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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION**  
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**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**Assembly/AU/7(XXXIII)**  
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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT CHAMPIONING EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY BY  
H.E. MACKY SALL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL,  
FIRST COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP OF CHAMPIONS**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as African champions of Education, Science and Technology (C 10) held their annual meeting at the side lines of the Thirty Third African Union (AU) Summit on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The decision to establish a team of ten champions was made pursuant to Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.572 (XXV) in 2015 whereupon the first team of ten champions was endorsed at the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2018 through the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec 671 (XXX).

**II. PARTICIPATION**

2. H.E. President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal presided over the meeting in his capacity as the first Chairperson of the C10. The meeting was further attended by Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Tunisia. The Chairperson of the Third Specialized Technical Committee on Education Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) H.E. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Uganda attended the session.

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

3. H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources Science and Technology delivered the welcoming remarks on behalf of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission. It was highlighted that most of Africa's socio-economic development challenges should be addressed to achieve the goals set in AU Agenda 2063, by empowering African citizens through sound and quality education, and by creating opportunities that enable to harness Science, Technology and Innovation. The Commissioner stressed the need for empowering the young growing population in order to tap the tremendous potential they offer in building a valuable base of human capital. Initiatives such as the Chairperson's Youth Empowerment: 1MillionBy2021 should be scaled up across the continent.

4. In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Tumwesigye, the Chairperson of the STC-EST 3 reemphasized the capacity of education science and technology as foundations to accelerate the aspirations of African's transformation as contained in Agenda 2063 as well as the sustainable development goals. The Chairperson of the STC-EST 3 further highlighted the key decisions taken by the STC with regards to the creations of a single

fund for education science and technology and the development of a Statue for establishing of an African Accreditation Agency. It was further noted that education science and technology contributed a great deal to the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement that has now entered into force. H.E. Dr. Tumwesigye concluded by calling on the collaboration among the public, private and research enterprises in advancing education science and technology in the continent.

5. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the C10, emphasized the importance of investing in the youthful population bulge of the continent. H.E. President Sall stated that increasing a critical mass who are qualified and capable to drive the African development programs cannot be over emphasized. The President underlined the urgent need to promote Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in all levels with focus on skills development, entrepreneurship, and employability. H.E. President Sall appreciated the valuable contribution of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in promoting girls and women education in Africa.

#### **IV. OUTCOME OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE C10**

6. H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources Science and Technology outlined the key conclusions of the Extra-ordinary summit of the C10 on Strengthening Education, Science and Technology focusing on the Lilongwe Declarations. The Commissioner recalled the agreed declarations on the three areas: (i) investing in education, science and technology, (ii) promoting education in Africa, and (iii) engaging private sector. She also specified the action plan for implementing agreed activities that was adopted by the C10.

7. The Committee commended the Republic of Malawi on the work underway regarding the outcomes of the Lilongwe meeting.

8. The C10 further decided to propose the Action Plan for the consideration of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the AU Assembly.

#### **V. MEMBERSHIP OF THE C10**

9. It was recalled that on the agreed Rules of Procedure for the C 10, the composition of the Committee would be Heads of States and Government or their duly accredited representatives from ten Member States, two from each of the five geographic regions of the AU. It was further brought to mind that the term for the current members of the C 10 (endorsed by the Assembly in January 2018) was coming to an end after the designated period of two years. What is more, the agreed Rules of Procedure of the C 10 state that membership of five from the ten was to be renewed every year upon regional consultation.

10. Acknowledging the fact that the Committee was unable to meet in 2019, the renewal of five members from the group of ten was not made accordingly. Likewise the Committee recognized that its commitments on the agreed Action Plan and the Lilongwe

Declaration called for extension of the terms of the current members to allow them to achieve the huge task assigned to the Committee by their peers. The Chair of the C 10 stated that this proposal on extension of terms of members will be made to the Assembly for its endorsement.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PROGRAMS BY THE AUC**

11. H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor further cited the implementation of the continental strategies at the level of the African Union Commission through the three divisions of the Commission's Department of Human Resources Science and Technology as well as the regional technical offices. H.E. Prof. Agbor underscored the major activities undertaken toward implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA).

12. In the discussions that ensued the Committee noted that programs in education science and technology should be focused on changing the status quo by changing the rhetoric in the manner of reference to the challenges that the continent faces. Partnerships should increasingly be leveraged to ensure education science and technology meets its full potential. It was further requested to provide more information on the different programs being implemented by the Commission with specific examples for a thorough understanding of the level of execution of the different programs.

