

Nairobi Ministerial Declaration

We, Africa Ministers in charge of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Finance and Planning, and Education, meeting at the African Forum on STI for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth, in Nairobi, Kenya on the 3rd day of April 2012;

Guided by the Act of establishing the African Union, and the declaration of the Summit of the Heads of State and Governments (Assembly/AU/Decl.5) of January 2007, which underscores the role of STI in socio-economic development and in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millenium Development Goals;

Further Guided by the Commitment of the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Governments for devoting as least 1% of GDP for Research & Development (R&D);

Acknowledging the commitment and the role of AUC and he regional, multilateral and international organizations, namely, AfDB, ADEA, UNECA, and UNESCO, among others in advancing STI and youth development in Africa;

Recognizing that improvements in Higher Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) has to be accompanied by improvements in economic and entrepreneurial opportunities in Africa;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

Strive individually and collectively towards the development, review and implementation of STI policies, strategies, programs and action plans at sub-regional and national levels for enhancing STI for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth

Enhance the linkage between (STEM) Education and Labour Markets in Africa, by implementing specific actions at the national and regional levels, to support the improvement of STEM education in both contents and skills;

Strengthen linkages between knowledge generation and enterprise development and put the necessary measures in place to encourage African youth to pursue studies in the science, technology engineering and mathematics;

Strengthen Scientific Research in Africa by promoting and increasing investment in collaborative research at national and intra-regional levels; and **support** institutional and human capacity building in R & D;

Harnessing STI for Sustainable Development by ensuring STI is used to solve societal problems, such as water health, ICT, energy and agriculture to improve the well-being of our people;

Put in place the adequate mechanisms to facilitate knowledge production and transfer between countries through the strengthening of regional networks, South-South and North-South cooperation, and developing financial instruments;

Promoting STI as a driver for inclusive growth and youth employment with a focus on entrepreneurship, by:

- **supporting** innovation and entrepreneurship programs for youth skills development and empowerment;
- **integrating** STI into national and regional sustainable development agenda;
- **giving** priority and streamline specific national programs that focus on close interaction between governments, academia and SMEs; and
- **supporting** the improvement of rural development and informal economy;

COMMIT TO:

Strengthen Higher Education and Research Institutions to increase Human capital in STEM as well as knowledge production;

Contribute to the initiatives and arrangements aimed at promoting STI for development in Africa, namely Science with Africa Conference, initiatives by AMCOST, the AfDB-AUC-ECA-ILO Youth Employment Initiative, UNESCO and ILO Youth and STI focused initiatives among others;

Support the full establishment and management of the Pan African University (PAU), the African Observatory for Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI), and AU's research grants;

Support the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) in the Science review process;

Enhance collaboration with UNESCO, UNECA, AUC, AfDB and ADEA on the development of national and sub-regional STI policy instruments; the reform of national STI systems, and the promotion of relevant STI indicators.

Invite AU member States to support the effective implementation of the outcomes of the ADEA 2012 Triennale;

Welcome the Third Science with Africa Conference (2012) as part of the mechanism to promote the implementation of this declaration and bring to the attention of upcoming AfDB annual meetings;

Establish a follow-up mechanism for the effective implementation of this declaration.

APPRECIATION

The decision of the government of the Republic of Kenya to host The First African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth and express our gratitude to H.E. PRESIDENT Mwai Kibaki and The Commandor in Chief of the Armed Forces; and the People of the Republic of Kenya for their warm hospitality.

Nairobi, April 3rd, 2012.