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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: 00251-11-5517700 Cable: AU, ADDIS ABABA  
Website: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Twelfth Ordinary Session**  
**25 – 29 January 2008**  
**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/385 (XII)Rev.1

**REPORT OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU  
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST III) – 12 – 16 NOVEMBER 2007,  
MOMBASSA, KENYA**

## REPORT OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST III)

### INTRODUCTION

The Third Ordinary Session of the African Ministers Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) took place in Mombassa, Kenya from 12 to 15 November 2007 to consider among other key issues the strategy and reports on implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), implementation of the African Union 2007 Summit Decisions and resource mobilization for the CPA. A total of twenty-nine (29) AU Member States attended the meeting. Also in attendance were specialized institutions of the AU and a number of International Organizations.

### ISSUES DISCUSSED

The Ministers discussed the AU Institutional Framework to align, streamline and rationalize AMCOST according to the existing AU Rules of Procedure and elected the AMCOST III new Bureau as follows:

1. Chair : Republic of Kenya
2. First Vice Chair: Republic of Algeria
3. Second Vice Chair: Republic of Burundi
4. Third Vice Chair: Republic of Zambia
5. Rapporteur: Republic of Nigeria
6. Ex-Officio Member: Commissioner of HRST

The Ministers also discussed: (1) the handing over report of the outgoing Chair of the AMCOST II Bureau, (2) the report of the meeting of the AMCOST experts, (3) the proposal for the establishment of the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund through the African Development Bank, (4) the Progress Reports on the implementation of January 2007 Summit decision on science and technology and Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), and (5) the Regional Reports on domestication of the CPA by members of AMCOST II Bureau.

### OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

The outcomes included the following:

- i) Establishment of science and technology desks in RECs and Member States;
- ii) Domestication of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action at the local, national and regional levels;
- iii) Presentation of the revised African Model Law on Biosafety to all Member States and encourage to adopt it to local key framework.

- iv) Adoption of policy frameworks on intellectual property rights and bio-prospecting;
- v) Formation of the Association of African Women on Science and Technology;
- vi) Recommend the Bureau of AMCOST and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to coordinate the establishment of a panel on climate change and to prepare a common framework on climate change;
- vii) Support the cooperation of all international partners in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

## **DOCUMENTS APPENDED**

The following documents are appended to this report:

1. Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST III).
2. AMCOST III Ministerial Decisions.

**EX.CL/385 (XII)**  
**Annex I**

**Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial  
Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST III)**

## MINISTERIAL REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST III) was held from 12 – 16 November 2007 in Mombasa, Kenya. The Ministerial session was held from 15 -16 November 2007, and was preceded by the experts' session from 12 to 13 November 2007. The meeting discussed among other key issues the strategy and reports on implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), implementation of the African Union 2007 Summit Decisions and resource mobilisation for the CPA.

### ATTENDANCE

2. The Ministers of the following AU Member States attended the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Kenya,, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia.

3. The Following Countries were represented by Senior Officials:

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo. Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.

4. Also in attendance were the following International Organizations and NGOs and specialised institutions/programmes of the AU.

United Nations University (UNU), Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), African Development Bank (AfDB), NEPAD, UN Economic Commission For Africa (UNECA), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), International Centre for Genetic and Engineering Biotechnology (ICGEB), Association of Commonwealth Universities, International Council for Science (ICSU), European Union (EU), Bill And Melinda Gates Foundation, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and Pan African Parliament (PAP)

5. The List of attendance is attached as annexed.

### AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

6. The opening of the Third African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology was preceded by music and poetry entertainment. The Director of Human Resources Science and Technology, Dr. Abdul-Hakim J. Alwaer, welcomed the guests. The AU anthem was played. He then invited the Commissioner Prof. N. Essayed, of

Human Resources, Science and Technology, H.E. Dr. Noah M. Wekesa, the Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO and H.E. Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama Dia, Chairperson of AMCOST II and Minister of Science and Technology, Republic of Senegal to open the session.

**(a) Welcome remarks by H.E Prof. N. Essayed, Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology**

7. The Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology, Prof. N. Essayed, on behalf of Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union welcomed the participants to the Third Session of AMCOST. She thanked the Republic of Kenya for hosting the Conference and for the excellent facilities provided.

