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UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax : 5517844

Website: www.africa-union.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Tenth Ordinary Session
25 – 26 January 2007
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EX.CL/314 (X) Rev.1

REPORT OF THE SECOND EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF II)

**REPORT OF THE SECOND EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF II)**

INTRODUCTION

The second extra-ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II) was held at the Joaquim Chissano Conference Centre in Maputo, from 4th to 8th September 2006. The meeting of Ministers was preceded by the meeting of experts from 4 to 5 September 2006.

The meeting followed the decision by the 6th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to declare a Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006 – 2015).

ISSUES DISCUSSED

The objective of the meeting was to consider and adopt the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), and endorse its launching. The meeting also considered and adopted several other pertinent documents.

All items discussed were as follows:

- (i) Consideration and adoption of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa
- (ii) Consideration and adoption of the proposal to establish a Steering Committee for the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union.
- (iii) Consideration and adoption of the document “Creating a Positive Climate for Successful Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa”
- (iv) Consideration and adoption of “The Maputo Declaration of COMEDAF II”
- (v) Consideration and endorsement of the programme for launching of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and its Plan of Action.

OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

The Second extra-ordinary session of the COMEDAF II was particularly significant as it facilitated the launching of the Plan of Action within the same year (2006) in which the Second Decade was declared. The same COMEDAF II endorsed the establishment of a Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Plan of Action. The Steering Committee includes the Specialised Institution, IPED, as the pan-African Education Observatory to facilitate the development and management of integrated Educational Management Information Systems.

Another significant outcome of the session of COMEDAF II was a statement in support of the Plan of Action as the articulate collective vision of Africa in the area of education, thus establishing the political leadership of the African Union in this area. The Ministers

committed themselves to support the Plan of Action by integrating it into their national plans, and publicising it locally. They called on all bona fide Partners to recognise the Plan of Action and support it as Africa's education priority.

Finally, the Ministers endorsed the Maputo Declaration of COMEDAF II for presentation to the Eighth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU. The declaration calls for, among other things, establishment of an African Education Fund, strengthening of the Education unit at the AU Commission, and expediting of formalisation of working relations with key partners institutions such as the Association of African Universities and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa.

DOCUMENTS APPENDED

(vi) **The following document is appended to this report:**

1. The Maputo Declaration of COMEDAF II

EX.CL/314 (X) Rev.1
Annex I

**REPORT OF THE SECOND EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF
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**SECOND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF II+)**

4 – 8 September, 2006

MAPUTO – MOZAMBIQUE

EXT/AU/MIN/EDUC/DRAFT/RPT (II)

**REPORT OF THE SECOND EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**4TH TO 7TH SEPTEMBER 2006
MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE**

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The second extra-ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II) was held at the Joaquim Chissano Conference Centre in Maputo, from 4th to 7th September 2006. The meeting of Ministers was preceded by the meeting of experts from 4 to 5 September 2006.

2. The objective of the Ministers' meeting was to consider and adopt the draft Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), and endorse it for launching. The Ministers' meeting also considered the report of the meeting of experts, and considered and adopted other documents on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa.) It endorsed the Maputo Declaration of COMEDAF II for presentation to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for adoption.

II. ATTENDANCE

3. The following AU Member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Niger, Angola, Nigeria, DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Gabon, Swaziland, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Togo, Lesotho, Tunisia, Libya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

4. The following RECs were also present at the meeting: CENSAD and SADC. A number of Regional, International and Non-Governmental organizations and Institutions were also represented, including the League of Arab States, IPED, Kenya-APNET, UNISA, UNAIDS, CONFEMEN, ANCEFA, African Capacity-Building Foundation, International Education Africa Bureau, UNESCO, World Bank, WFP, ADEA, CIEFFA, PATC, AfDB, International Organization of Francophonie and Action Aid, among others.

ITEM 1: OPENING CEREMONY

5. At the opening session, Mr. Anisio Matangala, Director of Ceremonies welcomed all the delegates and, in turn, invited Her Excellency Prof. Nagia Essayed, Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST); the Rapporteur of the Bureau of the Conference of Ministers of Education, H.E. Naledi Pandor, Minister of Education of South Africa; H.E. Mr. Abubakr Benbouzid, Minister of Education of the Republic of Algeria; and Mr. Peter Smith, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education.

