

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

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**THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (STC-EST)
13th DECEMBER 2019
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**HRST/STC-EST/MIN/ (III)
ORIGINAL: English**

REPORT OF MINISTERIAL SESSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 10 – 13 December 2019. The Ministerial Session was held on 13 December and preceded by the Senior Officials/Experts Session from 10 - 11 December 2019. Among other key issues, the Ministers elected a new Bureau and considered the Experts Report on Education, Science and Technology, from the Commission and Partner Organisations and the Civil Society, and made the recommendations for consideration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

ATTENDANCE:

2. The following Member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

QUORUM

3. The meeting verified the Quorum and validated that 45 Member States were present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

4. H.E. Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) in her opening statement conveyed the greetings of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and welcomed all the delegates to the 3rd STC-EST. She thanked the Government and the people of Ethiopia, for hosting the third STC-EST and the warmth and hospitality accorded to all the delegations.

5. She stressed the importance of Education and STI for the realization of AU Chairperson's initiative focused on creating direct opportunities for the development of young people in Africa, to actively and meaningfully drive the full realization of Africa's Agenda 2063. The AUC Chairperson 1Million By 2021 Initiative aims to create opportunities for Africa's young people through the 4Es – Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement. She further congratulated the Republic of Namibia for being selected to host the World Skills Africa Competition in October 2020.
6. Furthermore, the Commissioner highlighted the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) as a key policy tool for African Union's Agenda 2063, aimed at harnessing inherent skills and human capital in Africa, as well as fostering the continent's education revolution. Nevertheless, she stressed that the need to step along a long journey, and translate many 'talks into walks' to address the current challenges and utilize the opportunities on the continent. In reality, the recent expansion in enrolments masks huge disparities and system dysfunctionalities and inefficiencies. By the same token, there are still many young people, mainly girls and young women, rural youth, and people with disabilities lacking basic literacy skills, and opportunities despite several international efforts with a focus on education in Africa. To transform the Continent's Education agenda, H.E the Commissioner called for the adoption and implementation the DOTSS approach. She also called greater emphasis on skills comprising: Foundational literacy and numeracy skills; 21st century skills such as a problem solving, negotiation and critical thinking); Digital skills and Job specific skills.
7. She also said that progress that has been made on the implementation of STISA - 2024 is encouraging in accelerating the transition of African countries to innovation-led, knowledge-based economies through the deployment of STI across socio-economic development sectors. However, the continent requires a more responsive, stronger and more dynamic sustainable research enterprise that is important to its economies, given that the average R&D intensity, that is, the Research and

Development expenditure as percentage of GDP of Africa remains low- presently, it is at less than 0.5% of GDP, far below the world average of 2.2 % of GDP.

8. Finally, she reiterated that if we want change to happen in Africa, the continent needs to make changes, in advocating for increased investments in education, science, technology and innovation in Africa to implement the commitments that we have made. 'All our talks need to be translated to walks'. There is no doubt that mobilizing domestic excellence and financial resources as well as leveraging external support and collaboration are vital for the unlocking the potential of youths for innovation, science Technology.H.E. Mr. Cheikh Oumar Hanne, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of the Republic of Senegal and Chair of STC-EST 2.
9. The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of Senegal, Dr. Cheikh Oumar Anne, began his remarks by expressing his thanks and congratulations to Professor Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union and her staff for the good organization of the meeting, and to the experts who worked prior to this session. He then highlighted the central role of education and training based on science, technology and innovation in achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063.
10. That is why he recalled the reasons for setting up the Committee of 10 Heads of State (C10) which aims, mainly, to reorient cooperation towards education, science and technology. The Minister also reiterated the full commitment of the President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Mr. E. Macky Sall, as President of the C10, to carry out this mission within the framework of regional and continental cooperation. And that he believes that, without a mastery of basic knowledge, the sciences, basic technologies and advanced technologies, implementing our public development policies would be unrealistic.
11. The Minister then welcomed the priorities identified by the experts while emphasizing the need for Member States to further improve the policy design and policy-making process to address the many challenges facing Africa: sustainable development of agriculture, food security, access to water and energy in their least wasteful forms for the planet's resources, as well as the building of an effective health system, the emergence of the digital economy, etc. Public policies based on the articulation of and

synergy between the education system, training and the productive sector. In this regard, he called on Member States to put more resources into education in order to mobilize technical and financial partners.

