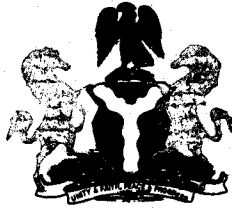


# FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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**Communique issued at the end of a Ministerial and Policy Forum held during the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Nigeria Conference and Workshop on the Theme: *Science and Technology and Africa's Global Inclusion* Held in Abuja, Nigeria November 12, 2002**

**Preamble**

Conscious of the critical role of science and technology in the development of Africa;

Recognizing the need to bridge the gap between African researchers and scientists on the one hand and policy makers on the other;

Taking into cognizance our common aspirations, goals and agenda as represented by the NEPAD framework;

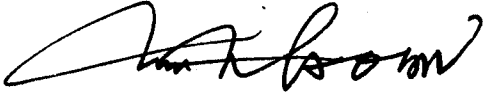
Realizing the urgency for Africa to be actively and profitably engaged in the globalized economy;

Do note and resolve as follows:

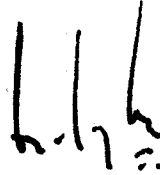
- That African countries having diverse research and scientific institutions operating at different levels of capabilities need to promote networking and alliances among themselves in order to realize synergetic efficiency;
- That tertiary level institutions in Africa have not succeeded, in the main, in creating the necessary human capital base that supports innovation and that transition to a knowledge-based society would require reform in the curriculum and a re-examination of the relevance of current institutions;
- That scientific and technological innovation targets be set in accordance with each countries potential and dynamic comparative advantage;

- That African governments should promulgate, as a matter of urgency, national policies on Information and Communication Technology and Biotechnology in order to realize the full benefits of these technologies and that the African Technology Policy Studies Network should facilitate this process where necessary;
- That Africa's global inclusion will require capacity building in Information and Communication Technology, Biotechnology, an entrepreneurial scientific community and a policy environment devoid of self-doubt;
- That African governments need to diversify their sources of scientific and technical collaboration and not limit it to their traditional allies;
- That global governance, scientific or otherwise, is rooted in conventions and agreements, and that African countries need to be careful in signing agreements without proper preparations and deep understanding of the implications of such agreements for their respective economies;
- That African countries need to carefully consider the benefits and costs of surrendering their national sovereignty in signing global conventions;
- That in all forms of international negotiations, African governments need to use their best people wherever they may be;
- That it is not enough to build research, scientific and negotiating capacities but to retain and use them;
- That grassroots awareness is required for NEPAD to be understood and supported by the masses of African peoples;
- That NEPAD Secretariat should work with the ATPS and other institutions to make the NEPAD framework science and technology (S&T) led and knowledge driven;
- That S&T should not only be a national government concern but also a provincial and local government priority requiring national strategy, constitutions and expenditures which reflect a coordinated efforts by the various levels of government;
- That leaders rather than markets should drive the process of scientific and technological advancement; and

- That an annual award of excellence be instituted by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) to be given to an Africa leader that has demonstrated evident leadership in promoting science and technology for development in Africa.



**Prof. Turner T. Isoun**  
**Honourable Minister**  
**Of Science & Technology**



**Dr. Osita Ogbu**  
**Executive Director**  
**ATPS**