8. In her speech, she highlighted the following key issues:

- The hard work done by the experts and senior officials in the preparation of the Ministerial Session.
- The need for Member States and the RECs to domesticate and integrate various flagship programmes of the CPA in their regional and national development programmes.
- To expedite the process of creating a fund as an intergovernmental mechanism to mobilize technical and financial resources for the implementation of the CPA.
- The July 2008 Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government, will have a focused discussion on “Industrialization of Africa” and that the Ministers of Industry, in their Extraordinary Conference in September 2007, identified science, technology and innovation, especially in the context of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, as a major input into the strategy for industry.
- The positive political will, commitment and achievements made in science and technology in Africa through our AMCOST, its Bureau and Steering Committee under the leadership of H.E. Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama Dia, Minister of Science and Technology of Senegal. She expressed conviction that the new Bureau of AMCOST III under the chairmanship of the Republic of Kenya will further advance our scientific and development agenda in the continent.
- Urged the upcoming AMCOST III organs to be aligned to the AU structures, as this would enable its smooth running within the entire African Union legal and operational provisions.

**(b) Opening address by H.E. Dr. Noah M. Wekesa, Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Kenya**

9. H.E. Dr. Noah M. Wekesa, Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Kenya welcomed the participants to Mombasa and to AMCOST III. In his speech the following key issues were raised:

- The commitment of the Republic of Kenya to chair AMCOST III for the next two years and further advance the continent's programmes in Science and Technology in order to address its challenges.
- The strengthening of political constituency to guide the continent's priorities and policies for economic transformation.
- The commitment of AMCOST which is demonstrated by the achievements made so far including the adoption of Africa's S&T programmes and their subsequent endorsement by the AU Assembly including the 1%GDP allocation to Science and Technology.
- Africa can no longer postpone the need to face the challenge of its development through Science and Technology.

He thanked the outgoing Bureau under the stewardship of H.E. Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama Dia in championing the development of Science and Technology during her tenure of office that led to the raising of the profile of Science and Technology in Africa.

He proposed that there is a need to disseminate and share information on the development of Science and Technology, recognise and award excellence in Science and Technology, and engage the youth in our development programmes as they form the largest percentage of our continent's human resource.

**(c) Opening address by Mr. Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO**

10. Mr. Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO in his opening statement conveyed the greetings and best wishes from the Director General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura. Mr Erdelen mentioned the progress made so far in Africa in the area of science and technology and the role UNESCO has played alongside with the AUC and NEPAD in pushing forward the science and technology agenda. He highlighted the following further steps that UNESCO has planned to do in supporting AUC/NEPAD in implementing the 2007 Assembly decision and some selected flagship programmes from the CPA.

11. In this regard, UNESCO will concentrate on the following areas that have been incorporated in its 2008/9 biennial programme and budget:

- Capacity building in science policy
- Science education; and
- Establishment of an African virtual campus

12. He highlighted that a strategy has been put in place to support these programmes through partnerships, as UNESCO alone cannot fund these programmes. This strategy calls for UNESCO to align its regular biennial programme with that of the CPA, carry out advocacy within and outside the UN family and identify major projects that would be submitted to partners for funding.

13. He said that a Communiqué on a Ministerial Round Table on Science and Technology for sustainable development has been circulated and he thanked the Ministers for their participation in UNESCO's General Conference and recommended the need for effective communication systems to promote reliable and constant exchange of information.

**(d) Opening Statement by H.E. Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama Dia, Chairperson of (AMCOST II) and Minister of Science and Technology, Senegal**

14. After having welcomed the participants to the Conference, the Chairperson thanked all her colleagues for the trust they had placed in Senegal to chair the AMCOST Bureau, and she congratulated Kenya for having been chosen to chair the future Bureau.

15. She pointed out that despite growing poverty, the political will shown for Science and Technology (S&T), notably the S&T Consolidated Plan of Action gave one hope for the development of Africa and its contribution to the world's scientific and technological arena.

16. She noted that the progress made included growing political will, the need to devise and use common indicators for scientific policies, the establishment of AU/NEPAD centres of excellence and the mobilisation of fund through an African Science Technology and Innovation Fund initiative.

17. The Chairperson highlighted the need for a substantial increase in the resources allocated to Research and Development (R&D) towards 1% of the GDP, as a necessary basis to contribute to global knowledge.

18. She noted that the progress made were due to the efforts of the African Union Commission and NEPAD Secretariats and, with the support development partners such as the G8, UNESCO, IDRC, DFID and Sida /SAREC.

19. The Chairperson recalled the positive perception of the CPA, and the fact that 2007 had been declared the Year of science and technology and innovation in Africa.

