

# Gender

## Gender is My Agenda Campaign meeting begins Saturday

By Rebecca Quaiocoe Duho

**T**HE Sixth Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Strategic Engagement meeting with the African Union (AU) and the Regional

Economic Communities (RECs) will take place in Accra from July 13 to 15, 2024.

The meeting will be hosted at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and is aimed at producing actionable recommendations for mainstreaming gender in education, strengthening networks for advocating gender-responsive education policies and enhancing dialogue and partnerships among GIMAC members and other stakeholders.

Aligned with the AU's theme of the year 2024, "Educational Transformation for Gender Equity and Sustainability: Follow-up Actions to Move towards the Achievement of Agenda 2063", the meeting is poised to convene key stakeholders in a pivotal discussion to advance educational transformation across Africa. It will focus on fostering collaboration, developing strategic approaches, advocating for policy reforms and establishing monitoring mechanisms to track progress, underscoring the critical role of inclusive education in achieving sustainable development and gender

equity on the African continent.

The meeting offers a critical opportunity for women-led civil society organisations (CSOs) and various stakeholders to accelerate the achievement of educational gender equality in Africa.

### Strategic engagement

A statement announcing the meeting said the main objectives of the strategic engagement with the AU, RECs and partners on the AU theme of the year, "Education", are to foster collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including AU bodies, RECs, CSOs, UN agencies and other partners.

This aims to leverage collective expertise and resources to address the unique needs of marginalised groups and ensure their full participation in educational opportunities.

Another objective of the meeting is to develop strategies to ensure enhanced equitable access to quality education for marginalised groups, including girls, women, youth, people with disabilities and children in

emergencies and conflict contexts. This will focus on promoting inclusive education by identifying barriers to access and implementing targeted interventions to address them, ensuring that educational opportunities are inclusive and accessible to all.

It is also to advocate for the implementation of policies and initiatives aimed at promoting gender

equity, sustainability and inclusive education in alignment with the AU theme of the year through engagement with policymakers at national, regional, continental and global levels. This will prioritise inclusive education and allocate resources effectively to support

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marginalised groups.

The meeting will also help establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving inclusive education objectives outlined in the AU theme of the year by setting indicators, collecting data and conducting regular assessments to track the impact of interventions and identify areas for improvement.

The African Union's Agenda 2063, along with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016 to 2025 (CESA 16-25), underscores the necessity of transforming education systems to support inclusive and sustainable growth. Despite notable progress in primary education completion rates, significant challenges still remain, especially in achieving gender equality.

### Aim

The statement said building on the momentum of previous engagements, "this meeting aims to address persistent gender disparities in education and ensure that all children, particularly those from marginalised communities, have access to quality education." The upcoming strategic engagement will tackle these challenges by focusing on increased funding for education, ensuring universal free education, investing in digital education and implementing gender-responsive education policies.

The meeting will attract a diverse group of participants, including representatives from AU bodies, RECs, CSOs, United Nations (UN) agencies, development partners, the private sector, academia, media and other stakeholders committed to promoting inclusive education. According to the statement, "this collective effort will contribute significantly towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and the realisation of a more equitable and prosperous educational landscape in Africa."

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