



**ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS UNION**  
**UNION PANAFRICAINNE DES ETUDIANTS**  
الاتحاد جميع الطلاب الأفريقي  
Defending students rights since 1972



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2020

Edited by  
The Editorial Committee  
All-Africa Students Union

Also available on the AASU's Website:  
[www.aasunonline.org](http://www.aasunonline.org)



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# Foreword

The year 2020 was initiated with the novel coronavirus which impacted the nature of work education, science and the environment. The most significant effects of the pandemic were the loss of livelihoods to millions of households and education lags which were heightened in the poorest parts of the world, especially rural Africa. This has necessitated efforts by governments and development partners to craft strategies that are critical to providing practical solutions to the problems associated with COVID-19.

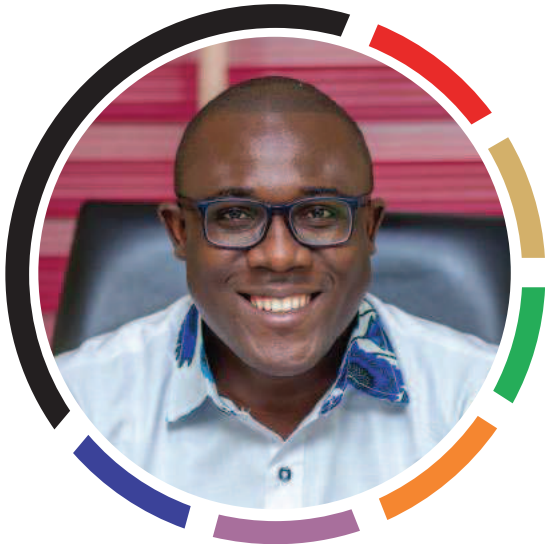
The All-Africa Students Union is not spared from developing initiatives that are crucial in strengthening existing institutions to help them build-back better as well as insulate them against further impact of the pandemic, while holding the gains made so far.

The webinar answered questions such as: How do we ensure that, collectively, we get this right without truly leaving no one behind? How do we learn from the present challenges to address the needs of the future? Which opportunities exist to benchmark? Which stakeholders are involved and what are their roles? How do we ensure that there is no upsurge in school dropout rates after the pandemic? Amongst other things, these questions should help trigger a response from all actors in the learning community to rise to the challenge of reinventing our education systems to respond better to emergencies in the future.

COVID-19 has created unparalleled damage to the main strategic areas of the All-Africa Student Union, especially the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to this, a global compact was formed from the 9th ASYS meeting on 2-3 December 2020. The compact holds the summit resolutions which serves to hold back the progress and build back better in the post-COVID period.

# Secretary General's Message

**The year 2020 has been a tough year for all of us across the world. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on all of us untold hardships that have pushed us to reimagine our approaches to almost everything including education, work, science and climate. Humanity's survival has truly been brought to the test.**



For many years, we have formed productive and strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations across the world with the aim of achieving our vision of mobilizing, coordinating and involving African students in our determination to achieve a more developed and sustainable Africa for all.

With the networks and friendships we have been able to build in the year 2020, we look forward to a better year in 2021 as we will be able to act in concert to address the issues that are at the core of our work globally.

**Peter Kwasi Kodjie**  
Secretary-General  
All-Africa Students Union

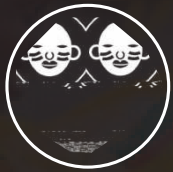
However, amidst all these challenges, we have realized that the harsh conditions associated with COVID-19 have unevenly affected the world's population. We have witnessed amidst this pandemic, the unfortunate conditions which families have undergone in their bid to protect themselves from COVID-19 and to fend for themselves and their dependents. We have also witnessed a sharp increase in unemployment rates, leading to the struggle of millions to get enough to eat and to provide the right nutrition for their families.

Education across the world has not been spared from the devastating effects of this pandemic. Millions of students are currently out of school and many may never return. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the enduring inequalities and structural gaps that exist in our societies. This is why it is paramount for us to consolidate the gains we have made so far and never relent in our efforts and commitment towards working to achieve a more equal and just world.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the programmes and projects of the Union have been disrupted. Hence, we have been forced to shift to online or virtual modes of organising our meetings, workshops, conferences and even for our annual Africa Students and Youth Summit. We have also adopted and implemented comprehensive tools and rapid response instruments so that our works and activities will not be halted.

# WORKING GROUPS

## BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS





## Capacity Building

The primary objective of the Capacity Building Working Group is to **develop the capacity of students and youth in Africa.**

The Working Group mobilizes support to address the needs of young people by identifying and communicating opportunities, guiding youth to make right choices and building positive relationships. The Working Group also provides the support necessary to develop young people to become catalyst for social and economic change in their respective countries and the continent.

The strategic priorities of the Working Group are; Capacity Building for Student Leaders, Entrepreneurial Training, Resource Mobilization Strategies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Networking and Building Collaborations, Knowledge Sharing, Designing African Solutions, Volunteerism and student Internships.

The working group draws inspiration from global and national frameworks, including the **United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **UN Youth Strategy 2030**, to create platforms for the youth to upgrade their cognitive, creative and emotional abilities to their full potential. The working group organizes training programs for the engagement of students and youth to develop their employability leadership, and entrepreneurial skills.



FIRST LESSON: ACTIVATING AND USING THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- Choosing an area of interest for the month
- Developing a captivating text
- Choosing a hashtag

SECOND LESSON: WORKING GROUP SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT



## Pan-Africanism & African Culture

Pan Africanism is a worldwide movement that aims to encourage and strengthen bonds among all peoples of Africa. Pan Africanism at its core, is a belief that African people, both on the continent and in the diaspora, share not merely a common history but a common destiny.

The Pan-Africanism and African Culture Working Group promotes African cultures and advocates for the involvement of African students and youth in Pan-Africanism as well as collaborates with other Pan-African groups and stakeholders to organise programs, projects and seminars.

The working group partakes in and promotes cultural activities and programmes across Africa and advocates for the inclusion of students in cultural and Pan-African policies for the development of Africa. The working group also tailors its activities and initiatives to the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations 2, 5 & 7 and the UN SDGs goals 8 and 12



Aspirations  
2, 5 & 7







## Education and Students Rights

The Education and Students Rights Working Group is an implementing arm of the All-Africa Students Union that focuses primarily on all matters related to the engagement of African students in the promotion of academic freedom, educational reforms, quality assurance, conducive study environment, students' rights

as well as establishing and maintaining goodwill between AASU and its related stakeholders. The Working Group draws inspiration from diverse areas and documents including the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal four (4); Continental Education Strategy for Africa; Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa amongst others.