20. She drew attention to the need to identify regional priority programmes, explore innovative funding mechanisms and foster South-South and North-South cooperation to bridge the scientific and technological divide between the South and the North.

21. To end, the Chairperson extended her congratulations to Honourable Noah WEKESA, Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Kenya and wished him every success.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF AMCOST**

22. In introducing this agenda item, the Director of the AUC Legal Counsel, Mr. Ben Kioko highlighted the recommendations made by experts on this matter within the context of the applicable procedures within the African Union Commission. He also briefed the meeting on the progress made in the implementation of the Assembly Decision on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU.

### **Discussion**

23. In the discussions that ensued, ministers sought clarification on:

- That continuity would be ensured if the outgoing Chairperson was not a member of the Bureau;
- How representation of the civil society and the private sector would be ensured under the new arrangement;
- The basis of electing Bureau members according to membership of AU regions when the number of countries in each region are not the same;
- Whether the NEPAD Secretariat should participate in the Bureau and Steering Committee meetings. It was clarified that NEPAD was a programme of the Africa Union and therefore automatically forms part of the Commission's delegation to such meetings.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: ELECTION OF THE BUREAU AND STEERING COMMITTEE**

24. The meeting selected the following countries into the new Bureau and Steering Committee for AMCOST III.

### **1. Western Africa**

Federal Republic of Nigeria – Member of the Bureau  
Republic of Mali – Member of the Steering Committee

**2. East Africa**

Republic of Kenya – Member of the Bureau  
Republic of Mauritius - Member of the Steering Committee

**3. Southern Africa**

Republic of Zambia - Member of the Bureau  
Republic of Malawi- Member of the Steering Committee

**4. Central Africa**

Republic of Burundi – Member of the Bureau  
Republic of Gabon – Member of the Steering Committee

**5. Northern Africa**

Republic of Algeria – Member of the Bureau  
Arab Republic of Egypt – Member of the Steering Committee

25. The composition of the Bureau is:

1. Republic of Kenya Chair of AMCOST III
2. Republic of Algeria First Vice Chair
3. Republic of Burundi Second Vice Chair
3. Republic of Zambia Third Vice Chair
4. Republic of Nigeria Rapporteur

26. Dr. S. Kibeya, Minister of National Education in charge of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Republic of Burundi chaired the rest of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

27. The meeting adopted the agenda without amendment except reorganisation of some agenda items.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: HANDING OVER REPORT FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE AMCOST II BUREAU**

28. H.E. Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama Dia, Chairperson of (AMCOST II) and Minister of Science and Technology, Senegal presented the handing over report and highlighted the path of science and technology development under her chairmanship and major achievements the continent has made. These included among others:

- The activities towards the development and implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action are:
- Establishment of
  - Water sciences and technology centres of excellences
  - African energy research and innovation network
  - African biosciences centre of excellence, and
- Development of CPA implementation strategy

29. She highlighted the activities done by the Commission in preparation for the January 2007 Summit that included:

- First African Union Congress of Scientist and Policy makers
- Second African Congress for Scientific Research, and Technology
- The 2006 AfriCando Hemispheric Summit on science and technology
- Extra-ordinary AMCOST; and
- AU exhibition on science and technology

30. She also highlighted the initiatives of the Commission towards the implementation of January 2007 Summit Decisions on science and technology. These included:

- First African Union Conference of Women in Science and technology
- Formulation of a strategy for the establishment of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organisation
- A workshop on the African framework on bio-prospecting expert meeting
- African Union Best Scientific Awards/AU-WIPO Awards aimed at raise public awareness and popularization of the central role of science and technology.

31. With regard to International cooperation: South – North and South – South, the activities undertaken are:

- AMCOST consultation with the G8, and
- EU-AU task force in Science and Technology, ICT and Space science.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS**

32. The AMCOST II Rapporteur Professor Berrah Mounir Khaled of Algeria presented the recommendations of the experts meeting to the Ministers Session.

#### **Discussion**

33. The Ministers deliberated the recommendations made by the experts meeting and appreciated the key priority areas identified in the recommendations which included (a) the African Science and Technology Indicators programme that was highlighted as critical to the evaluation and audit of the continent's S&T development status. The

programme would enable the continent to formulate policies and strategies to address the gaps and bottlenecks that derail the continent from moving forward in its science and technology programmes; (b) funding of the Consolidated Plan of Action; and (c) the issue of climate change.

