

## NAIROBI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

**1.** *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;*

**2.** *Guided by the Act 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 Millennium Development Goals;*

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

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

**5.** *Recognising the importance of Higher Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for socio-economic development;*

**6.** **Supporting and promoting** economic and entrepreneurial opportunities in Africa;

### HEREBY AGREE TO:

**7.** **Strive** individually and collectively towards the development, review and implementation of STI policies, law, strategies, programmes and action plans at regional and national levels for enhancing STI for youth Employment , Human capital Development and Inclusive Growth.

**8.** **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 sciences, technology including ICT, engineering and mathematics;

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

**10.** **Harness 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;

**11.** **Put in place** the adequate mechanisms, to facilitate knowledge production and technology transfer between countries through the strengthening of regional networks, South –South and North-South cooperation, and developing appropriate financial instruments for this;

**12. Promote 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 at all levels;
- **Giving** priority and streamlining specific national programs that focus on close interaction between governments, academia and SMEs;
- **supporting** the improvement of rural development and informal economy.

**COMMIT TO:**

**13. Strengthen** Higher Education and Research Institutions, including Research Infrastructure, to increase Human capital in STEM as well as knowledge production and dissemination;

**14. Contribute** to the initiatives aimed at promoting STI for development in Africa, namely AMCOST, UNECA's Science with Africa Conference, the AfDB-AUC-ECA-ILO Youth employment Initiative, UNESCO and ILO Youth and STI and engineering focused initiatives among others;

**15. 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;

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

**17. Enhance collaboration** *with* among others, AUC, UNESCO, UNECA, and AfDB on the development of national and regional STI policy instruments; the reform of national STI systems, and the promotion STI indicators;

**18. Call** upon AUC to monitor effective implementation and agree to establish mechanisms at national and regional levels to support oversight of this declaration.

**APPRECIATION**

**19.** We express our gratitude to His Excellency Honorable Mwai Kibaki, CGH. MP., President and The Commander in Chief of Defense Forces and the People of the Republic of Kenya for their warm hospitality and for the hosting of The First African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth.