

**NEPAD e-SCHOOLS INITIATIVE
CONCEPT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT**



**AS AGREED TO BY PARTICIPANTS AT THE
WORKSHOP OF THE NEPAD e-SCHOOLS
PHASE ONE COUNTRIES
13-15 MAY 2004
JOHANNESBURG**

The 16 NEPAD e-SCHOOLS PHASE ONE COUNTRIES: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo (Republic of), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The NEPAD e-School Initiative is guided by and contributes to the fulfilment of NEPAD principles. The NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is also compliant with the Millennium Development Goals.

The main facets of the Initiative are the following:

- multi-country initiative
- multi-stakeholder partnership initiative
- continental initiative
- educational initiative
- Information Society initiative
- health initiative

2. NEPAD e-SCHOOL INITIATIVE: A PRIORITY

More than 60% of Africa's population is made up of young people below the age of 25 years. These young people are likely to be the ones who are most affected by the digital and knowledge divide. They also form the basis upon which the future economic activity of Africa will be built. Implementation of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative will, therefore, ensure that the majority of the people on the continent will have the skills and knowledge required to function and participate as equals in the Information Society and Knowledge Economy.

The NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is a priority NEPAD ICT Initiative.

3. FEATURES OF NEPAD e-SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

The following form the main features of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative:

- 3.1 **Voluntary participation by countries:** Participation in the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is voluntary for countries.
- 3.2 **Commitment to successful implementation:** Interested participant countries must commit to certain responsibilities in supporting the successful implementation of the initiative.
- 3.3 **Harnessing multi-country economies of scale:** The initiative will make use of economies of scale by facilitating bulk multi-country purchasing of equipment and services.
- 3.4 **Coordinated teacher training:** A coordinated teacher training programme will facilitate the training of several thousands of teachers in many countries in a short space of time.

- 3.5 **Coordinated ICT curriculum and content development** The initiative will coordinate the ICT curriculum and content development across the continent.
- 3.6 **Optimising e-Learning techniques** e-Learning techniques will optimise the use of limited teaching resources in subjects such as mathematics and sciences.
- 3.7 **Benefiting from long term planning and commitment:** The stable long-term commitment by countries will create an attractive opportunity for private sector partners to provide products and services at affordable prices.
- 3.8 **Reducing the cost to communicate:** Bulk purchasing of satellite capacity will bring significant reduction in cost of communication and access to the Internet.
- 3.9 **Planned and sustainable maintenance and replacement:** The initiative will involve long-term planning by countries for maintenance and replacement policies, and will be coordinated continentally whilst being implemented nationally.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE NEPAD e-SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

The objectives of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative are:

- 4.1 To provide ICT skills and knowledge to primary and secondary school students that will enable them to function in the emerging Information Society and Knowledge Economy.
- 4.2 To make every learner health literate.
- 4.3 To provide teachers with ICT skills to enable them to use ICT as tools to enhance teaching and learning.
- 4.4 To provide school managers with ICT skills so as to facilitate the efficient management and administration in the schools.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

In order to attain these objectives the following shall be the priority actions in the first phase of implementation of the Initiative.

- a) Computerisation of the schools, including its administration and management
- b) Connectivity
- c) Curriculum and content development
- d) Training of trainers
- e) Establishment of a health point.

5. ATTRIBUTES OF A NEPAD e-SCHOOL

A NEPAD e-School will have the following as its main attributes:

- 5.1 It has appropriate ICT equipment and infrastructure
- 5.2 It is connected to the Internet.
- 5.3 It has teachers trained to impart ICTs skills to students according to agreed curriculum and content.
- 5.4 It has teachers trained to use ICTs for teaching and learning
- 5.5 It has access and contributes to appropriate teaching and learning materials.
- 5.6 It has ICTs as tools to enhance the administration and management of the school.
- 5.7 It is equipped with a “health point.”

Special attention will be given to the provision of electricity including alternative sources such as solar power where necessary. Adequate physical infrastructure will also be provided to ensure safety and security of equipment in the schools.

6. AGREEMENT

The Workshop participants agreed to the NEPAD e-Schools Concept Framework as described in this document based on the discussion document and comments of the delegates.

NOTE: This agreement is subject to the availability of the French version of the document.
