



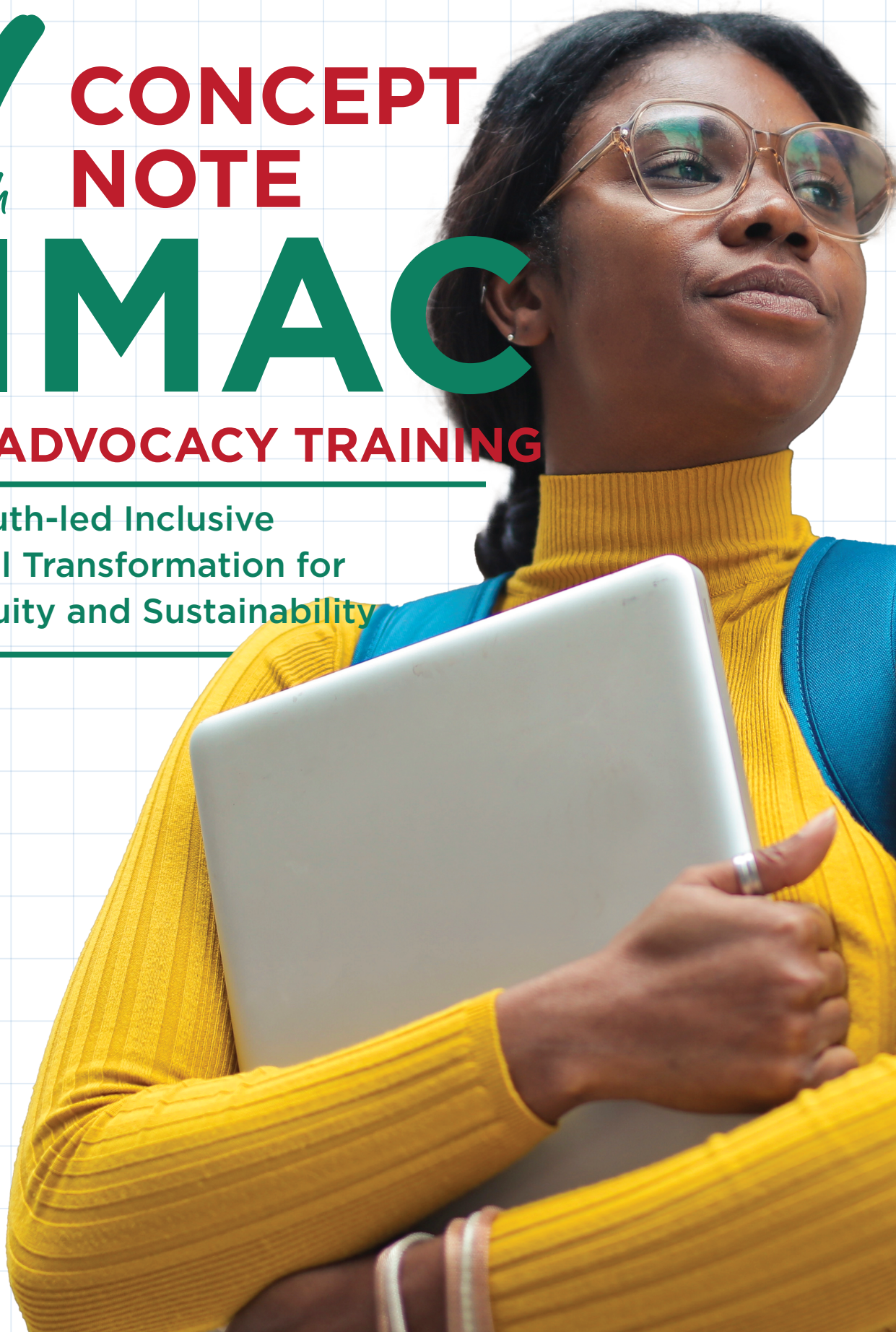
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11th CONCEPT NOTE GIMAC

YOUTH ADVOCACY TRAINING

Theme: Youth-led Inclusive
Educational Transformation for
Gender Equity and Sustainability





@GimacNetwork

Email: *info@genderismyagenda.org*



Empowering the youth, particularly young women, through education is pivotal for Africa's sustainable development and active global participation.

Background

Education holds immense significance for personal growth, societal progress, and economic advancement, particularly for young people in Africa. Access to quality education empowers individuals, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and knowledge acquisition, unlocking a multitude of opportunities.

In Africa, education plays a crucial role in shaping the future of its youth. With over 50% of the population under the age of 25, education is essential to harness this demographic dividend. Despite progress, challenges persist, with sub-Saharan Africa having the highest rates of out-of-school children. Young women face particular barriers, often dropping out of school due to cultural norms and lack of access. Recognizing the transformative power of education, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prioritize education as a cornerstone for sustainable development.

Bridging the gap in education requires substantial investments. Sub-Saharan Africa allocates about 4.7% of its GDP to education, with variations across countries. Partnerships, innovative teaching methodologies, digitalization, and infrastructure investments are crucial to enhance educational outcomes. Initiatives like The African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa

(CESA 16-25) focus on innovation, teacher training, and curriculum development. A new wave of empowerment is sweeping across Africa, driven by a bottom-up approach that recognizes the transformative power of education and finance. Initiatives such as The African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) and the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps Program provide opportunities for girls and women to gain skills and contribute to their communities.