## **VII. LAUNCH OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> REPORT OF THE AFRICAN INNOVATION OUTLOOK (AIO-2019)**

13. Prof. Aggrey Ambali, Director of International Cooperation and Resource Mobilization of AUDA-NEPAD introduced the third report of the African Innovation Outlook on behalf of H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency (AUD-NEPAD). The report features the prospects in science technology and innovation within the continent.

14. The Committee noted the progress in the field and reiterated the need for large scale promotion of African innovation for the sustainable development of the Africa thereby meeting key ambitions of Agenda 2063. This was followed by a goodwill message from H.E. the Commissioner HRST. The report of the African Innovation Outlook (AIO-2019) was officially launched by H.E. President Macky Sall.

## **VIII. LAUNCH OF THE FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS (FAWE) STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023**

15. The Strategic Plan that covers the period 2019 to 2023 was presented by the Executive Director of FAWE. The C10 took stock of the key priorities regarding advancing education by women educationists.

16. The meeting commended the work of FAWE and encouraged the popularization of the Strategic Plan. The FAWE Strategic Plan was officially launched by H.E. President Macky Sall.

**IX. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY DECISIONS OF THE C10**

17. The meeting stated that the proposal regarding the extension of terms of current membership of the C10 should be included. The C10 further agreed to include FAWE in the list of development partners to support implementation of the Action Plan of the C 10 and include a paragraph in the draft decision recognizing the event.

18. With the changes proposed the Draft Decision of the C10 was adopted for consideration by the Assembly.

**X. CLOSING**

19. In his closing remarks, H.E. President Macky Sall shared his appreciation to the group of ten Champions for their continued impetus in advancing education science and technology and reaffirmed the assurance of his government to continue to lead this group of ten till the next team of ten is constituted. The President expressed his gratitude to H.E. Commissioner Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor for her dynamic role in advancing the African Union Education, Science and Technology programmes.

20. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hours.

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Assembly/AU/7(XXXIII)Annexes

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## LILONGWE ACTION PLAN AND DECLARATION ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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**THE FIRST EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT FOR THE COMMITTEE OF  
TEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (C10) CHAMPIONING  
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

**Lilongwe, Malawi**

**ACTION PLAN**

Priority areas	ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	Responsibility	OTHER KEY PARTNERS
<b>Investing in Education, Science and Technology</b>				
Operationalize Education Science and Technology Funds in Africa	Operationalize the African Education Fund in collaboration with the AfDB	February 2019	AUC	ADEA AfDB Afreximbank
	Operationalize African Science and Technology Innovation Fund (ASTIF)	March 2019	AUC, NEPAD	ADEA AfDB Afreximbank
	Explore resource mobilization strategies and advocate for private sector and philanthropists to contribute to the funds	Continuous	C10	NEPAD, ADEA, AfDB
	Commit a special fund to facilitate the training of female university members of staff and women in general to PhD level to support of Agenda 2063 vision of quality education and gender equality.	Continuous	C10	ADEA, RUFORUM AFDB, UNESCO, FARA, NEPAD
Urge Member States to meet the original commitment of 1% GDP on Research and Development	Undertake study to determine the actual investment by Member States and the comparative advantage in investing in Education, R&D	March 2019	AOSTI NEPAD UNECA	UNECA UNESCO
	Identify and define priority Research and Development areas that have the highest impact in the short, medium and long term, and challenge our Universities and Research Institutions to concentrate on such areas; Re-direct and concentrate finances towards those areas	Continuous	Higher education and research institutions, MS governments	AUC, NEPAD, PARTNERS
<b>Promoting Education in Africa</b>				



Promoting Early Childhood Education and Development	Invest in compulsory ECED in all Member States and lead by example	February 2019	UNICEF/AUC	Save the children, WFP
	Conduct a study on ECED in Africa to include cost/benefit, strategy and mechanisms for phasing in compulsory ECED in member states	February 2019	UNICEF/AUC	Save the children, WFP
	Strengthen training, supply and remuneration of care givers and ECED teachers and provide relevant teaching and learning materials	Continuous	UNESCO IICBA	Save the children
Strengthen Teacher Development and Retention	Increase qualified teachers in Member States at all levels with special attention to STEM, ICT skills and digital technology	Continuous	Member States, C10	IICBA/RUFORUM
	Promote motivation of teachers and establish the Annual African Union teacher awards.	December 2019	AUC	UNESCO IICBA
	Promote Continental Teacher Mobility to ensure optimal utilization of the teacher resource in Africa	Continuous	AUC	UNESCO/RECs
Enhancing TVET and Skill Development for Employment	Promote dissemination and implementation of the Continental TVET Strategy	Continuous	AUC/NEPAD/GIZ	AFDB/ADEA/CAPA/UNESCO/ILO/RUFORUM
	Provide practical attachment programmes and strengthen incubation of business and entrepreneurship training	Continuous	AUC/NEPAD/GIZ/RUFORUM	AFDB/ADEA/UNESCO/ILO
	Build capacity of TVET trainers and stakeholders and Rebrand TVET for enhanced access, equity, quality and relevance	Continuous	AUC/NEPAD/GIZ	AFDB/ADEA/UNESCO/ILO/RUFORUM

