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

**THE FIRST EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT FOR THE COMMITTEE OF
TEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (C10) CHAMPIONING
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

2nd – 3rd November 2018
Lilongwe, Malawi

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

The First Extra-Ordinary Summit for the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10) Championing Education, Science and Technology

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DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Education, science and technology is critical to build skilled human capital and promote sustainable development. The African Union Agenda 2063 recognises the pivotal role of education and training, underpinned by science, technology and innovation, for empowering African people to steer social economic development and growth towards achieving Africa’s collective vision an integrated, peaceful, and prosperous Africa.

The need for high level support in implementing a science led development agenda was agreed during the African Higher Education Summit in Dakar, Senegal in March, 2015. In June 2015 the AU Assembly committed to the establishment of a team of ten Heads of State and Government (two from each geographic region) as African champions of education, science and technology to set high-level platform for pursuing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and to advance the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063.

High level consultations were undertaken by the Commission to propose ten Member States, two from each region to be members of the champion team of ten.

Northern Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	East Africa	Southern Africa
Egypt Tunisia	Chad Gabon	Senegal Sierra Leone	Kenya Mauritius	Malawi Namibia

The African Union Assembly of January 2018 endorsed the list of Ten Heads of State and Government as the team of Ten Champions for Africa’s Education, Science and Technology. The Committee of Ten is constituted as part of the efforts to promote the development of Science, Technology and Innovation given its critical role to enhance the realization of economic growth on the continent. The Committee shall also take stock of the state of education, science and technology in Africa through the implementation of AU strategies and programs, then reporting annually to the Summit of the African Union.

The Committee chair is President of Senegal. Below is the list of the 10 Heads of State:

No.	Region	Country	Member
1.	West Africa	Senegal (Chair)	President Macky Sall
2.		Sierra Leone	President Julius Maada Bio
3.	North Africa	Egypt	President Abdel Fattah El Sisi
4.		Tunisia	President Beji Caid Essebsi
5.	Southern Africa	Malawi	President Arthur Peter Mutharika
6.		Namibia	President Hage G. Geingob
7.	Eastern Africa	Kenya	President Uhuru Kenyatta
8.		Mauritius	President Barlen Vyapoory
9.	Central Africa	Chad	President Idriss Deby Itno
10.		Gabon	President Ali Bongo Ondimba

The Ten Heads of State and Government were commended for accepting this important responsibility. It is crucial to have champions at the highest political level to raise the political will that can be converted to enhanced investments in education, science and technology. The Committee of ten Heads of State will be pivotal for advancing the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), and the Continental TVET Strategy towards attaining the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

The Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10) had its first meeting in Addis Ababa, on January 27th, 2018 on the sidelines of the African Union Summit. The key outcome of the meeting was adoption of the rules of procedure for the Committee and agreement that the first Extra-Ordinary Summit for the Committee of Ten Heads of State Championing Education Science and Technology be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Malawi. It was also agreed that the first meeting will focus on mobilizing resources for education, science, technology and innovation in Africa.

2. PURPOSE OF THE C10 SUMMIT

Agenda 2063 recognises the pivotal role of education and training, underpinned by science, technology and innovation, for empowering African people to steer social economic development and growth towards an integrated, peaceful, prosperous Africa.

The need for high level support in mobilizing African countries' resources to promote education, science and technology in the continent was agreed by the African Union Heads of State and Government. The purpose to hold the first Extra-Ordinary Summit of the Committee of Ten (C10) is to:

- i. Set a dialogue among the ten Heads of States and make agreed commitments for financing education science, technology and innovation
- ii. Engage key stakeholders to identify long-term solutions for transformation in education, science and technology.
- iii. Advocate for active engagement of the Private Sector and funding partners in mobilizing resources for science, technology and innovation
- iv. Provide policy recommendations for improved and effective implementation of STISA and CESA at national, regional and continental levels.

The Summit will involve discussions, experience sharing and identification of definitive actions. Various presentations will be made to provide background information and facilitate dialogue. A platform for engagement between the private sector, academia and the Committee of Ten Heads of State (C10) is envisaged.

3. THEMES OF THE C10 SUMMIT

The main Theme for the C10 Summit is '***Strengthening Education, Science and Technology Africa***'

A set of priority areas are identified for discussion as outlined below.

