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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www. www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

SC16036

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session
23 - 28 January 2016
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

EX.CL/934 (XXVIII)
Original: English

**REPORT OF THE FIRST STC ON EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 27-30 OCTOBER 2015**

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251 115 517844
Website: www.au.int

**1ST SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (STC-EST I)
30TH OCTOBER 2015
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

AU/STC/EST/MIN (1) En

**STRENGTHENING EDUCATION, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY POST 2015**

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POST 2015

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION

1. The first Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST I) was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 27-30 October 2015. The Ministerial Session followed the Experts session on the 30th October 2015. Among other key issues, Ministers elected the Bureau of STC-EST 1. They further considered the reports of the experts meetings, PACTED and partners meetings. The following report was adopted by the ministers.

ATTENDANCE

2. Forty seven member states, 6 RECs, 55 partners, the AUC and the NEPAD Agency attended the first STC EST (annex 1). Having reached the quorum for the AU Member States, the STC held its deliberations.

ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

3. H.E. Dr. **Martial De-Paul Ikounga**, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) welcomed the Ministers in charge of Education and Science, Technology and Innovation to the First Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology. He expressed gratitude to the COMEDAF VI and AMCOST V for the achievement made during their tenure of Office. He humbly requested the Ministers to deepen reflection on mobilizing domestic resources for the sustainability and ownership of these programmes. He thanked the Developing Partners for their unwavering support.

4. H.E. Mrs. **Youssouf Hadidja Alim** Minister of Basic Education, Republic of Cameroon, Chairperson of COMEDAF VI, welcomed the Ministers and expressed gratitude to H.E. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology for organizing this first STC-EST. She underscored that the transition to this new STC provided the Ministers with the opportunity to be leaders and policy makers of these critical sectors, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

5. H.E. Mr. **Abdul El-Hafeez El-Sadiq**, Minister of Education of the Republic of Sudan and Third Vice- Chair of AMCOST V, expressed his gratitude for serving on AMCOST V. He highlighted the achievements made by AMCOST V and progress made in the STI sector in Sudan.

ITEM 2: KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: LINKING EDUCATION TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

6. Prof. **Calestous Juma**, Professor of the Practice of International Development, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, from Harvard Kennedy School, in his

keynote address underlined that Africa's Agenda 2063 provides an ideal framework for embarking on long-term institutional reforms that will help to reposition the continent as a strategic player in the global economy. Achieving this goal will require reforms to align education, research and innovation with long-term socio-economic objectives. The STC on Education, Science and Technology is well-positioned to play a leading role in fostering the reforms required to improve the integration of education, research and innovation in order to effectively use the 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy in Africa (STISA-2024) as well as the Continental Strategy on Education in Africa (CESA) to reposition the continent as a knowledge-based and technology-driven economy.

7. He provided a possible starting point to create innovation in universities in diverse fields such as agriculture, health, industry, services and environment. These efforts will require high-level coordination, especially at the level of Heads of States and Prime Ministers. This requires coordinated support and he strongly recommended that Offices of Science and Innovation Advice be created in every country, taking into account the diverse constitutional arrangements across Africa. Such offices should be created by law with clear mandates to focus on advisory functions and not operational activities.

The Ministers,

- a) **WELCOME** the offer from Harvard Kennedy School to provide executive training to the African leaders in Technology, Innovation and entrepreneurship;
- b) **REQUEST** the Commission to work out the modalities with Harvard Kennedy School to facilitate the implementation of this cooperation.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF BUREAU

8. The Ministers **ELECTED** the Bureau of STC-EST 1, made up of the following Members States from the Ministries in charge of Education and the Ministries in charge of Science and Technology:

Regions	Countries	Position in the Bureau
North Africa	Egypt	Chairperson
West Africa	Nigeria	1 st Vice-Chair
East Africa	South Sudan	2 nd Vice-Chair
Central Africa	Cameroon	3 rd Vice-Chair
Southern Africa	Botswana	Rapporteur

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROGRAM OF WORK

9. The Agenda and Program of Work for the Ministers meeting were considered and adopted with amendments.

ITEM 5: PRESENTATION OF HANDING OVER REPORTS BY OUTGOING BUREAU OF COMEDAF VI AND AMCOST V

10. H.E. Mrs. **Youssouf Hadidja Alim**, Minister of Education, Republic of Cameroon Chair of COMEDAF VI presented her Handing over Report that outlined challenges addressed, decisions and programmes implemented achievements made during her chairmanship.

