ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES
إتحاد الجامعات الإفريقية

The Voice of Higher Education in Africa

"Putting the Association of African Universities as the Transformative Engine to Africa's Prosperous Future"

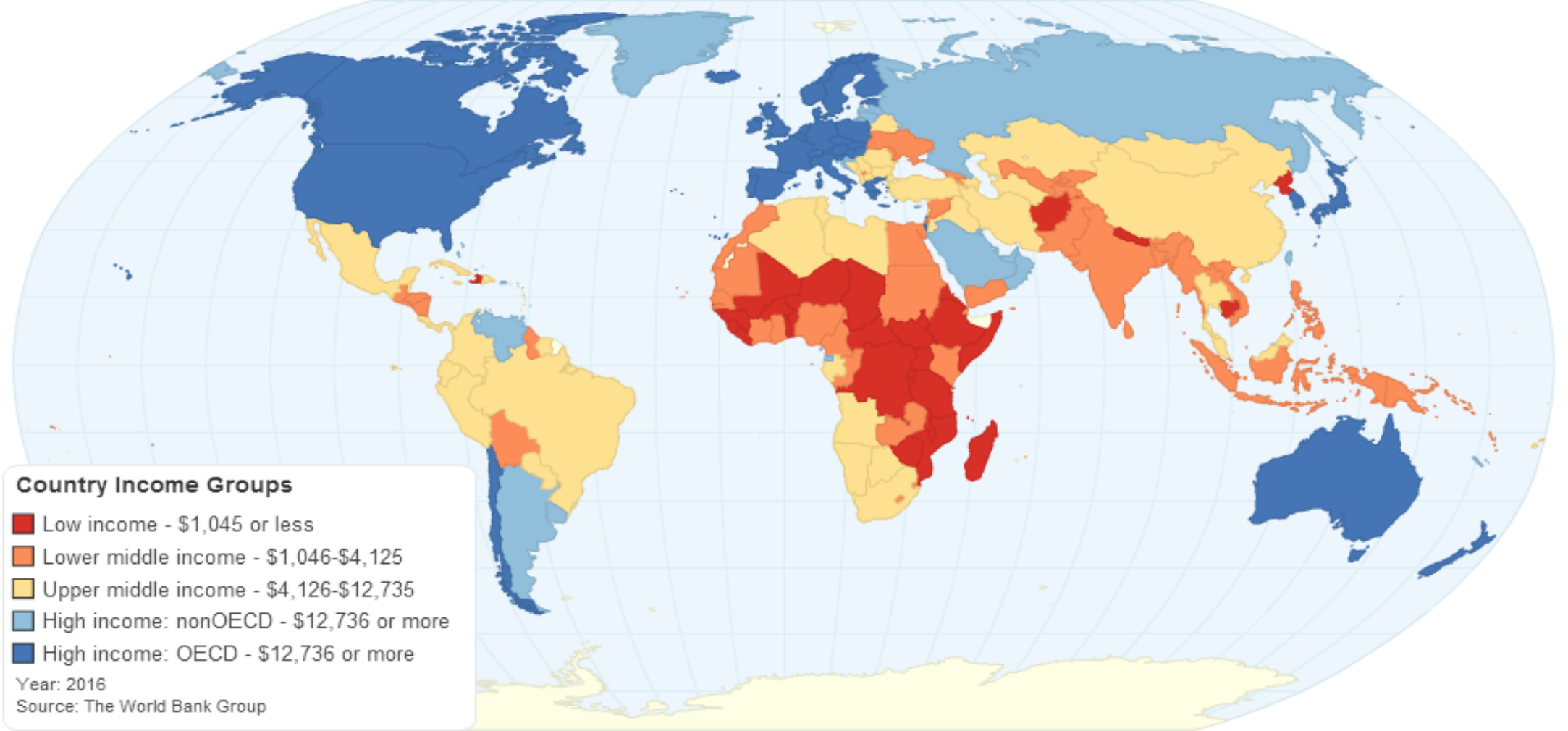
Prof. Dr. Kenneth Kamwi Matengu
Vice Chancellor
Pan African University Council President

23rd July 2025

Why am I a Suitable Candidate?

