

# *Education services platforms: The experience of the AVU*

Ministerial Forum on ICT Integration in Education  
& Training  
Tunis, 11 December 2013

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- 1 Overview . *Who we are ?***
- 2 Our presence. *Where we are?***
- 3 *Context of HE in Africa***
- 4 Education services delivery platforms**





## A Pan African Intergovernmental organization

- 18 countries have signed AVU Charter
- Mandate-to increase access to quality higher education and training through use of ICTs
- Works Across Africa in English, French and Portuguese
- 30 African Countries
- Contributed to train more than 43,000 students since inception
- More than 53 Partner Institutions

**Working Across Africa**  
**Beyond Technological, Language and Cultural Barriers**  
Find more in [www.avu.org](http://www.avu.org)





Nigeria became 18<sup>th</sup> member country of AVU  
The Honourable Federal Minister of Education Prof. Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i OON signing the AVU Charter at the Ministry's offices in Abuja on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2013



## OUR PRESENCE IN AFRICA

### Organization profile. OFFICES – Africa



#### SENEGAL Regional office in Dakar

Bureau Regional de l'Afrique de l'Ouest  
 Stcap Ltberte VI Extenston  
 Villa No 8 VON, B.P. 50609  
 Dakar Senegal  
 Tel. +221 33 867 0324  
 Fax +221 33 867 3554  
 e-mail: [bureauregional@avu.org](mailto:bureauregional@avu.org)