6. These statements were followed by a musical interlude by a group of young Mozambican singers. Thereafter, H.E. Mr. Aires Bonifacio Ali, Minister of

Education and Culture of the Republic of Mozambique gave opening remarks and invited His Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuzo, President of the Republic of Mozambique who declared the Second Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union open.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER, HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

7. Commissioner Prof. Nagia Essayed began her remarks by expressing gratitude to the President of Mozambique and his government for their gracious invitation and warm welcome. She congratulated the President and people of Mozambique on the occasion of Mozambique Day of Victory.

8. Prof. Essayed went on to briefly describe the rigorous process behind the Plan of Action. She also introduced the other documents that would be presented before the Conference of Ministers.

9. She thanked the Republic of South Africa and all organizations that have supported the Commission in preparing the Plan of Action.

STATEMENT BY THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

10. The Minister for Education, Her Excellency Ms Naledi Pandor informed the delegates that the Plan of Action provides a new opportunity to develop a far more coherent approach to implementing the mandate given to Ministers of Education by Heads of State.

11. The Minister also recalled the mandate entrusted to the Ministers of Education by the Heads of State as contained in the decision adopted in Khartoum. Following the evaluation of the First Decade, the launch of the Second Decade had been deemed necessary. Important activities had already been implemented and significant progress made. However, much remained to be done. It was necessary to implement the three under listed instruments to facilitate our task:

- Education for all;
- Identification of impediments to education;
- Establishment of framework of action to meet the needs identified.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

12. The Minister of Education for Algeria, His Excellency Mr. Aboubakr Benbouzid begun his remarks by thanking His Excellency the President of Mozambique for honouring the COMEDAF session with his presence.

13. His Excellency referred to the contrast between the new world order centred around superior technologies and increased knowledge, and the fact of an education deficit in Africa. He posed the rhetorical question on how African Youth could be equipped to be competitive in such a world.

14. Speaking further, he reiterated the need for an education that enables mastery of science and technology, especially for our youth to be useful to themselves, their environment, and their countries and to enable economic development of the continent, by harnessing the tremendous potential of our continent.

15. The Minister commended the President of Mozambique for his presence, which demonstrated his commitment to this cause.

16. He informed distinguished delegates that the documents to be considered had been discussed extensively by their experts over the previous two days. He said the Plan of Action would be launched on the 8th of September, and would there-after require concerted efforts in mobilisation of all necessary resources for its implementation.

17. Finally, he thanked the Commission for its work.

STATEMENT BY UNESCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

18. In his remarks the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr. Peter Smith conveyed greetings from Director-General, and the Assistant Director General for Africa.

19. Mr. Smith expressed UNESCO's pride in being associated as a Partner to Africa's education efforts. He said that UNESCO would support the Abuja Convention, and resolutions of the recent FOSRASUN meeting in Paris.

20. Mr. Smith promised that UNESCO would support the Decade by seconding a senior professional officer to the Addis office of the African Union Commission.

21. He promised to fight for, advocate for and support African member states in implementing the Plan of Action, and to follow the launch of the Decade with hard work for its success.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

22. Welcoming participants, His Excellency Mr. AIRES BONIFACIO ALI said that the day would be memorable for ministers of education of the African Union. He thanked the Commission for accepting the invitation to hold the meeting in Maputo.

23. The Minister commented on the enormity of the education challenge. He said Mozambique was committed to renewing the school and increasing access. He also mentioned that education had an important role to play in the continent's integration.

24. His Excellency extolled the freedom struggle of Mozambique, and commended the President of Mozambique. He informed delegates that the President was totally devoted to education and culture, having himself been a teacher and Minister for education. With these words he invited the President, His Excellency Armando Emilio GUEBUZA to address delegates.

OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF MOZAMBIQUE

25. His Excellency Armando Emilio GUEBUZA welcomed delegates to sample the beauty and enjoy hospitality in the historic city of Maputo.

26. He said the day was particularly significant as it coincided with the day on which Mozambique attained victory from colonial bondage. It is also just two days before the day of the AU, 9th September, and in view of the NEPAD initiative. It was therefore fitting that the meeting was on such an important subject as education, which he said was key to the transformation of Africa.

27. He hailed teachers, parents and other educators as heroes of Africa.

28. His Excellency expressed the desire that education should lead to solutions to Africa's problems and engender sustainable development. He said that Education encapsulates all dimensions of human development, and that it should also enhance dignity, and imbue graduates with responsible attitudes towards society and the environment.