There is need to ensure a strong and coherent continental perspective on how to mobilizing resources for education, science, technology and innovation in Africa.

Investing in Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

The education systems across many African countries are under considerable financial pressure, particularly considering the large and growing demand at all levels. Delivering high-quality education to young people in Africa calls for increased mobilization of considerable resources. The high-level dialogue of the Committee of Ten Heads of State (C10) shall generate a concrete message of commitment to provide increased financing to education, science, technology and innovation. Committing sufficient resources in multi-sectorial approaches is essential to releasing the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Financing Education in Africa should take into account all levels of Education from early childhood to higher education. Member States shall be urged to secure sustainable funding to ensure successful implementation of the African Union education, science and technology initiatives.

Early Childhood Education and Development

Education at all levels has to be strengthened by enhanced access, relevance, and quality. The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) identifies preprimary education as a neglected sub-sector that deserves special attention. The CESA clearly states that Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) is the pillar for future learning and identifies it as the next frontier if Africa is to realize sustained quality education and training. The Early Childhood Education and Development Cluster was officially launched in September 2018 and underlined the need for high-level advocacy and enhanced political commitment to ensure increased financing and effective allocation of resources for sustainable implementation of EDED.

Teacher Development

To strengthen education, there is need for a fresh focus on the place of the Teacher in Africa, from early childhood to university level, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), as well as non-formal education. The AU Study on the training, working and living conditions of teachers in Africa revealed the need for increased numbers of teachers, quality of training, motivation of teachers, and the need to build professionalism in order for teaching to become a desirable first option profession for high performing youth. There is significant shortage of qualified teachers particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). High-level political commitment is required from Committee of Ten Heads of State (C10) to promoting Teacher Development efforts and the teaching profession by supporting the establishment of the AU Teachers Prize to enhance teacher motivation.

Harmonization and Quality Assurance of Higher Education

The Vision of African Union to build an integrated Africa requires a harmonised education system. Heads of States and Governments expressed their commitment to establish harmonised mechanism to ensure comparability in higher education in Africa. The **Addis Convention** is an important instrument for achieving the African Union's vision of continental integration. The Convention provides a legal mechanism to strengthen cooperation between African countries in harmonisation of higher education and recognition of academic qualification. It is also instrumental for reinforcing effective quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms at the national, regional and continental levels. In its endeavour to establish a Continental Accreditation Agency for higher education, the AU Commission initiated the development of a Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF). The Committee of Ten is requested to champion among Heads of State for accelerated ratification and implementation of Addis Convention in their respective countries. Political endorsement for effective functioning of the PAQAF and operationalization of the Continental Accreditation Agency is needed.

Science, Technology and Innovation

In recognition of key challenges on the continent, African leaders have called for the strengthening of the Science Technology and Innovation (STI) in Africa and to ensure that STI is brought to the centre of development initiatives as a driver and accelerator for Africa's growth. In 2014, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) was approved to drive the growth of science for development in Africa. The implementation of the strategy require enhanced investments to STI sector, increased participation of the private sector and cross continental collaboration. Besides, many higher education institutions in Africa do not yet have adequate research capabilities needed to combine global knowledge with national experience in support of innovation and problem solving. The Committee of Ten (C10) should continuously urge African governments to meet their commitments with regards to investment in research, science and technology through high level strategic engagements. The C10 shall propose the establishment of an African Science, Technology and Research Fund.

The Committee of Ten Heads of State is urged to advocate for the above priorities at the AU Assembly to solicit African Governments buy-in and to request their support. Each country should demonstrate political commitment regarding its mobilization of resources in promoting education, science and technology at national and continental levels.

4. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

Key education, science, technology and innovation stakeholders in Africa shall be invited to participate. The summit will be attended by several key partners including:

- Ten Heads of States and Governments of C10
- Chairperson of the AU Commission
- Chief Executives of the RECs
- Ministers responsible for education, training, science and technology from the C10 Members States.
- Senior Officials from Ministries of Education, Science and Technology from C10.
- Philanthropists and Private Sector Representatives.
- Development Partners Representatives including African Development Bank, World Bank and Master Card Foundation.
- Others (to be identified)