The long-term objective of the working group is to contribute rigorously to the attainment of Inclusive Education on the African continent and to defend the rights of the African Student.





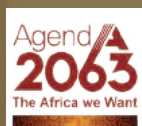
## Democracy and Good Governance

Democracy and Good Governance are two essential tools in ensuring sustainable development. While democracy seeks to guarantee legal equality, political freedom and rule of law; Good Governance, on the other, strives for public institutions to conduct public affairs and manage public resources in the desired manner.

The Democracy and Good Governance Working Group concerns itself with harnessing the energies of students in the promotion of these principles in Africa.

The Group focuses on the UN SDGs numbers 10 of reduced inequalities and 16 of peace, justice and strong institutions as well as AU Agenda 2063 Aspiration 4. Currently, the Group is working to measure the extent to which the principles of Good Governance are practised by student-based groups. Other projects of the Group include the Africa Students Dialogue Series and the upcoming Regional Conferences on Democracy and Good Governance.

We look forward to working with students from all over Africa and beyond to promote the principles of Democracy and Good Governance.



Aspirations  
4





## Gender Advocacy

The Gender Advocacy Working Group (GAWG) seeks to contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 of Gender Equality.

The working group also seeks to promote equal opportunities for both women and men to bridge the gender gap in all spheres across the continent.

The working group sees education as a critical component in the attainment of a gender-balanced world, therefore, we seek to advocate for open access and inclusive education for all.

The working group organises community engagements across the continent to make everyone understand that we have now reached an all-inclusive world which necessitates pushing for the HeForShe agenda.

The working group in collaboration with government agencies, youth groups, the civil society and other potential partners will embark on girl-child projects in marginalized communities to stop practices such as FGM, early marriage, among others.



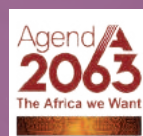


## Migration and Mobility

The Migration and Mobility Working Group is responsible for all issues relating to student migration, skill and academic mobility, refugee educational support programmes among others in Africa.

The working group's activities are aimed towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 2 (zero hunger), Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and the Agenda 2063 aspiration which sets out a goal for an integrated Africa driven by its people.

It is also the mandate of the group to conduct intensive research on the area of migration, especially students' mobility within the continent and advise the necessary contribution that the union can offer to minimize the challenges associated with mobility and envisage in the long run to maximize the positive effects of students' mobility.



Aspirations





## Environment and Climate Action

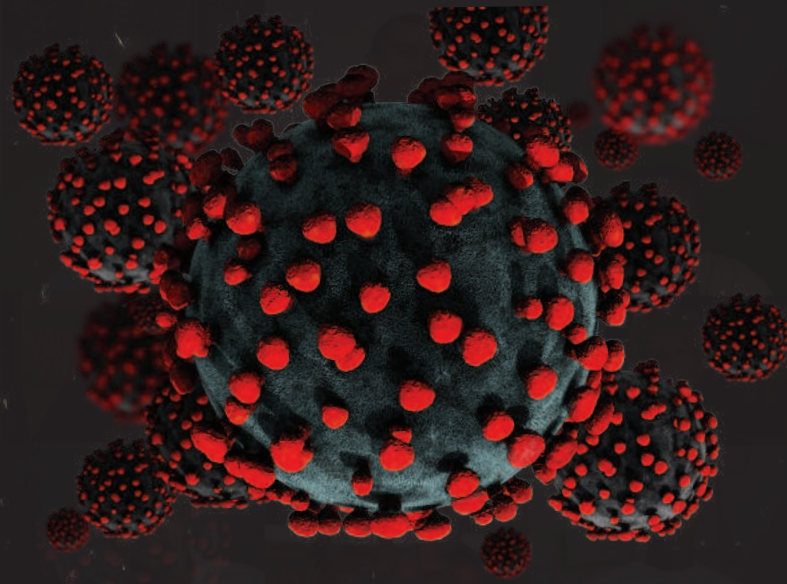
Climate change is expected to have unprecedented implications on where people settle, produce food, build cities, and rely on functioning ecosystems for the services they provide. In many places, temperature changes and sea-level rise are already putting ecosystems under stress and affecting human welfare.

It is imperative that African Youth take action to protect the environment and make positive strides towards climate change and its impact on the continent's socio-economic development.

The All-Africa Students Union is leading this campaign through its Environment and Climate Action Working Group.

Activities of the Working Group are focused on Goal 13 (Climate Action) of the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the Working Group actively advocates for the incorporation of anti-climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Additionally, the Working Group will embark on awareness campaigns aimed at reversing the adverse tide of climate change and improving institutional capacity to deal with its effects.





# **SPECIAL COVID-19 FEATURE**



We are faced today, with a viral global pandemic that has ravaged the most secure of communities and has broken the defenses of pharmaceutical behemoths who are working puzzles and racking technologies that can cure an infection that has got almost 200,000 infected and left 8,000 dead.

The cascading effects of corona virus touched every facet of human endeavour, moreso disrupting the international political economy. There is almost a global economic shutdown. The epicenter of global trade (China) and the rest of the East Asia region that provides one-third of labour to the global economy has been rendered redundant; stock markets have crashed, national economies are melting, and transactions are plummeting. Consumables are depleting on the shelves of retail giants as a result of panic buying. The effects are endless.



**850,000  
Students  
are home**

The hardest hit are the pedagogical environment. Over 850,000 students are home according to UNESCO. As a matter of national and global emergency, lectures and all manner of educational activities have been suspended. The academic calendar is now hanging indefinitely. For advanced countries, they have deployed their technological wherewithal to engage students digitally. Indeed we in the era of technology and gadgetry.

Due to the geo-historic past of Africa, we are more vulnerable. The region is not only poor, there are records of localized pandemics in recent past, HIV readily comes to mind. Africa could not marshal on its own financial and pharmaceutical resources to combat the pandemic. The warning by the World Health Organisation about the devastation of the corona virus on Africa is anchored on the ineffective records the region has in managing similar infections. Once again, we are at the crossroads, to bask in laxity or confront the pandemic head-on. Individuals, youth groups, churches, civil society groups must lead the crusade against???. The All-Africa Students Union (AASU) represents one of these groups. As a regional body with student's interest, this period presents one of the most challenging moments to the union as we are juggling between a maze of initiatives and options to mitigate the spread of the infection.

The Union has come up with three measures, deconstructed from several structural and complex considerations.

These measures are

1) setting up situation rooms across the Continent to provide urgent and timely updates to our constituents,

2) putting together a students' volunteer corps programme to support national governments' efforts in combating the COVID-19, and,  
3) raising funds to complement African Countries' efforts at fighting this pandemic.