- Having been attending AAU General Assembly/COREVIP since 2011 in various capacities
- President: Pan African University Council, 2021 – present (elected by the Executive Council of the African Union)
- Vice Chancellor: University of Namibia, 2018 – present
- Member of the University of Namibia Council
- Member of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Council on the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Programme, 2024 – present
- Experienced in fundraising and Chair of the AAU Endowment Funds Committee
- Recipient of the recognition as Association of African Universities Ambassador for Southern Africa 2023
- Honorary International Fellow, Cardiff University, "for outstanding work and contribution to education", 2022
- Board Chairperson, Confucius Institute Board, 2018 - present
- Technical member to the C 10 (Heads of State Champions of Education)

The World by Income up to 2023 (Source: World Bank)



https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html

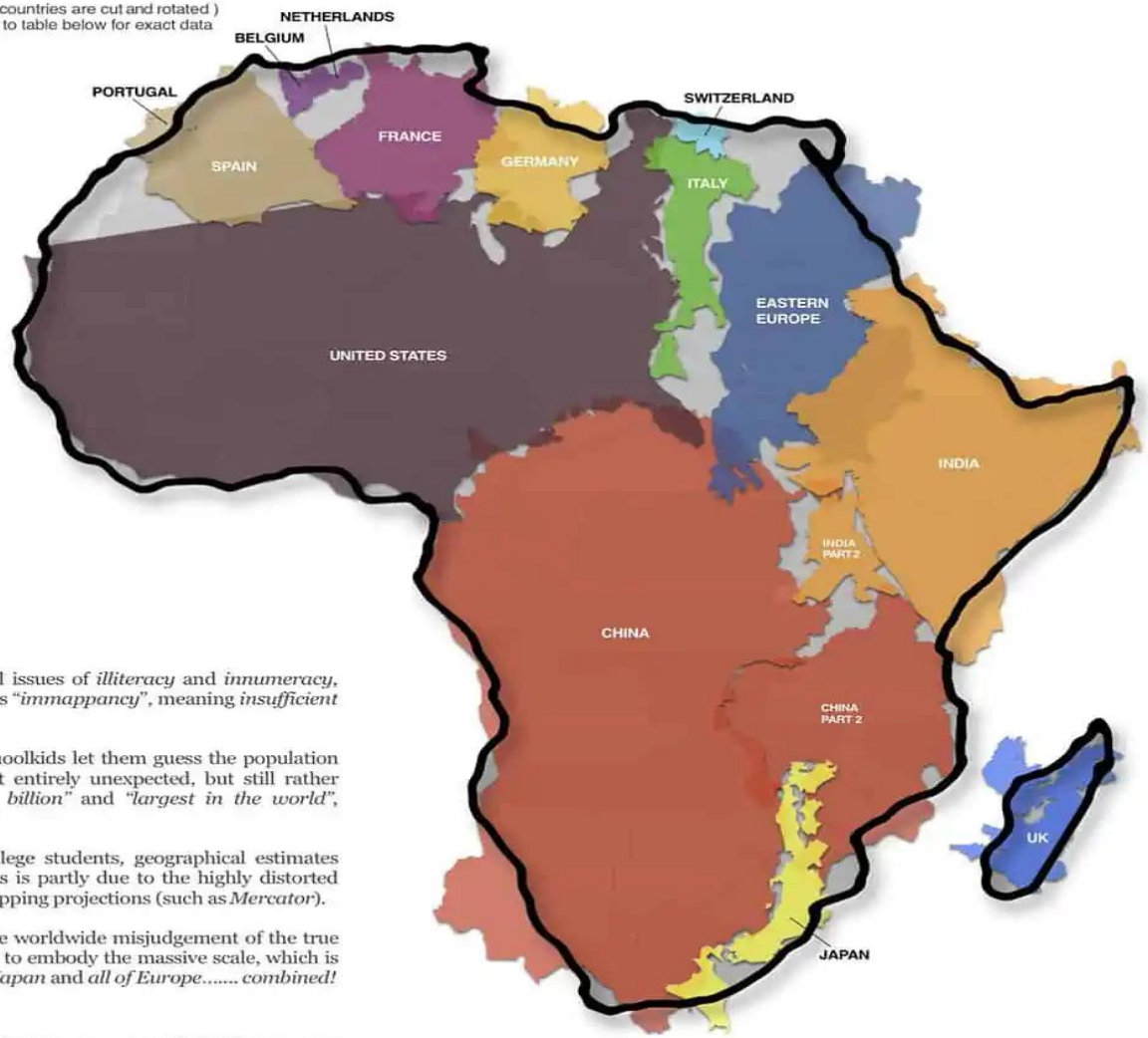
Yet Africa is bigger in landmass...