	Incorporate Life Skills Development and Career Guidance in TVET	December 2019	AUC/GIZ UNESCO	AFDB/ADEA/ UNESCO/IL O/RUFORUM
	Enhance linkages between universities and TVET institutions with focus on strengthening practical skills and education to enhance innovation, entrepreneurship and skills development for employability	December 2019	AUC/ World Bank/ RUFORUM	Mastercard Foundation; Nuffic
Advance the implementation of the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework and its domestication at regional and national levels	Expedite Ratification of the Addis Convention on recognition of Qualification	Continuous	AUC/ UNESCO	Member States
	Initiate the development of African Qualification Frameworks including TVET	June 2019	AUC/ILO/EU/ UNESCO	GIZ/ADEA
	Operationalize the set-up of the Continental Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency	December 2019	AUC/AAU EU	National and Regional QA Agencies
Strengthen higher education, science, technology and innovation	Strengthen foresight capacity at African universities and other partners and support capacity building in this important area to support planning and future implementation of key programs	Continuous	AUC/ RUFORUM/ NRF/ OCP Morocco	ISDB
	Develop programs to establish Research Chairs in African universities, Increase 'academic mobility schemes' and improving infrastructure and increase staff capacity development	Continuous	AUC/RUFORUM/ ISDB/ NRF	World Bank/ISDB/National Science Granting Councils/BADEA ISDB/BADEA/ Mastercard/
<b>Engaging Private Sector</b>				
Promote Engagement of	Develop Public Private Partnership framework including the provision of	Continuous	AUC/Private Sector	NEPAD/USA ID/GIZ/EU/

Private Sector in Education Science Technology and Innovation	tax breaks to industries that fund Education, Science and Technology			Business Africa/CEOs Forum
	Appoint an ambassador for Public-Private-Partnership PPP investment in Education, Science and Technology in Africa			
Promote linkages between research institutions and the private sector	Strengthen and use IP Systems in Africa and indigenous patents to drive industrialization in Africa	Continuous	AUC/Private Sector	NEPAD/USA ID/GIZ/EU/ Business Africa/CEOs Forum
	Establish triple helix models of innovation and technology incubation			
	Promote innovation, entrepreneurship development, commercialisation of technologies and research, and enhance beneficiation and value addition	Continuous	AUC/Private Sector	EU, NEPAD, AOSTI, UNECA, Finland
<b>Communication and Advocacy</b>				
Enhance Knowledge Sharing, Communication and Advocacy	Develop Communication and advocacy strategies and related documents for use by the champions in all the priority areas	December 2019	AUC, NEPAD RECs	UNESCO/IL O/NEPAD/Af DB/Stakeholder agencies CAFOR
	Strengthen cooperation and partnership with RECs and invite them to play proactive roles in the promotion of education, science, technology and innovation	2019	RECs, AUC, Partners, Member States	RECs, AUC, Partners, Member States
	Participate in high level African and global events to raise awareness on Africa's priorities in education, science and technology; including G20	All year (identify events and provide a schedule of events)	RECs, AUC, NEPAD, Stakeholder agencies	C10, Heads of State, Member States,

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EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018  
Lilongwe, Malawi**

**LILONGWE DECLARATION ON EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

## LILONGWE DECLARATION ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

**We**, the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10) Championing Education, Science, and Technology, meeting at the First Extra-Ordinary Summit in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018;

**NOTING WITH CONCERN** the underperformance of the education, training, research and innovation systems across many African countries and its inability to support the implementation of AU Agenda 2063;

**RECALLING** the Assembly Decisions, of June 2015 on the establishment of a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as Champions of Education, Science and Technology, and of January 2018 that endorsed the members<sup>1</sup> of the first team;

**NOTING WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts by African Universities to support Africa's development Agenda through the Africa's Universities' Agenda for Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa and efforts to increase staff capacities in universities through the Graduate Teaching Assistantship program;

**STRESSING** the pivotal role of Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation, in empowering African people to steer socio-economic development and growth towards realising the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

**COGNISANT** of the need to effectively implement the continental strategies:

- (a) Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25),
- (b) Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), and
- (c) Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);