12. Before wishing the Ministerial Session every success, the Minister ended his remarks by encouraging Africans to be more innovative because, without innovation, there can be no development, and there can be no innovation without a mastery of the techniques of processes for the creation and production of goods and services.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF BUREAU

13. Under the guidance of the AUC Legal Counsel, the Ministers endorsed the Bureau of the STC-EST 3, proposed by the Experts. The Bureau is composed of the following Members States:

| Regions | Countries | Positions in the Bureau |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| East Africa | Uganda | Chair |
| Central Africa | Central African Republic | 1 st Vice President |
| Southern Africa | Namibia | 2 nd Vice President |
| Northern Africa | Libya | 3 rd Vice President |
| West Africa | Senegal | Rapporteur |

STATEMENT BY INCOMING STC-EST CHAIRPERSON

14. H.E. Dr. Tumwesigye Eliodia, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation from Uganda as the incoming Chairperson of the STC-EST 3, in his acceptance statement thanked the outgoing Bureau of STC-EST 2 for work done during their tenure and welcome H.E. Mr. Cheikh Oumar Hanne, as Rapporteur of STC-EST3. He further thanked the East African Community for choosing Uganda. He expressed his commitment to work with all relevant policy organs of the AU, African Member States and the relevant Development Partners. He recalled the statement of H.E. Kwame

Nkrumah espoused in STISA-2024, which underlined that science and technology and innovation can enable the continent to address her socio-economic development challenges. He emphasised in human development, the needed skills and infrastructure to benefit from the fourth industrial revolution as well as leapfrog development through innovation and commercialisation of research output. He underlined that education, science, technology and innovation should ensure that African citizens are healthy, peaceful, prosperous and happy.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME WORK

15. The Agenda and Program of Work for the Ministers' meeting were considered and adopted with amendments to be included under any other business namely:

- Presentation of the Use of Nuclear Technology to Eradicate Malaria in Africa by Nigeria;
- Presentation on African Education Fund by AfDB.

AGENDA ITEM 4: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

16. Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle UNESCO ADG for Natural Sciences walked the audience through the different facets of the Education and Science for sustainable development. She highlighted efforts and UNESCO's support to the African Union Commission in implementing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) in the areas of Teacher Development, Data Management and EMIS, STEM Education, TVET and Higher Education.

17. She further proposed recommendations aimed at strengthening cooperation with the African Union on Education development. Some of the recommendations includes strengthening M&E and Reporting on SDG4 and CESA 2025 to inform an annual Africa report on Education, Ratification, signing and implementation of the Addis Ababa convention on recognition of certificates and qualifications and others in the areas of STEM, TVET and ICTs application in Education. She appealed to member countries to strengthen Education for Peace at their respective countries and advocated for the acceleration of the pedagogic use of the General History of Africa in both formal and non-formal Education systems.

18. Furthermore, the ADG highlighted a few emerging challenges which requires a strengthened Science, technology and Innovation terrain to mitigate. Some of which are climate change, natural disasters, water crises and bio-diversity. She reiterated UNESCO's commitment to working with regional institutions like the African Union to strengthen the Education, Science and Technology space in Africa.
19. In addition, she informed the audience of two key UNESCO activities which will take place on the continent. The World Water Summit, the first of its kind in Africa, is slated to take place in Senegal in 2021 while Nigeria will host the International Coordination Council meeting on Man and the Biosphere Reserve in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF EXPERTS

20. The Office of the Legal Counsel recalled the Executive Council decision on the moratorium on the establishment of institutions that have financial or structural implications to guide the discussions of the ministers.
21. The Ministers considered the Report of the Senior Officials/Experts and took decisions on the following items:

(I) CONSIDERATION OF THE C10 OUTCOMES

22. The Ministers,

- (a) **TAKE NOTE** of the Outcomes of the First Extra-Ordinary Summit for the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10) Championing Education, Science and Technology.