29. He said that education must have a sound, dynamic and symbiotic relationship with eradication of poverty. The areas of focus in the Plan of Action will be instrumental in achieving this.

30. His Excellency the President went on to describe his nation's education plan, and mentioned HIV/AIDS and other diseases as impediments to education.

31. He thanked delegates for their participation, and declared the conference open.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

32. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETNG OF THE BUREAU OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

33. Introducing this item, H.E. Minister Naledi Pandor informed delegates of the process preceding the current meeting.

34. Delegates were informed that the Bureau meeting adopted a draft proposal for establishing a steering committee to assist in overseeing the implementation of the Plan of Action and endorsed the Draft Plan of Action. The day's work, she said, was to conclude work that had begun several months ago.

35. The Minister expressed concern at the disinterest shown by ministers of education, noting the low number of ministers participating in this vital process.

36. Commissioner HRST was requested to pass on the message on this concern, so that Heads of State can impress it upon Ministers to support this process, seeing that there is no time to waste. Lack of participation and attention to this process suggests that we may be retreating into our past inadequacies, she said.

37. Taking the floor, the Chair expressed his pleasure at the fact that we had learnt our lessons from challenges faced in first Decade, and called on delegates to take this process seriously and attend COMEDAF meetings in large numbers.

38. In the discussion that followed, delegates lamented the low attendance, but also mentioned the fact of 'attrition' of Ministers which affects continuity. They suggested that those absent should be informed of the importance of participation.

39. The practice of having important meetings overlapping at the same time also undermines participation. All in all African Ministers were urged to demonstrate commitment to Africa.

40. Concerning resources, it was suggested that Member States should demonstrate political commitment to release local resources, and build on existing capacities, networks and other resources.

41. It was also suggested that the Commission should work with specific units within Ministries who are not affected by Ministers' turn-over. Experts were said to be key to continuity, and that they need to be trained to strengthen their capacities.

42. The need for a single African language was also mentioned.

43. Appreciating UNESCO Dakar + 6 report, delegates said Ministers are not alone, and that they appreciate their partners. The African Union Commission was requested to undertake, with Partner support, surveys in Member States for capacity assessment in their education sectors, in order to ascertain the challenges that must be surmounted for success. These include those that affect learning outcomes, school drop outs, teacher quality and so on. This should facilitate the development of appropriate responses.

44. Regional Economic Communities were requested to assist Member States, together with the Commission.

45. Finally, the report of the meeting of the Bureau of Ministers of Education of the African Union was noted

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS OF COMEDAF

46. Presenting this report, the Rapporteur informed delegates that experts had discussed the Plan of Action. He explained that the draft consisted of objectives and activities, and means of measuring achievement.

47. The rapporteur said that the Plan is an opportunity to usher in a new dispensation in education in Africa

48. In the ensuing discussion, delegates expressed agreement with the document. It was recognised that the documents demonstrate that much research has already been done, and areas of focus are well known, therefore there was little need for more research. The need to be open to accept research results from organisations such as ADEA was expressed, especially as most of their work is done by African experts.

49. Delegates requested that meetings of Ministers of Education at REC level be institutionalised, to enable greater synergies, collaboration and experience sharing.

50. The issue of balancing education budgets to meet commitments at all levels of education was also raised, as were governance and leadership in education as continental issues.

51. Concerning TVET, it was suggested that neighbouring countries pool resources to support each other and optimize utilization of resources. Delegates were urged to be circumspect concerning African languages, especially as Africa has around 2,000 spoken languages.

52. It was also suggested that other Ministries be informed of the Education Plan of Action.

53. Inclusion of culture in the Plan of Action was lauded as important for the needed cultural revolution.

54. Delegates noted that one of the challenges of the first decade was the inadequacy of education planning in many member countries. In the second decade, planning should therefore be given priority, and capacity built where necessary.

55. Member States were called upon to study the Plan diligently, for integration into their national plans.

56. There is need to seek innovative resourcing, in view of the need to move towards universal provision of secondary education.

57. South-South collaboration was underscored as useful for sharing experiences, and should be added to the Plan of Action.

58. The multiplicity of initiatives in education necessitates establishing robust implementation mechanisms.

59. In response, the Rapporteur assured delegates that mutual support among Member States and sharing experiences will be institutionalised during the second decade. She further assured delegates that gender and culture are indeed treated as cross-cutting issues. She also said that Mother Tongue must ensure ability to communicate and should not be used to the exclusion of other languages.

