



Russia and Africa: Scientific and educational cooperation

– Program
– Resolution

Moscow
10th December 2014

PROGRAM
of the round-table discussion
**"Russia and Africa:
Scientific and educational cooperation"**

Date and time: December 10, 2014, 15:00-17:00

Place: Moscow, Uspensky Per. 7, Embassy of the Republic of Benin
in the Russian Federation

Issues for discussion:

- uniform international standards of education;
- problems of employment of foreign students and university graduates;
- recognition of qualification of graduates;
- communication between authorities, business and universities.

Moderators:

Aniset Gabriel Kotchofa - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Benin in the Russian Federation
Mikhail Vasilyevich Fyodorov - President of the University League of the Collective Security Treaty, Rector of the Ural State Economic University

Eloi A. Maxime Dovo - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar in the Russian Federation

Anthony Nikolaevich Shvindt - Head of Analysis and Monitoring Department of the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science of the Council of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation

Experts (the list is being specified):

Joaquim Augusto de Lemos - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Angola in the Russian Federation

Smail Allaoua - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic in the Russian Federation
Antoine Somdah - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burkina Faso in the Russian Federation
Else Nizigama Ntamgiro - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Burundi in the Russian Federation
Mahamat Paba Sale - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cameroon in the Russian Federation
Youssef Abassalah - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chad in the Russian Federation
Pithou Mopiti Kakose - Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Russian Federation
Aimé Clovis Guillond - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Congo in the Russian Federation
Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Côte d'Ivoire in the Russian Federation
Mohamed Ali Kami - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Djibouti in the Russian Federation
Mohamed Elbadri - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Russian Federation
Teclay Minassie Asgedom - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Eritrea in the Russian Federation
Filiberto Ntutumu Ngema - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Equatorial Guinea in the Russian Federation
Kasahun Dender Melese - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ethiopia in the Russian Federation
René Makong - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Gabon in the Russian Federation
Mohamed Keita - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea in the Russian Federation
Seco Intchasso - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in the Russian Federation

Paul Kibiwott Kurgat - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kenya in the Russian Federation
Brahima Coulibaly - Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Mali in the Russian Federation
Sidi Mohamed Ould Taleb Amar - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mauritania in the Russian Federation
Abdelkader Lecheheb - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Russian Federation
Mario Saraiva Ngwenya - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mozambique in the Russian Federation
Ndali-Ché Kamati - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Namibia in the Russian Federation
Gafai Ibrahim Usman - Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Nigeria in the Russian Federation
Mamadou Saliou Diouf - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Senegal in the Russian Federation
Yambaasu Jhon - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sierra Leone in the Russian Federation
Mohamed Mohamoud Handule - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Somali Republic in the Russian Federation
Mandisi Bongani Mabuto Mpahlwa - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa in the Russian Federation
Omar Dahab Fadi Mohamed - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Sudan in the Russian Federation
Wynjone's Mathew Kisamba - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Republic of Tanzania in the Russian Federation
Ali Goutali - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tunisia in the Russian Federation

Moses Ebuk - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uganda in the Russian Federation

Solomon Jason Mbuzi - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zambia in the Russian Federation

Boniface G. Chidyausiku - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe in the Russian Federation

Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Rwanda in the Russian Federation

Boris Valeryevich Zhelezov - Deputy Director of the International Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation

Valery Ivanovich Utkin - Director of the Department of Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Mikhaylovich Filippov - Rector of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

Anna Rostislavovna Rusyaeva - Head of Department of Youth Policy and Relations with Foreign Students, of the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (further - Rossotrudnichestvo)

Leonid Vadimovich Drachevsky - Executive Director of the Public Diplomacy Support Fund named after A.M. Gorchakov

Victoria Viktorovna Pechkovskaya - Head of the Higher Education Department of Oleg Deripaska's Fund "Free Business", Cand.Econ.Sci. Associate Professor of the Russian University of Economics named after G.V. Plekhanov

Herman Sergeyevich Dyakonov - Rector of the Kazan National Research Technological University

Vasily Ivanovich Nechayev - Rector of the Russian State University of Agriculture

Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Prikhodko - Rector of the Moscow Technical State University of Road Transport

Nikolay Dmitriyevich Rogalev - Rector of the National Research University "Moscow Power Institute"

Olga Vasilievna Pilipenko - Rector of the State University of the science and industry production complex

Artem Sergeyevich Adzhemov - Rector of the Moscow Technical University of Communication and Informatics

Valery Andreevich Eviev – Vice-rector for the strategic development of the Kalmyk State University

Vladimir Nikolaevich Egorov - Rector of the Ivanov State University

Vladimir Dmitriyevich Nechayev, Rector of the Moscow State University of Humanities named after M. A. Sholokhov

Boris Andreevich Zhigalev - Rector of the Nizhny Novgorod State Linguistic University

Vladimir Vasilyevich Novoselov - Rector of Tyumen State Oil and Gas University

Vladimir Petrovich Buyanov - Chairman of the Union of Russia-Vietnam friendship, Rector of the Moscow Academy of Economics and Law

Georgy Aleksandrovich Gabrielyan - head of the International Educational Cooperation Department of the Russian New University

Jury Aleksandrovich Mazey - Vice-rector for international affairs of the Penza State University

