



**The Republic of The Gambia**

**National Statement of Commitment for Transforming Education**  
**At the Transforming Education Summit on the Sidelines of the UNGA**  
**2022 in New York**  
**September 2022**

The Gambia recognises and upholds education and skills acquisition as a right for every citizen. This drives the search for effective and efficient approaches to transform education for the attainment of our national and international goals and commitments.

Among these commitments is achieving high levels of learning and skills outcomes, with more than 80 per cent of children achieving the minimum learning competencies and standards set in our National Education Policy.

***Commitment 1: Building a relevant and resilient education system***

Given that more than half the country's population is between the ages of 15 and 64, with 41.5 per cent of them unemployed and facing the challenge of limited access to markets and microfinance services, strategies for solutions to the country's long-term aspirations will be reflected in critical structural reforms, innovative curricula adjustments, and improved training programmes.

The Government of The Gambia will invest in foundational literacy and numeracy, and employ skills development initiatives that enhance independent learning, creativity, interpersonal skills and critical thinking capabilities.

Accordingly, the Government renews its unwavering resolve and commitment to strengthening the education system.

When the pandemic compelled the closure of schools in the country, the Government resorted to delivering limited distance learning sessions on radio, television and online platforms.

Our vision is to adopt Inter-Ministerial and Private-Public Partnership approaches to strengthen face-to-face curriculum delivery, while building and improving upon emerging distance and digital learning techniques and approaches. This requires improving internet access, electricity coverage and preparing school teachers, trainers and facilitators for the task.

***Commitment 2: A well-motivated, skilled and ready education workforce to deliver the transforming education agenda***

The digital learning platforms are insufficient and ill-equipped, and the workforce is not capacitated enough.

Consequently, the desire to guarantee the acquisition of foundational and transferable skills for life-long learning for every child, adolescent and youth is neither matched by the means nor the enabling circumstances.

The Government of The Gambia is renewing its commitment to improving the welfare and professional development of the education workforce.

***Commitment 3: A radical shift towards Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Entrepreneurship Education***

For far too long, the school system in The Gambia has been too overly laden with focus on academic standards and achievement at the expense of TVET, resulting in the perception that careers in TVET are reserved for academic failures.

The Government, through the education sector, will establish more technical senior secondary schools, upgrade subvented tertiary education institutions to degree-awarding institutions and establish tertiary TVET centres in all administrative regions.

The main objective of this transformation process is to build TVET-based foundational skills and promote indigenous content with institutionalised entrepreneurship to address the employability of the youth.

The Gambia Government resolves to invest in TVET and promote skills development, inclusive of interpersonal skills, to enhance scientific research and innovation, independent learning, critical thinking and creativity.

***Commitment 4: An effective and efficient financing of education as a public good***

While the Government of The Gambia is aware that financing education is a critical determinant of overall success and an indicator of delivering on our commitment to transforming education, the resources are unavailable for the desirable financing levels for TVET, scientific research, innovation and technology development.

The Government will, nonetheless, pursue innovative and smart financing strategies of education. Steps will be taken so that increased public budget allocation and spending will be matched with efficiency measures, putting more emphasis on result-generating investments.

Partnerships with the private sector and philanthropists will be expanded to meet this commitment.

The Government of The Gambia considers the Transforming Education Summit as a critical milestone to reflect on current practices and initiate change that would pave the road to meeting the 2030 SDGs commitment. As such, the Government will improve on the quality of monitoring and reporting of Education SDG indicators, as well as strengthen and expand engagements with development partners and stakeholders.

The Gambia has a sizeable diaspora community with great talents in diverse fields. The Government will explore more meaningful ways of tapping into this community to support the implementation of the education transformation agenda.