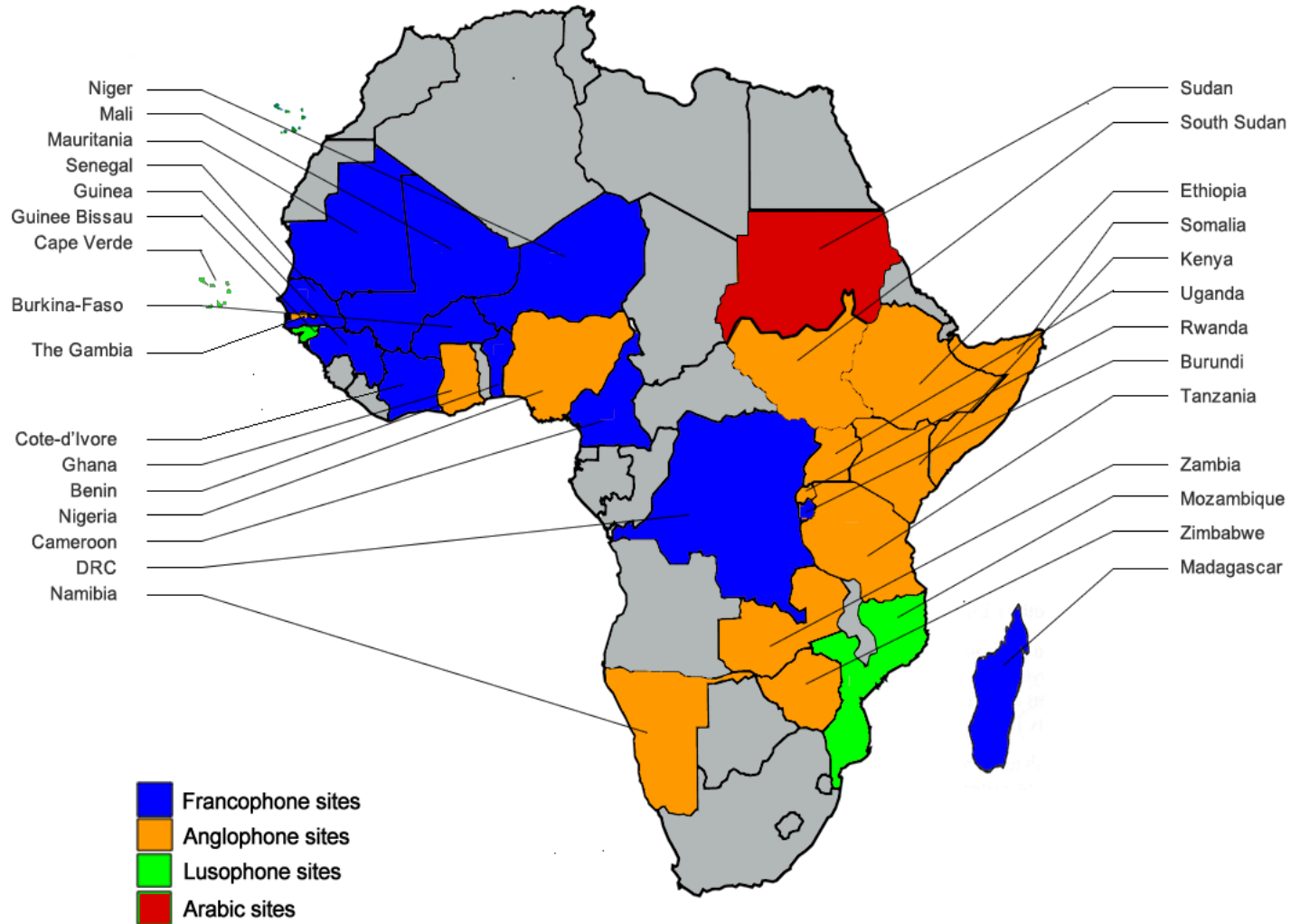


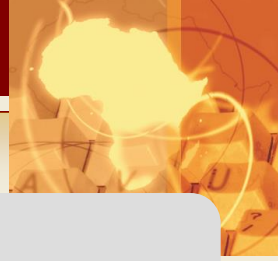
#### NAIROBI AVU Headquarters

The African Virtual University  
 Cape Office Park (Opposite Yaya Center)  
 Rig Road, Kilimani  
 PO Box 25405 - 00603  
 Nairobi, Kenya  
 Tel +254 20 252 8333  
 +254 20 3861458 / +254 20 386 1459  
 +254 722 205883 / +254 733 624A 12  
 Fax +254 20 3861460  
 Email: [contact@avu.org](mailto:contact@avu.org)



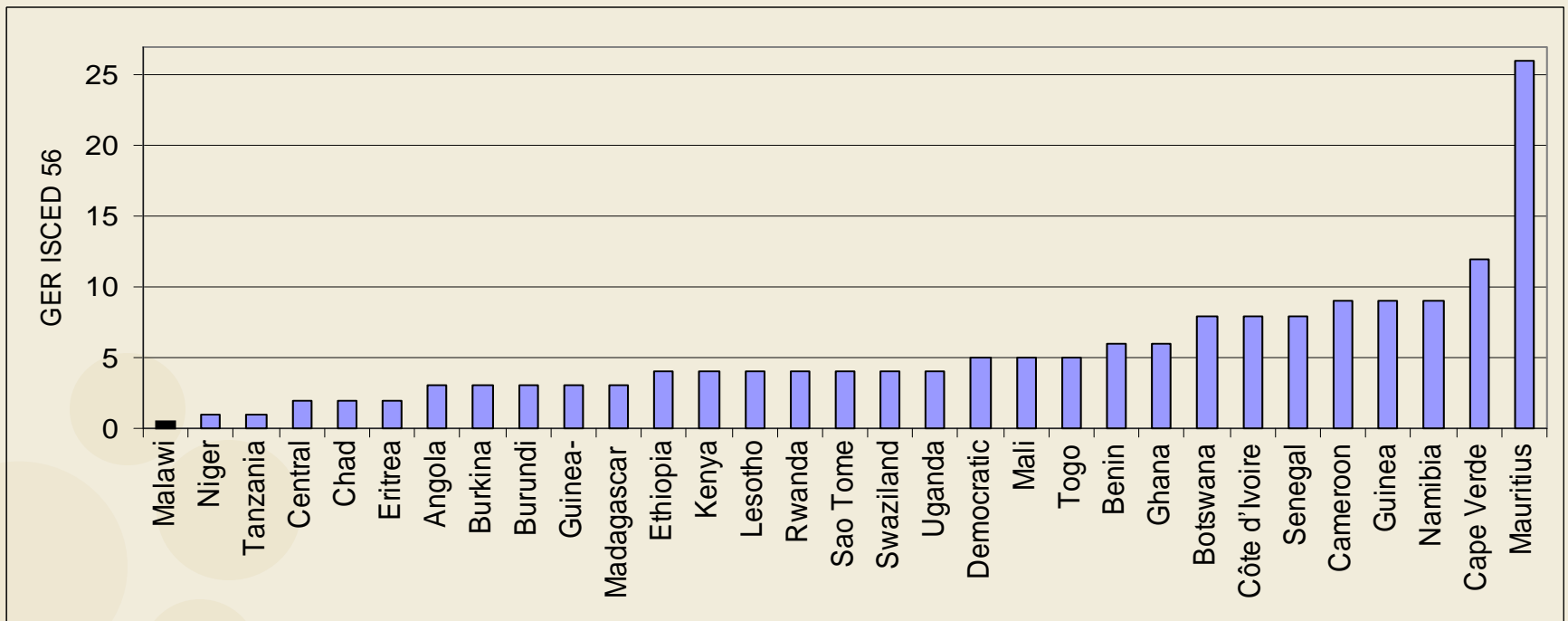
## The African Virtual University : Our Presence in Africa