34. The Ministers adopted the report of the experts after the deliberations.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
AFRICAN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FUND, BY THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

35. Dr. Sibry Tapsoba from the African Development Bank informed AMCOST that the Bank has made some progress on the proposal for the establishment of a fund for education, science and technology. The Bank has presented this issue to the 4th AMCOST Bureau and has made its position clear that it is committed to explore the establishment of one fund. The fund could be a Trust fund or a programme fund and Member States have to contribute to this fund.

- The issue of a Trust Fund or a Programme Fund has to be clarified. Trust Fund requiring a seed fund between \$100 to 200 million and only the accrued interest will be accessed and used as stipulated in the governance of the fund. Until you reach the thresh hold of the seed fund no interest will be accrued. The advantage of this fund is sustainability.
- Establishment of a Programme Fund around capacity building, policy, networking, exchange of experiences. \$25 million could be leveraged for this option and the resources have to be spent on the programme for a defined period. The amount to be mobilized is relatively small and the risk is limited. However, this option lacks sustainability.
- The way forward for the establishment of this fund is that the Commission of the African Union has to make an official request to the Bank. NEPAD OST has already submitted the terms of reference as a request from the Tunis meeting held in July 2007.

**Discussion**

36. After some deliberation it was recommended that:

- (i) The Commission submit an official request to the Bank requesting to establish this fund without delay;
- (ii) The feasibility study should be conducted to establish the modalities of the fund; and

- (iii) The Bureau, AUC and NEPAD should work on this issue and the Bureau was further mandated by AMCOST III to move this issue forward and should not wait for AMCOST IV.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICA'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF ACTION, BY MEMBERS OF AMCOST II BUREAU**

37. The members of the Bureau presented their regional reports on the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

**(a) Central Africa Region**

38. There was no report from the Central Region.

**(b) Eastern Africa Region**

39. East Africa Region assured the Conference that they would hold a regional meeting in early 2008 to prepare a consolidated regional report that will be made available to the Commission.

**(c) Northern Africa Region**

40. Background Elements. A regional workshop was held in Algiers in January 2005 that was dedicated to the regional contribution to the CPA preparation.

41. As for today, the most visible output is the North African Network for Bioscience (NABNET). This is an ongoing cooperation in laser technology with the participation of Algeria and Egypt through the African Laser Centre.

42. In water sciences, the process of establishment of center of excellence is underway.

43. To be noted also the participation of the region to a number of important events such as the African Scientist Conference in Alexandria, October 2007, and the Meeting on African Science and Technology and Innovation Indicators in Maputo, September 2007.

**(d) Southern Africa Region**

44. The report presented on behalf of Zimbabwean Minister of Science and Technology Development, Dr. O.N. Muchena, highlighted a range of science and technology activities for which the region was involved. They include:

- i) The Maputo Meeting of Southern African Ministers responsible for Science and Technology which dealt with:

- building human resource capacity on Science and Technology;
  - developing a distinct science and technology sector within SADC;
  - addressing science and technology and indicators, and advocating more strongly for the 1% of GDP allocated to research and development.
- ii) The Harare meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology which recommended the creation of science and technology desk within SADC, development of SADC protocol on science and technology cooperation, implementation of science and technology programmes as reflected in the Consolidated Plan of Action, and mobilization of resources for the SADC Science and Technology Desk and the implementation of CPA.
- iii) The Pretoria meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology which discussed programmes, work-plans and budgets for operationalization of the SADC Science and Technology, and implementation of CPA as well as the drafted SADC Science and Technology Protocol

45. Other key activities were geared towards finding ways of implementing the CPA and domesticating it at the SADC level. SADC was also very heavily involved in AU Programmes on Science and Technology.

**(e) Western Africa Region**

46. The presentation made by Senegal (ECOWAS) for the Western Africa region highlighted the awareness of Governments for Science and Technology and the conviction of Africans to take their development in hand by developing their capacities and investment for Science and Technology. The following fields were identified as priority areas: water, renewable energy, mathematics, technology transfer for food security and economic growth.

47. The following activities were noted as having been initiated for the period: launching of the bioscience network, meeting of young researchers, ECOWAS meeting on biotechnology and biosafety, amongst others.