The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant *Immappancy*, by **Kai Krause**

Graphic layout for visualization only (some countries are cut and rotated)
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	**30.102**
AFRICA	**30.221**



In addition to the well known social issues of *illiteracy* and *innumeracy*, there also should be such a concept as "*immappancy*", meaning *insufficient geographical knowledge*.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose *"1-2 billion"* and *"largest in the world"*, respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of *2-3*. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as *Mercator*).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of *Africa*. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the *USA, China, India, Japan* and *all of Europe..... combined!*

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Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers, Percentage of World Total
Sources: Britannica, Wikipedia, Almanac 2010

1	Russia	17.098.242	11,50
2	Canada	9.984.670	6,70
3	China	9.596.961	6,40
4	United States	9.629.091	6,40
5	Brazil	8.514.877	5,70
6	Australia	7.692.024	5,20
7	India	3.287.263	2,30
8	Argentina	2.780.400	2,00
9	Kazakhstan	2.724.900	1,80
10	Sudan	2.505.813	1,70
11	Algeria	2.381.741	1,60
12	Congo	2.344.858	1,60
13	Greenland	2.166.086	1,50
14	Saudi Arabia	2.149.690	1,40
15	Mexico	1.964.375	1,30
16	Indonesia	1.860.360	1,30
17	Libya	1.759.540	1,20
18	Iran	1.629.750	1,10
19	Mongolia	1.564.100	1,10
20	Peru	1.285.216	0,86
21	Chad	1.284.000	0,86
22	Niger	1.267.000	0,85
23	Angola	1.246.700	0,85
24	Mali	1.240.192	0,83
25	South Africa	1.221.037	0,82
26	Colombia	1.141.748	0,76
27	Ethiopia	1.104.300	0,74
28	Bolivia	1.098.581	0,74
29	Mauritania	1.025.520	0,69
30	Egypt	1.002.000	0,67
31	Tanzania	945.087	0,63
32	Nigeria	923.768	0,62
33	Venezuela	912.050	0,61
34	Namibia	824.116	0,55
35	Mozambique	801.590	0,54
36	Pakistan	796.095	0,53
37	Turkey	783.562	0,53
38	Chile	756.102	0,51
39	Zambia	752.612	0,51
40	Myanmar	676.578	0,45
41	Afghanistan	652.090	0,44
42	Somalia	637.657	0,43
43	France	632.834	0,43
44	C. African Rep	622.984	0,42
45	Ukraine	603.500	0,41
46	Madagascar	587.041	0,39
47	Botswana	582.000	0,39
48	Kenya	580.367	0,39
49	Yemen	527.968	0,35
50	Thailand	513.120	0,34
51	Spain	505.992	0,34
52	Turkmenistan	488.100	0,33
53	Cameroon	475.442	0,32
54	Papua New Guinea	462.840	0,31
55	Uzbekistan	447.400	0,30
56	Morocco	446.550	0,30
57	Sweden	441.370	0,30
58	Iraq	438.317	0,29
59	Paraguay	406.752	0,27
60	Zimbabwe	390.757	0,26
61	Japan	377.930	0,25
62	Germany	357.114	0,24
63	Rep o.t. Congo	342.000	0,23
64	Finland	338.419	0,23
65	Vietnam	331.212	0,22
66	Malaysia	330.803	0,22
67	Norway	323.802	0,22
68	Côte d'Ivoire	322.463	0,22
69	Poland	312.685	0,21
70	Oman	309.500	0,21
71	Italy	301.336	0,20
72	Philippines	300.000	0,20
73	Burkina Faso	274.222	0,18
74	New Zealand	270.467	0,18
75	Gabon	267.668	0,18
76	Western Sahara	266.000	0,18
77	Ecuador	256.369	0,20
78	Guinea	245.857	0,17
79	United Kingdom	242.900	0,16
80	Uganda	241.038	0,16
81	Ghana	238.539	0,16
82	Romania	238.391	0,16
83	Laos	236.800	0,16
84	Guyana	214.969	0,14
85	Belarus	207.600	0,14
86	Kyrgyzstan	199.951	0,13
87	Senegal	196.722	0,13
88	Syria	185.180	0,12
89	Cambodia	181.035	0,12
90	Uruguay	176.215	0,12
91	Suriname	163.820	0,11
92	Tunisia	163.610	0,11
93	Nepal	147.181	0,10
94	Bangladesh	143.998	0,10
95	Tajikistan	143.100	0,10
96	Greece	131.957	0,09
97	Nicaragua	130.373	0,09
98	North Korea	120.538	0,08
99	Malawi	118.484	0,08
100	Eritrea	117.600	0,08
	TOP 100 TOTAL	132.632.524	89,34



