SAVE THE DATE

The Permanent Missions of Nigeria, Singapore, Ireland and Qatar to the United Nations, in partnership with UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and Collegiate Congress invite you to a side event to promote

24 January:
International Day of Education

Date: Friday, 30th November 2018

Time: 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Venue: Trusteeship Council, United Nations HQ, New York

RSVP:
646-961-8971, djakhigbe@yahoo.com
Nigeria's Side Event on International Day of Education

Venue: Trusteeship Council, UN Headquarters
Date: 30 November 2018
Time: 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Concept Note

Goal 4 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, focusing on inclusive quality education, was referenced as one of the 17 goals that are crucial to the attainment of sustainable development. That was in 2015. About two decades earlier, global stakeholders met at the United Nations to affirm the importance of education to development and provided a comprehensive roadmap for education for its attainment. The battle cry then was Education for All.

2. Since then, a lot of progress has been made in the sense that enrolment has tripled in some developed and developing countries, while investment in education has increased. Nonetheless, more ground still needs to be covered in terms of bridging the disparity between developed and developing countries in total investment in education, awareness and access to free, basic and qualitative education. Disparities also exist within nations.

3. Situating education at the core of national transformative agenda for achieving the objectives of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is of critical importance. Indeed, as Nelson Mandela rightly pointed out, “Education is the most powerful tool which can be used to change the world”.

4. The UN has often amplified the above by recognizing the overarching role of education as not only a right, but also a passport to human development. Its catalytic role is concretely felt in the way it opens door for individuals, expands
opportunities and human freedom, contributes to fostering democracy and economic growth, improves health and reduces poverty. Furthermore, education has contributed to global peace, development, innovation, technology and agriculture. It has also helped in tackling climate change and improving human rights.

5. Notwithstanding the progress made in improving access to education, millions of girls and young women continue to be left out of educational and learning opportunities. Recent estimates show that 263 million children and youths were out of school in 2016. More than one third of girls in primary school drop out at the secondary level. In 2014, only 46 percent of individual countries achieved parity in lower, and 23 percent in upper, secondary level education. These trends reflect the socio-economic and gender-based barriers to education faced by girls and young women, including poverty, early marriage and pregnancy, geographic isolation, harmful social norms, discriminatory laws, unsafe learning environments, as well as poor infrastructure and learning content.

6. Nonetheless, the recognition of the central role of education to development has not resulted in setting aside a day with a dedicated focus on observing and celebrating the importance of education globally. Such a dedicated day would increase awareness, enhance momentum, support innovative efforts in transforming education, celebrate inventions and innovations brought about by knowledge, increase visibility of education as central to human and societal development. It would also invite global audience to the continuous task of enhancing education and widening educational opportunities especially for those on the verge of being left behind, such as women and children, people with disabilities and those in emergency and humanitarian situations. It should strengthen our collaborative resolve to reduce gaps in educational attainments between and within countries.

7. To fill this obvious lacuna, Nigeria, with the active partnership of many countries and organizations and agencies, introduced a draft resolution during the on-going 73rd Session of the General Assembly, focusing on declaring 24
January, of every year, as International Day of Education.

8. To further underscore the importance of this landmark Resolution, especially by bringing together Member States, policymakers, the academia, students and organizations involved in ensuring quality education for all, to collectively discuss and bring to light the importance of international day to education development in general, the Mission has put in place plans to host a Side Event on: International Day of Education: Towards Facilitating Education for All, on Friday, 30 November, 2018, from 3:00-6:00 pm, at the Trusteeship Council of the UN Headquarters.

Aims and Objectives

- To create awareness and build momentum for the adoption of the Draft Resolution on International Day of Education.
- To bring Member States, policy makers, scholars, the private sector, students and other stakeholders into a discussion aimed at enhancing focus on inclusive education through the celebration of the International Day of Education,
- To support the on-going efforts by the UN to facilitate inclusive education for all and leave no one behind.

Format

9. The event will involve High-level opening remarks, panel discussions and interventions from the floor. The high-level remarks will feature goodwill messages from the Permanent Missions of Nigeria and that of some co-sponsoring countries, as well as heads of some relevant UN Organizations. The panel discussions will have two (2) separate interactive thematic dialogues on: (i) ‘Importance of International Day of Education to Global Development’ and (ii) ‘Facilitating Inclusive Education for all through Technological Innovation’. These will be followed by interventions from participants.

High Level Remarks

- H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations,
• H.E. Burhan Garfoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations
• H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations.
• H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Qatar to the United Nations
• H.E. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations (tbc)
• Ms. Marie Paule Roudil, Director UNESCO, New York Office.

PANEL 1: ‘Importance of International Day of Education to Global Development’

• Ms. Lilly Gray, Senior Liaison, UNESCO, New York Office: ‘UNESCO’s Role in Promoting the Observance of the International Day of Education globally’.
• UN WOMEN: ‘The Role of Women as a Critical Agent for Facilitating the Observance of International Day of Education’.
• UNICEF (tbc): – ‘The Role of Children in Promoting the Celebration of the International Day of Education’.
• Ms Katherine Elizabeth Fleming, Provost, New York University (NYU) –: ‘The Role of Academic Institutions in Facilitating the Observance of International day of Education’.
• Ms. Ebele Okobi, Director, Public Policy, Face book Africa: ‘Creating Innovative Solution to Foster Inclusive Education for All.

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• Ms. Denise Williams, President, SV-NED, “The Role of Silicon Valley in Promoting the Observance of International Day of Education’
• Mr. Christo Thomas, Collegiate Congress New York: ‘The Role of NGOs in Facilitating the Observance of International Day of Education’.

PANEL 2: ‘Facilitating Inclusive Education Through Technological Innovation’

• UN Global Compact (tbc): ‘Mobilizing Private Sector for Inclusive Education’.
• Dr. George Otte, Director, Academic Technology, City University, New York: ‘Importance of Technological Institutions to the Facilitation of Inclusive Education’.
• Mr. Kalindi Doshi, Regional Manager, Bill & Melinda Gates Scholarship Foundation, New York: ‘Harnessing Innovative Ideas to Facilitate Inclusive Education’.
• Ms. Jennifer D. Neumaier, Enterprise Sales Director, LinkedIn Solutions. ‘The Value of Learning Tools in Facilitating Inclusive Education’.
• Ms. Lilian Ajayi-Ore, Founder, GC4Women.Org. ‘Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships to Foster Inclusive Education.’