60. Resources should follow our vision plans and systems, she said, rather than our systems being determined by resources. Indeed, it was suggested that there are many resources as it is, which are not being optimally utilized, especially among civil society organizations.

61. UNESCO offered support in convening a meeting to study the impact of the regional plan at national level. Moreover, UNESCO could help in the area of

research and cooperate in exchange of expertise. The Dakar UNESCO Office would examine the plan and see which type of assistance it could provide in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

62. The Chair of the Bureau, on his part, said that the educational system lacked data, adding that the organizations involved in the educational system were very few.

63. The Ministers commended the Experts for the work done and adopted the Plan of Action.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DOCUMENT “RATIONALE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE COMEDAF

64. This document was presented by the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology.

65. In the discussion that followed delegates suggested that there was need to involve FWAE in some way, as well as student associations and associations of parents and teachers.

- The Bureau promised to look into means of incorporating delegates' inputs.

66. The document was adopted as amended.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DOCUMENT “CREATING A POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION”

67. In presenting the document, the Director of HRST explained the root and purpose of the document. She mentioned the challenges faced in the implementation of the first decade of education, and said that it was important to address them for successful implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

68. In the discussion that followed, delegates raised the following issues:

- To implement the second decade successfully, we must eradicate poverty, and eliminate war through the AU peace and security framework, in order not to need a third similar decade.
- There is continuing need for lobbying and sensitizing our development Partners. Existing initiatives need to be compiled for ease of reference.
- Resource mobilization must begin from within the continent, starting at the regional level. The Plan provides an opportunity for Member States to take advantage of current International funding initiatives. National budgets for

education should be engendered, and Member States urged to demonstrate commitment by allocating sufficient resources as promised.

- There is need to step up the training of teachers.
- The Plan is an opportunity to present a united front to international Partners.
- Governance and accountability should be addressed to ensure implementation of this plan, elimination of war and eradication of poverty. The African Union should be in a position to demand adherence of Member States to commitments made collectively.
- Emphasis in education curricula should be given to moral training, civic education and respect for human rights in education curricula.

69. The Commission was requested to ensure that comments made are reflected in the document.

70. The document was adopted.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT MAPUTO
DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF
THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF II)**

71. The Chair requested delegates to read the document and make their comments.

72. In the discussions ensuing, delegates suggested the following:

- Culture be separated from gender,
- Some correction to the Arabic version, to strengthen expressions, eg. in Arabic they do not develop teachers, or eradicate education deficiencies and African Education fund should be corrected,
- The word legacy should be replaced with systems;
- Add a statement on the WSIS 2005 meeting decision to eradicate the digital divide, concerning ICTs;
- Recall the 20% budget expenditure agreed to during the first decade. On this point, it was agreed that there should be an in-built mechanism to ensure that members benefit in as far as they adhere to the agreements;
- French version format on page three; and African Education Fund, not funds.

73. The document was adopted as amended.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE SECOND DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR AFRICA (2006-2015) AND ITS PLAN OF ACTION

74. The draft programme was presented and adopted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 10: PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF COMEDAF

75. The Report was presented by the Rapporteur, Her Excellency the Minister of Education for South Africa. She mentioned a few corrections to the text.

76. The report was adopted as amended.

ITEM 11: CLOSING SESSION

REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER HRST

77. In her closing remarks, the Commissioner, HRST thanked the President of Mozambique.

78. She expressed gratitude and pleasure at the adoption of the Plan of Action for the second decade of education for Africa.

79. Commissioner Essayed went ahead to chronicle recent events.

80. She thanked Her Excellency Ms Pandor for offering to host the next COMEDAF Session and expressed her confidence that progress of the Decade will be guaranteed under her leadership.

STATEMENT BY RAPPORTEUR OF BUREAU

81. Her Excellency began by giving thanks to the Chair for a splendid job. She also thanked the Commission for having facilitated her role of Rapporteur.

82. Ms. Pandor was quick to remind delegates that adoption should signal beginning of the hard work, as our success will be in the implementation. Referring to the slogan "Africa's Future, Guaranteed", she called on all Member States, stakeholders and Partners to keep this phrase in mind. A bright future for our young people, she said, would come as a result of developing an education system that will be responsive to their needs and aspirations.

83. Excellency Pandor cautioned that young people in Africa were not a homogenous group, hence the importance of inclusion of populations of disabled youth, those with special education needs, and those marginalized in any other way. She mentioned specially the need to address those young people who are out of school, yet approaching adulthood.