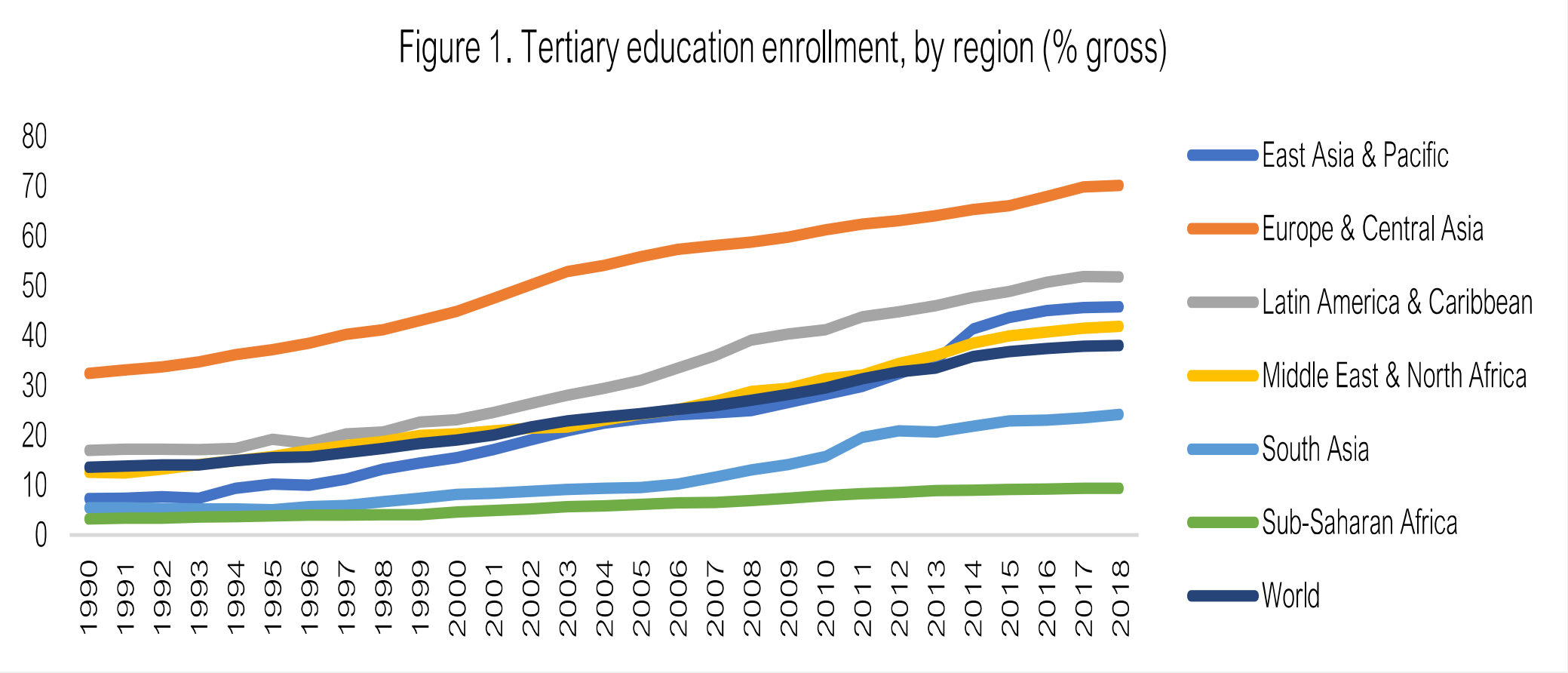






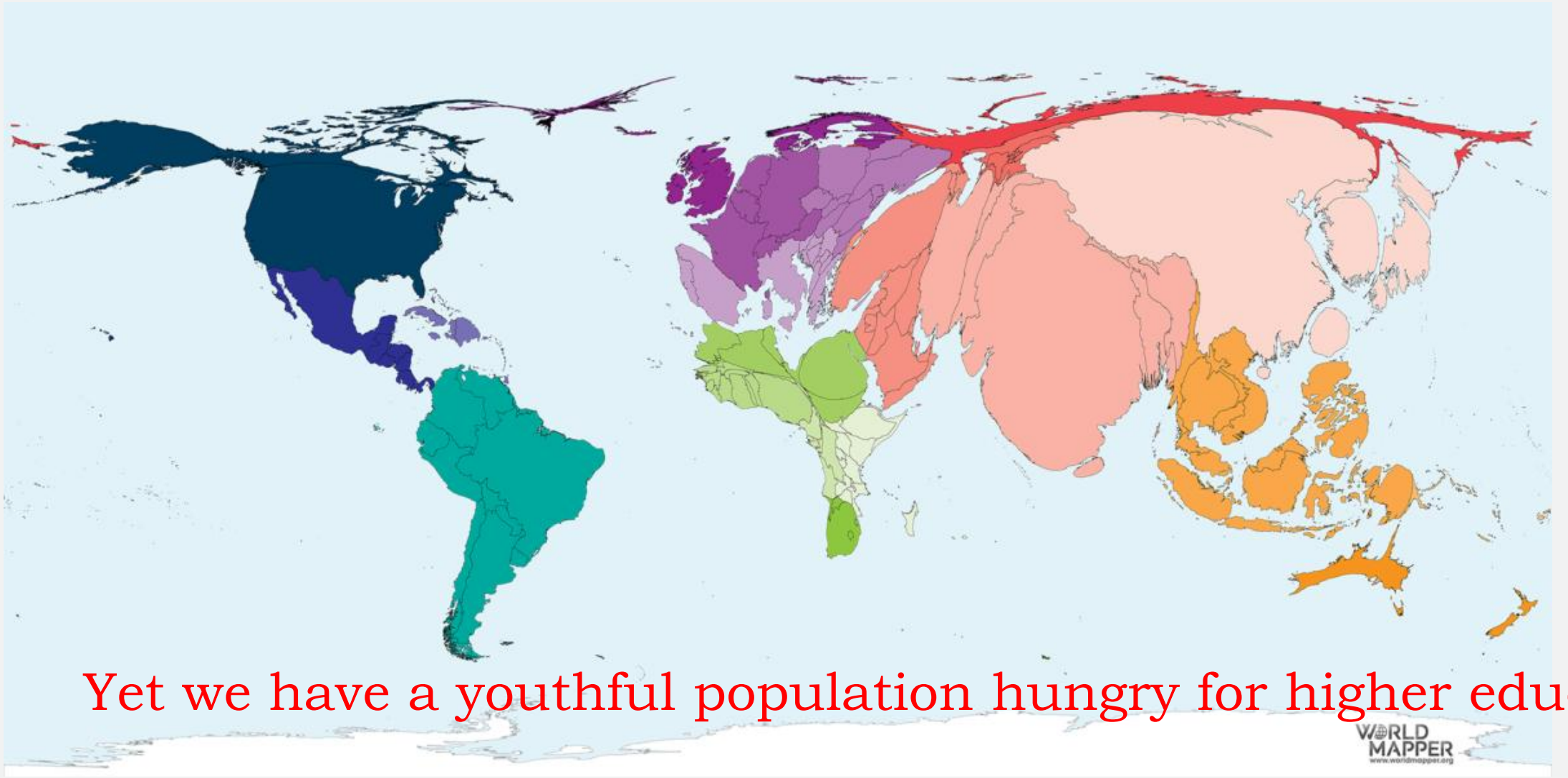