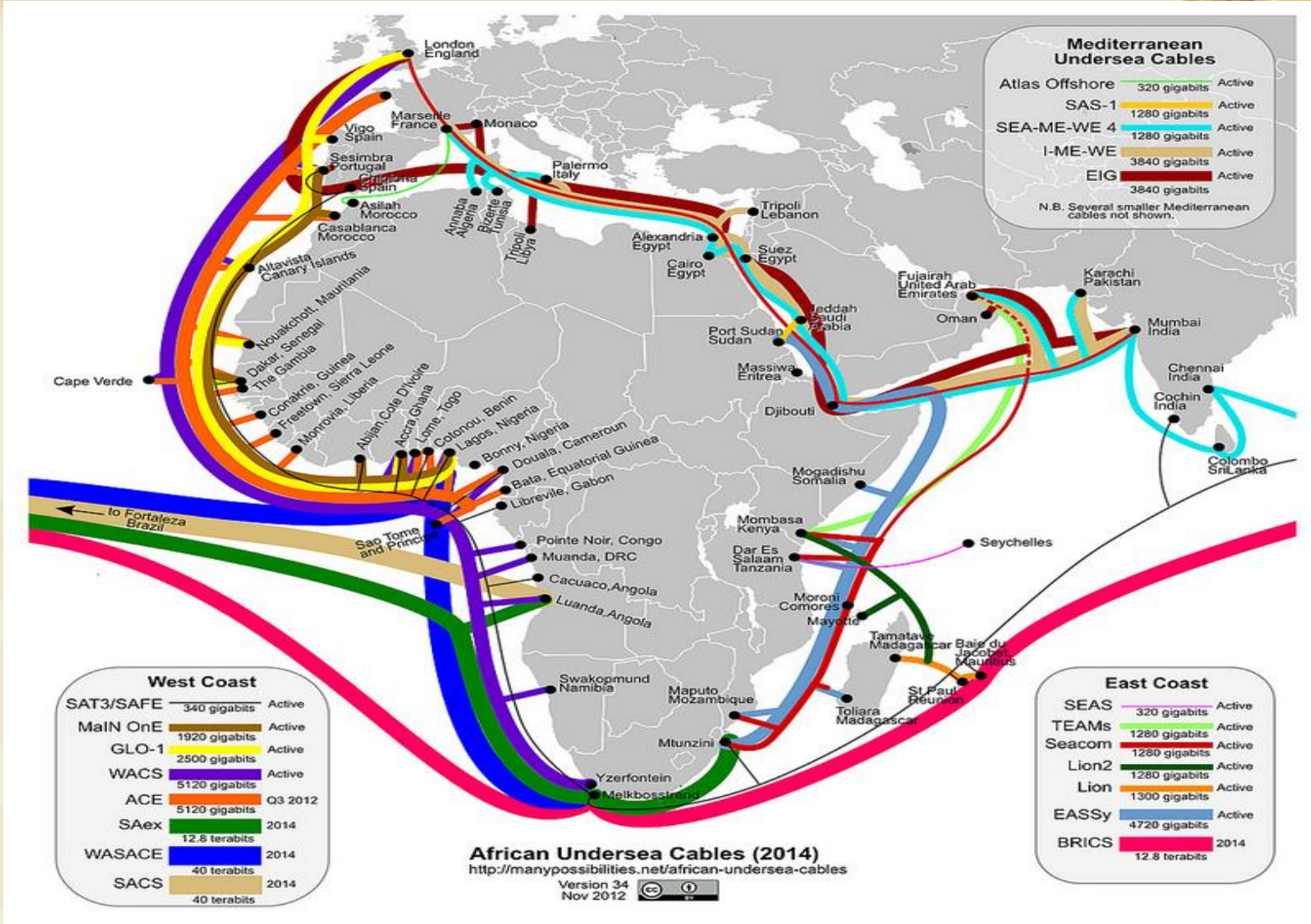
- Africa on a pedestal to become the next growth frontier
- However only 6% of school-leavers in Sub-Saharan Africa enter tertiary institutions.
- 12% to 15% workforce to attain tertiary education in order to sustain economic development
- Universities unable to increase physical infrastructure to meet the soaring demand
- Current mode of delivery unable to meet either current or projected demand

