



January 31st 2018

To H.E. Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai, Minister of General Education and Instruction, South Sudan,

FRIENDS OF THE AFRICAN UNION (FAU) is an American (2012) based economic, social, humanitarian, charitable, educational and new media civil-society ruling body founded to work for the benefit of the people of the African Union (AU) and the African diaspora in their host countries. FAU recognizes that the African Union (AU), to date, is the only organization which has the structural and functional capacity to unite, and service the needs and aspirations of the more than 1.5 billion African people, globally.

During Black History Month (February 2018), New Future Foundation, Friends of the African Union and allies will launch a new financing and funding framework for education in Africa. The initial announcement will take place during the Global Partnership For Education (GPE) Financing Conference February 1-2, 2018, In Dakar, Senegal in Cincinnati Ohio at our website friendsoftheafricanunion.com..

We are using this framework as a basis for including a mix of funding mechanisms to increase and leverage financing for education. The key features of the proposal are:

- Making a better case for investing in education
- Crowding-in additional financing, including through the GPE Multiplier
- Reinforcing domestic resource mobilization
- Increasing flexibility to target funds to specific geographic and thematic areas
- Creating two new innovative funding mechanisms to support global public goods:
- Knowledge and innovation exchange to share experiences from across the partnership, scale up and fund innovative approaches to overcome policy challenges.
- Advocacy and social accountability funding mechanism to support education for all.
- Public private partnerships that use community benefit agreements.

New Future Foundation and Friends of the African Union will discuss the new framework at a in person and online conference April 12-13th 2018, in Washington DC, entitled: "African Civil Society Financing Africa's Future: Unlocking Potentials through Community Benefit Agreements." This conference will examine how community benefit agreements and public private partnerships can be used to improve educational opportunities, deliver sustainable power generation, and erase the digital divide.

Community benefit agreements are commitments made by banks or other institutions to invest or make capital available in specified ways. For example, in 2016, Fifth Third Bank made a five-year, \$30 billion community benefit agreement commitment aimed at improving lives and the well-being of communities throughout its geographic footprint. The plan included \$11 billion in mortgage lending, \$10 billion in small business lending, and \$9 billion in community development lending and investments. The bank also committed \$154.8 million over five years for Fifth Third branded Impact programs. This agreement was negotiated by the National Reinvestment Coalition and its participating members such as the Friends of the African Union Chamber of Commerce. As of September 30, 2017, Fifth Third has claimed to have delivered community support of \$13.5 billion against the \$30 billion commitment, results that were trending ahead of pace by nearly 28 percent.

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The above picture is of the November 18th public signing of the NCRC lead \$30B Community Benefits Agreement which includes the following:

- ❑ Fund \$11 billion in mortgage lending to LMI individuals and communities.
- ❑ Fund \$10 billion in small business lending in all markets and communities to businesses with gross annual revenue below \$1 million.
- ❑ Fund \$9 billion in Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) community development loans and investments. This includes support for affordable housing, revolving loan funds, Community Development Corporations, Community Development Financial Institutions, community pre-development resources, housing rehab loan pools, and community land trusts and land banks.
- ❑ Fund \$9.3 million in philanthropy. Work to ensure adequate access to bank branches in LMI communities and communities of color, including opening at least 10 new branches.

The FAU Chamber of Commerce is a NCRC member who has planned a multi year multi billion dollar program in response to the 5th Third Bank CBA including a Public Private Partnership (P3) which includes buying the metropolitan sewer district so as to create decades of jobs in the city - Peace In The Hood, Jobs In The Hood the #BlackFolksPlan.

New Future Foundation and Friends of the African Union are using this framework in the countries of the African Union and those countries that host members of the African Diaspora. Their goal is to dramatically increase the number of children who are in school and

learning with 21st-century technology. This part of the FAU Erase the Digital Divide Initiative to be launched February 28th 2018 based on community benefit agreements like that at Fifth Third Bank.

The Global Partnership for Education financing conference is co-hosted by the governments of Senegal and France. The announcement of the co-hosting was made by Presidents Macky Sall of Senegal and Emmanuel Macron of France at a high-level event on education financing held at the United Nations, which was attended by Secretary General António Guterres, several heads of state and leaders on global education. The conference is by invitation only. New Future Foundation Chairwoman Dr. Delois Blakely has been invited to attend by Dr. Sachs to be a civil society organizational representative of the over 250 million children who not go to school.

The methodology for implementation of public-private partnerships can vary, depending on the nature of a given project and local concerns. Well-informed champions play a critical role in informing the public and minimizing misperceptions about the value of public-private partnerships. The Friends of the African Union has as its global champion Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely.

Queen Mother Dr. Blakely was a Community Fellow (1981-82) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Education Policy Fellow (1982-83) of the International Education Leadership, a Fulbright Scholar in Tanzania and Nigeria (1984-85). Queen Mother Dr. Blakely received two Master of Education Degrees, one from Harvard University (1982) and the second from Teachers College, Columbia University (1983) and a Doctorate of Education Degree from Teachers College in 1990. She graduated from the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary College in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Religious Studies. She has published scholarly and popular books and articles on self-reliance, education, recreation, and culture. Dr. Blakely is also an Ashanti Queen Mother who is FAU's Senior Queen Mother.

/s/ hershel

Hershel Daniels Junior, CCM and a African Scientific Institute Fellow who is Chairman of the Friends of the African Union and the Chairman Emeritus of the Friends of the African Union Chamber of Commerce