

Statement voted by the Paris AEMASE III conference participants, October 4, 2017
The CESAME project: a Way towards international Science Centres
African-Mediterranean-European Region

AEMASE partner institutions held the 1st international conference on science education in Rome-Italy in May 2014, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, then the second edition in Dakar-Senegal in October 2015, hosted by the Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal. This third edition AEMASE III in Paris on October 3-4, 2017, was hosted by the Institut de France and gathered academicians and scientists from Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States. The European, African and global networks of academies, respectively ALLEA, NASAC and IAP were represented by their Presidents or executive Directors.

In order to accelerate the development and sustain economies in the African, Mediterranean and European (AME) region, the delegates agreed on the urgency to renew school science education (education in mathematics, natural science, technology and engineering) in order to help all children acquire adequate basic scientific knowledge and intellectual tools for a rational approach to situations, as well as to reach better inclusion of young girls in science. They also agreed that this is best done through Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) programmes.

For a concrete realization, the delegates recommend to quickly implement within the AME region a coordinated network of international sites called 'Centres for Education to Science in Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe' (CESAME). There, during short international IBSE sessions, followed by duplicating local IBSE sessions, science teachers, teacher educators and scientists coming from diverse countries and the two continents will share their diverse experiences of science and science teaching, and be initiated to the IBSE pedagogy.

The delegates warmly support the two-year project that has been presented to them, with seven proposals for CESAME (from Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Italy, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia) and possibly others. It aims to see the establishment of at least three CESAME centres (of which at least one in Europe) with others to follow when conditions permit. Eventually all regions of Africa will be served. The activity of the CESAME centres will be coordinated by a single centre.

Therefore, this statement calls:

- on the political education authorities of the seven quoted countries
 - to urgently discuss and approve the CESAME site of their country as proposed in the roadmap for their country,
 - to grant it financial support, in particular for the local replicating IBSE sessions,
 - to encourage the teachers and educators of teachers of their country to attend the CESAME sessions,
 - to welcome in their CESAME trainers and trainees coming from other countries of their region.
- on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to recommend the CESAME initiative to Ministers of education of the AME region
- on the European Commission, the African Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank to fund the CESAME project.
- on foundations, philanthropic and charity organisations, donors and the private sector to invest in the CESAME project of science education in the AME region.
- on all the above to work together to ensure the long-term sustainability of CESAME centres.