Yury Vasilyevich Poltavets - Director of the Institute of International Education of the Tula State University

Natalya Yurevna Vlasov -, Vice-rector for International Relations of the Ural State University of Economics

Elena Sergeyevna Godovykh - Vice-rector for Youth Programs of the Ural State University of Economics

Ruslan Valeryevich Lesovik - Vice-rector for International Relations of the Belgorod State Technological University named after V. G. Shukhov

Nikolay Mikhaylovich Hurchak - Vice-rector for International Relations of the Astrakhan State University

Alexander Vladimirovich Deyev - Head of International Relations
Department of the South Ural State University
Victor Alekseevich Blagodatskikh - Head of Relations with Foreign
Students Department of the Moscow State University of Economics,
Statistics and Informatics
Yaou Nikez Adu - President of Association of Foreign Students of
Russia
Andrey Veniaminovich Dobrovolsky - CEO of INKORVUZ
Boris Aleksandrovich Samaryanov - CEO of Star Travel
Elena Pavlovna Kantemirova - CEO of INSOTEK
Hermilio Kpedotossi - Chairman of the Association of Foreign
Students of Russia, branch in Belgorod

Project

RESOLUTION

on the round-table discussion,
“Russia and Africa: Scientific and educational cooperation”

December 10, 2014. Moscow

On December 10, 2014 a roundtable discussion "Russia and Africa: Scientific and Educational Cooperation" (further - the Round table) was held. Diplomatic missions of countries of Africa; the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; the Federal Migration Service, the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (further - Rossotrudnichestvo); the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (further - Rosmolodezh); the University League of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (further – University League of the CSTO); the Association of Foreign Students of Russia; leading higher education institutions of the Russian Federation took part in it.

The training of foreign students in high school is one of the main indications of integration of the country into the world community. The world flow of students in 2013 was more than 4.5 million individuals from 131 countries, of which more than 200 thousand are studying in Russia, i.e. 4% of the total number of foreign students. The Russian Federation has a real potential, occupying a worthy place in the world educational community. Its competitive advantages are high quality education and a wide range of educational services available, foreign students partially being able in the simplified order to get a work permit in the Russian Federation since 2014.

One of the main strategic partners of the Russian Federation in education are the countries of Africa. In 2013, Russian high

schools trained 25,000 students from the above countries, which accounted for 15% of the total number of students. Cultural and educational projects such as «The national environment», are developing very fast, with many students taking active part in the activities of the Association of Foreign Students. Along with allocations from the federal budget of the Russian Federation for education of foreigners, students from Africa have an opportunity to get grants from such global companies as "RUSAL", "Ve Holding", etc.

Unfortunately, the African market of educational services, is not a priority for Russian students yet. However, one can observe a positive tendency in the development of joint educational programs.

The teaching of Russian language is one of the most important directions of cooperation, which can be attributed to the development of humanitarian, scientific, technical, and economic relations of the Russian Federation with the countries of Africa.

Despite the established positive dynamics of development of cooperation in education, there are a number of serious problems, such as:

- The lack of thorough preparation of Students from the countries of Africa in core subjects necessary to obtain higher education in Russia
- The share of business in financing education of students is small.
- Students from the countries of Africa are more interested in technical, medical and economic profiles than teacher training, which leads to the shortage of highly qualified academic staff and consequently a discrepancy of the real needs of the countries.
- Difference in international standards of education which can lead to problems with certification of graduation documents

- Problems with employment of foreign students, including university graduates;

- Certification of graduation qualification
- Insufficient integration of educational modules into the process of production and management;

- Uneven distribution of quotas of foreign students among universities (foreign students mostly accumulate in megalopolises whereas regional higher educational institutions lack foreign students);

- Insufficient information in Africa on competitive Russian education and vice versa;

- Grants provided to foreign students do not meet living standards in the Russian Federation. Lack of material support of African students.

The following recommendations were put forward:

• **At the international level:**

- To examine the possibility of creating a Union of the business, humanitarian and cultural cooperation between Russia and the peoples of Africa

- To recommend universities of Russia and Africa to increase the number of courses taught in English, with the Russian language being a compulsory subject.

- To develop the concept of Youth Russian-African International Forums.

- To develop programs of bilateral academic mobility (students, teachers, scientists), thereby providing the «circulation of brainpower», but not leaking of the latter.

- To promote the study of Russian language in the countries of Africa: starting linguistic educational and cultural centers, giving grants and scholarships. To allocate quotas to African students for

training school teachers and teachers of Russian, for example, in the context of the UNESCO program "Education for All".

- To establish and develop contacts between universities of Russia and Africa within the framework of cooperation treaties and to contribute to developing such relations.
- To use the following "national diplomacy" tools: conferences, forums, joint programs.

• **At the national level in Russia:**

To arrange meetings between representatives of diplomatic mission of African countries with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and universities on a regular basis. To work out a concept of a Memorandum of Cooperation in Education between Russia and the countries of Africa based on the present draft resolution. To form a working group for the preparation of meetings and the writing of this Memorandum.

• **At the regional level**

The creation of a comfortable, safe and friendly environment for foreign students' for their education, and living conditions

• **At the institutional level:**

To help foreign students in the process of adaptation to an unfamiliar social environment and get involved in extracurricular activities. Teachers should study the cultures of students' home countries.