



FAWE
FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS
FORUM DES ÉDUCATRICES AFRICAÎNES



THE 4TH FAWE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GIRLS' EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Theme: Investing in Her Future: Accelerating Gender-Transformative Education for
African Girls through Sustainable Financing and Innovation

17–18 November 2026

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

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1. Introduction and Strategic Context

Education is globally recognized as a foundational driver of gender equality, including economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development. In the African context, investing in girls' education is not only a moral and human rights imperative but also a strategic priority for harnessing the continent's demographic dividend and achieving long-term regional development aspirations (United Nations, 2015; AUC, 2015).

Extensive empirical evidence shows that educating girls results in far-reaching socio-economic benefits, including improved health outcomes, reduced fertility and maternal mortality, increased labor force participation, higher productivity, and substantial intergenerational gains (UNESCO, 2023; World Bank, 2018). However, despite this well-documented value, many girls across Africa continue to encounter deep-rooted structural barriers that restrict access to quality education, retention, transition, and completion, especially at secondary and tertiary levels. These barriers include poverty and economic vulnerability, harmful gender norms, child marriage, early pregnancy, conflict and displacement, climate-induced shocks, and persistent gender disparities in access to digital technologies (UNICEF, 2022; UNESCO, 2023).

While several African countries have achieved near gender parity in primary school enrolment, significant disparities remain in learning outcomes and completion rates, particularly among marginalized and rural populations (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2023). These inequities are further compounded by chronic under-investment in education and limited adoption of gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and accountability frameworks (Global Education Monitoring Report, 2020).

For over three decades, the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), in partnership with other stakeholders, has been at the forefront of advancing gender equality in education across Africa through policy advocacy, strengthening institutional capacities, community mobilization, and promoting evidence-based gender-responsive innovations. Building on this legacy, the 4th FAWE Triennale International Conference on Girls' Education in Africa provides a strategic platform to advance political commitment, mobilize sustainable financing, and catalyze innovation to accelerate gender-transformative education systems across the continent.

2. About the FAWE Triennale International Girls' Conference

The FAWE Triennale Girls' Conference is a premier continental convening held every three years to advance girls' education in Africa. The conference brings together policymakers, educators, researchers, youth leaders, civil society actors, and development partners to champion gender-transformative and inclusive education systems. It aims to drive political leadership, promote sustainable financing, and foster the integration of innovation and technology into education policies and practices. The platform also strengthens multisectoral policy coherence, accountability mechanisms, and alignment of national and regional priorities.





Central to the Triennale is its role in convening stakeholders to address persistent and emerging barriers faced by girls across the continent. The conference facilitates shared learning, policy dialogue, and co-creation of solutions that expand access, improve learning outcomes, promote equity, and support successful transitions from school to work, particularly in STEM and the digital economy.

The event is firmly anchored in continental and global commitments, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2026–2035, and the African Union's Agenda 2063 (AUC, 2016; United Nations, 2015). It is further aligned with the African Union Decade of Education, which underscores the continent's renewed commitment to accelerating inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all children and young people.

3. Rationale for the Conference

Despite strong commitments at national, regional, and global levels, implementation gaps persist. The interrelated challenges underscoring the need for this conference include:

- 1. Sustainable Financing Gaps:** Gender-Transformative Education financing across Africa remains below benchmarks, with limited application of gender-transformative budgeting, Africa-centric solutions, and expenditure tracking. These ensure investments in girls' education are scalable, resilient, and capable of delivering long-term social and economic returns.
- 2. Youth Voices and Leadership Gaps:** Girls and young people are directly affected by education financing decisions, yet remain underrepresented in policy and governance spaces. Elevating youth leadership strengthens the relevance, accountability, and sustainability of education, financing reforms, while fostering a new generation of informed advocates and decision-makers.
- 3. Innovation, Technology, and Partnerships Gaps:** Although education technologies offer transformative potential, access remains uneven, and many solutions fail to address gender-specific constraints faced by girls, particularly in rural and fragile contexts. These require innovative, technology-enabled, and partnership-driven solutions, ensuring that investments translate into equitable and measurable learning outcomes.
- 4. Policy, Capacity, and Accountability Gaps:** Fragmented policies, weak institutional capacity, and limited accountability undermine the impact of education financing. Strengthening gender-transformative policy coherence, monitoring systems, and accountability mechanisms is essential to ensure transparent resource allocation, effective implementation, and tangible results for girls' education.