The paucity, reach, and information dissemination is central to the surge of the corona virus. It is either the information released is inadequate to inform the understanding or appreciation of the dangers the COVID-19 poses; or the manner in which information is been distributed is not ubiquitous. Many African people who live in the countryside do not possess information and communication technology (ICT) tools like radios and televisions, nor are they on many of the social digital platforms - twitter, Facebook and instagram that delivers instant information. Our proposed 'situation room' proceeds on this observable data. The situation room which sits in our regional offices across the continent will provide early warning data, accurate and timely information sourced from the WHO and other partner organisations that are tracking the numbers.

These three initiatives are undergirded by resources. Resources that if the Student forum (GSF) were properly constituted would serve as a global convening platform to mobilize resources to fund these activities. As a federation of regional student groupings, the leverage and goodwill of the GSF as an assemblage of diverse unique concerns weaves into one of its core mandates - a bigger forum for addressing transnational, and global issues such as the one we are engulfed with - COVID 19.

The GSF per our expectation and anticipation should lead crowdfunding initiatives for its members, moreso for regional student groups in deprived part of the world, AASU comes in here.

We hope that a properly constituted GSF would be responsive to the needs and concerns of its members in situations of this nature, or similar circumstances.

We have drawn from across the continent student unions and youth groups to lead our volunteer activities. We have divided the continent into five regions - North, South, East, West and Central. We have appointed regional heads to lead the volunteer activities in these regions. Modalities and terms of engagements have been agreed with these regional heads to oversee the implementation of the vision of AASU in these parts. We anticipate the leaders to pioneer public demonstrations such as clean washing of hands, distribution of hand sanitizers, face masks, tissues and other personal protection equipment (PPE). The reality is that these PPEs are largely inadequate at the level of governments after a thorough analysis of efforts of African governments. AASU comes in to augment what Africa governments have accomplished through a multi-sectoral mobilisation that enhances all humanity during this pestilence.

# WEBINARS







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Member of  
COVID-19  
Global Education Coalition  
Launched by UNESCO



# COVID-19 GLOBAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT WEBINAR

**Covid-19 Recovery: Education Reconfiguration- What the Pandemic has taught us about our current education modes - a strong case for online learning.**

Schools in all parts of the world have greatly been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, exposing the stark inequalities that exist in our educational ecosystem. According to UNESCO, about 1.37 billion students were at home due to the pandemic. Educational institutions have been compelled to re-strategize and re-imagine how education can reach different people in very distinct areas with varied needs without necessarily reaching them physically.

The webinar answered questions such as: How do we ensure that, collectively, we get this right without truly leaving no one behind? How do we learn from the present challenges to address the needs of the future? Which opportunities exist to benchmark? Which stakeholders are involved and what are their roles? How do we ensure that there is no upsurge in school dropout rates after the pandemic? Amongst other things, these questions should help trigger a response from all actors in the learning community to rise to the challenge of reinventing our education systems to respond better to emergencies in the future.



MIGRATION & MOBILITY  
WORKING GROUP

## Migrant Students in Times of Emergencies

This webinar reached over 7000 audiences, engaged students, especially those currently studying abroad and caught up in this global pandemic (COVID-19) to share their experiences and concerns. The spotlight was put on China as a case study, as there was an alleged case of the maltreatment of African students, and in general, the realities of being a migrant student in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on national health care systems, and with shortages of food and other essential supplies becoming commonplace, racist tendencies and nationalism overtures are being heightened. What is clear is that our world as we know it will never remain the same even after the pandemic. AASU's immediate concern was the plight of students caught outside their home countries and living largely at the mercy of their hosts.

The Webinar helped to gain further insights concerning student unions' efforts to support their colleagues in these difficult times, as well as diplomatic support systems and the strategic options are available to these students.

The major participants of the webinar were migrant students, educationists, youth leaders, student-led groupings such as the European Students' Union (ESU) and the Organizing Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU).



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION  
WORKING GROUP

## Food Insecurity, A Looming Crisis: Lessons from the past and actions to mitigate impact on vulnerable groups

The Novel Coronavirus poses a threat to food security. In the early days of the pandemic, experts projected that the pandemic will unleash the worst food security crisis since the great recession.

In Africa, farmers are considered the backbone of the economy. Therefore, it is imperative that to achieve food security, they continue working their fields without a break in the food supply chain. It is also essential that supermarkets remain opened, restaurants continue operations and the delivering of food to homes run unabatedly. Before the outbreak, more than 820 million people did not have enough food to eat. Africa is undoubtedly the most vulnerable continent in the world and most likely to be heavily affected by food shortages in such crises of biblical proportion. Undoubtedly, we risk a looming food crisis, unless measures are taken fast to protect the most vulnerable, keep global food supply chains alive and mitigate the pandemic's impact across the food system. It is against this background that the working group organized a webinar dubbed *'Food Insecurity, a looming Crisis: Lessons from the past and Actions to mitigate impact on vulnerable groups on the 15th of May 2020.*



This session at the 9th Africa Student and Youth Summit was for student leaders and youth activists across the world who worked tirelessly in building on the collective statement and demands created ahead of the G20 Summit in November. This took the efforts of over 100 youth and student leaders from 46 countries. The session aimed at creating the *"1in5 Africa Roadmap to Justice"* that will be sent to decision-makers.

Through collaborative discussions led by existing activists in the "1in5 campaign", we heard from participants on the biggest crises facing vulnerable children and young people in their countries and source their ideas on how to fight these issues: brainstorming what actions of solidarity - from advocacy, to marches, to community outreach - are needed to secure justice. Particular focus was geared towards solidarizing to prevent a child and youth rights disaster as a result of COVID-19 and help build the "1in5 Africa Roadmap to Justice".

The webinar discussed the campaign, while ASYS attendees pledged to plan how we can make sure the most vulnerable children and young people are not left behind again as the world builds back better. The session was held by the 100 Million Campaign on the second day of the 9th ASYS in partnership with the All-Africa Students Union.



The webinar discussed the impact of African governments' responses on human rights and good governance due to the attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19. The webinar also proposed ways in which human rights would be protected while dealing with the ravages of COVID-19. At the end of the webinar, the panelists and participants came into agreement that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on good governance and human rights. Concerning human rights, it revealed that restrictions on movements and other forms of measures implemented by the governments infringed on human rights even though it was necessary for achieving public good. Law agencies were admonished to execute policies that conformed to human rights.