84. In conclusion, she exhorted delegates to be true to the slogan “Africa’s future- Guaranteed”.

STATEMENT BY UNESCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL- EDUCATION

85. Mr. Peter Smith congratulated all for work done so far.

86. He informed delegates that he will meet his Africa officers to put a strategy to his promises of support, aligning UNESCO programmes to the Plan of Action.

87. He expressed gratitude for having participated in this important activity on the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

STATEMENT BY CHAIR OF BUREAU

88. The Chair congratulated delegates for work done so far to ensure adoption of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of education for Africa.

89. The Chair proceeded to list decisions adopted so far, to facilitate the implementation of the Plan in particular, and development of education on the continent in general.

90. He called on Member States and RECs to ensure speedy integration of the Plan in their education programmes, and allocate necessary resources.

91. The Chair also talked about a robust publicity strategy for the decade; support for the Observatory; and the work of the new Steering Committee; and the need for Ministers to be more regular in attending COMEDAF sessions.

92. He finally thanked the host Minister of Education and Culture; experts from member States; all delegates and those who have worked to make this conference a success.

APPENDIX

1. The Maputo Declaration of COMEDAF II

EX.CL/314 (X)
Annex II

**MAPUTO DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
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**SECOND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF II+)**

4 – 8 September, 2006

MAPUTO – MOZAMBIQUE

EXT/AU/EXP/EDUC/6 (II) Rev.1

**MAPUTO DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**MAPUTO DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

Following the declaration of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) in January 2006, we, the Ministers of Education of the AU Member States, meeting on 7th of September 2006 in Maputo, Mozambique in the Second Extra-ordinary session of our Conference, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, considered and adopted the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), in preparation for its launch.

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Constitutive Act and the Vision of the African Union;

Also guided by the Vision of NEPAD in making human development in general and education in particular, one of its major priorities;

Further guided by the decision of the first extra-ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of Education that the African Union must take leadership in Africa's development;

Recalling the Algiers Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II);

Taking into account the findings of the African Union Commission's report of the Evaluation of the Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006), particularly the persistent education deficit with which Africa entered the third millennium;

Convinced that education is the most important tool at Africa's disposal for attaining the collective vision of the African Union;

Aware that the goals of the first Decade of Education were only partially achieved;

Recognizing and appreciating the contribution by development partners and organizations such as UNESCO and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA);

Recognizing and appreciating also the key roles played by African institutions, including the African Development Bank, the Association of African Universities (AAU) and Civil Society organizations;

Convinced that to successfully eradicate deficiencies in Africa's education systems within the Second Decade of Education for Africa and ensure that education plays its role in the vision of the African Union, the following areas have to be directly addressed:

- Educational Management Information Systems;

- Quality Management;
- Teacher Development;
- Curriculum and Teaching Materials, especially in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, African languages, African History and Civic Education;
- Gender, and Culture as cross-cutting issues;
- Revitalisation of Higher Education;
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training, including education in difficult circumstances, post-conflict situations and special education.

We, as Ministers responsible for Education in our respective States, commit ourselves to:

- **Ensure** enhanced political action and leadership, for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- **Establish** mechanisms for collaboration, follow-up and implementation of programmes of Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- **Accelerate** efforts towards attainment of full gender equality in all areas of education;
- **Sensitize** all development partners in education to support our collective vision embodied in the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa, for positive policies that will facilitate the implementation of the Decade;
- **Strengthen** the role of Education in the promotion of regional and continental integration through bilateral, regional and inter-institutional networks;
- **Lobby** for mobilisation of resources in ICTs, to bridge the digital divide, in particular increasing bandwidth and connectivity in Africa, as agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis 2005), in order to facilitate the delivery of quality education, research and development in general and in support of the African regional integration.

In light of these commitments, we recommend to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to direct the AU Commission, in consultation with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and development partners, to:

- Facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- Secure funding to strengthen the Education Department in the Commission and at the RECs through capacity building and strategic recruitment;
- Investigate the nature and modalities, and set in motion the process of establishing an African Education Fund;

- Expedite the formalization of working relations between the Commission and expert agencies such as the Association of African Universities and ADEA in support of the Plan of Action.

ADOPTED IN MAPUTO ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2006

2007

Report of the second extra-ordinary session of the conference of ministers of education of the African Union (COMEDAF II)

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