



## **COTONOU DECLARATION ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

**ON 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

WE, organisations for persons with intellectual disabilities and other disability groups, self-advocates and families of persons with disabilities convened by Inclusion Africa,

AWARE that West African countries have signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities,

COGNISANT of the fact that West African countries have domesticated the Convention through their various local disability laws,

MINDFUL of the fact that the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, Constitutions of African Countries and their local laws and policies on Education and Disabilities guarantee the right to education for all,

CONCERNED THAT West African countries have not implemented inclusive education as envisaged in the African Disability Protocol, Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, Salamanca Statement and UNESCO,

THEREFORE,

1. CALL ON all West African governments to formulate and fully implement policies on inclusive education

2. CALL UPON West African governments to back Inclusive Education policy proclamations with budgetary commitments

3. CALL UPON West African governments to institute necessary accommodations to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities are not left out in inclusive education programming. Such accommodations could entail accessible infrastructure, assistive devices, technology, curriculums flexibility, content in accessible formats, time flexibility, assessment flexibility, among others.
4. CALL UPON West African governments to provide clear transitions guidelines from one education level to the next without discrimination.
5. CALL FOR the involvement of West African organisations of and for persons with intellectual disabilities and their families, organisations for persons with disabilities and all other stakeholders in human rights in the implementation of inclusive education,
6. DRAWS THE ATTENTION of the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union as well as other continental regional blocks to the agenda of Inclusive Education.

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN,

INCLUSION AFRICA

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