(II) THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ONE MILLION BY 2021 INITIATIVE

23. The Ministers,

- (a) **COMMEND** the initiative and **ENCOURAGE** partners, especially the private sector to collaborate with the AUC on the provision of affordable bandwidth for online platforms to facilitate teaching and learning; and

- (b) **ACKNOWLEDGE** the role of partners in the implementation of the 1 million by 2021 initiative and further **CALL UPON** the partners and private sector to support Member States in accelerating execution of the initiative at country level.

(III) THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

24. The Ministers,

- (a) **WELCOME** the development of a comprehensive continental Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) as it will play a critical role in improving policy and regulation environment, digital infrastructure and emergency of an inclusive African digital society and economy; and
- (b) **CALL UPON** Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote through relevant interventions digital skills and human capital development, digital innovation and entrepreneurship as well as research and development in order for the continent to benefit from the fourth Industrial Revolution.

(IV) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

25. The Ministers,

- (a) **COMMEND** the Commission for efforts in Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) through establishment of the ECED Cluster under the umbrella of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-2025);
- (b) **CALL FOR** a regional study to understand ECED financing models and levels in the region and recommend practical solutions for achieving ECED target as articulated in CESA 16-25 and SDG 4;
- (c) **REQUEST** the Commission in partnership with the coalition of stakeholders in the CESA ECED Cluster to identify and mobilize champions to strengthen advocacy for key priority areas of ECED; and

- (d) **SUPPORT** the efforts of the Government of Seychelles to establish the Centre for the Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED).

(V) HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING

26. The Ministers,

- (a) **ENDORSE** the Continental Home Grown School Feeding Cluster Strategy, Terms of reference, Work plan and Indicators 2019 – 2021;
- (b) **TAKE NOTE** of the progress made in the implementation of school feeding by the Commission;
- (c) **URGE** all member states to increase investment in HGSF so as to harvest increased impacts on education and learning indicators, Health and Nutrition, and Agriculture and Local Economic Development; and
- (d) **REQUEST** the Commission to encourage Member States to implement National school feeding programs funded by the Government through the utilization of local farmers in the areas.

(VI) TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

27. The Ministers,

- (a) **URGE** Member States and RECS to actively support and promote the AU Continental Teacher Prize and to recognize Teachers at National and Regional Levels as a means of raising the status of the Teaching Profession and facilitate sharing of best practices in Teacher excellence in Africa;
- (b) **COMMEND** the Commission for the establishment of the AU Continental Teacher Prize which seeks to celebrate the work of distinguished teachers on the African continent; and
- (c) **URGE** the Commission to promote teacher mobility and best practices exchanges across the continent and also disseminate the Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol to Member States for further consultation.
- (d) **CALL UPON** Member States to improve the general conditions of services and provide continuous professional development of teachers

(VII) TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

28. The Ministers,

- (a) COMMEND** the commission for developing the Plan of Action for the African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment (PoA);
- (b) URGE** member states and TVET practitioners to closely align their TVET policies and strategies with this Decade Plan of Action, and undertake TVET reforms that will respond to aspirations of the youth by providing the needed skills for gainful employment and job creation;
- (c) CALL ON** Member States, RECs and relevant partner agencies to popularize and implement the Decade Plan of Action and share country experiences in addressing inherent challenges in TVET and Youth Employment through the Continental Dialogue Platform; and
- (d) TAKE NOTE of** the rebranding of the CAPA to the “Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), and encourage Technical Universities and Polytechnics in their countries to join this continental association.

(VIII) REFORM OF CURRICULA

29. The Ministers,

- (a) RECOGNIZE** the important role and efforts of the African Curricula Association (ACA) in supporting Member States to review and develop their national curricula to meet the demands of the 21st Century; and
- (b) URGE** ACA to work with Member States to reform their curricula, professional development for teachers, develop appropriate learning resources and improve learning outcomes.