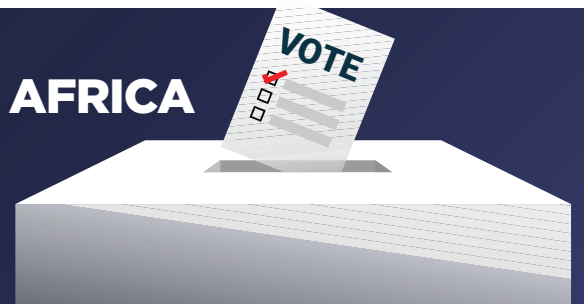
CAPACITY BUILDING  
WORKING GROUP

## Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic; Skills under threat & new opportunities



According to the World Bank, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than 1.6 billion children and youth to be out of school in 161 countries. This is close to 80 percent of the world's enrolled students. The phenomenon means that students are unable to acquire knowledge and skills via regular education in the classroom and in the practical field. Students are unable to visit their laboratories or go to the field to conduct practical research. In light of the above, the webinar discussed what opportunities are available for grasp by students to enable them to stay relevant after the pandemic is over. Discussions also covered the need to adopt online learning to gain knowledge in different and/or related fields of study, the relevant soft skills to build on to stay relevant in this era, and the entrepreneurial opportunities that are available for grasp by students.

## TOWARDS PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN AFRICA AMIDST COVID-19 CHALLENGES



On 2nd December 2020, as part of the 9th Africa Students and Youth Summit, the Democracy and Good Governance working group organized a side event dubbed “One on One with DR. Vasu, Toward Peaceful Election in Africa Amidst COVID-19 Challenges”. Based on the threats the novel COVID-19 pandemic has presented to Africa's peace as well as the existing challenges that have already bedeviled African elections, the event focused on making propositions on healthy, effective and efficient electioneering processes that safeguard the lives of Africans and Identified solutions to difficulties that could arise from COVID-19 impacted elections.

## EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

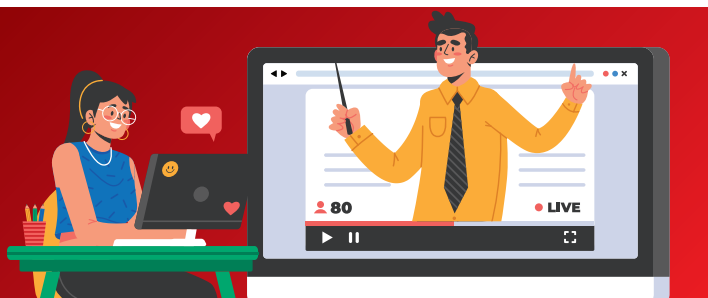


The COVID-19 Africa Assessment Webinar which was held on April 17, 2020 was set up to interrogate the COVID-19 crisis and its effects on education on the African continent. The webinar drew participation from student leaders, students, educationists and youth leaders on the continent. The session engaged these groups in an interactive discourse to share experiences from their sub-regions to a continent-wide audience.

The session explored how education had been disrupted in emergency situations such as the one we are currently faced with. Considering the time constraints, the Webinar had representatives from the 5 regions who discussed the theme “Education in Emergencies: Who is Affected by the COVID-19 and Key Responses”. The representatives shared relevant experiences and knowledge based on previous and current happenings.

The panel also discussed how national governments and educational institutions have improvised, and marshalled digital resources to reach students in their homes during a period where contact teaching has halted abruptly. Finally, the representatives helped the audience appreciate the meaning of educational and students' rights; whether these rights have been thwarted, or are still being enjoyed by students during these crisis times. Considering that organizations and individuals have already done some work in this space, it was also an opportunity to share some interesting observations that were relevant for decision-making by policy makers.

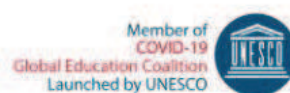
# E-LEARNING & OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES WEBINAR



With an increasing number of states, provinces and even whole countries closing institutions of learning as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, over 80% of the world's students were not attending school (UNESCO, 2020). With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of higher education institutions (HEIs) across the world made an emergency shift to online teaching and learning; thereby unintentionally embracing an Open University model.

The webinar served as a platform to engage experts in the area of e-learning, open educational resources and higher education to successfully find best practices and solutions to the challenge's institutions are facing when it comes to the use of such e-learning platforms or resources and what this means for students around the world. The discussion focused on how e-education can be delivered without compromising the quality of education delivered, while considering the needs of students or learners with Special Needs as well.

An angle of the conversation also focused on sustaining the use of digital platforms to ensure life-long learning beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussions highlighted successful cases in Africa and beyond where institutions have successfully transitioned from the physical/traditional styles of teaching and learning to the use of Edu-Tech platforms.



A banner for a live webinar. The background is a dark blue, stylized cityscape at night. The text 'Live Webinar' is in a red box at the top right. The main title 'Africa in World Politics' is in large white letters. Below it, the theme is stated: 'Theme: What Can This Generation Do Differently to Make Africa Truly Competitive on the International Stage'.

This webinar explored African leadership, global Africa, the international political economy and how Africa-driven initiatives, activities and policies that can enable the continent to be competitive on the international stage. The webinar revealed that other institutions must complement regional and sub-regional bodies to give the continent the audible voice needed to effect changes at the global stage. Although several strategies have been implemented in various African states to help restore the economies and peace on the continent; the individualistic approach to addressing issues has done the continent no good as evident in the hike of hunger, poverty and terrorism in most countries on the continent. The discussions held during the webinar demonstrated the need to embrace a collective approach towards addressing the insurgencies on the continent and developing the continent during and post COVID-19. The discussions highlighted some relevant recommendations that the governments and youths of Africa may consider to make the continent truly competitive on the international stage.



# 9TH AFRICA STUDENTS AND YOUTH SUMMIT (ASYS) 2020





The 9th Africa Students and Youth Summit occurred on **2nd and 3rd December, 2020**. The Summit is an annual flagship program organized by AASU to bring together students and youth, both on the continent and elsewhere, to discuss pertinent issues affecting students and education more broadly. It also assembled a diverse team of Educationists, Governments, and Education Policy Experts from the global community to share ideas on how to build back better post Covid-19. As usual, we benefited greatly from our relationship with the media to publish stories on the Summit in a bid to create awareness of the major highlights and resolutions at the 9th ASYS. Although this was the first virtual Summit organized by AASU, as the circumstances demanded, the event still achieved marginal gains in publicity. The post-summit review and media production assessment revealed however that we need to do better going forward to improve visibility in traditional and new media as well.

The Africa Students and Youth Summit, which is the flagship annual event of the Union, was held in 2020 for the 9th time. Due to the Covid-19 and the protocols that were established by the various countries, the Summit was held virtually for the first time since its inception.

The 9th ASYS was held from 2-3 December 2020 on the Theme: “Building back better in a connected world, lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and the critical role of young people and global solidarity”. The Summit was a mixture of plenaries, breakout sessions and side events. The Summit was attended by over 70 speakers from across the world. The speakers were government officials, experts, leaders of CSOs, student leaders and youth activists.

