

Resolutions of the 3rd Meeting of NEPAD Science and Technology Steering Committee

The third meeting of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Steering Committee on Science and Technology was held in Midrand, South Africa at the Headquarters of the NEPAD 10-11 March 2005. It was attended by delegates from Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia, members of the Secretariat of NEPAD and a representative of the African Union (AU) Commission. The Committee adopted the following decisions:

1. The resolutions of its 2nd meeting were resolved to be a true record or reflection of the discussions and decisions made at that meeting held 13-14 July 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2. The report of the NEPAD Secretariat on the implementation of decisions of the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee was adopted.
3. Having considered two bids from the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the Government of the Republic of Kenya to host the Second Conference of African Ministers of Science and Technology, and invoking paragraphs 14, 17, 18 and 19 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee held a formal vote that yielded five votes for Senegal and two for Kenya. It was therefore resolved that Senegal would host the 2nd AMCOST.
4. The Secretariat and the Government of Senegal shall prepare a budget and agree on allocation of responsibilities for the preparation or organization of the conference. They shall enter into a standard Nepad agreement on the organization of the conference.
5. Considering logistical and financial constraints to organizing the conference in May 2005 as earlier agreed, the Committee recommends that the 2nd ministerial conference be postponed to either 27-30 September 2005 or 4-7 October 2005. The Committee further resolved that the Chairperson of the African Ministerial Council for Science and Technology shall communicate the recommended dates

to the Council's Bureau of Ministers. The Bureau shall agree on either of the two proposed dates.

6. Noting progress made to establish a high-level African Panel on Biotechnology, the Secretariat of NEPAD and the AU Commission should expedite the appointment of members to ensure that the Panel begins its operations before the second Conference of Ministers.
7. Noting the Terms of Reference for the Experts' Working Group on African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) and the proposed list of experts, the Secretariat should proceed to organize activities of the Working Group to ensure that a comprehensive ASTII programme is produced for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.
8. The Committee welcomed the appointment of Prof. Gordon Conway as the Chief Scientific Advisor of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. It emphasized the need for NEPAD to forge collaboration with DFID to secure support for NEPAD's science and technology programmes.
9. The Secretariat of NEPAD should submit the proposal on the establishment of the African Mathematical Institutes Network (AMI-Network) to African and international donors and assist AIMS to ensure secure financial support for the initiative.
10. The Secretariat should work actively with the Governments of the United Kingdom and Canada to establish a working group that will design a comprehensive protocol and programme for UK-Canada-Africa Partnerships for Science and Technology Capacity Building as recommended by the workshop held in London 31 January-February 1, 2005. The Committee endorsed the call for NEPAD's leadership role in S&T capacity building. Special attention shall be given to the following programmatic issues: (a) strengthening capacity for science advice (b) building leadership for science and technology; and (c) strengthening science communication at national, regional and continental levels. The Secretariat shall report to the Committee on progress made to strengthen science and technology partnerships with UK, Canada and other non-African countries.

11. The Secretariat shall prepare and submit to the Steering Committee and all countries the following documents by 30th May 2005:
 - (a) a business plan for science and technology. The plan shall provide a succinct description of the programmes' objectives, projects and related budgetary aspects;
 - (b) detailed project proposals for all the flagship programmes. These will be submitted as annexes to the business plan;
 - (c) a background paper proposing specific institutional and financial mechanisms for the implementation of the business plan and its projects;
 - (d) a draft report of the Steering Committee describing the work done and decisions made by the Committee since its first meeting in January 2004;
 - (e) report on international partnerships, particularly the outcomes of the UK-Canada-Africa Partnerships for Capacity Building workshop, the Amsterdam Workshop on S&T Capacity Building organized by the Inter-Academy Council in February 2005 and any other such important meetings that have focused on partnerships for S&T in Africa, and
 - (f) draft resolutions to be submitted to the ministerial conference.
12. Members of the Steering Committee, with the support of regional coordinators, shall hold consultations in their representative regions to ensure that all countries make input into the business plans, draft resolutions and other documents or issues that will be considered at the ministerial conference. In finalizing the documents listed in paragraph 11 above, the Steering Committee shall take into consideration comments submitted by the countries through the regional consultations.
13. Noting that the African Union (AU) Summit shall take place in July 2005 and need to ensure that there are no logistical constraints to the organization of the next meeting of the Steering Committee, the Headquarters of NEPAD shall host the next meeting in Midrand, South Africa on 14-15 July 2005.