11. The report of AMCOST V was distributed to the meeting.

ITEM 6: SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

12. In her presentation on the school feeding program, **H.E Mrs Ali Mariama Elhadji Ibrahim**, Minister of Primary Education and Literacy of the Republic of Niger outlined its importance to enhancing retention and performance of children in schools, as well as its socio-economic impact in boosting income generation and entrepreneurship in the local communities. She underscored that school feeding contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Minister recalled that a delegation of African Ministers led by the Commissioner of HRST, H.E. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga went to Brazil to learn from the Brazilian experiences on school feeding model.

13. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **TAKE NOTE OF** the Report of the School Feeding Mission to Brazil and the Report of the Niger experience in Home Grown School Feeding;
- b) **FURTHER TAKE NOTE OF** the immense value of Home Grown School Feeding programmes to enhancing retention and performance of children in schools, and in boosting income generation and entrepreneurship in local communities;
- c) **CALL FOR:**
 - i) The establishment of a multidisciplinary technical committee of African experts under the chairmanship of the AUC. Further call for the support of institutions such as the WFP and the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in order to undertake a general study on the relevance and impact of school feeding in the AU Member States. The study will also take into account the Brazilian experience;
 - ii) The institution of an African day of school feeding on the 1st March;

- iii) The drafting of modalities for observing the African Day of School Feeding by the AUC, the Member States and relevant partners.
- d) **ENCOURAGE** Member States which have school feeding programs, whether or not inspired by the Brazilian model, to continue their efforts;
- e) **INVITE** the Member States who do not have any experience in school feeding to learn and adapt lessons from others, given the clear value of school feeding to enhancing access and retention of children in school.

ITEM 7: UPDATE ON AU HARMONIZATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INITIATIVES

14. The Assembly/AU/Decl. 6(XXV) committed to promote mechanisms for harmonization of higher education in Africa to ensure comparability, intra-African collaboration and skills mobility across the continent. This decision calls for the implementation of the AU Strategy for Harmonization of Higher Education in Africa, the Addis Convention for Mutual Recognition of academic qualifications in Africa, the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) for higher education and the establishment of a pan Africa Quality and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) for Higher Education. These are being implemented in partnership with UNESCO, the European Union and the African higher education community. An Informal Working Group has been established to promote the expeditious ratification of the Addis Convention.

15. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **URGE** Member States to ratify the 2014 Addis convention, expedite the establishment of the Informal Working Group for its implementation and to designate focal point for follow up;
- b) **CALL ON** the Commission in collaboration with UNESCO to coordinate partnership and support for the implementation of the process of harmonization of education in Africa;
- c) **ENDORSE** the validated Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) **AND REQUEST** the Commission to submit the PAQAF for consideration by the AU Assembly in the 2016 January Summit.

ITEM 8: EDUCATION PLUS

16. The multi-media project Africa+ Education aims at increasing access and quality of education across Africa. It targets young drop-outs, specifically girls. Eight countries will be part of the pilot project.

17. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **TAKE NOTE of** Africa+ Education project;

- b) **Request** the commission to review the list of countries in the pilot project with the view to including Member States who expressed interest in taking part in the project.

ITEM 9: CONTINENTAL EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (CESA 16-25)

18. The ten year continental education strategy (CESA) presented to the Ministers for adoption is a response to the AU Agenda 2063. It is in line with the global Education 2030 programme and contributes to the achievement of objective 4 of the SDGs. CESA 16-25 calls for a paradigm shift towards transformative education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, research, innovation and creativity required to nurture African core values and promote sustainable development.

19. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **ENDORSE** the draft continental education strategy for Africa to be submitted for consideration at the AU Assembly during the 2016 January Summit;
- b) **URGE** Member States, RECs, implementing Partners, the Commission and NEPAD to popularize and raise awareness on CESA 16-25 and develop implementation plans for it;
- c) **CALL UPON** Member States, RECs, Private Sector and all relevant sectors to:
 - i) Work together towards the implementation of the CESA; and report to every AU Summit in January through the Continental Annual Report of Activities (RACA);
 - ii) Mobilize domestic resources for its implementation.

