

2ND SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (STC-EST 2) DRAFT DECISIONS

AUDA-NEPAD;

;

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**2ND SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE MEETING ON
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(STC-EST 2)**

**21-23 October 2017
Cairo, Egypt**

Appendix 1

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**STC-EST
DRAFT DECISIONS**

DECISIONS ON EDUCATION AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ministers of Education and Science & Technology from AU Member States endorse the following decisions in Education and Science & Technology:

A. EDUCATION

I. DRAFT STATUTE FOR THE AU INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN AFRICA (AU-CIEFFA)

COMMEND the work of the African Union International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU-CIEFFA)

TAKE NOTE of, and **ADOPT** the Statutes of the African Union International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU-CIEFFA);

REQUEST Member States to reconsider the approved AU/CIEFFA structure and increase the staff allocation, for the Centre to efficiently fulfil its mandate.

II. PAN-AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

TAKE NOTE of the two proposals submitted by the Pan African University Council in view of strengthening the governing organs of the Pan African University;

RECOMMEND payment of honoraria to members of the Pan African University Council and provision of office space, facilities, logistics and support staff for the President and Vice President of the Pan African University Council.

III. PAN AFRICAN VIRTUAL AND E-UNIVERSITY (PAVEU)

TAKE NOTE OF the proposal to operationalize the Africa Virtual and e-University as the open, distance and e-learning arm of the Pan African University;

ENDORSE the proposal to operationalize the Africa Virtual and e-University as the open, distance and e-learning arm of the Pan African University.

IV. CESA IMPLEMENTATION PLATFORM

CALL ON Member States and Regional Economic Communities to popularise and organise local launching of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa as Africa's domestication of the global SDG 4 and Education 2030

REITERATE the call for Member States to support the work of the Commission

ENCOURAGE Member States to assign the responsibility of Focal Agency for CESA to National UNESCO Commissions in order to promote alignment of the local, continental and global frameworks

REQUEST the AUC to participate in Cluster activities and organise experience sharing events for Member States to learn from best practices in Literacy, STEM Education, Early Childhood Education, School Feeding and other major areas of CESA

FURTHER REQUEST the AUC to ensure development and alignment of qualification frameworks from basic to higher education and TVET, for coherent education development

CALL ON the AUC to work with Member States, RECs and Partners to develop programmes for promotion of a culture of reading among children, youth and adults

FURTHER CALL for deliberate promotion of African writers and African content in education curricula

COMMEND partner agencies for the support, **CALL** on them to strengthen support and collaboration in education development, and **REITERATE** the need for Partners to align the education activities in Africa with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa

ENCOURAGE Member States to support the work of the AUC in strengthening EMIS Capacity towards ensuring that Africa takes charge of its education data.

V. TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

COMMEND the Commission for finalising the Study on Teacher Training, Working and Living Conditions in Member States;

CALL ON Member States who did not do so to provide responses to the questionnaires of the Teacher Study by the end on 2017, to enable completion of a comprehensive baseline picture;

FURTHER CALL ON Member States, RECs and relevant partner agencies to collaborate and implement the recommendations from the Teacher Study;

AGREE TO strengthen PACTED to support the work of the Teacher Development Cluster within the framework of CESA;

CALL FOR establishment of an African Teacher Prize and **REQUEST** the AUC to work with partners and Member State experts to develop the Terms of Reference and Mechanism for the award, including financial implications, and present for endorsement to the STC-EST Bureau meeting by April 2018, so that it can be submitted to the July 2018 Summit;

REQUEST the AUC in partnership with UNESCO to expedite the finalisation of the Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol for submission to the AU Summit of July 2018;

FURTHER REQUEST the AUC to spearhead the development of a Pan African Teachers Corps with Member States, RECs and Partners, and present the business plan to a PACTED meeting to be held in April 2018.

VI. SCHOOL FEEDING

ENDORSE the Report and Recommendations of the School Feeding Study;

CALL for allocation of budget for an inter-ministerial Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) management unit for strengthening the implementation of the findings of the study and the AU Decision 589 XXVI.