**Discussion**

In the discussion that ensued it was recommended that there was need to develop a structured common reporting template to be used by regions.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

48. There were no issues raised on Any Other Business.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE OF AMCOST IV MEETING**

- Sudan proposed to host the fourth AMCOST Meeting in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan.
- It was highlighted Republic of Kenya, current chair, and Sudan are in the same Region, it was important to consider this issue as other regions have not yet hosted AMCOST.
- After regional consultations, and taking into account all interventions and traditional practice regarding the need for regional rotation of chairpersonship, the Bureau was requested to continue consultations and decide the date and venue of AMCOST IV meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE OUTCOME OF AMCOST III**

49. AMCOST III Rapporteur, Dr. Umar Bindir of Republic of Nigeria presented the Draft Ministerial Recommendations.

##### **Discussion**

50. During the deliberation the following amendments were made:

- The title Draft Ministerial Recommendations was replaced to read Ministerial Decisions of AMCOST III.
- On Item (vii) under Implementation and Funding of the CPA, the Education, Science and Technology Fund was replaced to read Science, Technology and Innovation Fund.
- Under Progress on Implementation of the AU 207 Summit Decisions on Science and Technology, the following item was added that read:  
(viii) AMCOST Request to the Bureau to develop a template for country progress reports during AMCOST meetings.

51. The Conference adopted the decisions with these amendments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: CLOSING SESSION**

52. In her closing speech, Prof. Essayed, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology said the AMCOST III has been one of the most important meetings of the year, driven by its ambitious strategy and roadmap towards the implementation of the Consolidated Plan of Action among others.

53. She thanked the Republic of Kenya for hosting AMCOST III and also the Ministers responsible for Science and Technology and high officials for their

commitment and support towards the development of science and technology in Africa, and the partners for their support to the AU programmes.

54. NEPAD and the Human Resources, Science and Technology staff were also thanked for their hard work in making this meeting a success.

55. Dr. S. Kibeya, Minister of National Education in charge of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Republic of Burundi, the chair of the session, thanked Republic of Kenya and the Commission for organising AMCOST III Conference. He congratulated the outgoing chair for the achievements they made. He declared the meeting closed.

**EX.CL/385 (XII)**  
**Annex II**

## **AMCOST III - MINISTERIAL DECISIONS**

## AMCOST III - MINISTERIAL DECISIONS

The 3rd Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology was held from 12 - 16 November 2007 in Mombasa, Republic of Kenya. The experts' meeting held from 12 - 13 November 2007, preceded the Ministerial Conference. After deliberation of the agenda and the interventions of the Ministers the following decisions were made:

### 1. GOVERNANCE

- (i) It was decided that the AMCOST should be aligned, streamlined, and rationalised according to the existing AU rules of procedure, which stipulates that:
  - (a) The Bureau is composed of five members as representatives of the five African regions (a Chair, three Vice Chairs and a Rapporteur) and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology will be an ex-officio member;
  - (b) The Steering Committee will consist of five representatives at the level of Permanent Secretaries/ Directors General/Experts for each of the Minister members in the Bureau. In addition, five representatives at similar level from the Member States which are not members of the Bureau, one from each region. Furthermore, five representatives selected from Regional African bodies, the United Nations bodies, the Private sector and civil society, with an observer status. The Director of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology will be an ex-officio member.
- (ii) The Ministerial meeting takes note of the report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 in Pretoria, South Africa.
- (iii) The Ministerial meeting elected the following Members to the Bureau and Steering Committee of AMCOST III:

#### (a) East Africa

- Republic of Kenya – Member of the Bureau and the Chair of AMCOST III
- Republic of Mauritius - Member of the Steering Committee

#### (b) Northern Africa

- Republic of Algeria – Member of the Bureau and First Vice Chair
- Arab Republic of Egypt – Member of the Steering Committee

**(c) Central Africa**

- Republic of Burundi – Member of the Bureau and the Second Vice Chair
- Republic of Gabon – Member of the Steering Committee

**(d) Southern Africa**

- Republic of Zambia - Member of the Bureau and Third Vice Chair
- Republic of Malawi- Member of the Steering Committee

**(e) Western Africa**

- Federal Republic of Nigeria – Member of the Bureau and Rapporteur of AMCOST III
- Republic of Mali – Member of the Steering Committee

**2. IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING OF AFRICA'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF ACTION (CPA)**

- (i) AMCOST takes note of the ongoing efforts by the AU Commission, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST), NEPAD Office of Science and Technology (OST) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement the Plan of Action.
- (ii) AMCOST takes note of the draft implementation strategy.
- (iii) Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are urged to establish desk and/or focal points in order to improve communication and information sharing between the AU Commission, Member States, and the RECs;
- (iv) AMCOST, Member States, RECs and other Stakeholders should domesticate the CPA at the local, national and regional levels and link its flagship projects to their development and poverty reduction programmes;
- (v) AMCOST recommended to the Bureau to ensure that the AUC (HRST department) and the NEPAD (OST) enhance cooperation through joint meetings and regular consultations with a view to streamline and harmonize the CPA implementation efforts, as well as optimize synergies and avoid duplication especially for the Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators initiative.