Several National Students Unions and organizations partnered with AASU to organize the summit. These included the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Global Student Forum, the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), International Association of Universities (IAU), African Students and Alumni Forum, National Union of Students, the Masterplan, Association of African Universities, Students Organizing for Sustainability International, and many others.



There were three plenaries, nine breakout sessions and eight side events. The details are presented in the table below;

## Plenaries

Plenary	Theme
<b>Plenary 1</b>	Education at the brink of collapse: finding sustainable funding to protect education
<b>Plenary 2</b>	Beyond giving a voice to young people: finding new pathways to engage young people productively
<b>Plenary 3</b>	The furthest behind – Women and children in focus: The moment is now! The case for women and children as the center of the Covid-19 recovery

## Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session	Theme
1	Assessing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on women and children
2	Assessing impacts: Education in times of emergencies (Covid-19)
3	Assessing impacts: Human rights in times of emergencies (Covid-19)
4	Fair share for who? Demands for those furthest behind.
5	Common problems, common solutions – building synergies across borders
6	Science and technology – Adapting technology to respond to the moment
7	Activism and action: youth leadership doe social reconstruction
8	Mobilization and action: grassroots actors as change-makers.
9	Global solidarity: broad global coalitions for key moments

## Side Events

Side Event	Topic	Organizers
1	One-on-One with Dr Vasu	AASU Democracy and Good Governance Working Group
2	The Global Student Forum and the Africa Region	AASU Capacity Building Working Group and the Global Student Forum
3	Re-imagining human rights and social justice from a university student's eye	Haki Nawiri Afrika, Kenya
4	Reigniting stakeholder actions against Gender-Based Violence	AASU Gender Advocacy Working Group and Afriyan Ghana
5	Justice for Every Child	AASU and 100 Million Campaign
6	Securing girls' education during and post Covid-19	AASU and 100 Million Campaign
7	Enhancing educational experiences for African students	AASU and Amnesty International – University of Portsmouth Chapter
8	Green office movement to empower student-led sustainability action	SOS International

The Summit achieved the following objectives;

- The summit imbued a sense of urgency in young people and triggered them to act in support of the efforts to hold Governments accountable to save the loss of a generation.
- The Summit called on Governments to increase spending on education to ensure that no group is disproportionately affected by the impacts of the pandemic.
- The Summit supported the call by UNESCO to get Girls Back to School.
- The Summit highlighted the cruel manner in which the COVID-19 has affected our marginalized brothers and sisters and offered a recommended path to build back better.
- The Summit re-echoed and ensured that government, key institutions and key actors become more responsive and conscious of the needs of students, youth and marginalized groups amid the pandemic
- The Summit built stronger solidarity among young people to build broad coalitions to initiate and/or support a robust COVID-19 recovery strategy that leaves no one behind.
- The Summit adopted a global strategy to rally young people to act in solidarity to hold our governments accountable to execute a COVID-19 recovery agenda that is equitable and inclusive - "THE GLOBAL YOUTH COMPACT TO BUILD BACK BETTER POST COVID-19" - depicting regional and national plans for building back better and equal post-COVID-19. The link to the compact is available here - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-shkTnU02wZpzZruDfLHVnyYHwrhkcZg?usp=sharing>







## L and L Summit

The L and L Summit was held on 9th to 10th September, 2020. In 2015, UN member states committed to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers; and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms. In 2019, the UN designated 2021 as the Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. This summit served as a siren call to all governments that efforts must be redoubled to achieve this goal, knowing that child labour may increase in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The Secretary General of the All-Africa Students Union spoke at this event, representing young people and students, and asked governments and decisionmakers to prioritize the rights of children. He spoke alongside speakers from other parts of the world, including Dr. Musarrat Maish Reza (Chairperson, Commonwealth Students Association), H. E. Mary Robinson (President of Ireland), Timothy Ryan (Chair - Global March Against Child Labour) and Kinsu Kumar (Child Rights Activist).

Addressing global leaders, he indicated how critical it is for world leaders in times to come together to ensure that the rights and livelihoods of children are protected. He highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic has truly exacerbated the already existing plight of children globally. He indicated that young people have shown and are more willing to be a part of the needed change to bring and end to all forms of child oppression and labour. However, he also indicated that it would require political will to turn around the fortunes of these children.

In ending his speech, he indicated that we cannot afford to sit on the offence on this matter as it would determine the future of an entire generation.

“  
**Young people of the world world are asking for a fair share of money to be allocated to children who are marginalised, to avoid disaster.**





## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2020

In commemorating the International Day of Education, the working group put together a virtual forum under the theme “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace: The Voices of Students”. The forum, which was held on January 24 2020, focused on student organization’s role in making education accessible, relevant and of quality for all and its implications for:

- Capacity building and the future of work
- Reducing inequalities (gender and wealth distribution)
- Developing knowledge, awareness and action that can help reverse unsustainable practices

The forum was hosted live on AASU’s Facebook platform which lasted for a period of 2 hours including questions from the audience around the world. The guest speakers at the forum included the Secretary General of the All-Africa Students and Mr. Thomas Christo, from the Master Plan UN.

Other speakers included:

- Ajani A Lebourne - *Vice-Chairperson (Advocacy and Partnership), Commonwealth Students Association*
- Giuseppe Lipari - *Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions*
- Robert Napier - *President, European Students Union*
- Sebastian Berger - *Vice President, European Students Union*



## IBE ForumBIE 2020

The third forum on inclusive and balanced education carried two objectives:

- 1) provide a multi-sectoral platform for international, national, and local stakeholders in policy-making, academia, and civil society to share experiences, exchange on best practices, and develop efficient collaborations in Balanced and Inclusive Education;
- 2) concretise the vision and aspiration of the International Call for Balanced and Inclusive Education by a commitment to concrete actions and the operationalisation of a framework of collaboration through the signing of the Universal Declaration on Balanced and Inclusive Education.

At the forum, which had various prime ministers, Presidents, head of missions and education ministers, the Secretary General of the All-Africa Students Union addressed the audience on the matter of reimagining balanced and inclusive education especially in Africa. He indicated that he is representing all youths and students at the forum. He also indicated that knowledge in itself will not answer our dire questions, rather knowledge that emphasizes human dignity is that which solve the problems of today.

He also spoke about the emerging trends in the classroom which require critical attention. He mentioned that there is a shift from teacher-centred pedagogy to a student-centred approach. He indicated that to create a more inclusive education, then it is required that pedagogy becomes student-centred.

At this forum, the Secretary General also signed the Universal Declaration on Balanced and Inclusive Education.