ENCOURAGE Member States to develop implementation plans based on the findings of the study, including strengthening local resourcing of school feeding;

ENCOURAGE Member States to consider HGSF not as a mere spending but as a long term investment in children and youth and identify cost effective and more innovative local financing;

INVITE more partner agencies support popularization of the HGSF under CESA also as a contribution to Zero Hunger; sharing of good practices; training and capacity building of Member states and non-state stakeholders; and monitoring and evaluation.

VII. ICT IN EDUCATION

COMMEND the work of GESCI in coordinating and initiating activities under the ICT in Education Cluster;

CALL FOR organisation of experience sharing engagements to share best practices;

FURTHER CALL FOR mobilisation of resources for the AUC to facilitate the up-scaling of initiatives in digitisation of education.

VIII. PEACE AND EDUCATION

CALL UPON all Member States to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration and implement its guidelines and **FURTHER URGE** Member States to implement and report on other related instruments which they have already ratified.

IX. HIGHER EDUCATION

URGE Member States to secure sustainable funding to ensure successful implementation of the African Union higher education initiatives, including the Mwalimu Nyerere AU Scholarship Scheme;

ENCOURAGE the higher education institutions in their respective countries to employ the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) as a tool for quality improvement through self-evaluation and external validation;

ENSURE political endorsement for effective functioning of the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF);

REQUEST the Commission to develop legal framework and organizational set-up for establishing a Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency;

LAUNCH ratification campaign for implementation of Addis Convention in their respective countries involving the relevant national structures and authorities;

URGE Member States to ratify the Addis Convention by the end of 2018.

X. HISTORY OF AFRICA

ADOPT the common pedagogical contents developed on the basis of the General History of Africa and integrate them into their national curricula.

XI. AU/CIEFFA PRESENTATION ON GIRLS AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION

ENDORSE the conclusions and recommendations of the various activities organized by the AU/CIEFFA contained in its 2017 activities report such as the High Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education, Dialogue with religious and traditional leaders.

STRONGLY RECOMMEND the Institutionalization of the High Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education (HLDGE), whose objective is the implementation of existing policies like CESA and Agenda 2063 among other frameworks pertaining to girls and women's education, in line with the AU theme of the year and to be organized by the AU/CIEFFA and its partners annually on the margins of the AU January Summit;

REQUEST THE AU/CIEFFA and its partners to work on the feasibility on the appointment of an AU Special Rapporteur on Girls' Education in Africa who will champion the AU's Agenda on girl's education. The appointed Rapporteur supported by the AU/CIEFFA will present annually a report during the AU High Level Dialogue on Gender and Education.

XII. SKILLS INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA AND THE DECADE ON TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL, ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

TAKE NOTE of the Skills Initiative for Africa as a continental programme for improving perspectives of young people in Africa through increased employment and income opportunities;

ENDORSE the Skills Initiative for Africa the creation of World Skills Africa as programmes geared towards addressing skills shortages, mismatches and enhancing employment prospects for youth in Africa;

CALL UPON Member States, RECs, Private Sector and relevant partners to;

- a. Work together towards enhancing the initiative including mobilizing resources to scale up the initiative
- b. Develop National Inventories encompassing skills ecosystems and sharing of promising practices on youth skills development and employment.

URGE Member States to contribute to the Continental Plan of Action for implementation of the Decade on Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment, and also develop National Implementation plans in line with the decision;

REQUEST Member States, RECs, Private Sector and relevant partners to commit to the implementation of this decision.

FURTHER COMMENDS the AUC for initiating the partnership with World Skills International (WSI) **AND REQUESTS** the Commission to submit the policy and the strategy document of the institutionalization of World Skills Africa for consideration by the AU Assembly in the 2018 July Summit.

XIII. EDUCATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS BY THE PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (IPED)

CALL on the African Union Commission, The Government of Democratic Republic of Congo and the 11 member states of BASE to resolve the debt owed to BASE pensioners, in order to facilitate revitalization of IPED

FURTHER CALL the African Union Commission and the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo to extend the leases on IPED's properties;

CALL on the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo to renovate the IPED offices;

REQUEST the African Union Commission to expedite operationalization of IPED with staff and equipment.

XIV. PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PACTED)

COMMEND the progress made by member states in Teacher Development **and AGREE** to strengthen PACTED to support the work of the Teacher Development Cluster within the framework of CESA;

CALL FOR the establishment of an AU Teachers Prize and request the Commission to work with member states and partners to develop the implementation mechanism

REQUEST the AUC to spearhead the development of a Pan African Teachers Corps with Member States, RECs and Partners, and present the business plan to a PACTED meeting to be held in April 2018.

