

The chairman of ProFuturo considers the offering of an education comparable to that of western countries, to every child in developing countries, as a viable prospect.

CESAR ALIERTA PRESENTS PROFUTURO AT THE G20 CONFERENCE ON AFRICA IN BERLIN

- As chairman of Fundación Telefónica and Fundación ProFuturo, César Alierta has participated in the "G20 Africa Partnership – Investing in a Common Future" conference, where he presented the high-impact digital educational programme, ProFuturo.
- ProFuturo was set up by Fundación Telefónica and Fundación Bancaria "la Caixa". It is hoped it will reach 10 million children by 2020 with the aim of reducing the educational divide in the world by providing a quality digital education to boys and girls in vulnerable environments of Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and South-east Asia.
- "Today, through ProFuturo, we are working to ensure that a child in Abuja (Nigeria) has access to a quality education, just as a child in Berlin has. This will lead that child to a whole new world of opportunity", explained Alierta during his speech at the G20 Compact with Africa forum.

Berlin, June 13, 2017. "The results have so far been spectacular. Children who had previously shown no interest in subjects that were very difficult to assimilate, now get involved to an unprecedented degree", said César Alierta, during his speech at the G20 Compact with Africa symposium. This forum was one of the central themes at the "G20 Africa Partnership – Investing in a Common Future" conference, which focused on the need to promote opportunities for private investors in African countries. In addition to referring to the creation of a favourable business environment and to sustainable development, education was one of the leitmotifs of the discussion.

"We are moving forward with real solutions for real problems. We have been working in Latin America for ten years, and in 2016, we set off on our journey through Africa. By the end of 2016, we had **3.8 million children** using our digital education programmes. The **aim** is to reach **10 million** children by 2020 and 50 million by 2030", stated Alierta.

The chairman of ProFuturo has judged the cost of providing children from disadvantaged countries with the opportunity to receive a level of education on a par with that in the West, as being a viable, necessary investment. Alierta also announced that a "three-way" agreement had been reached with Nigeria's Northern States Governors' Forum and the Church, aimed at bringing this digital educational solution to the communities of that country. This is an agreement which, he says, "can be repeated" in other settings and countries.

Implementation in Nigeria

César Alierta recently travelled to the country's capital, Abuja, to sign a collaboration agreement with **Kashim Shettima**, Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum and Governor of the State of Borno; the archbishop of Kaduna, **Matthew Man-oso Ndagoso**, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference of Nigeria, and Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, founder of the Kukah Centre.

This agreement has its origin at the Inter-religious Meeting in Assisi in 2016, where César Alierta presented ProFuturo. At that event, the **Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II**, learnt about the initiative, and thus, the commitment was made by the **Community of Sant'Egidio** to consider its implementation in Nigeria. The mediation of the representative of the Catholic institution for the European Union and Nigeria, **Jan De Volder**, was essential to make it possible for ProFuturo to reach the African country.

The agreement will be coordinated by the centre for inter-religious dialogue, the Kukah Centre, an institution promoted by the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Matthew Hassan Kukah, which is considering carrying out **pilot projects in 120 schools** in the north of the country, from which it is estimated that approximately 70,000 Muslim and Catholic children will benefit.

The initiative will be launched in June with the identification of schools, and will continue with the training of teachers in September, who are to be gradually introduced into schools throughout the 2017- 2018 academic year.

About ProFuturo

ProFuturo was created with the goal of transforming the education of 10 million children by 2020. The programme is promoted by Fundación Telefónica and the Fundación Bancaria "la Caixa". Its mission is to reduce the educational divide in the world by providing a quality digital education to boys and girls in vulnerable environments of Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and South-east Asia. Its educational proposal incorporates technology, educational content, and learning-teaching methodologies for teaching staff and students, with the goal of transforming the education of boys and girls. In addition, this project aims to welcome and promote the participation of other companies and institutions, and aspires to create a large international network of centres that teach, learn, and share knowledge in order to jointly achieve better education around the world.

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