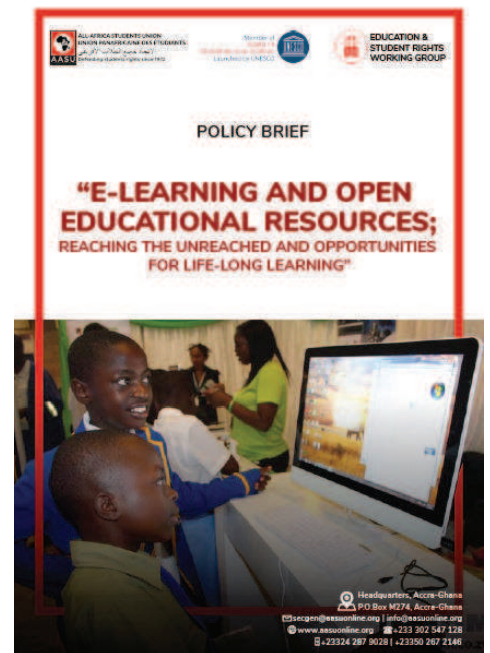
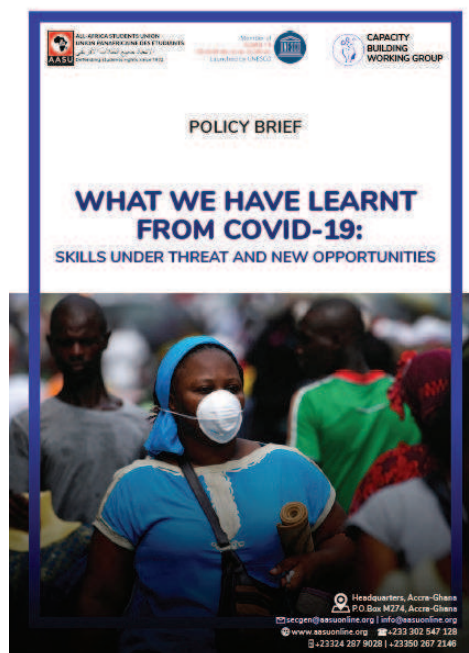
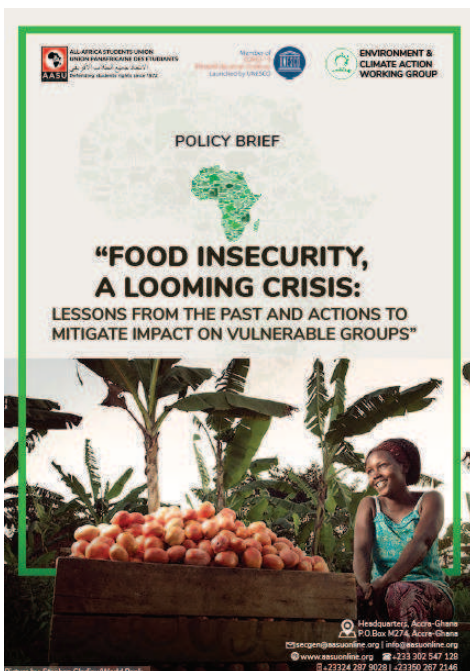
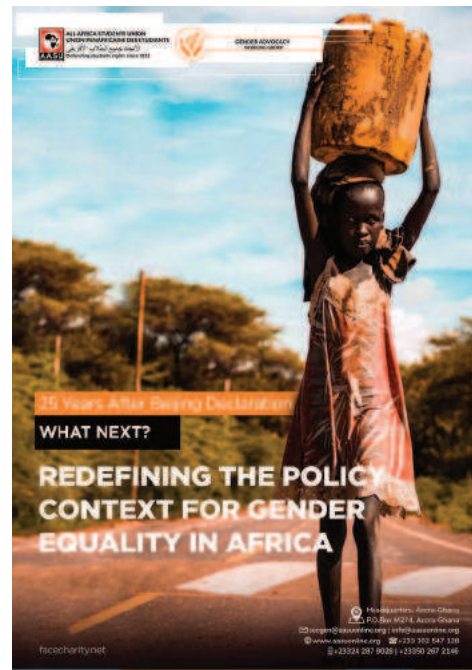
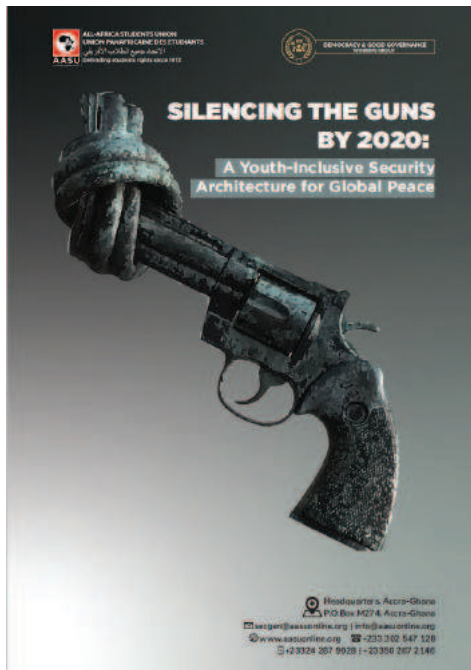
# PUBLICATIONS



Publications capture our intellectual engagements at the All-Africa Students Union. Curated and led by a results oriented and dedicated team of in-house researchers, topics are woven around innovative ideas that offer prescriptive solutions to local, regional and global development concerns. These, our publications address in special reports, policy papers, policy briefs and research collaborations with our global partners. This year, we published two papers, a special report on gender and African development with a focus on the Beijing declaration, a policy brief on special needs education; and eight policy briefs on a gamut of issues that summarized our webinar series.

We are minded of our seven priority areas which are the intellectual pre-conditions for our publications. As such, we are guided to write on the SDGs, democracy and good governance, migration and mobility, gender and international relations, capacity building, education and students' rights, Pan-Africanism and African culture, environment and climate action.

Please follow [www.assuonline.org/publications](http://www.assuonline.org/publications) to read our works.



# COLLABORATIONS



AASU has scaled up its collaborations over the years in an effort to deepen their reach and expand their scope of operations. Inspired by our vision to globalize our operations, we have teamed up with the Global Students' Forum (GSF), UNESCO, and the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC). These organisations have benefitted from our researched opinions and positions on educational policy, some of which have been coopted into curriculum development and both national and international education plans and declarations.



## Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC)

GNECC is a membership based network with over 200 members including child rights organizations, disability organizations, international non-governmental organizations, teacher unions, retired educationists, and faith-based organizations and youth organizations. Our mission is to influence policy towards providing equal educational opportunities for all children irrespective of their economic, social, religious, geographical background or disability. We believe every child has a right to quality, relevant and enjoyable education. AASU has been a pulsating ally whose key contributions have been acknowledged in several of the coalition's activities. In AASU's recent collaboration with the coalition, it birthed the GNECC four year education coalition that covered improvements in pedagogy, structural design of classrooms to make it disability friendly, and curriculum development to reflect, improve and address the embedded socio-educational issues the COVID-19 brought to the fore.



## Global Students Forum (GSF)

The Global Student Forum is a voluntary consortium that comprises regional federations, including the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), Commonwealth Students' Association (CSA), European Students Union (ESU), Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) and Organización Continental Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Estudiantes (OCLAE), which together cover 143 Student Unions in 95 countries, as well as national unions, organisations and movements from countries including Chile, Bangladesh, Burundi, Chad, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The purpose of the Global Student Forum is to coordinate people and ideas to animate the struggles that students are fighting around the world. It is anchored on the grassroots, working in a democratic and horizontal way, to address our local challenges and build a shared vision. The GSF is an essential structure which operates below the radar to support activists building on the ground, facilitating trans-regional exchanges that inspire and strengthen them. Whilst enabling the development of a genuinely autonomous student-led agenda, the express intention is not to compete with other structures for political voice but to strengthen the activism and structures that already exist and have legitimacy.

The forum is a platform for student movements to work together on issues of common concern. The GSF amplifies the struggles of student movements around the world, whether against the rising cost of education or violence in our institutions, and draws attention to student movements where they face political repression, discrimination and police brutality.

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, AASU through the GSF has been monitoring the impact on education systems and on the lives of students. GSF is still in an embryonic form but this crisis has pushed the members to discuss how to articulate the cooperation while working on setting up the forum's permanent structures. Due to the crisis, schools and universities around the world have been closed and many students are unable to access learning resources, struggling with unemployment or have been made homeless. The GSF, through its regional representatives like AASU has been providing students with support: connecting them to information and resources about their studies, mobility, accommodation, employment and welfare. GSF is using its extensive networks to communicate reliable, up-to-date information about staying safe to communities on the ground. The GSF is lobbying institutions and governments to make reasonable adjustments to protect the rights of the marginalized and ensure that inequities are not deepened as a result of the crisis.



## UNESCO COVID-19 Global Education Coalition

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNESCO launched a coalition geared towards holding the gains in education across the world against the ravaging impacts of the pandemic. The Global Education Coalition launched by UNESCO, is a platform for collaboration and exchange to protect the right to education during this unprecedented disruption and beyond.



It brings together more than 140 members from the UN family, civil society, academia and the private sector to ensure that learning never stops.

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU), with reference to the work that it was doing during the pandemic was called upon to be a member of this coalition. Through the coalition, AASU has worked on diverse actions including the Africa Girls Back to School Campaign. The All-Africa Students Union worked to ensure the equitable access to quality education. Hence, as a member of this coalition we have worked together with our members to ensure that we contribute appropriately in holding the gains in education especially in Africa.

# CAMPAIGNS





Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the All-Africa Students Union came together with fellow youth and student leaders across the world, such as the European Students' Union (ESU), Organising Bureau of School Student Unions (OBESSU), Commonwealth Students' Association (CSA) as part of the 100 Million campaign to demand that the rights of children and young people, especially the most marginalised, are protected during COVID-19.

The demands of the campaign have been that decision-makers must prioritise children and young people in their COVID-19 responses, otherwise they risk violating the fundamental rights of a whole generation, the future of which we as student unions and youth activists fight so hard to protect, and undo decades of progress towards eradicating extreme poverty, conflict and exploitation.

In the African region, AASU's efforts have helped engaged more than 30 student unions from about 30 countries to protect the rights of children amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



Picture by: 100 Million Campaign



The All-Africa Students Union as a member of the UNESCO COVID-19 Global Education Coalition, through the gender flagship project of the coalition, has been working with UNESCO and the 100 Million Campaign to demand the continuous and safe return of all girls to school when schools resume.

The All-Africa Students Union has been working with over 60 youth activists from 18 different African countries on this campaign so far. The Union has been mentioned in the UNESCO report to have been one of the organisations using its manual or guide to train coordinators working on this campaign. So far coordinators have been able to engage their parliamentarians and local decision makers to ensure the safe return of all girls to school.

As part of the campaign, youth activists have engaged their decision makers, community leaders and even students in their country. This has been geared towards creating more awareness about the importance of girls' education and to also engage decision makers on what deliberate actions they are taking to ensure the education of girls.



# **PRESS AND INFORMATION**



The All-Africa Students Union continues to evolve significantly in the bid to create visibility and reach regarding its operations on behalf of students across the continent. The challenges of 2020 presented with it, opportunities to intensify our collaboration with the media and to innovatively apply new media in information dissemination. We are on course to providing more visibility in the coming years.

In line with the vision and objectives of the Union, the various Working Groups undertook required coverage to shed light on these operations. Again, AASU is equally conscious of the need to make information, especially regarding the interests, rights and status of education and students across the continent available to all. Through our partnership and collaboration with the media, we have successfully created a trusted network of media conglomerates to assist with promotion and dissemination of the work of AASU.

The Media and Communications Team have done this through press releases, news items, social media updates etc. We enjoyed incredible support from the following media houses in Ghana;



Starrfm  
(starrfmonline.com)



Asaase Radio  
(asaaseonline.com)



Peace Fm  
(Peacefmonline.com)



Dailymail Gh



Ghananews Online

Ghananews TV

Going forward, we have an agreement in principle with journalists in the following media houses to provide coverage for AASU;



Ghanaweb.com



Myjoyonline.com



CITI NEWSROOM  
Citinewsroom.com

Classfmonline.com

Additionally, New Media spaces including; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp also saw significant increase in patronage. We have a plan to intensify efforts through these new platforms in 2021. We recognize the growing audience share in New Media especially among students and young people in Africa. 2021 will see improved visibility and engagement on these platforms.

## Press Statements

Press statements are internally generated communications on relevant subjects either of interest to AASU, general public or both. Generally, these communications are timely positions of AASU on relevant national and international events. These releases helped capture the views of the All-Africa Students Union on such important matters like the #EndSars Campaign in Nigeria and several others alike; from demanding good governance on the continent, commiserating with victims of tragedy as well as celebrating international days.

## News Items

In 2020, we leveraged on our human resource capabilities to develop ready-to-go news items for our media partners. As part of media strategies, AASU has engaged the services of media practitioners in different capacities. Our relationship with media partners has thus changed positively. Our team of journalists prepare news stories of high editorial standards culled from AASU policy documents and speeches of the Secretary General for onward publication. In 2021, we intend to continue with this practice.

