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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
TWENTIETH ORDINARY SESSION  
23 - 27 JANUARY 2012  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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**REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU  
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION (COMEDAF IV+),  
NAIROBI, KENYA, 12 MAY 2011**

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**FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION  
OF THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
(COMEDAF IV +)  
13 May 2011**

**AU/MIN-EXT/EDUC/ RPT (IV)**

**REPORT OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION**

**THEME: PREPARATION FOR LAUNCHING THE PAN AFRICAN  
UNIVERSITY**



## REPORT OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF COMEDAF IV

### Introduction

1. The meeting of Ministers of the COMEDAF IV met in the First Extra-Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF IV) in Nairobi, Kenya on 13 May 2011, preceded by a meeting of the Senior Officials of COMEDAF IV. The objective of the meeting was to consider and endorse key Pan African University policy documents and the Revised Arusha Convention, for submission to the next AU Summit. The meeting of Ministers considered the report of the Senior Officials meeting, which had extensively discussed these key documents.

### In attendance

2. Ministers from the following Member States participated in the meeting: the Republic of Algeria, Congo Republic, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania.

3. Representatives from the following Member States participated in the meeting: the Republic of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Togo, and Zambia.

4. Two Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also present: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

5. The following agencies attended the meeting: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the African Development Bank, African Council for Distance Education and International Development Law Organisation (IDLO).

6. The following institutions hosting the Pan African University were also represented: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, University of Ibadan and University of Yaounde. Countries supporting the PAU project, namely Japan and Germany were represented.

### ITEM 1: Opening Session

7. The opening session was graced by entertainment by the Choir of the Kenyan Ministry of Education was introduced by Dr Beatrice Njenga, AUC Head of Education. Thereafter, presentations were made, in turn, by Ms Vera Ngosi, Director of AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST); H.E. Jean Pierre Ezin, Commissioner HRST; Prof Tchuenta, representative of Cameroon Minister of Education; and the host, H.E. Prof. Sam

Ongeri, Minister of Education of the Republic of Kenya, who chaired the meeting, as Chair of COMEDAF IV.

**ITEM 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work**

8. The Agenda and Programme of Work for the meeting were presented and adopted without any amendment.

**ITEM 3: Consideration of the Report and Recommendations of Senior Officials of Extra Ordinary session of COMEDAF IV**

9. The report and Recommendations of the Senior Officials meeting was presented by Rapporteur of COMEDAF IV and adopted with some amendments.

10. Following were major issues raised in the ensuing discussion: The AUC and UNESCO should publicise the Revised Arusha Convention more widely, and Member States which had already ratified the Arusha Convention be given a chance to appreciate the changes in the Revised version.

11. The meeting of SADC Ministers of Science and Technology, were reported to have expressed concern on some issues including the allocation of themes to geographic regions, financial implications of hosting and the role of SADC in the implementation of PAU, but that the country to host PAU Institute on Space Sciences would be decided in the SADC Summit in July 2011.

12. Several amendments to the PAU Statutes were given, and they have been captured in the final version.

13. The PAU Statutes and Act were adopted as amended.

14. It was explained that the selection of all PAU host countries was through technical proposals.

15. The Honourable Minister of Education of Egypt presented his government's offer to establish an Institution for Medical Sciences as part of the PAU.

16. The AUC Commissioner welcomed Egypt's offer and explained that the institution of medical sciences could be part of the thematic on Life and Earth Sciences. He further stressed that all countries which had bid to host PAU institutes and were not selected, have been informed that they will be considered as hosts for PAU centres.

**ITEM 4: Any Other Business****a. Pan African Conference on Teacher Development (PACTED)**

17. PACTED report and recommendations were presented by the Honourable Minister of Education of Congo Republic and Dr Rita Bissoonauth from AUC

**b. Feedback from the meeting of ADEA Bureau of Ministers**

18. Executive Secretary of ADEA presented feedback from the last ADEA Bureau of Ministers. He stated that ADEA's priority area of programming is the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa and to promote the PAU; and stressed the need for ownership of ADEA by the African Ministers of Education. He said that the ADEA Triennale will be held in Burkina Faso in December 2011.

**c. School Feeding Programme: Call to Action**

19. COMEDAF IV Chair reported on the Global Child Nutrition Forum that took place in Nairobi 3-7 May 2011, and called for action for feeding school children.

**d. Remarks by Commissioner of HRST**

20. HRST Commissioner informed the meeting that Sweden had confirmed that it will be the Lead Thematic Partner for the PAU thematic for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences

**d. Hosting of COMEDAF V**

21. The Minister of Education from Nigeria, Prof. Ruqaiyya Rufai, informed the meeting that COMEDAF V would be hosted by Nigeria in March 2012 and not November 2011.

**ITEM 5: Presentation and Adoption of Recommendations of first Extraordinary Session of COMEDAF IV**

22. The report was presented and adopted with amendments.

**1) Recommendations of the first Extraordinary COMEDAF IV**

We, the Ministers of Education of the African Union agree as follows:

1. We endorse the following for submission to the AU July 2011 Summit:

- a) The Act and the Statutes for the establishment of PAU as amended
  - b) Algeria, in the North African region to host the PAU Institute of Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change, following the withdrawal of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
  - c) The Revised Arusha Convention for Mutual Recognition of Degrees and Qualifications
2. Request the AUC in consultation with RECs, to develop modalities of substantive involvement of RECs in the governance and management support of PAU institutes in their respective regions, including financial support
3. Request the AUC in collaboration with stakeholders to organise a consultative forum with partners on resource mobilisation and harmonisation of PAU support.

2012

# Report of the extraordinary session of the AU conference of ministers of education (Comedaf Iv+), Nairobi, Kenya, 12 May 2011

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