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IECD
Institute of Early Childhood
Development (Seychelles)

Regional Workshop
on Progress and Way Forward for Africa on Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for countries of the Southern African and Eastern African Community

Date: Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th June

Venue: SAVOY Resort & SPA and Seychelles Trading Company, Conference Room, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Main Organizer:

**The Seychelles Institute of Early Childhood Development, Category 2
Institute under the Auspices of UNESCO**

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Partners:

UNESCO Secretariat, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, and African Union

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), a Category 2 Institute for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) under the Auspices of UNESCO, recognizes the crucial role of ECCE in shaping the future of the world. The 'Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming ECCE' provides the blueprint for a comprehensive framework for advancing ECCE, ensuring equitable access, and fostering the holistic development of young children in alignment with the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the Tashkent+1: Celebrating Progress and Reaffirming Commitments to ECCE, an event organized by UNESCO in November 2023, which marked the 1-year celebration after Tashkent, the need for reaffirmed actions to ensure progress towards achieving the commitments towards attaining SDG 4.2 was made clear as the realization of these goals remains a global challenge. The challenge for the African region is even greater, as it lags behind due to factors such as the limited access to education, socioeconomic challenges and inadequate investments to name but a few.

To support the realization of this objective, especially against the aforementioned challenges, the Institute (IECD), as a designated UNESCO Category 2 Institute for ECCE is organizing a three-day workshop for both the Southern African Development Community and the Eastern African Community. The workshop aims to review progress and chart future strategies for fulfilling these commitments with a focus on knowledge management, capacity building, and monitoring and impact evaluation.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Regional Workshop is to evaluate the implementation status of the 'Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action' across participating countries. It also aims at providing opportunities for increased collaboration and knowledge sharing of success stories, best practices, and challenges faced during the execution of ECCE initiatives. It will provide a platform for exploring strategies and collaborative initiatives to propel the region forward in achieving its ECCE goals with the support of IECD as a Category 2 Institute for ECCE.

Expected Outcomes

1. A comprehensive understanding of the progress and challenges in implementing the 'Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action' within participating countries.
2. Identification of critical areas for technical assistance and support to advance ECCE initiatives.
3. Develop regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing mechanisms for effective ECCE implementation.

Participants

Senior Government Officials and ECCE experts from the 22 participating countries involved in strategic planning and implementation of ECCE provisions, programmes and services.

(The countries are: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda)

Funding

The Institute is adopting a cost sharing approach for the smooth delivery of the three-day workshop. Therefore, countries/organisations will be responsible for covering the expenses related to the flight and accommodation of the participants. IECD will undertake the costs associated with local transportation and meals throughout the duration of the entire workshop.

Methodology

The workshop will employ a combination of plenary sessions, panel discussions, working groups, and interactive sessions to facilitate comprehensive discussions, sharing of experiences and knowledge exchange.

Countries will be required to make a 6-minutes presentation (PowerPoint or Video) on the successes and challenges in ECCE and in the implementation of the Tashkent Declaration in their respective countries. A generic guide and template will be provided.

Logistics

Detailed logistical arrangements including local transportation will be coordinated by the Institute of Early Childhood Development/UNESCO Category 2 Institute.

Conclusion

The Regional Workshop, for the Southern African Development Community and the Eastern African Community on the Progress and Way Forward on Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action, aims to create a collaborative platform to propel the communities towards achieving its ECCE goals through technical assistance and support of IECD as a UNESCO Category 2 Institute for ECCE. By fostering dialogue, sharing experiences, and strategizing collectively, the workshop endeavors to contribute significantly to the development and further enhancement of early childhood care and education in these countries and on the African continent.