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Glossary

CSO- Civil Society Organisations
GAA- Girls Advocacy Alliance
AU- Africa Union
EE - Economic Empowerment
GBV- Gender based Violence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background &amp; Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of the content</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance to EE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance to GBV Prevention</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation &amp; Reporting</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avenues for amendments &amp; Revisions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaps/Recommendations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAWE is a pan-African non-government organisation founded in 1992 by five women ministers of education to empower girls and women through gender-responsive education in sub-Saharan Africa. The organisation’s members include female ministers of education, university vice-chancellors, education policy-makers, researchers, gender specialists and human rights activists. FAWE Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya is a network of 34 National Chapters in 33 countries.

FAWE’s vision is a world in which all African girls have access to education, perform well and complete their studies and gender disparities in education are eliminated. FAWE’s mission is to promote gender equity and equality in education in Africa by fostering positive policies, practices and attitudes towards girls’ education.

FAWE works hand in hand with communities, schools, NGOs, Ministries of Education to ensure that African girls receive equal education and life chances so that they grow into women who have the knowledge, skills and opportunity to contribute to the economic, social and democratic development of their societies.

FAWE believes education is a human right and that all citizens, including women and girls must enjoy that right. Educating girls and women reduces fertility rates, child and infant mortality rates, improves nutrition and health, protects girls and women from abuse, exploitation and HIV/AIDS, increases economic productivity and growth and improves governance and democratic processes.

**PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT**

FAWE acts as a watchdog on the implementation of national and continental education policies and strategies to ensure that they do not discriminate against girls and women. In 2017, FAWE conducted an assessment on existing key policies, laws, protocols and treaties that denounce Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promote Economic Empowerment among girls, women and the youth at the regional (AU) and sub-regional (EAC and ECOWAS) level.

In line with its objectives; FAWE is implementing a Girls advocacy Alliance Programme in partnership Plan international African Union Liaison Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to specifically enhance the capacity of selected regional and sub-regional CSOs network/alliance to influence regional policy-making and monitoring bodies on Gender-based Violence and Economic Empowerment of the youth at the East African Community (EAC) and the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) regional blocks. The goal of the Programme is;

“Girls and Young women in Africa, and their civil-society organisations use regional monitoring accountability mechanism to hold their governments to the fulfillment of their protection and rights.”

The information in this document is packaged for selected CSOs under the Girls Advocacy Alliance Programme to enable them play a critical role in pushing African governments to commit and report on these regional instruments.

This summarized version of the Protocol on training and Education is therefore developed to:

- Enable selected CSOs better understand the existing AU, ECOWAS, EAC protocols and policies especially the clauses that relate to issues of Gender Based Violence and Economic Empowerment of girls and young women.
- Serve as reference points for selected youth led CSOs to engage, lobby and hold their governments accountable to fulfil their protection and rights at national, sub regional and regional level.

This document can however be used by any other organization advocating for ratification of policies. It should be noted that the original version of the ECOWAS Protocol on training and Education was the main reference document for this work.
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Protocol on Education was adopted in 2003 within the framework of the Decade of Education adopted by the Africa Union in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) initiatives; Education for All as well as Millennium Development Goals. This was an outcome of First conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Education which was held in Dakar Senegal on 24-26 September, 2002.

The conference laid a solid foundation for education in the region by adopting the following:

i. The ECOWAS Protocol on Education and Training;
ii. The ECOWAS Convention on Equivalence of Certificates; and
iii. 5 regional priorities in Education (HIV/AIDS preventive Education, Girls Education, Teacher training, Science and Technology, and Technical and Vocational Educational and Training (TVET)
iv. Regular consultation by experts in the identified priority areas
vii. Constitution of a regional task force on education
vii. Constitution of an ECOWAS Task Force on e-learning to implement the ECOWAS e-learning

The protocol has taken effect with various Expert and Ministerial committee meetings having taken place within the ECOWAS Frameworks such as the vision 2020.
The ECOWAS Protocol on Education and Training recognizes education and training as an indispensable part of the mechanism for the realisation of the objectives of the Community. It considers education as a major contributor to the EE of girls and young women. The Protocol in its Preamble expresses the need to educate and train girls on factors of sustainable development. It also provides for the elimination of all kinds of obstacles or discriminatory measures to access to education by young women with an end goal of their sustainable development.

