

## Application file of Madam Carole AVANDE HOUNDJO for the Executive Committee of International Council of Adult Education

- 1. Name of the candidate:** Madam Carole AVANDE HOUNDJO
- 2. Position of nomination:** Vice-President (Africa)
- 3. Nominating organisation :** Pamoja West Africa

### Letter of Ms Carole AVANDE HOUNDJO to the Electoral Committee of ICAE

My interest in literacy and education for illiterate young people and adults was born in 2003 during my linguistics studies. Indeed, the teacher of the course ‘ ‘ Literacy and development ’ ’ had assigned me a theme of presentation entitled ‘ ‘ State of literacy in Benin: challenges and prospects ’ ’. During research on this theme I had discovered that 64% of the Beninese population is illiterate. This situation created a click in me and from that moment I made the commitment to dedicate my life to help communities in the field of literacy and community development. So I worked for ten years in a Beninese NGO (Wycliffe / SIL Benin) as a national literacy coordinator. I am one of the pioneers who created the national network of private operators for literacy and languages in Benin in 2008. In my role of General Secretary of the network, I represented the Benin network at the various Pamoja West Africa training courses from 2008 to 2013. In February 2014, I was recruited as coordinator of Pamoja West Africa. Pamoja West Africa is a network specializing in advocacy for the quality of education of young people and adults in Benin, Burkina-Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Niger, Nigeria and Togo.

Through this sub-regional position that I have occupied for six years, I have better understood the challenges and the complexity of the education of young and adults in our sub-region but also at the international level. Pamoja West Africa has been a member of ICAE since 2014 and the network has always fulfilled its

duties to ICAE. In November 2016, I participated in the international advocacy academy organized by ICAE in Ouagadougou in Burkina-Faso. This training had a big impact on me because I gained the appropriate tools to conduct evidence-based advocacy on a national, regional and international level. As a youth and adult trainer, I have managed non-formal youth and adult education centers, trained hundreds of facilitators and supervisors on several literacy approaches such as classic method, Reflect approach; Text pedagogy approach, holistic literacy approach... .. From 2014 to 2018, I coordinated the training activities of facilitators and the supervision of basic education centers of the Regional Program of Education of Pastoral Populations funded by Swiss Cooperation. Through the financial support of DVV international and Swiss Cooperation, Pamoja West Africa is carrying out advocacy actions on increasing the funding of education for young people and adults in West Africa, the professionalization of stakeholders, updating and applying education policy documents and regularly updating statistical data. From June to December 2017 I played the role of Policy officer for ICAE within the framework of the CONFINTEA Mid-term in Suwon. My position as a policy officer allowed me to understand how ICAE works and to touch on the challenges that ICAE is facing. ICAE Secretary General Ms. Katarina Popovic brilliantly facilitated the training workshop on advocacy techniques organized by Pamoja West Africa in 2017 in Fez, Morocco.

Furthermore, I had the privilege of representing ICAE at the World Civil Society Week in Belgrade in 2019, at the meeting of experts on the validation of the 2020-2022 literacy strategy of UNESCO-UIL in May 2019 and at the meeting with Bridge 47 on the validation of the roadmap for the implementation of SDG 4.7 in Europe. ICAE is the only voice of advocacy at the international level for education of young people and adults and it is important that ICAE is more present and known in regions like West Africa where more than 50% of the population is illiterate. . The African continent is strategic and constitutes an opportunity for ICAE insofar as the education of young people and adults contributes to the rooting of peace, to social, economic development and to the establishment of a more equitable world where everyone can contribute. Several African countries such as Burkina, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Libya are the targets of terrorists who kill thousands of people, thus creating an atmosphere of constant fear which pushes million people to get around. This has led to the closure of many schools, depriving thousands of children of their rights to education. These children will no doubt increase the number of out-of-school youth and adults in the next five years. This is why ICAE must be creative and resilient in carrying out advocacy for the education of young people and adults at the international

level as well as supporting its members in the different regions for the implementation of innovative programs.

My presence on the Executive committee of ICAE will make ICAE more visible in Africa and more effectively address the challenges of educating young people and adults at the international level. We would also like to take up the challenge of communication and advisory support to ICAE members based in Africa.

Furthermore, we know that for the last two years, ICAE has faced a financial crisis which has led to the reduction of staff working at the secretariat level and the suspension of most activities. Together with the other members of the Board of Directors, we will join efforts to give new breath and a new direction to ICAE.

Finally I would like to specify to the committee in charge of selecting the members of the Executive Committee that I am a hard working lady, competent, dynamic and I have been working since 2014 with partners such as DVV international, Swiss Cooperation, UIL-UNESCO, the World Campaign for Literacy and the International Organization of Francophonie... I am therefore available to put my skills at the service of the right to education for young people and adults through the responsibility of Vice-President of Africa. My network which is Pamoja West Africa is available to disseminate ICAE activities in West Africa and to support me in this role.