Communiqué from DHIS2 for Education Academy in Entebbe on the Master program in EMIS

WE, the country representatives, and partners who are participants of DHIS2 Community for Education present at the DHIS2 Conference/Academy held on at the Protea Hotel, Uganda, from 21\textsuperscript{st} to 25\textsuperscript{th} August 2023;

RECOGNIZING the lack of EMIS academic programs and the importance of capacity building on data in promoting evidence-based decision-making in policy, planning, monitoring and assessment.

NOTING the need to have a strong Education Management Information System (EMIS) under the Ministry of Education to facilitate the provision of quality education data, to inform the implementation of Education Sector Plans and strategies.

AWARE of ongoing EMIS initiatives at the national, regional, continental, and global levels aimed at strengthening the management and use of data for decision-making and meeting set commitments and frameworks.

OBSERVING the successes of the application of information system tools like the DHIS2 in the health sector, and documenting progress and experiences for application in the education sector.

HAVING designed a demand and research-informed Master in EMIS to be piloted at the University of The Gambia in collaboration with the University of Oslo and subsequently at other AU regions.

AND RECOGNIZING the critical role of continental institutions like the African Union Commission and its partners in facilitating the implementation of this Master program and establishing the University of the Gambia as a Centre of excellence for EMIS for the continent;

NOW HEREBY COMMIT to facilitate the implementation of the following through our plans and programs:

\begin{enumerate}
\item Build the institutional support to start and sustain the EMIS master’s degree to be piloted at the University of The Gambia.
\item Build and enhance the needed local capacity to drive the program, as a sustainability measure.
\item Mobilize the necessary technical, financial, and political level support needed by the entire program ecosystem.
\item Ensure the curriculum is applied, fieldwork-driven, and regionally relevant.
\item Ensure the MSc in EMIS is not terminal, by creating opportunities for career progression.
\item Provide tuition support and research stipend to the required number of students for the commencement of the program.
\item Leverage on existing EMIS experts available on the continent as visiting scholars to ensure program takeoff.
\item Assess and review the progress on a biannual basis to ensure quality and standardization in collaboration with critical stakeholders such as UNESCO.
\item Establish a program review and monitoring committee, comprising the regional economic communities and other critical stakeholders, chaired by the African Union Commission to provide the needed strategic and political guidance for the program.
\end{enumerate}

MADE this 25\textsuperscript{th} Day of August 2023.