# GER for tertiary education in sub-Saharan Africa



GED 2010: Statistical Table 9





Sources <http://manypossibilities.net/african-undersea-cables/>



## Focus on Education and Support Services

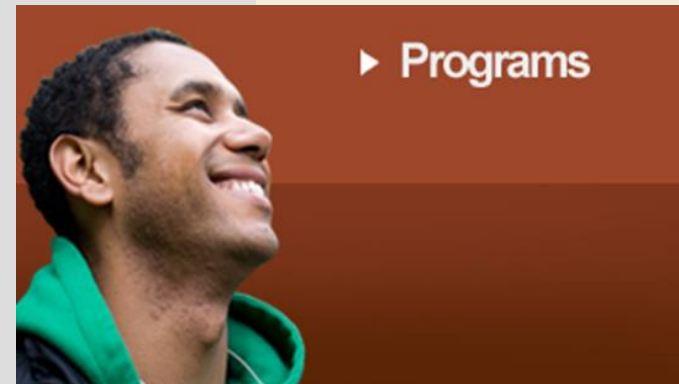
- Setup and upgrade a Learning / ODeL Centre
- Training of Trainers
- Updating and developing content
- Open Educational Resources (OER) Development
- Research & Development- Focus on educational technologies and mobile learning
- Developing Professional Networks (consortia, communities of practice)
- Gender mainstreaming
- Quality Assurance, Evaluation & Benchmarking





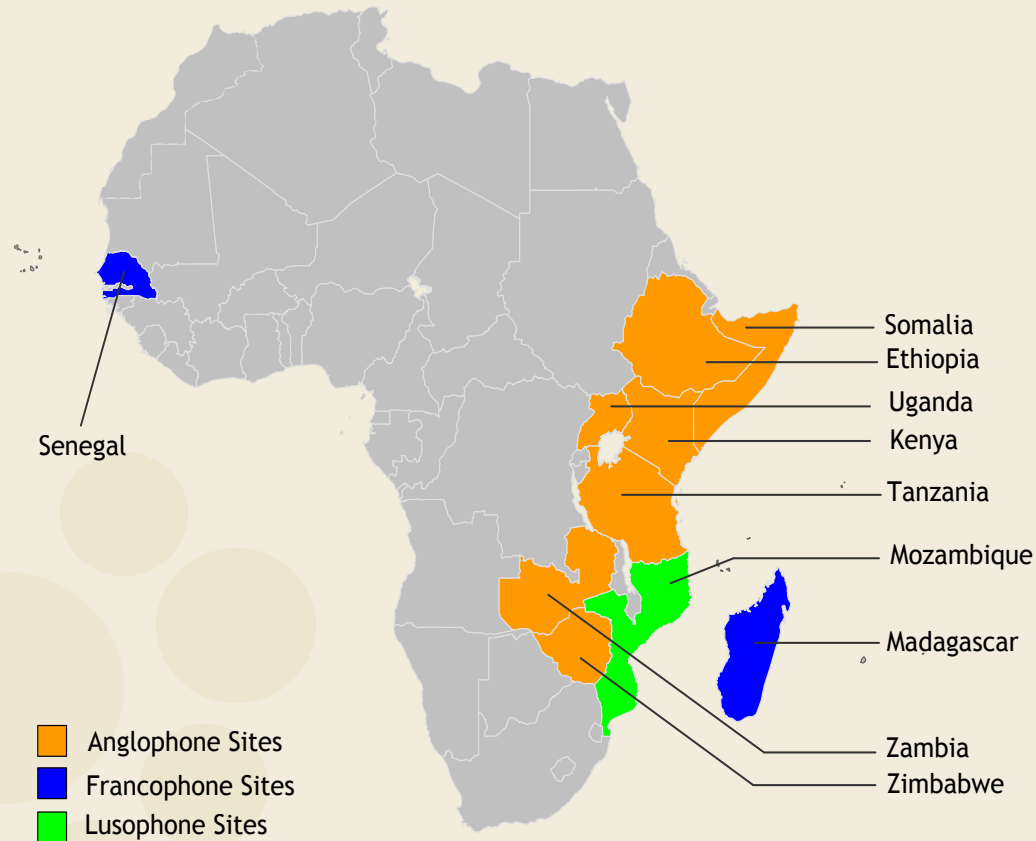
## Education and Support Services

- Certificate/Diploma Programs
- Degree Programs
- Consortium Programs
- Joint Programs
- Hosted Programs
- Self Learning Programs
- Webinars (Online Seminars)
- Workshops





