

Resolutions of the 2nd Meeting of NEPAD Science and Technology Steering Committee

The second meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee on Science and Technology was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the Headquarters of the African Union (AU) 13-14 July 2004. It was attended by delegates from Ethiopia, Mozambique, Egypt, South Africa and members of the AU Commission and the Secretariat of NEPAD. The Committee decided or resolved that:

1. The minutes of its 1st meeting be adopted as a true record or reflection of the discussions and decisions made at the meeting held 26-27 January 2004 in Pretoria, South Africa.
2. The report of the NEPAD Secretariat on the implementation of decisions made at the 1st meeting of the Steering Committee and the ministerial conference held in November 2003 be adopted.
3. The NEPAD Secretariat shall endeavor to facilitate and improve communication between itself and regions and establish a better website system to promote inter-regional communication.
4. Regional Economic Communities (REC) shall be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as observers.
5. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall write to the two members representing Central Africa requesting them to expedite the nomination of their region's coordinator. He shall inform them that if either of them wishes to be the coordinator then he or she must first vacate the seat on the Steering Committee.
6. The African Laser Centre (ALC) is a designated NEPAD network of centers of excellence. It was decided that the Secretariat work with the ALC office to prepare a progress report on the development of the network and submit it to the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee for information.

7. The Secretariat work with ALC office to prepare a comprehensive report on the nature of legal personality, financing mechanisms and governance the ALC. The report would explore various options and their costs. It would be submitted to and considered at the next meeting of the Committee.
8. Future meetings of the Steering Committee shall receive and consider reports on activities of the ALC and other NEPAD centers of excellence.
9. The proposed workshop on water science and technologies will be held in early November 2004. The workshop would develop projects and a network of centers to implement flagship programmes on water sciences.
10. The Secretariat of NEPAD work with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) to further develop the proposal to strengthen the Institute by establishing satellites or nodes in selected institutions across the continent.
11. The Secretariat of NEPAD in collaboration with the AU Commission prepares a comprehensive document on the proposed initiative on manufacturing of drugs (with emphasis on generics for HIV/AIDS and malaria). The report would be considered by the Steering Committee and regional workshops to identify specific activities to be integrated into the business plan.
12. Each region identify a specific institution to act as a node or focal point to facilitate the design of biosciences projects. The nodes or focal points will be responsible for preparing (in collaboration with Regional Coordinators and respective committee members) for regional workshops.
13. The proposed S&T regional workshops will be held by end of November 2004. A significant portion of funding for the workshops will be drawn from the grant from CIDA through ILRI. Two days of the workshops would be dedicated to biosciences (clustered to include biotechnology, biodiversity, biosafety, and indigenous knowledge flagship programmes) and another two days for the remainder of the 12 flagship programmes.

14. The Secretariat prepares a comprehensive feasibility study on the creation of a NEPAD S&T funding instrument or mechanism. The study will be submitted to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.
15. The criteria for adopting NEPAD projects will be used as interim guidelines. They will be distributed to other members of the Steering Committee and shared across various NEPAD sectoral areas/programmes in Africa.
16. The Secretariat establish an experts' team to prepare a comprehensive programme and instruments for developing common African science, technology and innovation indicators. The conduct of related STI surveys would be done by or through designated national authorities. The proposed programme would be considered by the Committee before being integrated into the business plan. The Secretariat was instructed to consult with experts at OCED before finalizing the programme.
17. The work-plan for regional assessments and workshops be adopted.
18. The Secretariat of NEPAD and the AU Commission establish a high-level panel of experts to prepare a comprehensive African strategy and common position on biotechnology, including applications in agriculture, health, environment, mining and manufacturing. The panel would be authorized by the Chairperson of the AU Commission and would draw on or use regional consultations being held by various institutions on the continent. Report of the Panel will be submitted to the next ministerial conference on science and technology at which ministers from other sectors will be invited before it is transmitted to the AU Summit.
19. The operations and governance of NEPAD S&T programmes will be guided by and evolve as the integration of NEPAD into AU structures progresses.

20. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee write to the Chief Executive of the NEPAD Secretariat to inform him of the need to ensure that comprehensive budgets and financial reports on S&T are submitted to and approved by the Committee.
21. Within two weeks (from 14th July) the Secretariat submits to all members an overall comprehensive budget and expenditure report on all funds received for S&T by NEPAD. Members would be requested to review and send amendments for inclusion in the final budget and financial report within another two weeks.
22. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee requests the Chair of the Ministerial Council for Science and Technology to write to governments of Senegal and Kenya seeking their bids and indication of their formal commitment to host the next ministerial conference. The Committee resolved that the two countries be asked by the Chairperson to respond by mid-August 2004. The decision on the venue for next ministerial conference will be made by end of August
23. The next meeting of the Steering Committee shall be held on 21-23 February 2005 at the headquarters of the NEPAD Secretariat.
24. The next ministerial conference will be held in May 2005 at a venue to be determined based on the outcome of ministerial letters and consultations referred to in paragraph 22.