The conference responds by positioning sustainable financing, innovation, and youth leadership as mutually reinforcing levers for systemic change.





4. Conference Objectives

The 4th FAWE Triennale conference aims to:

1. **Mobilize political, financial, and institutional commitments to sustainably promote gender transformative education systems:** This objective aims to mobilize sustained and predictable investments by embedding gender equity in national education budgets, prioritizing girls' education within financing frameworks, and strengthening institutional capacity for effective resource management.
2. **Elevate youth voices and leadership in education financing and governance:** This objective recognizes youth as key stakeholders by promoting their participation in policy, budgeting, and governance through youth-led advocacy, mentorship, and leadership initiatives influencing education and future outcomes.
3. **Promote Innovation, Technology, and Partnerships to enhance girls' access, retention, completion, and learning outcomes:** This objective strengthens multi-stakeholder collaboration to pool resources, scale proven innovations, enhance access, equity, and quality in girls' education, and promote shared accountability and transparency in results delivery.
4. **Strengthen Gender-Transformative policy coherence, institutional capacity, and accountability mechanisms:** This objective underscores the need for harmonized, gender-transformative education policies by strengthening institutional capacity, monitoring and evaluation systems, and accountability mechanisms to ensure transparent, effective, and impactful resource allocation and utilization.

5. Conference Sub-Themes and Strategic Focus

5.1 Sustainable Financing for Gender Transformative Education: This sub-theme will examine domestic resource mobilization, gender-transformative budgeting, innovative financing instruments, public-private partnerships, and development cooperation as pathways to sustainable investment in girls' education. For this sub-theme, the following are the proposed tracks:

- **Track 1: Policy and Budget Commitments:** Focus on government commitments to increase domestic financing, institutionalize gender-transformative budgeting, and align national education budgets with SDG and AU priorities.
- **Track 2: Innovative and Blended Financing Mechanisms:** Showcase and advance results-based financing, public-private partnerships, philanthropy, and blended finance models to sustainably fund girls' education at scale.
- **Track 3: Financing Accountability and Impact Measurement:** Strengthen systems for expenditure tracking, results monitoring, and public accountability to ensure resources translate into measurable gains for girls' education.

5.2 Youth Voices and Leadership in Education Financing and Policy: This sub-theme emphasizes centering on girls and young people as advocates, leaders, innovators and accountability actors in education financing and policy formulation. The following are the proposed tracks for the third sub-theme:





- **Track 1: Youth Participation in Policy and Budget Processes:** Institutionalize mechanisms for youth engagement in education planning, financing, and oversight at national and regional levels.
- **Track 2: Leadership Development and Mentorship:** Strengthen youth leadership through structured mentorship, capacity building, and intergenerational dialogue platforms.
- **Track 3: Youth-Led Solutions, Accountability and Advocacy:** Support youth-driven solutions, monitoring, advocacy, and social accountability initiatives to influence education financing and policy implementation.

5.3 Harnessing Technology and Digital Innovation for Girls' Education: Discussions will focus on financing inclusive EdTech solutions, bridging the gender digital divide, scaling STEM education for girls, and leveraging data and innovation for evidence-based policymaking. The following are the proposed tracks for the second sub-theme:

- **Track 1: Financing Inclusive EdTech Solutions:** Mobilize investments to design, scale, and sustain gender-transformative digital learning solutions targeting marginalized and girls in hard-to-reach communities.
- **Track 2: Closing the Gender Digital Divide:** Strengthen policies, digital infrastructure, and skills development to ensure girls' equitable access to digital technologies, reliable connectivity, quality STEM learning opportunities, and seamless transitions from education to the world of work.
- **Track 3: Data, Innovation, and Learning Systems:** Promote the use of data, evidence, and innovation ecosystems to inform policy decisions, scale effective solutions, and improve learning outcomes.