(IX) INNOVATING EDUCATION IN AFRICA

30. The Ministers,

- (a) COMMEND** the Commission, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Botswana for successfully organising the two previous editions of the Innovating Education in Africa Expo which is imperative to the implementation of the

Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25), the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy for Africa (TVET Strategy) towards the realization of Agenda 2063;

- (b) **AGREE** to convene the Innovating Education in Africa Expo as an annual event to keep momentum for Education Innovation in Africa towards attracting and supporting young innovators across the continent, and **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to support the work of the Commission regarding the organisation of this event; and
- (a) **REQUEST** the Commission to document selected innovations and best practices for the benefit of stakeholders including Member States and RECs, and encourage the networking of African Education Innovators to promote experience sharing and information exchange

(X) **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND HARMONISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

31. The Ministers,

- (a) **CALLS ON** Member States to employ the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance towards its domestication at national and regional levels, considering international good practices.
- (b) **URGE** Member States to actively involve and support the development process of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF);
- (c) **ENCOURAGE** Universities to align their assessment tools with the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM).
- (d) **ENCOURAGE** the establishment of National Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agencies in Member states that do not have them;
- (e) **RECALLING** the Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.676(XX) regarding the establishment of an African Accreditation Agency, **REQUEST** the Commission to convene a Technical Working Group that develops a Statute specifying the legal framework and the organizational set-up of the Agency; and
- (f) **URGE** Member States to expedite ratification of the Addis Convention in their respective countries.

(g) ENCOURAGE universities in Africa to twin, collaborate and cooperate among themselves in order to promote knowledge and innovation exchange and improve the quality of Higher Education in Africa.

**(XI) UPDATE FROM INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN
EDUCATION IN AFRICA (CIEFFA) ON GIRLS AND WOMEN EDUCATION**

32. The Ministers,

- (a) RECALL** the importance of Girl's and Women Education in Africa and **URGES** Education Ministers to champion the AU's Agenda on girl's education in their countries as well as the Chairperson of the STC EST to champion in the continent and present annually a report during the AU High Level Dialogue on Gender and Education;
- (b) CONGRATULATE** the AU/CIEFFA for inclusion of various stakeholders namely the Pan Parliament, Regional Economic Communities, AU Organs and specialized Institutions, Traditional and religious leaders, CSO's, Media, the Youth and especially the African Governments for the implementation of policies pertaining to girls' and women's education;
- (c) APPEAL** to Member States to adopt specific measures to re-integrate girls in school with affirmative actions as completion rates of girls are still very low due to early pregnancy, child marriage and various other economic and socio-cultural factors; and
- (d) REQUEST** Members States to implement additional measures to increase enrolment and retention of girls in educational systems and support the transition of girls to higher education in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

(XII) EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS)

33. The Ministers,

- (a) TAKE NOTE** of the progress made in strengthening National EMIS systems using new and modern technologies;

- (b) **ENCOURAGE** Member States to link National EMIS Systems to the AU continental EMIS platform; and
- (c) **ENCOURAGE** Member states to increase funding for strengthening Education data collection, transportation, analysis and dissemination.

(XIII) **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF STISA-2024 (2014 – 2018) AND 5 YEARS ACTION PLAN**

34. The Ministers,

- (a) **WELCOME** the Report and the 5 Year Action Plan to boost the implementation of STISA-2024 with a view to transform the continent into an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy;
- (b) **URGE** Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and regional institutions to implement the 5 Year Action Plan at all levels in the next 5 years and **REQUEST** the Commission to share the Action Plan with all Member States and Partners;
- (c) **REQUESTS** the Commission to assess the implementation of STISA 2024 to enable the preparation of the next iteration of 2034 STISA and report to STC-EST;
- (d) **REAFFIRM** the role of the academies of science and reiterate the need for the national academies and collaboration with Network of African Science Academies (NASAC);
- (e) **COMMEND** the strong collaboration between the Commission and UNESCO to improve science, technology and innovation on the continent, and **INVITE** other regional institutions to collaborate in this regard in order to promote coordination, synergies and maximize socio-economic impact of STI; and
- (f) **RECOMMEND** that in line with the 5 year Action Plan, undertake an end of period review of STISA 2024 and enable preparation of the next iteration of STISA 2034.