But the actual Enrolment in Higher Education remains low



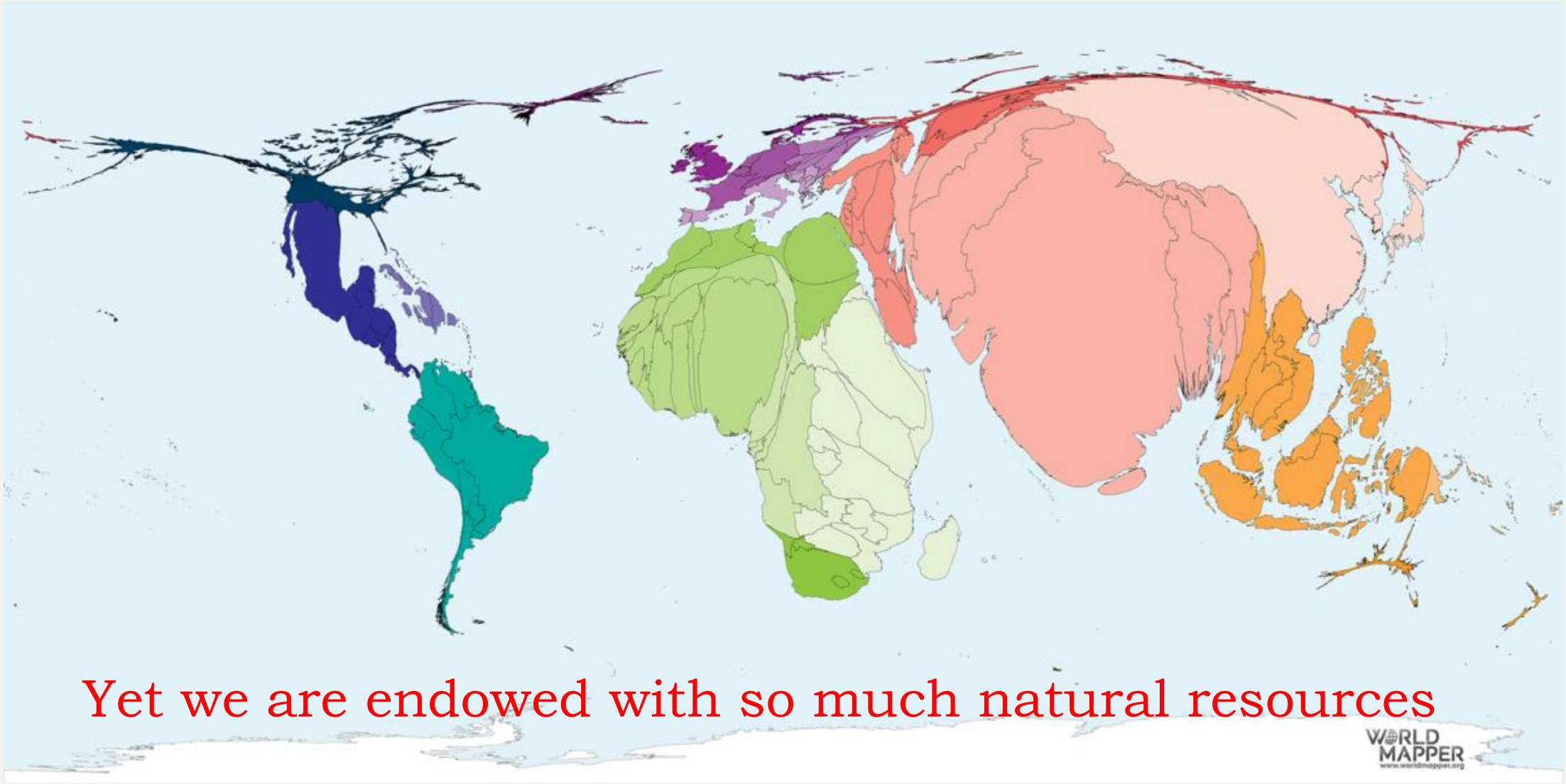
Source: UNESCO Institute of Statistics data.