FURTHER REQUEST Member States to strengthen teacher preparatory programmes to ensure the quality of teaching and promote effective mobility of teachers.

B. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

I. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STISA-2024

(i) AUC/HRST SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

REQUEST the Commission to develop a reporting template for the implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa – STISA-2024, to enable Member States to report on their initiatives during the STC-EST;

(i) PAN AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (PAIPO)

URGE the Commission and the Republic of Tunisia in collaboration with WIPO and Regional IP Organizations in particular OAPI and ARIPO and national IP Institutions to expedite the implementation of this decision;

TAKE NOTE of the ratification process of the PAIPO Statutes and

CALL UPON Member States to ratify the Statutes;

(ii) AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL

URGE the Commission to build synergies with existing programmes, platforms and collaborate with other institutions such as the AAS in the implementation of the ASRIC platform

REQUEST the AUC to conduct the Congress meeting in 2018 and report and

CALL UPON Partners, Member States and RECs to support the launching of ASRIC

(iii) AU RESEARCH GRANT

COMMEND the EU for the technical and financial support to the AU Commission for building its capacity to set-up and manage a continental research and innovation funding programme for the continent;

CALL UPON the Member States, research institutions and Universities to actively participate in the programme, in particular in the Calls for Proposals;

URGE the Member States, RECs, the Private Sectors and other Development Partners to collaborate with the Commission to boost the programme as a sustainable Pan African Instrument for financing R&D and Innovation in the continent.

URGE Member States to avail domestic resources to complement the funding of R&D in the Continent. This is more so with regard to the reforms taking place at the AU to urge for self-reliance, in particular funding our Programmes.

(iv) AU Kwame Nkrumah Science Awards

TAKE NOTE of the launching of the 2017 Edition of the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Science Awards

REQUEST Member states and RECs to widely disseminate the award calls

CALL UPON Member States, the RECs and Partners to enhance synergies with similar awards programs at regional and continental levels in order to gain efficiency and sustainability, and

URGE Member States to take ownership and support the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Science Awards

(v) AU - EU High Level Policy Dialogue

COMMEND the progress being made through the HLPD on STI to strengthen AU-EU cooperation on STI and as a platform for jointly addressing global challenged through co-owned and join R&I partnerships;

WELCOME Roadmap towards a jointly funded EU-Africa Research & Innovation Partnership, with focus on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE);

CALL UPON the Member States, RECS, and Private Sectors to take ownership of this process and support the implementation of the R&I Partnerships on the identified topics.

(vi) AFRICAN SPACE AGENCY

TAKE NOTE of the steps taken by the Commission in the implementation of the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.589(XXVI) of January 2016, that adopted African Space Policy and Strategy as first series of instruments to formalise an African Space Programme;

ACKNOWLEDGE the urgent need to build Africa's capacities for harnessing space sciences, technologies and innovations to respond to AU Agenda 2063, which identifies African outer-space as a flagship programme premised on building space capabilities in (i) Earth Observation, (ii) Satellite Communication (iii) Navigation and Positioning, and (iv) Space Science and Exploration

ENDORSE the Statutes for the African Space Agency as a Pan African Institution mandated to implement in collaboration with Member States, and Regional Economic Communities a well-coordinated and integrated African space programme that is responsive to the social, economic, political and environmental needs of the continent, as well as being globally competitive;

REQUEST the Commission to submit Statutes, and finalise the legal and structural implication of the African Space Agency to the relevant AU Policy Organs for consideration as per the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.589(XXVI) of January 2016;

URGE Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Development Partners to proactively participate in the implementation of this decision.

II. AFRICAN UNION HIGH LEVEL PANEL REPORT ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

TAKES NOTE of the commendable action and progress taken by the Chairperson of the AUC in the implementation of the Assembly decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.618 (XXVII) par. 19), by appointing the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET).