(XIV) **AU KWAME NKRUMAH AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE**

35. The Ministers,

- (a) **TAKE NOTE** of the launching of the programme annually from January and

request Member States and RECs to widely disseminate information about the programme at national and regional levels to attract more applicants and raise the popularity of STI;

- (b) **CALL UPON** Member States, the RECs and Partners to enhance synergies with similar awards programs at regional and continental levels in order to gain efficiency and sustainability;
- (c) **URGE** Member States to collaborate with the Commission to financially support the AU Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence programme;
- (d) **FURTHER** urge the Commission to provide a platform to enable access and dissemination of this information across Africa from Member States and other Partners;
- (e) **WELCOME** and appreciate the offer by the Republic of South Africa to financially support the prestigious Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence; and
- (f) **ENCOURAGE** the Commission to launch the calls for the awards, scholarships, grants and any other bids in all AU languages to enable equitable access.

(XV) AU RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

36. The Ministers,

- (a) **COMMEND** the African Union Research Grants Programme as a continental financial instrument to support and promote collaborative research in Africa; and capacity building for the Commission to create and manage a credible and competitive system of grants as a way to involve and support African scientists and researchers to collaborate on common research priorities of STISA-2024;
- (b) **WELCOME** the technical and financial support by the EU for the Research Grant;
- (c) **REQUEST** the Commission to combine the Africa Science Technology and Innovation Fund as stipulated in STISA 2024 with the African Education Fund into a single Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Fund and **REQUESTS** the Commission and the AfDB to undertake work towards the establishment and operationalization of this fund;

- (d) **CALL UPON** the Commission to engage with ministers in charge of finance the private sector and other relevant financing institutions to identify funding options for research and innovation in Africa;
- (e) **ENSURE** the creation of appropriate mechanisms that facilitate the translation of research and development outcomes into products, services and processes that stimulate socio-economic development;
- (f) **FURTHER URGE** member states to promote intra-African collaboration and encourage the pooling of major scientific equipment and the creation of large regional thematic centres open to the African scientific community with African but also foreign co-financing; and
- (g) **RECOGNIZE** the contribution of other regional associations and networks such as the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) to spur collaboration in a clear thematic area of agriculture.

(XVI) AU-EU HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

37. The Ministers,

- (a) **COMMEND** the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the progress made in the implementation of agreed programme and **URGE** the Partnership to ensure sustenance of the current activities and to pay special attention to addressing the common socio-economic challenges, capacity building on research and infrastructures, human capital development, innovation and other cross-cutting issues;
- (b) **FURTHER COMMEND** the progress in the implementation of the Research and Innovation (R&I) Partnerships on “Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) and On Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)”, **AND CALL UPON** other relevant EU and African stakeholders to take part in the implementation of the R&I Partnerships;
- (c) **WELCOME** the strong focus on Innovation through the recently established AU-EU Innovation Partnership as a critical framework to foster collaborative alliances

and relationships between our continents to promote technology transfer and uptake; capacity-building, access to markets and removal of barriers that impede innovation and creativity as well as deepening dialogue and engagement between policy-makers and innovators;

(d) URGES the Commission to ensure that the African Member States have constant dialogues to formulate their common positions and priorities for future orientation of various cooperation on STI; and

(e) URGE the Commission to report on other partnerships such as Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Tokyo International Conference of Africa's Development (TICAD) that are collaborating with the continent on Science Technology and innovation.

