**COMMITTEE:** UNESCO

**COUNTRY:** REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**AGENDA ITEM:** Expanding Global Educational Opportunities and Reducing Inequalities in Access Education

The Republic of Kenya is located in the Eastern Africa region. The population is approximately 54 million people. Kenya is the largest and most advanced economy in East and Central Africa. Kenya’s economy is driven by agriculture, manufacturing, the services industry and tourism. Kenya is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-religion country. The Kenya national educational system consists of three levels: eight years of compulsory primary education (beginning at age six), four years at the secondary level, and four years of higher education. The government provides free primary and secondary education.

Education is a fundamental human right essential for both personal and societal development, yet global access to quality education remains a challenge. Currently, 258 million children and young people worldwide are out of school, with ongoing struggles in many developing countries. Kenya has made significant progress in improving its education system, focusing on access, equity, quality, and efficiency. Key reforms, such as the introduction of Competency-Based Education (CBE), aim to equip learners with the skills necessary for sustainable development.

Kenya’s 2010 constitution recognized education as a right, making basic education free and compulsory. The country has enacted key policies, such as the Basic Education Act (2013) and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act (2013), to implement these reforms. The shift to the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), which focuses on lifelong learning and core competencies, has been a significant step in this direction.

Despite progress, challenges remain, particularly regarding the implementation of CBC, governance, financing, and equity in education. In response, the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER) was formed in 2022 to align Kenya’s education system with international goals, such as the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 4. The education sector has seen increased enrollment, improved financing, and the expansion of educational institutions, but further reforms are necessary to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Kenya needs to harness digital technologies, develop its Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, and prioritize innovation and research to meet modern economic demands. In conclusion, while Kenya has made impressive strides in education, continuous reform, innovation, and investment in technology are vital for creating an inclusive and high-quality education system that supports national development.

<https://mfa.go.ke/kenya> <https://data.who.int/countries/404> <https://mfa.go.ke/country-profile/>

<https://education.go.ke/index.php/background-information>

<https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/education/education-articles/4949-education-round-up-january>