## International Media

The Media and Communications Team has resolved to extend the gains made in 2020 to the larger continent. We recognize that the All-Africa Students Union has presence in 54 African Countries and therefore ought to duly reach members through their respective local media. We recognize again that although we successfully provided multilingual content for the sake of inclusiveness to members, we did not apply ourselves enough in respect of foreign media.

In 2021 we intend to leverage on the gains so far with the support of translators reach out to as many foreign media houses as possible to publish content from AASU.

We encourage you to connect with us via;

**Email:** [info@asuonline.org](mailto:info@asuonline.org) &  
[secgen@asuonline.org](mailto:secgen@asuonline.org)

**Facebook:** All-Africa Students Union

**Twitter:** @aasu\_72

**Instagram:** @aasu\_72

**YouTube:** All-Africa Students Union

# MEMBERSHIP



# Membership List

## (Full & Associate Members)

Algeria	Union Nationale Des Etudiant(E)S Alegria (NES)	Full Member
Angola	Union Nationale des etudiants d'Angola	Full Member
Angola	Student Association of Universidade Agostinho Neto (UAN)	Associate Member
Botswana	Botswana United Students Association (BUSA)	Full Member
Benin	Nationale des Étudiants du Benin (UNEB)	Full Member
Burkina Faso	Federation Estudiantine et Scolaire du Burkina Faso (FES/BF)	Full Member
Burundi	Burundi National Students Union (BNSU)	Full Member
Cameroon	Association Des Etudiants De L'universite De Yaounde	Full Member
Cameroon	SOS Éducation Promote Cameroon	Associate Member
Cameroon	International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC)	Associate Member
Cape Verde	National Federation of Students and University Sports	Full Member
Central African Republic	Association Nationale Des Etudiants De Centrafrique	Full Member
Chad	Union National Des Etudiants Tchadiens (UNET)	Full Member
Comoros	Union Nationale De Jeunesse Et Des Etudiants Des Comoros	Full Member
Democratic Rep. of Congo Representation	Des Etudiants Du Congo R.E.C./RDC	Full Member
Republic of Congo	Union Nationale Des Etudiants Du Congo	Full Member
Cote D'ivoire	Federation Des Etudiants Du Cote D'ivoire	Full Member
Djibouti	N/A	Associate Member
Egypt	Students Representative Council of Cairo University	Full Member
Egypt	Students Representative Council of Alexandria University	Associate Member
Equatorial Guinea	N/A	Associate Member
Eritrea	National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students	Full Member
Ethiopia	Ethiopia Higher Education Institutions Students Union	Full Member
Gabon	National Gabonese Union for Students (UNEG)	Full Member
Gambia	National Union of Gambian Students (NUGS)	Full Member
Ghana	National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS)	Full Member
Ghana	Graduate Students Association of Ghana (GRASAG)	Associate Member
Ghana	Ghana Union of Professional Students (GUPS)	Associate Member
Ghana	University Students Association of Ghana (USAG)	Associate Member



Ghana	Ghana National Union of Technical Students (GNUTS)	<i>Associate Member</i>
Equatorial Guinea	La Universidad Nacional De Guinea Equatorial	<i>Full Member</i>
Guinea Bissau	Plataforma Nacional das Associações Acadêmicas do Ensino Médio e Superior da Guiné Bissau (PNAAEMS-GB)	<i>Associate Member</i>
Guinea	Sociology Department, Universite General Lansana Conte De Sonfonia, Conakry	<i>Associate Member</i>
Kenya	Kenya University Students Organisation (KUSO)	<i>Full Member</i>
Kenya	Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU)	<i>Associate Member</i>
Lesotho	United Lesotho Students Association (ULSA)	<i>Full Member</i>
Liberia	Liberia National Student Union (LINSU)	<i>Full Member</i>
Libya	General Union of Libya Students (GULS)	<i>Full Member</i>
Madagascar	Comite Democratic Des Jeunes Et Des Etudiants De Madagascar	<i>Full Member</i>
Malawi	University of Malawi Students Union (UMSU)	<i>Full Member</i>
Mali	Association Des Élèves Et Étudiants Du Mali (AEEM)	<i>Full Member</i>
Mauritania	Union Nationale des Etudiant des Etudiants Mauritanien	<i>Full Member</i>
Mauritania	Students' Representative Council, Université De Nouakchott	<i>Associate Member</i>
Mauritius	Council of Students and Youth Movement Of Mauritius	<i>Full Member</i>
Morocco	Union Generale Des Etudiants Du Maroc	<i>Full Member</i>
Mozambique	All Mozambican Students Union (UNE)	<i>Full Member</i>
Namibia	Namibian National Students' Organisation (NANSO)	<i>Full Member</i>
Niger	Union Des Scolaires Niger	<i>Full Member</i>
Niger	Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Université Abdou Moumouni	<i>Associate Member</i>
Nigeria	National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS)	<i>Full Member</i>
Nigeria	National Association of Nigerian Postgraduate Students	<i>Associate Member</i>
Rwanda	Rwanda National Students' Association/INTAGAMBURUZA National Coordination (INC)	<i>Full Member</i>
São Tomé & Príncipe	Federação Nacional das Associações Acadêmicas da Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe	<i>Full Member</i>
São Tomé	Universidade Lusitana De São Tome E Principe	<i>Associate Member</i>
Senegal	Students' Representative Council, Cheikh Anta Diop University	<i>Associate Member</i>
Seychelles	Students' Representative Council, University of Seychelles	<i>Associate Member</i>
Sierra Leone	National Union of Sierra Leone Students (NUSS)	<i>Full Member</i>
Somalia	Somalia Higher Education Students Union	<i>Full Member</i>
South Africa	South African Students Congress (SASCO)	<i>Full Member</i>
South Africa	Union of Students (SAUS)	<i>Associate Member</i>

South Sudan	South Sudanese Students Union	<i>Full Member</i>
South Sudan	National Youth Union	<i>Associate Member</i>
Sudan	General Sudanese Students Union (GSSU)	<i>Full Member</i>
Swaziland	Swaziland National Union of Students	<i>Full Member</i>
Tanzania	Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organisation	<i>Full Member</i>
Togo	Union Nationale Des Etudiants Du Togo (UNETO)	<i>Full Member</i>
Tunisia	Union Generale Des Étudiantes De Tunisia	<i>Full Member</i>
Uganda	Uganda National Students Association (UNSA)	<i>Full Member</i>
Zambia	Zambia National Students Union (ZANASU)	<i>Full Member</i>
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU)	<i>Full Member</i>
Zimbabwe	Congress of Student's Union (ZICOSU)	<i>Associate Member</i>

