

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE
SECOND AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Adopted on 30th September 2005
Dakar, Senegal**

WE, the Ministers responsible for science and technology, meeting at the Second African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology in the framework of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) from 29-30 September 2005 in Dakar, Senegal;

Recalling the commitments and decisions we made at the first African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology held in Johannesburg, South Africa 6-7 November 2003;

Taking into account the important roles that science, technology and innovation play in achieving Africa's common aspirations articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU);

Convinced that science, technology and innovation are critical to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of Chapter 8 of the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD);

Re-emphasizing the importance of adopting multidisciplinary approaches, including social sciences or humanities, in research and technology development;

Acknowledging that the ability of our countries to create, diffuse and utilize scientific and technical innovations is a major determinant of our capacity to get integrated into the global knowledge economy and trading system;

Taking into account recommendations of the Commission for Africa and the United Nations Millennium Project as well as the increasing international attention to the role of science, technology and innovation in sustainable development;

Recalling our commitment to develop and adopt a comprehensive common action plan for science, technology and innovation;

Guided by the deliberations and recommendations of the Science and Technology Steering Committee, regional workshops, experts' consultations and technical inputs from various multi-stakeholder groups since our first Conference;

WE HEREBY:

1. **Adopt** Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

2. **Resolve** that the African Union (AU) shall provide overall policy and political leadership required to achieve the goals set in the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.
3. **Commit** ourselves to strengthen the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) as the overall governance body to provide political leadership and make recommendations on policies for the application of science, technology and innovation in Africa's development.
4. **Resolve** that the Steering Committee for Science and Technology shall be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of programmes and projects.
5. **Resolve** that the AU Commission and the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology shall be responsible for mobilizing financial and technical resources to implement programmes and projects contained in the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.
6. **Reaffirm** our countries' commitments to make voluntary and earmarked financial contributions to ensure that the programmes and their projects are effectively and efficiently implemented.
7. **Reaffirm** our countries' commitment to mobilize financial resources and increase expenditure on national Research and Development.
8. **Agree that** ways and means be explored, by AU and NEPAD, of establishing a special continental financial and technical facility to ensure sustainable funding for science, technology and innovation programmes
9. **Decide** that SC shall, in consultation with AU structures and with support of technical expertise, consider and make appropriate recommendations to the Bureau of AMCOST on modalities of establishing and governing the proposed African Science and Innovation Facility.
10. **Commit to establish** a forum for engaging and partnering with the international community, including fostering cooperation with other developing countries, to secure the necessary additional financial, technical and informational resources for the implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.
11. **Rededicate** our countries to review and where necessary revise national science, technology and innovation policies and related institutional arrangements;
12. **Reaffirm our commitment** to promote the integration of science, technology and innovation considerations into our national development plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or related frameworks for achieving the MDGs.
13. **Agree to establish** an inter-governmental committee comprising of relevant national authorities to develop, adopt and use common indicators to survey and prepare an African Science, Technology and Innovation report.

14. **Commit** our countries to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on science and technology, and develop best practices in this regard.
15. **Take note** of the establishment of the AU-NEPAD High-Level African Biotechnology Panel which is due to report on its work in 2006.
16. **Take note** of ongoing efforts to establish networks of centers of excellence to implement the programmes and projects.
17. **Decide** that the NEPAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the AU Commission and UNESCO, develop the Terms of Reference and establish the AU-NEPAD-UNESCO High-Level Working Group to prepare a comprehensive programme for establishing and funding centers of excellence in accordance with the Commission for Africa recommendations.
18. **Recalling** our decision to establish a network of departments of science and technology, and ensure that expertise and experiences in various national institutions is shared across the continent, we call upon the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology to finalize the development of the African e-library of science and technology policy instruments.
19. **We support** the proposed establishment of the 3rd Component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Africa.
20. **Agree** to establish an inter-ministerial dialogue with African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW) and endeavour to establish partnerships with other ministerial councils or bodies
21. **Recommend** that the AU Summit in January 2007 be dedicated to science and technology for the Heads of State and Government.
22. **Resolve** that countries wishing to host the third ministerial conference shall submit bids to the Secretariat of NEPAD for consideration by the Bureau of AMCOST.

We EXPRESS our gratitude to Hon. Minister MOSIBUDI MANGENA and his predecessor Dr BALDWIN S NGUBANE of the Republic of South Africa for providing leadership to AMCOST and for chairing it effectively during its first two years.

We **CONGRATULATE** Madam Hon. Minister DIA GASSAMA of the Republic of Senegal for her appointment to the Cabinet and election as the second chairperson of AMCOST.

We **EXPRESS** our sincere appreciation to H.E. PRESIDENT ABDOULAYE WADE, and the Government and People of Senegal for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of this conference.