## AVU Multinational Project I 2005- 2 011



**10 Countries**  
**12 Universities**

### Overall objective

To strengthen the capacity of the AVU and a network of institutions coordinated by the AVU to deliver and manage quality ICT assisted education and training opportunities in selected African countries



## AVU Multinational Project I 2005- 2 011

Country	Institution
Kenya	University of Nairobi
Uganda	Kyambogo University
Tanzania	Open University of Tanzania
Ethiopia	Jimma University
Mozambique	Universidade Pedagogica
Zambia	University of Zambia
Zimbabwe	University of Zimbabwe
Somalia	Amoud University, <i>EAU, UoH</i>
Madagascar	Université d'Antananarivo
Senegal	Universite Chiek Anta Diop (UCAD)



## AVU Multinational Project I 2005- 2011

- Funded by African Development Bank
- Four bachelor of Education in math & science developed and delivered
- Total of 219 modules and 100 videos -> OERs
- Universities capacity strengthened
- Infrastructure: 10 distance learning centers
- 459 academics trained in eLearning
- 4000 students enrolled in the 10 countries in 2011
- 13,000 unqualified teachers trained in Senegal by 2013
- Hundreds of qualified teachers trained in ICT skills & pedagogy, in collaboration with partner universities
- Gender mainstreaming
- Teacher Education Virtual Consortium established



Universidade Pedagogica, Mozambique - 2009





## AVU Open Education Resources

- Full instructional path for programs – not only courses or learning objects
- 219 textbooks of math, science, and Teacher Education
- 2 million users worldwide in 201 countries and territories
- Education-Portal.com People’s Choice Awards – 2 Awards for “Best OCW Emerging Initiative” in 2011 and “Most Progressive” in 2012
- AVU Atomic Physics textbook won the OCW Consortium Text Course Award for Excellence 2013
- AVU is sustaining member of OCW Consortium



<http://oer.avu.org/>      goolge: oer@avu

<http://www.scribd.com/AfricanVirtualUni>





## AVU Multinational Project II (2012-2016)

- US\$ 21 Million: 15.6 funded by African Development Bank and \$ 5.4 Million from AVU & partners institutions
- 27 universities from 21 countries
- 27 new or upgraded distance learning centers
- Training of trainers in ODeL
- Review of AVU 219 OERs modules
- New Bachelor of Applied Computer Science → OER
- Peace & Conflict resolution program
- Communities of practice
- Gender mainstreaming
- Research & Development
- Technical Assistance to countries and universities





## Innovation in Educational Technologies through R&D

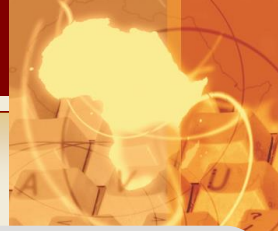
- **Center for Virtual Education Innovation**
  - To launch in 2014 in Nairobi Kenya
  - Research & Development
  - **Mobile Learning Lab**
  - Innovation in Education Technology and Learning Resources including OERs, MOOCs
  - Open Distance and eLearning Center





## Innovation in Educational Technologies through R&D

- **Annual Conference**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> AVU International Conference November 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Kenya- 200 participants from some 30 African countries + all other continents
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference 11-13 August 2012 Nairobi**
- Online open journal to be launched in 2014



## Massive Open Online Courses

- MOOC concept appealing and great potential for Africa
- Challenges:
  - high bandwidth required for Hi definition videos; focusing on courses, not programs ; completion rate < 10% ; no formal accreditation
  - Existing MOOCs utilize video, highly pixilated graphics, synchronous learning platforms, large file transfers and so on High resolution ----> Higher bandwidth requirement
- Massive accredited education required to provide human capital in order to sustain economic development in Africa
- Massive Open Online Programs (MOOPs), with low bandwidth platform, accreditation in all AVU countries members, higher completion rate?
- AVU is conducting feasibility study: effectiveness utilized with a focus on African context, culture, and needs



- ODeL can assist African countries to meet enrollment targets in HE
- This require changes at a massive scale as many countries do not have open universities, and existing ones have to change to provide 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
- AVU supports countries and institutions
- This requires collaboration with organization in Africa and around the world.
- AVU has a MOU with African Union Commission, **ADEA**, ICDE, ACDE, Ubuntunet Alliance. AVU is sustaining member of OCWC



# Thank You

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