- (vi) AMCOST mandates AUC (HRST) and NEPAD (OST) to develop appropriate institutional, legal and governance framework to facilitate effective communication, coordination and access to scientific materials by centres of excellence and to strengthen networking between them.
- (vii) AMCOST should consider and approve a comprehensive plan of action for the African Mathematical Institute Network (AMINet) as well as other initiatives on infectious diseases, water, laser technologies and energy.
- (viii) AMCOST requests the AU Commission to submit an official proposal to the African Development Bank (AfDB) seeking to establish a Science, Technology and Innovation fund without delay and that:
- A feasibility study should be conducted to establish the modalities of the fund; and
  - The Bureau of AMCOST, AUC and NEPAD should expedite the creation of the fund and should not wait until AMCOST IV.
- (ix) AMCOST takes note of the African Model Law on Biosafety and request the Commission to present the Model Law to all relevant Ministries for their comments.
- (x) AMCOST calls upon the Commission to continue providing leadership in developing a common African position on Biosafety issues and proceed to institutionalizing a Biosafety Unit within the Commission.
- (xi) AMCOST supports the consolidated intellectual property rights framework, and encourages Member States to use it to develop a comprehensive framework on intellectual property, individual and community rights to protect traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, including the centralization of all matters related to intellectual property, individual and community rights in one institution.
- (xii) AMCOST supports the bio-prospecting framework and encourages Member States to use it to develop a bio-prospecting policy framework that ensures beneficial utilization and equitable commercialization of biotic resources, including the creation of a central national control system to manage bioprospecting affairs in all their diversity.

**3. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AU 2007 SUMMIT DECISIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- i) AMCOST takes note of the conclusions of the Women Conference in Science and Technology and requests the Commission to develop business plans on key areas recommended by the conference;
- ii) AMCOST supports the gathering of gender disaggregated data about women in science and technology at country level in order to formulate concrete initiatives and programmes for women;
- iii) AMCOST supports the formation of the Association/Forum of African Women on Science and Technology;
- iv) AMCOST recognizes the importance of the African Union best Scientists and AU/WIPO awards, stresses the need for effective communication and broadening the scope of the fields of competition and increase the amount of the Awards, in order to attract more applications and ensure greater participation.
- v) AMCOST requests the convening of a meeting of relevant stakeholders of PAIPO to discuss the constitutive framework for the operational existence of PAIPO that would include the delineation of programmatic areas as well as the development of a business plan.
- vi) AMCOST recommends that the Bureau of AMCOST should meet with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to determine the rationale and modalities for establishing the proposed panel on climate change.
- vii) AMCOST takes note and supports the initiatives on climate change and encourages AUC/HRST and NEPAD (OST) to prepare a common framework for Member States.
- viii) AMCOST requests the Bureau, AUC/HRST and NEPAD (OST) to develop a template for country progress reports during AMCOST meetings.

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

- (i) AMCOST supports the AU-EU partnership aimed at assisting the implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.
- (ii) AMCOST supports international cooperation on the implementation of the CPA with other partners particularly the UN Agencies;
- (iii) AMCOST urges Member States to affiliate to the African component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in order to derive the benefits there from.

#### **5. DATE AND VENUE FOR AMCOST IV**

Member States are requested to submit their proposals to host AMCOST IV for the Bureau to decide.

#### **6. APPRECIATION**

The Ministers expressed appreciation on the achievements and efforts made on the continent in science and technology by the outgoing Chair H.E. Prof Yaye Kene Gassama Dia during AMCOST II. They also welcomed the up coming chair H.E. Dr. Noah M. Wekesa, Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Kenya and expressed confidence in his chairmanship to advance Africa's programmes of science and technology.

They expressed gratification to the President, His Excellence Mwai Kibaki of the Republic of Kenya, the Honourable Minister Dr. Noah M. Wekesa and the people of the Republic of Kenya for the warm hospitality.

2008

Report of the third ordinary session of  
the au ministerial conference of  
science and technology (AMCOST III)  
– 12 – 16 November 2007, Mombasa, Kenya

African Union

African Union

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