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AMCOST V Ministerial Meeting Closes Today



Brazzaville, 15 November 2012: The African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V) discussed today among other issues, the progress reports on the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), African Union decisions on science and technology, international cooperation and programmes proposed by Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Regional Organizations.

The AMCOST V elected the following Member States to the Bureau and Steering Committee:

Central Africa: Republic of Congo- Chair of the Bureau and the Steering Committee.
D.R. Congo: Member of the Steering Committee.

Southern Africa: Namibia: First Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee.
Malawi: Member of Steering Committee.

Western Africa: Nigeria: Second Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee.
Niger: Member of the Steering Committee.

Eastern Africa: Sudan: Third Vice Chair of the Bureau and Steering Committee.
Ethiopia: Member of the Steering Committee.

Northern Africa: Egypt: Rapporteur of the Bureau and the Steering Committee.
Algeria: Member of the Steering Committee.

The Meeting appreciated the progress made by the AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and called member states to support the implementation of CPA programmes and to ensure sustainability.

The meeting requested the African Union Commission (AUC) to activate the use of the AMCOST portal as a robust platform for availing information and publicity of science and technology in Africa.

With regard to Regional Institutions' Science and Technology Initiatives (STI), AMCOST noted the progress reports on Science and Technology (S&T) and innovation initiatives being implemented by the REC's (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD, and COMESA) and further requested the RECs to institutionalize STI at regional level. Furthermore, the AMCOST urged the African Union Commission (AUC) to operationalize the AU Cluster on S&T to ensure synergies and minimize duplication and parallel efforts among the AU implementing partners and called upon the partners to participate actively in the cluster. Regarding the International Cooperation and Partnerships, AMCOST commended the International Development Partners for their support both financially and technically in promoting the development of science, technology and innovation in the continent and further called for their continued commitment with Africa. AMCOST also called upon Member States and RECs to actively participate in the programmes of the various partnerships.

AMCOST welcomed and endorsed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Namibia to host the Sixth Ordinary Session of AMCOST planned to take place in 2014.

AMCOST expressed its appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Congo, and in particular H.E. President Denis Sassou Nguesso and the hospitality of H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of the Republic of Congo and the incoming Chair.

Finally, AMCOST extended its appreciation to the outgoing Chair, H.E. Prof. Nadia Zakhary, Minister of Scientific Research of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Members of the Bureau and Steering Committee for their able leadership during their tenure of office for AMCOST IV.

For more information about the presentations during the session, kindly visit the website of the African Union: www.au.int.



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