ITEM 10: ANNUAL REPORT OF CONTINENTAL ACTIVITIES (RACA)

20. The Continental Annual Report of Activities is a mechanism to facilitate concise reporting on Education and Science, Technology and Innovation activities by all stakeholders, Member States, RECs and Partners, thus providing a snapshot of the progress in implementing the Continental Strategy for Education (CESA), The Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training; and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024).

21. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **ENDORSE** the RACA instrument;
- b) **CALL** Member States to ownership the RACA;

- c) **URGE** Member States and RECs to send their reports before the deadline 20th October of each year and by 30th November 2015 for this year in order to present a consolidated report at the January 2016 AU Summit.

ITEM 11: COMMITTEE OF 10 HSG ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

22. The 25th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly took a decision to establish a Committee of ten Heads of State and Government as African Champions of Education, Science and Technology, to meet and report to the AU Summit once a year, on the status of Education, Science and Technology in Africa. The Commission developed Rules of Procedure for the Committee, which were presented for information to the Ministers.

23. After discussions, **The Ministers,**

- a) **COMMEND** the progress made and the developments on the Draft Rules of Procedure of the CPESTI;
- b) **REQUEST** H.E. **Mary Tew Niane**, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Senegal to report the draft to H.E. **Macky SALL**, President of Senegal and receive his instructions.

ITEM 12: PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

24. Since its inaugural meeting held in June 2015, the Council of the Pan African University (PAU) – the highest governing body of the university – has pursued several ground breaking initiatives aimed at strengthening the PAU in order to enable it achieve its mandate. In this regard the Ministers took the following decision:

25. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **ENDORSE** the amendments to the Statute of the Pan African University proposed by the PAU Council **AND RECOMMEND** same for consideration by the relevant organs;
- b) **RECOMMEND** payment of honoraria to members of the Pan African University Council and provision of office space, staffing and emoluments for the President and Vice President;
- c) **CALL UPON** the Government of the Republic of Algeria to ratify as soon as possible, the Host Country Agreement signed with the Commission in order to facilitate the operations of the PAU Institute for Water and Energy Sciences

- d) **ENCOURAGE** the African Union Commission to continue discussions with the government of the republic of South Africa and the thematic partners with the view to expedite the operationalization of the PAU space institute.

ITEM 13: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTINENTAL TVET STRATEGY

26. The TVET continental strategy provides a comprehensive framework for the design and development of national policies and strategies to address the challenges of education and technical and vocational training to support economic development, creation of national wealth and contribute to poverty reduction through youth entrepreneurship, innovation and employment. It aligns with current global trends and defines a set of indicators for monitoring progress. The Ministers took a guided tour of the TVET exhibition and awarded the top ten African TVET centres that had participated in a pan African competition jointly organised with USAID and FHI360. They also discussed the development of continental frameworks for enhancement of skills portability in line with the 2015 AU Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development

27. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **URGE** Member States, RECs, implementing Partners and the Commission to popularize and raise awareness on the role of TVET in improving the skills profile, employability and entrepreneurship of especially youth and women, and closing the skills gap across the continent;
- b) **CALL UPON** Member States, RECs, Private Sector and all relevant sectors to:
- i) Work together towards the implementation of the Continental TVET strategy; and
 - ii) Mobilize domestic resources for its implementation.
- c) **INVITE** International Partners to collaborate with Africa, as equal partners, in the implementation of the TVET Strategy, both at financial and technical levels;
- d) **URGE** the Commission, Member States, RECs, and Partners to look at TVET in a holistic manner;
- e) **REQUEST** the Commission, Member States, RECs, and Partners to set up a regional and continental TVET networking platform to enhance best practices and peer-learning;
- f) **CALL UPON** the AUC, Member States and relevant partners to promote alignment of TVET Skills Portability initiatives with ongoing work on harmonization and quality assurance in higher education;

- g) **APPRECIATE** the successful exhibition by the African TVET centres and **REQUEST** for the experience to be repeated;
- h) **INVITE** Member States, RECs and partners to collaborate with the AUC for the successful implementation of the continental TVET strategy ;

ITEM 14: PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (IPED)

