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**AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST V)  
FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION  
12 – 15 NOVEMBER 2012  
BRAZZAVILLE REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**SPEECH**

**BY**

**Director of HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

Allow me to warmly welcome you all on behalf of the Commission of the African Union and on my own behalf, to the “Fifth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology”, particularly to this Senior Officials/Expert Session. I would like to thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Congo for their kind offer to host this conference and to express our sincere gratitude to the Ministry in charge of Science and Technology for the hospitality and facilities availed for this conference. I would also like to note the presence of our development partners and underline the importance of their support in assisting the continent to harness science and technology for its socio-economic development.

This meeting is part of the preparations of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the AMCOST which will be opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November at 16:30 hours. The draft agenda before you, will inform the deliberations of this house and we will tackle several key issues among them the review of the Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, Progress reports on implementation of Africa’s science and technology agenda, by the African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning Agency /Science and Technology Hub, Regional institutions and Regional Economic Communities and indeed progress on major programmes championed by Member States the Square kilometer Array (SKA).

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is worth mentioning that synergies with regional S&T initiatives and the Regional Economic Communities are critical and pertinent if inclusive and meaningful sustainable development is to be realised through science and technology. Thus the interactions with regional blocks and lead multi-lateral institutions will form an important segment of the debates for this session.

I would like to emphasise and remind you that your work in these two days is vital as it will inform the Ministerial Session to take critical and forward looking decisions on the subjects we hold dearly.

In conclusion let me thank you for your continuing support and concerted efforts. I wish you all success at this forum.

Thank you et Merci!