



United Nations
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Organisation
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

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« Pedagogical Use of the *General History of Africa* »

Expert Meeting

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16 and 17 March 2009

General Recommendations

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1. A Political Project

* Clearly state that the political ambition of this project is to accompany the process of regional integration and African unity.

* It is this objective that should determine the pedagogical contents and the action to be undertaken.

* These common contents must be placed within the framework of a general policy to reconstruct education systems and to harmonize curricula in other subjects, giving priority to African mother tongues and basics of African cultures and history.

* To that end, the Scientific Committee should prepare a reference framework and a concept note in order to explicitly state this political ambition with a view to enable its adoption by the Heads of State and Ministers of Education.

* Towards this objective, a guide enabling the States to integrate these contents into school programmes has to be elaborated.

2. Common Pedagogical Contents for all African Union Members States

* Elaborate integrating content for each level of education, to be used as a common pillar by all the countries of the African Union.

* In addition to the 3 proposed contents, envisage the elaboration of one content for pre-school and one for the Higher Education.

* These contents should promote federating themes on identity and pan African citizenship.

* For this purpose, themes and the principles which guided the drafting of the General History of Africa should be followed:

- Importance of Oral and written African sources
- Sense of African continuity and concern of continental coverage
- Importance given to Africa and its contribution to the progress of Humanity
- African resistance and struggles against oppressive systems (the slave trade, colonization etc)
- Restitution of African chronology and concepts/paradigms adapted to the African situation
- Inclusion of the History, culture and contributions of the African Diaspora considered as the 6th region of Africa

* Better Inclusion of the History of Indian Ocean Islands

3. Importance of Informal and Non Formal Education

In order to accompany the project must develop materials and tools based on the GHA adapted to these two fields, using audiovisual and multimedia resources in order to better prepare mentalities

4. Benefit from other experiences

We must take into account the national experiences (South Africa, Botswana, Zambia etc) sub-regional experiences (such as that of the SADC and of Maghreb countries) as well as those of the African Diaspora in other regions of the world.

5. Facilitating link between activities undertaken at different levels

It is useful to organize sub-regional workshops on the use of the General History of Africa, involving members of Scientific Committee from each sub-region in order to:

- Make use of local expertise
- Consider sub-regional specificities

6. Efforts for synergy

For project implementation, build on existing structures, teaching, training and research networks in Africa. (Pedagogical institutes University publishing centers, virtual universities etc.)

7. Publication strategy

There should be a clear African publication strategy in order to mobilize African publishers to accompany this project (republishing the GHA, publication of illustrated books, comics, historical novels etc).

8. Communication strategy

A communication and information strategy should be elaborated for the launching and follow up of this project.

9. Political Lobbying

It is important to launch the necessary political lobbying with the African Union and other African organizations in order to convince decision makers of the necessity of harmonizing and rationalizing history teaching.

10. Taking into account gender, youth and shared values

In the content of material developed, due importance must be given to the question of gender, youth and the common shared values.

11. Enhancing acces, dissemination and use of GHA in Higher Education

* Use resources of traditional media (radio, Television)

* Use possibilities offered by Information technology (interactive websites, video games, games, restitution in 3D, DVD, virtual campus etc...)

12. Elaborate a « Reader Digest » version

Elaborate a vulgarization publication in order to draw the attention of teachers and students on the wealth of the GHA volumes

13 Thematic and modular approaches

Update the GHA by adopting thematic (introduction of new themes: history of cities, women, migrations and conflicts etc...) and modular approaches

14. Draft a Concluding volume

A concluding volume needs to be drafted taking into consideration recent developments since the publication of the last volume and the challenges of regional integration. This project could be entrusted to the African Union.