28. Pan-African Institute for Education for Development (IPED, is a specialized institution of the African Union, tasked with the responsibility to function as Africa's Education Observatory. This is a central role in ensuring quality, responsive, and inclusive education development in Africa based on sound, accurate and timely information, to meet the individual and collective goals for the development of human resources and intellectual capacity in Africa. IPED transformed from the OAU African Bureau for Science and Education (BASE)

29. After discussions **the Ministers,**

- a) **REQUEST** the AUC to undertake a study to facilitate the rehabilitation of IPED;
- b) **URGE** Member States to promote robust EMIS by providing data on education to the Education Observatory in a timely manner, as well as appointing an EMIS focal person to respond to the data needs;
- c) **FURTHER URGE** Member States to settle their debt of over USD 3 million to IPED/BASE **REQUEST** the Commission, relevant stakeholders and Partners to strengthen collaboration to ensure its functions.

ITEM 15: AFRICAN UNION- INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN AFRICA (AU/CIEFFA)

30. The African Union International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) is a specialized institution of the AU since 2004, dealing with girls' and women's education following Decision Assembly/AU/DEC.44 (III).

31. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

REQUEST Member states and partners to support the implementation of AU/CIEFFA's Strategic Plan.

ITEM 16: ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

32. Recognizing that Child marriage as a violation of human rights has been included in a number of legal instruments at the continental and international levels, The Commission has embarked on a campaign to end this practice.

33. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

URGE Member States to ensure completion of secondary education for girls empower and protect them from child marriage.

ITEM 17: AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE (ACDEG) IN SCHOOL CURRICULA

34. The African education and training system needs to integrate the building of a democratic continent, where the younger generation is aware of the instruments available to strengthen democracy, and accountability mechanisms. In line with values of democracy and good governance, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) represents a symbol of hope for the continent.

35. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

URGE Member States in collaboration with the African Union Commission to promote the inclusion of African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in the school curricula as well as in teacher training

ITEM 18: AFRICA SPACE POLICY AND STRATEGY

36. In 2010, the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology (AMCOST) established the African Union Space Working Group to develop a Space Policy and a Strategy for Africa, as the first in a series of instruments to formalize an African Outer space Programme, as articulated in STISA-2024 and the broader AU Agenda 2063. This is also a direct response to the Executive Council Decisions on this matter. The Working Group developed the Draft African Space Policy and Strategy which were reviewed by relevant stakeholders including AMCOMET and STC-CICT. The space policy and strategy are submitted for endorsement by the Ministers.

37. It was also highlighted that the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) seeks to build institutional, human and technical capacities in Africa for the access and exploitation of Earth Observation-based services on operational basis. The implementation of the first phase of the programme will focus on (1) Long term Management Natural Resources (2) Water Resource Management (3) Marine & Coastal Areas and will be funded to the tune 28M Euro through the Pan African Programme within the EU Africa cooperation. The programme will be launched in 2016.

38. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **TAKE NOTE** of the need to create a formal African space sector, as articulated in Agenda 2063, and in the draft African Space Policy and Strategy. **ENDORSE** the draft African Space Policy and Strategy to be submitted for consideration by the AU Assembly at the 2016 January Summit;

- b) **URGE** Member States, RECs, implementing Partners and the Commission to popularize and raise awareness on the role of space science and technology for socio-economic and sustainable development; mobilize domestic resources and implement the African Space policy and strategy;
- c) **REQUEST** the AU Space Working Group to develop (i) a framework for the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy, taking into account requirements of different sectors and end-user groups (ii) a Governance Framework that covers the relevant legal requirements and protocols for an operational African Outer-Space Programme;
- d) **URGE** the initiation of the partnership between AUC and AfriGEOSS geared towards the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy;
- e) **COMMEND** the progress made in the implementation of the GMES and Africa programme; **URGE** AUC, Member States and the RECs to continue the efforts to launch the programme while building on and strengthening existing initiatives on Earth Observation Systems.