(XVII) BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

38. The Ministers,

(a) UNDERLINE the potential of Africa's biodiversity for development and its conservation and sustainable use and **INVITE** Member States to enhance the value of biological goods and services including bio-based enterprises and scale up investments in sustainable utilization of biological resources for Africa's transformation;

(b) TAKE INTO ACCOUNT the emerging issues in particular Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources, and the need for global and national measures for access, fair and equitable benefits sharing such as appropriate technology transfer, capacity development, and monetary values at national and regional levels;

(c) ENCOURAGE the Commission in collaboration with its partners to continue its support in coordinating the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity to ensure that strong African common positions in the field of biosafety, biodiversity and access and benefit sharing of genetic resources are achieved;

(d) NOTING that in Africa, the UNESCO Man And the Biosphere programme is under the responsibility of most of the Ministry of Science and Technology; **CALL UPON** Member States to use the current 79 Biosphere reserves in Africa as sites for

research and training in STI to enhance environmental sustainability and to support the initiative of creation a fund for their sustainable financing; and

- (e) **URGE** Member States to implement measures to tackle climate change and reduce its effects and impacts; to increase sustainable agricultural production and food security; and to promote wildlife conservation in Africa.

(XVIII) IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN SPACE POLICY AND STRATEGY

39. The Ministers,

- (a) **CALL UPON** the Commission, Member States, RECS and Partners to commit to implement the African Space Policy and Strategy in its entirety;
- (b) **CONGRATULATE** the Arab Republic of Egypt upon the decision of the Assembly to host the African Space Agency and **INVITE** the Commission and Egypt to expedite the Hosting Agreement and process for establishing the Space Agency;
- (c) **WELCOME** progress being made in the implementation of Global Monitoring of the Environment for Security (GMES) & Africa Initiative and **INVITE** Member States, national, regional institutes and the private sector to access the GMES & Africa products and services from the Regional Implementing Centers;
- (d) **CALL UPON** AU Commission and European Commission to expedite the development, the finalization and the launch of the next phases of GMES & Africa initiative in order for the continent to benefit from the full potential of the programme; and
- (e) **ACKNOWLEDGE** with appreciation the technical and the financial support by the European Commission and the partner institutions in the implementation of GMES & Africa Initiative and **INVITE** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to continue supporting its implementation.

(XIX) AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL (ASRIC)

40. The Ministers,

- (a) **REQUEST** the African Union Commission to allocate reasonable financial resources for ASRIC flagship projects as per Article 9 of its Statutes; and

- (b) **CALLS UPON** international partners, Africa venture capitalists, and African financial institution to champion the mobilization of resources and to contribute to ASRIC.

(XX) STATE OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION INDICATORS IN AFRICA - POLICY IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION

6. The Ministers,

- (a) **TAKE NOTE** of the report of the African Observatory for Science Technology and of the usefulness of STI data in facilitating policy and decision-making process;
- (b) **ACKNOWLEDGE** the efforts made by Member States in collecting, using and sharing statistical data; and
- (c) **INVITE** Member States to consolidate the efforts gained in institutionalising STI data collection.

(XXI) PROGRESS REPORT OF AUDA-NEPAD

41. The Ministers,

- (a) **TAKE NOTE** of the end of the third phase of the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) jointly coordinated by AUDA-NEPAD and AUC through AOSTI; and the planned launching of the 3rd report of the African Innovation Outlook (AIO-2019) at a side event during the forthcoming Heads of State and Government Summit in 2020; and
- (b) **TAKES Note** of the progress of African Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) which is currently analysing the second set of three technologies, namely artificial intelligence, next generation batteries and block chain.

(XXII) MEMBER STATES UPDATE ON STISA-2024 IMPLEMENTATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL

42. The Ministers,

- (a) REQUEST the** Commission to expedite the development of a reporting template for Member States to track progress and harmonize reporting during the STC-EST meetings; and
- (b) CALLS UPON** Member States, RECs and relevant Partners to support the development and implementation of the STISA monitoring and evaluation framework.

(XXIII) ON OPEN SCIENCE

43. The Ministers,

ACKNOWLEDGE the game changing potential of open science in Africa for reducing the existing inequalities in STI and accelerating progress towards the implementation of the Agenda 2063 and the achievement of SDGs;

- (a) SUPPORT AND PROMOTE** open science initiatives at the national, regional and continental levels to increase access to scientific information, data, knowledge and networks and to bring science closer to society;
- (b) COMMEND** UNESCO for taking the lead in building a global consensus on open science; and
- (c) COMMIT** to support and actively contribute to the consultative and inclusive process led by UNESCO to develop a new international standard setting instrument on Open Science-the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science to be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2021.