5.4 Gender-Transformative Partnerships, Financing, and Accountability for Education: This sub-theme focuses on leveraging multi-sectoral partnerships, inclusive governance, and shared accountability to mobilize sustainable financing and ensure gender-transformative education policies, investments, and results.

- **Track 1: Multi-Sectoral Partnerships and Private Sector Engagement for Scale:** Catalyze collaboration among governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and development partners to mobilize financing, drive innovation, build skills, and scale proven gender-responsive education models.
- **Track 2: Gender-Transformative Policy Coherence and Institutional Capacity:** Strengthen alignment across education, finance, and gender policies, and enhance institutional capacities for planning, budgeting, implementation, and oversight of gender-transformative education financing.
- **Track 3: Governance, Transparency, and Shared Accountability for Results:** Advance governance reforms, transparency tools, and joint monitoring and accountability frameworks to track commitments, investments, and outcomes, ensuring equitable resource allocation and measurable impact for girls' education.





6. Expected Conference Outputs and Outcomes

The 4th FAWE Triennale International Girls' Conference will generate the following:

1. **Joint Communiqué and Call-to-Action:** A consolidated continental communiqué outlining priority actions, commitments, and collaborative strategies to accelerate gender-transformative education in Africa.
2. **Youth-Led Action Plans and Accountability Frameworks:** Documented youth-driven policy asks, advocacy plans, and mechanisms for monitoring education financing and gender-responsive policy implementation.
3. **Policy and Financing Recommendations:** A set of evidence-based recommendations aligned with SDGs 4 & 5, CESA 2026–2035, and AU Agenda 2063, including proposed financing modalities and implementation timelines.
4. **Partnership and Innovation Compendium:** A compiled showcase of scalable EdTech and gender-responsive innovations, partnership models, and promising practices from across the continent.
5. **Conference Report:** A comprehensive report on synthesizing proceedings, commitments, and next steps for stakeholders at national, regional, and continental levels.

7. Conference Structure and Format

The two-day conference will feature high-level plenaries, thematic breakout sessions, youth-led dialogues, innovation exhibitions, and structured networking forums.

- **High-level plenary sessions** with keynote addresses from political leaders, development partners, and thought leaders.
- **Thematic breakout sessions** aligned with the conference sub-themes.
- **Youth-led dialogues and intergenerational conversations** on education financing and accountability.
- **Exhibitions and innovation** showcasing successful programs, technologies, and financing models.
- Structured **networking and partnership** forums to catalyse collaboration and investment.

The conference will culminate in the adoption of a joint communiqué and Call to Action, capturing key commitments, priority actions, accountability mechanisms, and pathways for accelerating gender-transformative education across Africa.

8. Registration for the Conference

Registration for the FAWE Triennale Girls' Conference is now open. Stakeholders from across Africa and beyond are invited to secure their place at this premier convening focused on advancing girls' education and gender equality in and through education. A registration fee of USD 100 applies and provides participants with full access to all plenary sessions, parallel discussions, and side events throughout the conference. Early registration is highly encouraged to support efficient planning, timely preparation of conference materials, and smooth logistical arrangements.

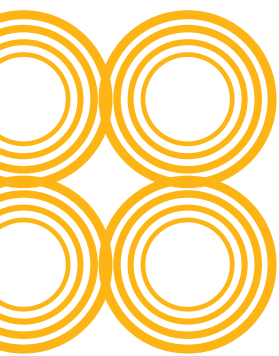




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