ITEM 19: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR STISA-2024

39. in June 2014, Heads of States and Government, , adopted the 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.520(XXIII) and requested the Commission and NEPAD Agency to work out the implementation modalities supported with clear monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms. In this regard, the Commission and NEPAD lead the process of developing an implementation Framework for STISA-2024. The implementation framework charts an action-pathway for positioning STI to contribute towards Africa's transition to a knowledge-based economy. These actions, with buy-in from both State and non-State actors, will help (i) develop the Pillars for building national systems of innovation (NSIs), (ii) draw upon synergies among the NSIs, through the Flagship Programmes, to foster regional systems of innovation (RSIs), and (iii) utilise the NSIs and RSIs to deliver on the Priority Areas, thus effectively responding to Agenda 2063.

40. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **COMMEND** the Commission, NEPAD Agency, and other key Regional partners for the implementation framework of STISA;
- b) **URGE** the Commission and NEPAD to ensure that there is effective consultation and coordination of partners in the Implementation Framework of STISA- 2024 towards the realisation the AU Agenda 2063;
- c) **FURTHER URGE** the Commission, the NEPAD Agency, Member States, RECs and Partners to ensure the systematic development of appropriate flagship programmes that address the priority areas and pillars of STISA-

2024 according to its timeframe and periodically provide monitoring and evaluation reports;

- d) **APPRECIATE** the efforts of institutions such as FARA, RUFORUM and AAS on the adoption of implementation plans for STISA 2024;
- e) **INVITE** the Development Partners and Regional Institutions to support the implementation process by providing both technical and financial resources.

ITEM 20: AFRICAN UNION RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

41. Through the 15M Euro Financing Agreement between the EC and the ACP Group of States/ 10th EDF Envelop, the AUC launched in 2010 the African Union Research grants to support research and in Africa, and to build AUC institutional capacity on management of a system of competitive research grants. A 3rd Call will be launched in early 2016, focusing on “food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture” valued at 10M Euros funded by the EU Pan-African Programme (PanAf). This is in response to the implementation of STISA-2024

42. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **COMMEND** the European Union for supporting research and innovation in Africa;
- b) **URGE** the Member States, the Private Sector and other development partners to team up with the Commission to financially support this Pan Africa umbrella for research that involves all Member States.

ITEM 21: AFRICAN UNION KWAME NKRUMAH SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

43. The Commission launches the scientific awards annually and supports its implementation at the national level for young researchers and at the regional level for women, jointly implementing with RECs. The Commission implements the Continental award. The weak participation of Member States and RECs, is negatively affecting the programme.

44. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **CALL UPON** Member States and the RECs to intensify the implementation of the programme, specifically, at the national and regional levels;
- b) **FURTHER 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.

ITEM 22: AFRICAN OBSERVATORY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (AOSTI)

45. The AOSTI was created by AU Assembly following the offer by the Equatorial Guinea to host it and provide seed funding. The Commission has put in place an interim operational structure for the observatory to begin its mandate on continental repository for STI statistics, and a source of policy analysis in support of evidence based policy.

46. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **COMMEND** the Government of Equatorial Guinea for hosting AOSTI and providing seed funding;
- b) **CALL** upon the Member States, RECs, Diaspora and partners to provide the necessary support including financing the implementation of AOSTI programmes and projects;
- c) **URGE** the Commission to expedite the adoption of the AOSTI statutes and structure by Sub-committee on Structure and the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
- d) **INVITE** Member States and the RECs to cooperate and make full use of the services provided by the Observatory.

ITEM 23: THE EU-AFRICA HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE (HLPD) ON STI

47. The EU-Africa HLDP agreed to launch a joint and co-owned Research and Innovation partnership focusing on “role of STI in promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture” addressing sustainable Intensification, agriculture and food systems for nutrition, and expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade. The next meeting of the HLPD is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa during the second quarter of 2016.

48. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **COMMEND** the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation for developing the proposed roadmap for implementing the focus area on “Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture” through a joint and co-owned Research and Innovation Partnership;
- b) **URGE** Member States, RECs, and Private Sectors and all relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in the implementation process.

ITEM 24: AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION

49. The Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the African Union (AU-STRC), is implementing initiatives focusing on infectious diseases, documentation and Protection of African Indigenous Knowledge, Green Innovation, and African Pharmacopeia. As the secretariat for African scientific and Research and Innovation Council, (ASRIC), the office is in the process of operationalizing its platforms to enable Scientists, Academics, Researchers, Engineers, Innovators, Civil Society, Funding Institutions, among others, to contribute in the implementation of STISA-2024 priorities.

50. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **URGE** the Commission to expedite the establishment of the African Scientific Technical and Research Innovation Council (ASRIC) platform to enable the scientific community and other stakeholders engage on the systematic development of STISA-2024 flagship projects to address its priorities;
- b) **REQUEST** the Commission to setup and mobilize fund for a technical task force composed of experts from Member States to support the STRC Office in developing Volume two 2nd Editions of the African Pharmacopeia series.

ITEM 25: PRESENTATION BY NEPAD

51. NEPAD planning and coordination agency activities include supporting centres of excellence; embedding STI into African health strategy; supporting stakeholders in the roll-out of STISA 2024; development of M&E tools for the STISA 2024, SDGs and the APRM; broadening resource base for supporting STISA 2024; contributing to the fight against EBOLA; and harnessing emerging technologies for economic development.

52. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **TAKE NOTE:** of the programmes coordinated by NEPAD Agency in the areas contributing to the implementation of STISA-2024;
- b) **FURTHER TAKE NOTE** of the progress made by partners on the development of implementation plans for STISA-2024 priority areas;
- c) **REQUEST** relevant stakeholders to continue the development process of the implementation plans for all STISA-2024 priority areas;
- d) **FURTHER REQUEST the Commission and NEPAD Agency** to advise Member States and RECs on matters of technology prospecting including regulatory and ethical requirements that need to be put in place in order for the continent to benefit from emerging technologies.

ITEM 26: RECs ACTIVITIES IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

53. Regarding the initiatives of the RECs Activities in Education, Science and Technology:

54. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **COMMEND** the RECs for the progress made in the implementation of programs in Education and STI;
- b) **WELCOME** the efforts of the RECs to domesticate the continental programmes in Education, Science and Technology, CESA, STISA-2024, and the Continental Strategy for TVET at the regional and national levels.

ITEM 27: PAN- AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

55. The meeting of the 4th Pan African Conference on Teacher Development (PACTED IV) during the 1st Ordinary Session of the STC-EST was chaired by H.E. **Mary Tew NIANE**, Minister of Higher Education and scientific Research of Senegal. The meeting discussed the status, training initiatives and development opportunities for teachers in Africa.

56. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **REQUEST** the AUC to update the PACTED Roadmap in line with CESA 16-25, including the establishment of a Professional Teachers Council;
- b) **URGE** Member States and partners to support the implementation of the PACTED Roadmap.

ITEM 28: PARTNERS SESSION REPORT

57. Twenty-four Partners made their interventions focusing on who they are, what they are doing, and share their good practices during the Partners Session of the 1st Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Education, Science and Technology. H.E. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner HRST emphasized the importance of establishing a coalition of partners involving all stakeholders working in Education, Science & Technology, and Youth. The Partners agreed to provide one-page report that would be published on the Continental Annual Report of Activities.

58. After discussions, **the Ministers,**

- a) **WELCOME** the commitment and support by the Partners to the Continental Strategies on Education, Science & Technology, and Youth;

- b) **URGE** the AUC and NEPAD to strengthen coordination of these initiatives towards implementation of CESA, STISA-2024, and the Continental Strategy for TVET in response to Agenda 2063;
- c) **FURTHER URGE** the Commission to diversify partnerships in STI to support emergence of new partnership for development.

ITEM 29: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

59. On Intervention by the Republic of Malawi.

60. Ministers,

WELCOME the intervention made by the Republic of Malawi requesting the Heads of State and Governments to commit to a collective action in strengthening Higher Education as a key driver for Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa.

61. On Intervention by the Arab Republic of Egypt, recalling the decision of the African Union Assembly DEC. 565 (XXIV) where the assembly took note of the offer made by Egypt to host the proposed African Space Agency, after the conclusion of the draft space policy. Egypt reaffirmed this position expressed in this STC and reiterated its offer to host the proposed African Space Agency, as well as its pledge to allocate 10M \$ to implement the African Space Policy and Strategy.

62. Ministers,

- a) **TAKES NOTE** of the intervention made by the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- b) **REQUEST** the African Union Commission to submit the proposal for consideration at the January 2016 Summit.

