africa

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Session will lead to the following outcomes:

- Better understanding of legal aspects on frameworks/instruments relating to girls and women’s education
- Clearer formulations of strategies, actions and mechanisms to enrich the strategy in view of improving inclusion in education conducting proper analysis of implementation and effectiveness of legal frameworks related to girl’s education in Africa,
- Proposing additional Legal tools to enhance girls’ and women education.
- Elements for drafting a document like a Protocol or a Convention pertaining on girl’s and women’s education in Africa

IV. Participants and format of meetings

Participants will comprise of Members of the Pan-African Parliament.

The session will be divided up in plenary sessions and group discussions.

V. Dates and venue of Event

The meeting will take place on the 13th May 2017 from 9.00-15.00 at the Pan-African Parliament, Midrand, South Africa.