Africans IN Higher Education compared to the Rest of the World

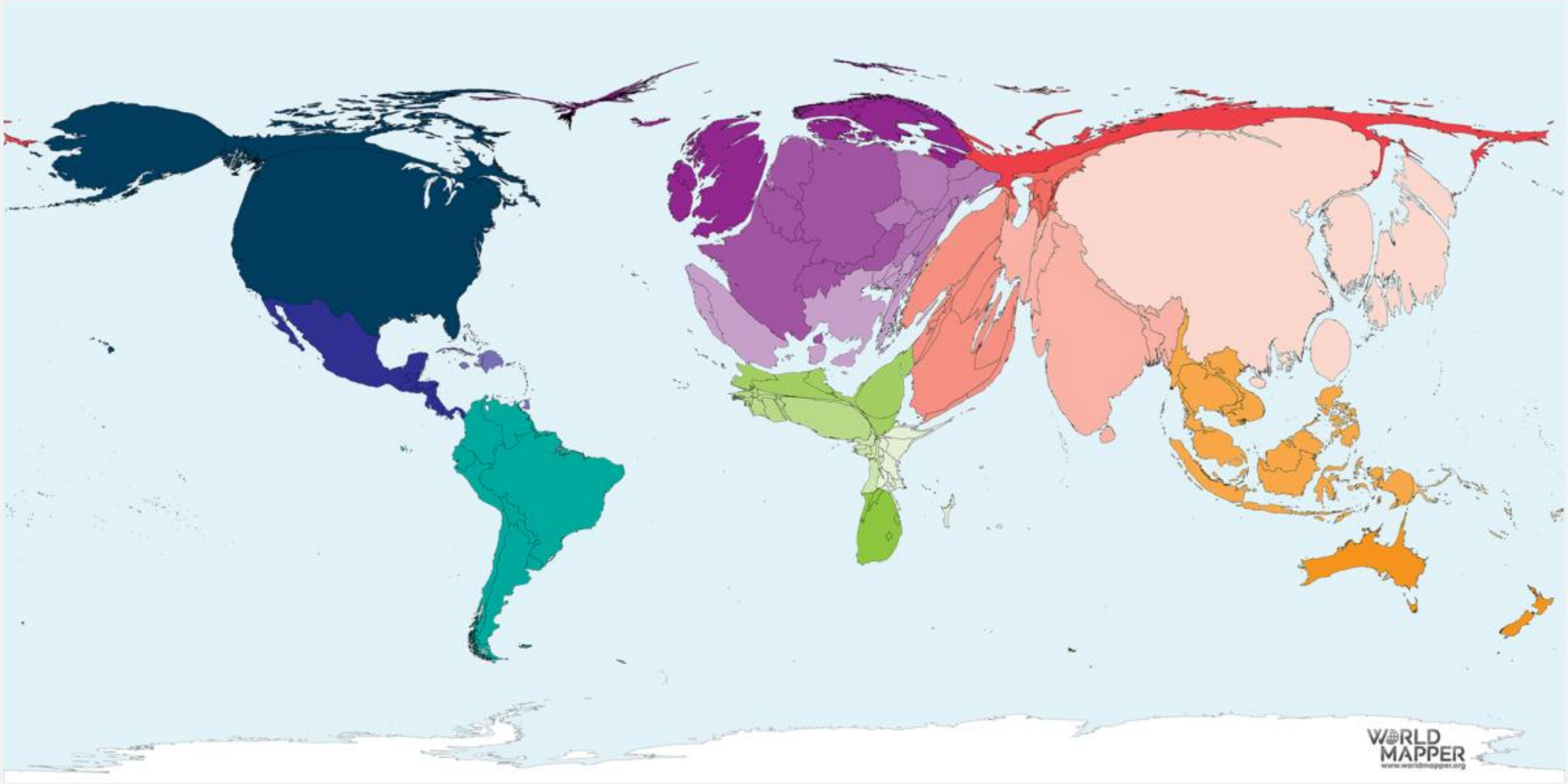


Yet we have a youthful population hungry for higher education

Africans NOT in Higher Education Compared to the Rest of the World



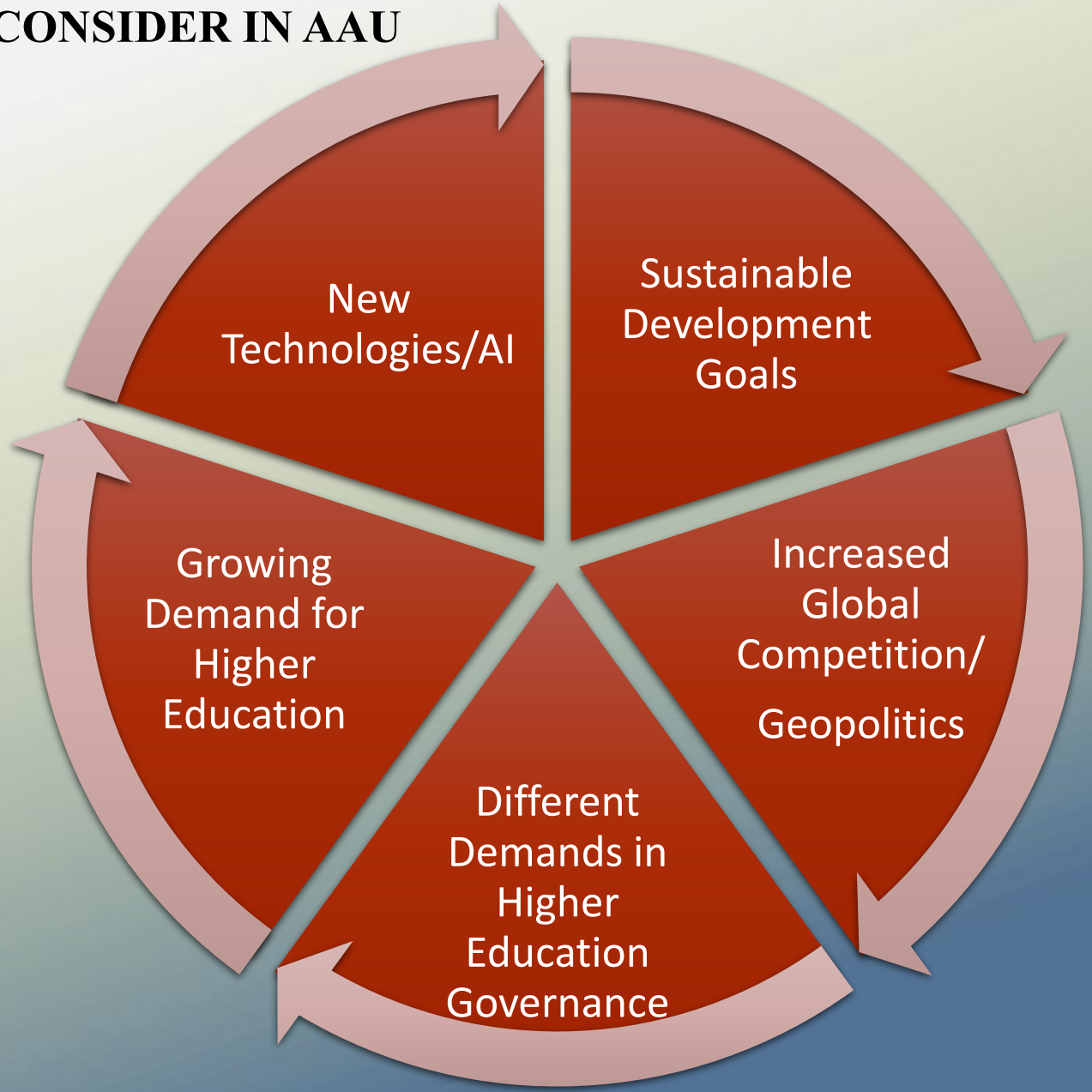
Higher Education Spending in Africa compared to the Rest of the World



MAJOR GLOBAL TRENDS TO CONSIDER IN AAU

AAU must recognize these global trends, adapt to new realities

Thus we must be a Responsive, Relevant and Impactful Association



NUMBER OF YEARS IT TOOK FOR EACH PRODUCT TO GAIN 50 MILLION USERS:



It means our curriculum and training programmes must adapt much faster

*What I will do to **continue** making AAU a Key Driver in Africa's Transformation*

- Address Members' Needs, including inclusivity and diversity
- Support Excellent Student Experience including mobility
- Invest in High-Quality Infrastructure for Impactful Research. Incentivize Africa's best institutions/brains
- *Pragmatic Advocacy, Engagement and Collaboration*
- *Good Governance and Transformative Leadership*
- *CPD opportunities for member Universities*
- *Strengthen Change Management – **resistance occurs: not willing, not able, not knowing***
- *Share Good Practice*

AAU Challenges and Actions I will take

- Membership & benefits
- Sustainability of partnerships
- Purpose of regional offices
- Replication of ACE
- Policy development and implementation
- Insufficient Inter-Africa mobility
- **Inadequate/absent training of University leaders**
- **Undefined impact areas**



Propose new benefits to members

Prepare Strategic Partnership policy

Review ToR and share best practices

Finalise and ensure implementation of the endowment fund

Define sustainability and resource expansion and deepening of ACE

Establish a HE management training programme

My commitment – work plan with year-on-year timelines to be finalized soon

As President: I believe inspiration is more important than control. Africa is not burdened, it is on a path for prosperity. Our history will not be uprooted, we must attain our knowledge sovereignty. Youth must rise responsibly to the challenge. We must not stop pushing to be at the forefront of what Africa can give to its population.

But lets REMEMBER Institutions rise and fall on leadership. Vote wisely…You know AAU will not fall – we will thrive



THE AAU President I WILL BE

A LEADER WHO :

Steer AAU Mission, lead strategic and Performance management

- Future-pacing Africa's HE system.
- Working to cause commitment
- Inspire, motivate, influence ambition for impact.

Know Your SWOT

- SWOT= Compliment, compensate , maximise and confront.

Commit to Personal Growth, CPD

- Pursuit of Impact and Relevance, CPD for everyone.

“What we know we must share

What we don’t know we must ask”



“We rise by lifting others”~ Robert Ingersoll

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Thank You...

For further enquiries,
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AAU_67
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Association of African Universities