

Africa Network Campaign on Education For All



Policy Statement, For Immediate Release

Date: 4 October, 2011

2011 ANCEFA STATEMENT FOR WORLD TEACHERS DAY, 5 OCTOBER

THEME: "TEACHERS FOR GENDER EQUALITY"

The 2011 UNESCO chosen theme for World Teachers Day that falls on 5th October every year is "Teachers for Gender Equality". Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA), while acknowledging that teachers play a major role in improving education quality, calls upon governments in Africa to increase investment in training and recruitment of female teachers especially for rural schools.

Women and girls form the largest single category of people deprived of full and equal opportunities for education. Besides, the UNESCO 2011 Global Monitoring Report notes that over 50% of the teachers that need to be recruited are female and Africa alone needs to recruit some 1.2 million out of the 1.9 million new teachers required worldwide to achieve EFA goals.

Female teachers are instrumental for promoting girls' participation in school, which is critical for addressing gender disparities and achieving 2015 targeted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs and Education for All (EFA) goals).

Further, ANCEFA requests that governments improve living and working conditions for teachers generally, and female teachers in rural areas, particularly, thereby creating safe and attractive environments for teacher recruitment.

Given that donors fail to meet their pledges, as pointed out in many reports, ANCEFA advises that governments increase domestic revenue through progressive and fair tax administration policies and good partnership with the private sector, to ensure more resources for teacher training, recruitment and deployment. Governments should also provide at least 20% of the budget and at least 6% of the GDP to education as internationally required.

Security and protection of female teachers while discharging their respective mandates, particularly in fragile and hardship zones, need to be prioritised by the governments.

In addition, ANCEFA calls upon stakeholders to ensure that female teachers are involved in local and international dialogue processes especially in relation to their working conditions as well as professional development.

The leadership of the African Union and sub regional economic blocks like ECOWAS, SADC, and EAC should play their rightful role of enforcing these investment measures as expected within the framework of the Africa Union's Second Decade of Education (2006-2015) and United Nations agreements.

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