Priorities

The priority programmes identified for the implementation in the protocol action plan include:-

- HIV/AIDS preventive education,
- Girls education,
- Teacher training through distance learning, promotion of science and technology,
- Technical and Vocational Educational and Training,

The objectives of the protocol being to:

i. Provide all Community citizens greater access to quality education and training opportunities available in the region;
ii. Harmonize criteria for admission into institutions of higher learning, research institutions, and vocational training centres;
iii. Harmonize certificates; and progressively harmonize the educational and training systems in the Member States
ARTICLE 2 Principles
Member States among the protocols principles agreed to;

n. Elimination of all discriminatory measures against women in order to ensure equity in all areas of education at all levels.

ARTICLE 4 Cooperation in Education and Training policies
In this article, Member States acknowledge that despite the existence of National Education and Training policies, regional cooperation and mutual assistance in this area can be enhanced and extended to include other sectors by the implementation of coherent, comparable, harmonised and standardised policies within the following areas:

1) accessibility of education and training for all with special emphasis on gender equity through scholarship/bursaries for the girl child from disadvantaged communities;

CSO can track what efforts have been put in place in this regard

ARTICLE 13 Composition and Functions of the Technical Committees

a) The technical committee on basic education, which shall comprise one representative per Member State from at least one of the following categories:

3. Non-Governmental Organisations with a key stake in basic education;

There are 7 technical committees, the relevant committee is the Technical Committee on Basic Education.

This is an avenue for CSOs to participate and ensure relevant Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and Economic Empowerment (EE) promotion issues are adequately addressed.
**IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING**

An action plan was annexed to the protocol. The implementing organs include the:

- **Ministerial Committee**;
- **Experts’ Committee** and the
- **Decade of Education in West Africa (DEWA) Secretariat** for all activities relating to education and training;

a) The Coordinating Unit shall comprise the following Technical Committees, which shall report to the Experts committee:

i. The Technical Committee on Basic Education (basic, secondary and non-formal);
ii. the Technical Committee on Intermediate education and teacher training;
iii. the Technical Committee on Intermediate education and technical training;
iv. the Technical Committee on Higher Education, Training, Research and Development;
v. the Technical Committee on Continuing Education and Training;
vii. the Technical Committee on the administration of the educational fund;
viii. the Technical Committee on the equivalence of certificates and other qualifications;
ix) the Technical Committee on distance education.

The coordinating unit may create more technical committees as the need arises.

The relevant committee to GBV prevention and promotion of Economic Empowerment is the Technical Committee on Basic Education (basic, secondary and non-formal); and the Technical Committee on Intermediate Education and Technical Training for those who do not proceed to higher education levels.

Advocacy identified by CSOs can be channeled through the coordinating unit to the relevant technical committees and the experts committee, as the technical committees report to the experts committee.

**AVENUES FOR AMENDMENTS AND REVISION**

This is provided for in Article 18 of the Protocol which states that:

1. Any Member State may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of this Protocol.
2. Any such proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Secretariat, which shall communicate them to other Member States not later than thirty days after receipt of such proposals. Amendments and revision shall be considered by the Authority of Heads of State and Government after the interested parties have given one months’ notice thereof.
3. Amendments and revisions shall be adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

**GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Alignment to the Continental strategy of Education 16-25 is required.

**MEETINGS**

CSO’s could attend some key Education meetings such as Education forums and Education conferences by Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

**COUNTRIES RATIFIED** 5

**ALL GAA COUNTRIES SIGNED**

All GAA countries have adopted it.