Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted education systems globally. While we work on reimagining how our education systems could look like in the future, we should consider a unique set of challenges to overcome:

1) the current situation when school closures affect 70% of the world’s school population, representing 1.5 billion learners globally.
2) the challenge of transition from face to face to distance education while ensuring inclusion, equity and quality, and
3) the call of the times to be bold enough to invest in the “next education” system, an education that helps meet social and economic challenges common to Africa and Europe.

Objectives

The panel will facilitate an intercontinental dialogue, with a focus on technology/digitalization and inclusion, transitioning from the impact of COVID-19 on education in Africa and Europe, in particular in rural areas and for vulnerable groups. It will aim to:

1) Facilitate the sharing of experiences of youth and other education stakeholders in bridging the digital divide during the pandemic, what the outcomes have been and how we can use these lessons to propel ourselves forward. This will help amplify and harness innovations and best practices developed on both continents during the pandemic;
2) Address how to transform the education system to respond to COVID-19 and the challenges of the 21st century, to be more resilient, to leave no one behind and reach the most marginalised;
3) Discuss how to sustain cross-sector coalitions so that our education systems overcome the different challenges;
4) Look at what the education sector should expect from technology, not just so its individual stakeholders are better prepared for an uncertain future, but also so that its networks become more agile, resilient and accessible to all.

Speakers

Moderator: AU-EU Youth Hub Young Expert.

- **Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- **Liz Sproat**, Head of Education for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Google
- **Victoria Ibiwoye**, Advocacy, Youth representative, UNESCO Education2030 Steering Committee, Director, one African Child Foundation for Creative learning
- **Mustafa Farahat**, Co-founder & General Manager Nafham
- **Mr.Martin Dougiamas**, CEO, MOODLE(Online) Education and computer science
- **Nisha Ligon**, CEO, Ubongo, Edtech

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