(XXIV) SPACE WEATHER

44. The Ministers,

- (a) ACKNOWLEDGE** the importance of space weather, as espoused in the African Space Strategy, and **URGE** Member States to pay more attention to the impact of space weather on earth;

- (b) **NOTE** the Republic of South Africa's recent designation by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to provide space weather information to all flights within the African airspace, on 24/7 operational basis and **WELCOME** the Republic of South Africa's successful bid for providing space weather information to the aviation sector, thereby ensuring the safety of lives over the African continent;
- (c) **WELCOME** the involvement of other African countries in the hosting of in-situ instrumentation to enhance our scientific research and development capabilities in this important field and thus enhancing the lives of our citizens; and
- (d) **CALL ON** Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to cooperate with the Republic of South Africa on this global initiative.

(XXV) APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

45. The Ministers,

- (a) **RECALLED** the decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.339 (X) (2007) on the contribution of nuclear energy to peace and sustainable development; and
- (b) **REQUEST** the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) , AU Commission and strategic partners in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to develop a Nuclear Sciences and Technology Research and Development Programs that promote the use of nuclear energy in for sustainable development in areas such as agriculture, health, infrastructure, mining, security, water, energy, and environment among others; and to carryout capacity building, education and training activities for the safe and secure use of nuclear energy.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT STC-EST 4

- 46. The Government of Rwanda offered to host the next Ordinary Session of the STC-EST in 2021. The Commission and the Government of Rwanda will carry out consultations to determine the exact dates.
- 47. The meeting has agreed to convene an Extraordinary Session of the STC-EST in 2020 and the Minister of Senegal has offered to host this extra-ordinary session. The Commission will set the agenda in consultation with the STC-EST Bureau.

48. The meeting proposed to hold the STC-EST Ordinary Sessions on annual basis.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

49. Namibia, Nigeria and the African Development Bank (AfDB) respectively presented to Ministers for information on the World Skills Africa Competition, the Use of Technology to eradicate Malaria in Africa and Education Funds.

A. World Skills Africa 2020

50. Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, training and Innovation, of the Republic of Namibia made a presentation on the upcoming World Skills Africa Competition to be held in Namibia from 25th to 31st October 2020. She outlined that World Skills Africa aims at leveraging investments and excellence in skills development so as to develop a human-centered agenda for socio economic development. Key focus areas shall be capacity building of Member States and Skills Conference. All Member States were invited to participate at the event.

B. The Use of Nuclear Technology to eradicate Malaria in Africa

51. Hon. Onu Ogbonnaya Minister of Sciences and Technology of the Republic of Nigeria presented on the Use of Nuclear Technology to eradicate Malaria in Africa. Malaria is a major health problem in African countries resulting in death particularly affecting women and children also reducing productivity of the workforce. There is the need to eradicate malaria in Africa thought sterilizing of the male and anopheles mosquitoes using nuclear technology. All Member states are encouraged to use this technology to gradually reduce the population of the males to achieve that birth control and result in eradication of the disease.

C. Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy

52. A presentation on AI was made by the Arab Republic of Egypt. The presenter observed that the future of the world will be driven by AI, which is estimated to contribute to the global GDP by nearly 25.5% of about 13 Trillion USD. African needs to develop a continental AI strategy that requires capacity development in education, research and development innovation with adequate infrastructures, relevant to

Africa. Egypt recommends the integration and harmonization and synergies between the various Departments of the commissions of the AUC in developing the AI strategy.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND DECISIONS OF STC-EST 3

53. The Ministers adopted the report as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING SESSION

54. The Chairperson of the STC-EST 3 expressed his appreciation to all Member states and participants for the fruitful deliberations and reiterated his commitment during his term of office to work with the Commission, Member States and development partners to address Agenda 2063 and the sustainable development goals of Africa.