The African Union Women and Youth Economic Empowerment and Financial Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 initiative aims to unlock USD20 billion to empower women and youth economically, recognizing the nexus between finance, education, and inclusive development. By investing in women's economic empowerment, we create a ripple effect that positively impacts education and society as a whole..

Education, as a cornerstone for development, demands holistic approaches, policy reforms, and financial commitments. It's not just about increasing enrollment numbers but about ensuring the quality and relevance of education, equipping the youth with skills aligned with the demands of a rapidly evolving global landscape. Empowering the youth, particularly young women, through education is pivotal for Africa's sustainable development and active global participation.

About GIMAC Young Women's Network

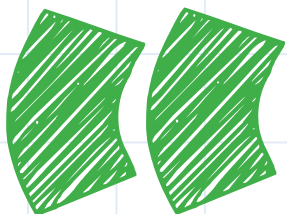
GIMAC Young Women Network (GYWN) empowers young Africans (under 35) to advocate for gender equality. Founded in 2018, it unites passionate women and allies across Africa to amplify the voices of vulnerable young women and push for their rights in six key areas: Governance; Peace & Security; Human Rights; Health; Education; Economic Empowerment as well as other emerging issues such as Climate Change. As a member-driven network, GYWN leverages its members' skills and passion to drive change. Led by a Chairperson and regional representatives, GYWN amplifies young women's voices and works towards a more equitable Africa.

Justification

Despite significant progress, gender equality in education remains a challenge in Africa. Girls are less likely to enroll, complete, and excel in school, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels. They are also underrepresented in STEM fields, which are crucial for the future. COVID-19 pandemic has amplified these disparities. School closures and disruptions to learning have disproportionately affected girls. They are more vulnerable to gender-based violence, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and other harmful practices that can limit their educational opportunities and outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges to gender equality in education. According to the AU Continental Result Framework: Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa (2018-2028), girls have been disproportionately affected by school closures and disruptions to learning. They are also more vulnerable to gender-based violence, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and other harmful practices that can limit their educational opportunities and outcomes.

The GIMAC Network's theme of "Educational Transformation for Gender Equity and Sustainability" is a timely response to these challenges. It aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the broader global education agenda. The focus is on transforming education



Prioritizing educational transformation, especially for young women, contributes to the goals of achieving gender equality and ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all.

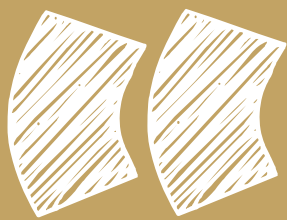


to break down barriers that hinder young women's access to quality education.

Addressing these issues is in line with the broader objectives of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. Prioritizing educational transformation, especially for young women, contributes to the goals of achieving gender equality and ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all. Gender responsiveness in education transformation is essential to address the underlying drivers of gender disparity and break down traditional gender stereotypes that perpetuate inequality within educational settings in Africa.

In today's interconnected world, digital education is of paramount importance. It provides access to a wealth of knowledge, resources, and opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. Inclusivity in digital education ensures that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the chance to benefit from these resources.

Investing in the education of young women not only empowers individuals but also leads to a multiplier effect, positively influencing families, communities, and the overall development trajectory of nations. This investment is a critical step towards a more equitable and sustainable future.



Digital education is of paramount importance in today's interconnected world.

Ensures that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the chance to benefit from these resources. The network's emphasis on sustainability also underscores the long-term impact of education on societies and economies. Investing in the education of young women not only empowers individuals but also leads to a multiplier effect, positively influencing families, communities, and the overall development trajectory of nations.

Objectives of the 11th GIMAC Youth Training

The 11th GIMAC Youth Advocacy training aims to;

1. Cultivate a dynamic platform where young Africans can confidently express their views on education and amplify their voices to influence AU, UN, CSOs, and partner organizations for meaningful collaboration.
2. Strengthen the knowledge, skills, and agency of young people to effectively advocate, monitor, and evaluate progress towards education transformation in Africa.
3. Establish a collaborative learning hub for young Africans to engage in constructive dialogue, exchange best practices, and develop actionable steps for active participation in education advocacy and innovation.

4. Expected Outcomes

- I. The training will formulate crucial recommendations for advocacy at the AU Summit. These recommendations will also guide the GIMAC Network in developing its roadmap and strategies. The focus will be on specific action points that enhance coordination and implementation of AU Declarations at both RECs and national levels.
- II. The training will foster the growth of an online community where young Africans can freely articulate their educational perspectives and amplify their voices, shaping education's future through impactful collaborations with AU, UN, CSOs, and partner organizations.
- III. The training will transform young Africans into agents of change, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and agency to become powerful advocates for education transformation and actively monitor and evaluate progress, holding stakeholders accountable to ensure effective implementation of strategies and commitments.
- IV. The GIMAC Network platform nurtures a culture of ongoing learning that propels positive transformation including constructive dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action where young people co-create actionable roadmaps for education advocacy and innovation to foster a culture of continuous learning that drives positive change

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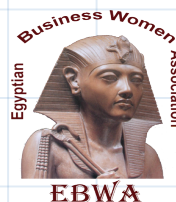


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