TAKES NOTE of the progress that APET has made since its inception and the first three technologies that it has analysed and drawn recommendations that have been proposed for consideration by the AU and Member States. The three emerging technologies are Gene Drive for control and elimination of malaria; Drones in the horizon: transforming Africa's agriculture; and Micro-grid: empowering communities and enabling transformation in Africa

REQUEST all Member States to actively contribute to the work of the APET when requested to do so;

CALL UPON Member States, the RECs and Partners to familiarize themselves with the work being done by APET

III. ON GMES AND AFRICA

WELCOME GMES & Africa Support Programme, which builds on existing initiatives, to support African Earth Observation System to tackle mitigation and adaptation to climate

change, disaster risk reduction, post 2015 sustainable development including management of environment, blue economy and natural resources;

APPLAUD The signing of GMES & Africa Support Programme Financing Agreement between AUC and the European Commission in December 2016 and the progress made in its implementation including the successful selection of the Regional Implementation Centers through an open call for proposals;

CALL UPON Member States to foster ownership of the programme in order to ensure its sustainability by aligning the related activities with the national and regional strategic policy and economic priorities, and in providing co-funding, human resources and all kind of support.

IV. AU SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL RESEARCH COMMISSION (STRC) PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES

(i) African Union Network of Sciences (AUNS)

TAKE NOTE of the progress made since the inception of the programme.

CALL UPON the AUC and Partners to avail resources - human and financial for the network to be fully functional.

FURTHER CALL UPON Regional Research and Education Networks to avail their data and support the AUNS

(ii) Africa Health Research Capacity Building

TAKE NOTE of the progress made in the MoU between AUC and the Government of India.

APPRECIATE the effort of the Government of India for hosting the first and second meeting on the partnership

FURTHER APPRECIATE the efforts of UNESCO and Merck International in supporting the capacity building of scientist in the field of health sciences.

V. ON THE AFRICAN OBSERVATORY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (AOSTI)

TAKE NOTE and appreciate the progress made in the development of an M&E model for STISA-24

COMMEND AOSTI and the STISA M&E Working Group for initiating the development of the STISA M&E Framework

FURTHER COMMEND ECOWAS for proving funds to AOSTI to undertake a Bibliometric study of the ECOWAs Member States which constitutes a building block of the STISA M&E Framework

URGE the Commission to avail resources to operationalise the STISA M&E Model

CALL UPON Member States, RECs and relevant partners to support the development and implementation of the STISA M&E Framework.

VI. ON PREPARATION OF THE AFRICAN INNOVATION OUTLOOK

CALL ON Member States who are actively supporting the ASTII programme to continue with the good work that they are doing.

URGE Member States to actively support (i.e. financial, human and social) and own the Science Granting Council Initiative.

TAKE NOTE of the progress in preparing the African Innovation Outlook 3 and the opportunities to advance the use of STI indicators presented by the Science Granting Councils Initiative.

VII. ON UPDATE ON PREPARATION OF AU RESEARCH FOR HEALTH STRATEGY

TAKE NOTE of the update on the consultative process and the remaining milestones towards finalisation and integration of the Research for Health and Innovation into the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030)

VIII. PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

i) The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)

COMMEND AAS for the support it provides to the Commission

CALL ON the Member States to support the Pan-African Synchrotron initiative

ii) The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

APPLAUD the commitment by tier-one countries to initiate the implementation of Science Agenda for agriculture in Africa (S3A) as the main vehicle for harnessing STI to power their drive to end hunger by 2030.

NOTE that the current interventions fall short of the threshold required to put Members States on course to end hunger by 2030.

CALL UPON Member States and RECs to implement the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa, and specifically to:

- a. Strengthen the coordination of planning and implementation of agriculture STI policies and programmes at national and regional level. This will entail establishing the relevant knowledge bases.
- b. Increase the scale and quality of domestic investments towards mainstreaming the science agenda for agriculture in national plans and programmes.
- c. Develop critical capacities (human, infrastructure and systemic) for Biosciences and Biotechnology in particular.
- d. Set agriculture STI performance indicators and targets, and establish a mechanism for tracking and reporting progress towards these targets.

(iii) Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

ACKNOWLEDGE and affirm support for the initiative of the World Bank with RUFORUM with pilots in six countries to strengthen higher agricultural education in Africa towards the Agenda 2063.

URGE the AUC through the Pan African University to co-host the sixth biennial conference in Nairobi, 2018.