63. On the intervention by the Republic of Tunisia, recalling the Assembly Decision on establish the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO).

64. Ministers,

- a) **TAKES NOTE** of the intervention made by the Republic of Tunisia;
- b) **CALL UPON** the Commission and the Republic of Tunisia to further engage in the implementation of this Assembly decision.

ITEM 30: DATE OF THE NEXT STC – EST MEETING

65. The ministers requested the STC Bureau to set the date of the next meeting. It was agreed that if no Member State makes an offer to host, the meeting will be held in Addis Ababa.

ITEM 31: CLOSING SESSION

66. H.E. Dr. **Martial De-Paul Ikounga**, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology thanked all participants for attending this meeting

67. H.E. Prof. Dr. **Ashraf M.El-Shihy**, Minister of Egypt thanked all participants for their active participation and comments and wished them a safe journey back home.

CONCLUSION

68. Ministers acknowledged the work accomplished during the first Specialized Technical Committee on Science Technology and Innovation meeting and called upon the bureau of the STC to consult on the venue and date of the next session of the STC.

ANNEX 1: List of Attendance

1. Member States

Representatives from the following Member States participated in the meeting:

No.	Member States
1.	Algeria
2.	Angola
3.	Benin
4.	Botswana
5.	Burkina Faso
6.	Burundi
7.	Cameroon
8.	Comoros
9.	Congo
10.	Chad
11.	Democratic Republic of Congo
12.	Djibouti
13.	Egypt
14.	Equatorial Guinea
15.	Ethiopia
16.	Eritrea
17.	Gabon
18.	Gambia
19.	Ghana
20.	Guinea
21.	Kenya
22.	Lesotho
23.	Liberia
24.	Libya
25.	Malawi
26.	Mali
27.	Mauritania
28.	Mauritius
29.	Madagascar
30.	Mozambique
31.	Namibia
32.	Niger
33.	Nigeria
34.	Rwanda
35.	Saharawi Arab Republic
36.	South Africa
37.	South Sudan
38.	Senegal
39.	Somalia
40.	Sudan
41.	Swaziland
42.	Tanzania
43.	Togo
44.	Tunisia
45.	Uganda
46.	Zambia
47.	Zimbabwe

2. Regional Economic Communities

The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were present:

No.	RECs
1.	Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
2.	East African Community (EAC)
3.	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
4.	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
5.	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
6.	Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

3. Development Partners

The following partner agencies attended the meeting:

1.	Partners
2.	African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
3.	African Development Bank (AfDB)
4.	AFRICAN QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK (AFRIQAN)
5.	Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)
6.	African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)
7.	African Virtual University (AVU)
8.	African Institute For Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)
9.	Association Of African Universities (AAU)
10.	Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
11.	Common Wealth Secretariat
12.	Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Centre For Mathematics
13.	Science And Technology Education In Africa (CEMASTEA)
14.	Conférence des Ministres de L'Education des Etats et Gouvernements de La Francophonie (CONFEMEN)
15.	Pan African Conference on Bioethics (COPAB)
16.	International Centre For Genetic Engineering And Biotechnology (ICGEB)
17.	EU Delegation to the AU
18.	GIZ
19.	FHI 360
20.	Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)
21.	Education International (EI)
22.	Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
23.	Africa Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA)
24.	Group on Earth Observation
25.	National Authority For Remote Sensing And Space Sciences,
26.	Royal Norwegian Embassy
27.	Regional Universities Forum For Capacity Building In Agriculture (RUFORUM),
28.	Plan International
29.	Save the Children
30.	World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)
31.	University of South Africa (UNISA)
32.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
33.	International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (UNESCO-IICBA)
34.	UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA)
35.	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
36.	World Vision International
37.	People Tv
38.	Ilo

39.	Inpp
40.	Hdb Consulting
41.	Ecosocc African Society For Scientific Research
42.	Un Wfp
43.	International Network For Higher Education In Africa School Of Education
44.	African Academy Of Sciences (Aas)
45.	Airbus Defence And Space
46.	African Association Rse
47.	Entoto Observatory
48.	Alc/Narss
49.	Cemestea
50.	Nrf/Ska
51.	Tet Consult
52.	Necta
53.	Geo Secretariat
54.	Varekey Foundation
55.	Harvard Kennedy School