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**FIRST BUREAU MEETING:  
4<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST IV)  
28 – 31 MAY 2012, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**SPEECH**

**Director**

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

**Steering Committee Session, 28 May 2012-05-27**

**[Salutations]**

**Distinguished Guests,  
Senior Officials, Members of the Steering Committee of the  
Bureau of AMCOST IV  
Regional and International partners  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great pleasure for me on behalf of the African Union Commission to warmly welcome you, the distinguished Members of the Steering Committee of the Bureau of the AMCOST IV, to the African Union Head Quarters, and to our New Office Complex and Conference Centre which opened its doors during the AU Summit in January this year! Welcome, relax and please feel at home.

The Steering Committee is a special platform that allows you the Senior Officials to prepare for the Ministerial Session of the Bureau. The agenda before us will guide our deliberations and

will provides us with an opportunity to take stock of what we are collectively doing in the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and the decisions of AMCOST and the AU Assembly.

**Distinguished Members of the Steering Committee,**

You will agree with me that so much has happened since the last Ordinary Session of AMCOST IV in Cairo in 2010, and regrettably due to circumstances beyond our control we could not meet earlier than now. Nevertheless, I would like to assure you that we continued with determination to maintain our momentum in the implementation of the CPA flagship programmes. Science and Technology should effectively respond to our national, regional and continental priorities to trigger socio-economic transformation of our countries. Our interventions should promote Africa's integration process, intra-Africa co-operation, human and institutional development among others. Thus this meeting is very crucial for us to forge together an enhanced long term developmental strategy for science to work in Africa. The major items on our agenda such as the African Union Research Grants, Linking Higher Education and Research in Africa through the Pan African University, CPA Review, and the Establishment of the

African Observatory for Science and Technology and Innovation to just to mention a few, are pertinent for Africa's science agenda. We will also reflect and review the format of organization of future AMCOST meetings.

Our programmes should be talking to each other so that synergies and complementarities are promoted and exploited effectively, particularly amongst regional initiatives.... the RECs and other key regional and multilateral institutions, if we desire to see meaningful strategic partnerships for sustainable development. In this regard, we have invited the RECs and our development partners to share with us their key initiatives during this meeting.

In conclusion, let me welcome you once again and take this opportunity to inform you that a tour of our New Office Complex and Conference Centre will be arranged by my team before you leave. I wish you successful deliberations

I Thank you.