

AFRICAN UNION

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**EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF
THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST)
23-24 NOVEMBER 2006
CAIRO, EGYPT**

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THE CAIRO DECLARATION

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OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF THE
AFRICAN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Adopted on 24TH November 2006
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt**

PREAMBLE

WE, the Ministers responsible for science and technology meeting at the extraordinary conference of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) from 23-24 November 2006 in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Guided by the Constitutive Act and vision of the African Union (AU);

Also guided by the vision of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) making science and technology one of its major priorities;

Re-affirming that science and technology is the driving force for socio-economic development, economic competitiveness and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Taking into account Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) that was adopted at the second conference of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) in Dakar, Senegal 30th September 2005 and endorsed by AU Summit from 16-21 January 2006;

Recalling the decision of the 8th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council in Khartoum, Sudan, January 2006 calling on the AU Commission, the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology and Member States to be responsible for mobilizing financial and technical resources to implement the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;

Also taking into account the deliberations and the recommendations of civil society and Diaspora conferences and the first African Union Congress of Scientists and Policy makers held in Alexandria, Egypt from 27 - 30 October 2006;

Applauding the decision of our Heads of State and Government to dedicate the AU Summit in January 2007 to science, technology and innovation for Africa's socio-economic development;

Taking note of the report of the senior officials and experts meeting held from 20-21 November 2006 in Cairo, Egypt

ENDORSEMENT

We hereby endorse the report of the High-Level African Panel on Modern Biotechnology

COMMITMENTS

We hereby commit ourselves to:

1. **Establish** mechanisms to accelerate and monitor the implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;
2. **Work** together to develop a 20 year African Biotechnology Strategy with specific regional technology goals to be implemented through our Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and to develop and harmonize national and regional regulations that promote the application and safe use of modern biotechnology;
3. **Promote** research and development (R&D) and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development;
4. **Encourage** effective knowledge management and better use of Intellectual Property, transfer of technology as well as South-South, North-South cooperation in science and technology;
5. **Improve** the design and develop a legal instrument for the establishment of the African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF) as an intergovernmental mechanism to mobilize technical and financial resources for the implementation of the Consolidated Plan of Action;
6. **Maximize** the effective use of locally based scientists, including African academies of science and African scientists in the Diaspora and also facilitate the relocation of science-based Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of the Diaspora for the development of the continent;
7. **Popularize** the importance of science and technology for the development of our countries;
8. **Promote** and facilitate greater participation of women and youth in the advancement of science and technology through networks of women scientists and other capacity building interventions;
9. **Use** common guidelines for identifying and establishing networks of centers of excellence in science and technology;

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of these commitments, we recommend to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) to:

1. Declare 2007 as the year to launch the building of constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa
2. Promote research and development (R&D) and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development by allocating at least 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to R&D by 2010 as agreed by Khartoum Decision (EX. CL/Dec.254 (VIII));
3. Approve the establishment of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
4. Support South-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation and enhance its role in international partnerships

APPRECIATION

We appreciate the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kenya to host the third conference of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) in 2007.

We **EXPRESS** our gratitude to H.E. PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK and the People of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of this conference.