**HIGHLIGHTING** the important need for African countries to intensify collaboration in the implementation of the continental strategies;

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<sup>1</sup> **C10**: Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia

**HEREBY:**

1. **ADOPT** the C10 Action Plan;
2. **ESTABLISH** a Think Tank of African Expertise to support the C10;

**AGREE TO:**

**I. ON INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

1. **REITERATE AND URGE** Member States to meet the original commitment of **1% GDP Allocation** to R&D and 4 – 6 % on Education and **COMMIT** our C10 countries to lead by example;
2. **INCREASE** investments in Education, Science and Technology in Africa and support the operationalization of (i) an Education Fund and (ii) an STI fund;
3. **COMMIT** to pursue resource mobilization strategies and **INVITE** Private Sector and Philanthropists to contribute to the Education and Science, Technology and Innovation Funds;

**II. ON PROMOTING EDUCATION IN AFRICA**

4. **PROMOTE** assurance of well-being in children's most formative years, through **Early Childhood Education and Development** to better prepare them in their education and for their careers;
5. **IMPLEMENT** affirmative action to encourage equity and inclusiveness on gender, disability and disadvantaged groups;
6. **ELIMINATE** gender stereotypes and provide financial support in STEM careers for girls and women to pursue scientific careers and implementation accompanying measures that will contribute to provide them with quality training in ICT, mentoring, leadership and entrepreneurship and provide them employment opportunities;
7. **ADVANCE** the implementation of the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework and its domestication at regional and national levels to ensure cross border recognition of qualifications thereby enhancing mobility of skills and competencies across the continent;
8. **STRENGTHEN** Teacher Development, Retention and Mobility to address significant shortage of qualified teachers particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation.

9. **INVEST** in rebranding and modernizing TVET sector to be attractive and relevant, create linkages between universities and TVET institutions and promote partnerships with the private sector to foster skills development (including new digital skills), innovation, entrepreneurship and employability;
10. **BUILD** human resources capacity and intellectual capital in universities and research institutions by fast-tracking postgraduation training through collaborative programmes and brain circulation, including diaspora capacity;
11. **IMPROVE** ICT capacity including use of ICTs platforms at all levels of education, to promote education access and quality; research, knowledge generation, and innovation, develop ICT infrastructure to improve access to computer tools and take advantage of the Industrial revolution 4.0;
12. **STRENGTHEN FORESIGHT CAPACITY** at African universities and other partners institutions and support capacity building in this important area to support planning and future implementation of key programs;
13. **COMMIT TO** improving infrastructure and increase staff capacity development including female research leaders in Africa's universities to support the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063.

### III. ON ENGAGING PRIVATE SECTOR

14. **PROMOTE** the creation of Private Public multi-sectoral Partnerships on Education, Science Technology and Innovation to spur among others collaboration, industrialization, technology incubation, value chain promotion and financing for start-ups;
15. **DEVELOP innovative** mechanisms for supporting Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa such as tax breaks to industries that support education training, research grants, scholarships and support to innovation hubs;
16. **PROMOTE** use of the intellectual property rights system including patents, trademarks for stimulating and supporting innovators.
17. Convene annually an event for African Youth in innovation (***Africa Innovators***) including Innovating Education in Africa.

**Adopted on 3 November 2018, Lilongwe, Malawi**

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF TEN HEADS OF STATE  
AND GOVERNMENT CHAMPIONING EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXXIII)**

**The Assembly,**

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.572 (XXV) whereby the Assembly committed to the establishment of a team of ten Heads of State and Government as African champions of Education, Science and Technology;
2. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.761 (XXX) whereby the Assembly endorses the list of ten Heads of State and Government as the first team of ten champions for Africa's Education, Science and Technology;
3. **COMMENDS** the Republic of Malawi for successfully hosting the first Extraordinary Summit of the C10 on the theme: Strengthen Education Science and technology in November 2018;
4. **ENDORSES** the Action Plan of the C10 and the Lilongwe Declaration on Education Science and Technology;
5. **REQUESTS** the Assembly to approve the proposal to extend the mandate of the Members of the C10 until such time that the Rule of Procedure of the Committees of the Assembly are harmonized;
6. **CALLS UPON** the Member States, the RECs and all development partners including UNECA, AfDB, the EU, the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, AAS, AAU, RUFORUM and FAWE to support the implementation of the Action Plan of the C10;
7. **TAKES NOTE AND CONGRATULATES** the Forum for African *Women* Educationalists (*FAWE*) on the launch of their Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023.



2020-02-10

# Report of the Committee of ten Heads of State and Government Championing Education, Science and Technology by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, First Coordinator of the Group of Champions

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