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**1st SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL**

**COMMITTEE MEETING ON**

**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**(STC-EST)**

**19th to 23rdOctober 2015**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**En**

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

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background**

The AU took a Summit Decision EX. CL/Dec.420 (XIII) to reconfiguration all sectoral Ministerial Conferences into ‘Specialized Technical Committees” with the objective of enhancing the methods of work, and improving sectorial relationships, synergies, effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard, Education, Science and Technology were merged under the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST). *STCs are expected to work in close collaboration with the various Departments of the Commission so as to provide well-informed inputs in their areas of specialization to the work of the Executive Council towards a collective approach to Africa’s socio-economic development agenda. They should also, be involved in monitoring programme development and implementation by the AU and RECs on behalf of the Executive Council.*

There is no doubt that the Education, Science and Technology sectors are complementary and should effectively drive Africa’s social and economic development and accelerate the transition of African countries to innovation-led, knowledge-based economies. Hitherto, the African Union Commission has been convening separately the African Ministers responsible for education (COMEDAF) and Ministers responsible for Science and technology (AMCOST).

Consequently, the Commission will convene the first Ordinary Session of the STC on Education, Science and Technology from the 19th to 23rd October 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that will ensure continuity and consideration of the outcomes of the last meetings of AMCOST V and COMEDAF VI and implementation progress and agree on the future functional governance of education and STI in the continent.

This transformation is taking place at an exciting time in the continent. Africa has revived its lofty collective vision having just celebrated 50 years of unity. We are in a significant moment in history, a window of opportunity to re-order our scientific and human resource capacities towards the Africa we want, even if the result will take another fifty years. It is an opportune time for paradigm shifts in education, training, science and technological development, as it is clear that business as usual is not building peaceful prosperous nations with global competitiveness. As the whole world discusses new approaches to sustainable inclusive growth, so too has the Commission been working on common Post 2015 positions in different development sectors. And above all the continent has just adopted its people centred long-term Agenda 2063, which is underpinned by Education, Science and Technology as enablers and tools of achieving the continental development goals towards the collective African vision of the peaceful integrated prosperous Africa. They are the means for empowering the population paying special attention to youth and women to contribution meaningfully to society through life skills, entrepreneurship and innovation. They are the means by which Africa will transform latent and manifest resources into wealth and livelihood. Africa’s youthful population will be a challenge or an opportunity based on the extent to which we are able to build and harness education, science and technology and innovation capacity.

The joint STC meeting will take stock of the progress the continent is making in education, science and technology and how to better contribute towards attaining the AU Agenda 2063.

1. **Continental Strategies for Education, Science and Technology**

The STC-EST will also consider the strategies and policies, in ***Education, Science and Technology*** and make recommendations on how African countries will organize themselves to contribute to and benefit from the AU Agenda 2063.

There are two significant new strategies taking over from the ending Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa. These are the Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025), and new Continental Strategy for TVET to foster Youth Employment.

In June 2014, the 23rd Ordinary Session of African Union Heads of State and Government Summit adopted a 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024), for which a draft implementation plan has been developed and will be considered by the STC-EST.

Furthermore, space science and technology has been identified as one of the flag ship programmes under the AU Agenda 2063. Currently the Commission through a Member States-based Working group is working towards the establishment of an outer-space programme to support policies and development of local capacities, institutional, human and technical competencies in Earth Observation, Satellite Communication, Navigation and Positioning, Space Science and Astronomy, for socio-economic development of the continent. To this end the Working Group has developed Space Policy and Strategy.

1. **Objective**

In light of the above, the general objective of this first joint meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology is to elect a new Ministerial Bureau for the running of the STC in the next two years and agreeing on new mechanisms for partnering for greater complimentarily between Education and STI sectors in the continent with special focus on the AU Agenda 2063 journey. The specific objectives include:

1. Update the ministers on the status of on-going programmes and RECs and Member States performance in education, science and technology sectors
2. Discuss AU Summit Decisions relevant to the conduct of education, science and technology on the continent
3. Consider the Education and TVET strategies and the STISA implementation plan
4. Consider the Africa Space Policy and Strategy
5. Consider funding and mobilisation of resources, especially domestic resources
6. Establish precedence for conducting of AU continental business in the fields of education, science and technology
7. **Expected Outcome**
8. Endorsement of key continental strategies, roadmaps and implementation plans
9. Report on the first meeting of the STC on Education, Science and Technology
10. Agreement on reporting and follow up mechanism for the continental agenda
11. Actions for decision during the next summit of Heads of State
12. **Participation**

Participants will include AU Ministers responsible for Education, Science and Technology, and their relevant senior officials; Regional Economic Communities; and development partners as observers.

1. **Order of the Meeting**

The meeting will involve plenary and parallel sessions as follows:

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| **DAY/DATE** | **MORNING** | **AFTERNOON** |
| **Meeting of Senior Officials** | |  |
| DAY ONE : 28th Oct | **Plenary Session and Parallel Sessions**  - Education and TVET Session  - Science and Technology Session | **Parallel Sessions**  - Education and TVET Session  - Science and Technology Session |
| DAY TWO : 29th Oct | **Plenary Session** | **Plenary Session** |
| DAY THREE: 30TH Oct  **Meeting of Ministers** | **Plenary Session** | **Plenary Session**  Adoption of Report and closing of Meeting of Ministers |

1. **Date and Venue**

The first joint STC on Education, Science and Technology will be held in Addis Ababa from 28 -30 OCTOBER, 2015

1. **Logistics arrangement**

The logistic support will be provided by the AUC department of HRST. Further information will be provided in letters of invitation and information notes.