

AFRICAN UNION

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**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

**LILONGWE DECLARATION ON EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

LILONGWE DECLARATION ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

We, the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10) Championing Education, Science, and Technology, meeting at the First Extra-Ordinary Summit in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 3rd November 2018;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the underperformance of the education, training, research and innovation systems across many African countries and its inability to support the implementation of AU Agenda 2063;

RECALLING the Assembly Decisions, of June 2015 on the establishment of a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as Champions of Education, Science and Technology, and of January 2018 that endorsed the members¹ of the first team;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the efforts by African Universities to support Africa's development Agenda through the Africa's Universities' Agenda for Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa and efforts to increase staff capacities in universities through the Graduate Teaching Assistantship program;

STRESSING the pivotal role of Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation, in empowering African people to steer socio-economic development and growth towards realising the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

COGNISANT of the need to effectively implement the continental strategies:

- (a) Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25),
- (b) Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), and
- (c) Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);

HIGHLIGHTING the important need for African countries to intensify collaboration in the implementation of the continental strategies;

¹ C10: Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia

WE HEREBY:

1. **ADOPT** the C10 Action Plan;
2. **ESTABLISH** a Think Tank of African Expertise to support the C10;

AGREE TO:

I. ON INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **REITERATE AND URGE** Member States to meet the original commitment of **1% GDP Allocation** to R&D and 4 – 6 % on Education and **COMMIT** our C10 countries to lead by example;
2. **INCREASE** investments in Education, Science and Technology in Africa and support the operationalization of (i) an Education Fund and (ii) an STI fund;
3. **COMMIT** to pursue resource mobilization strategies and **INVITE** Private Sector and Philanthropists to contribute to the Education and Science, Technology and Innovation Funds;

II. ON PROMOTING EDUCATION IN AFRICA

4. **PROMOTE** assurance of wellbeing in children's most formative years, through **Early Childhood Education and Development** to better prepare them in their education and for their careers;
5. **IMPLEMENT** affirmative action to encourage equity and inclusiveness on gender, disability and disadvantaged groups;
6. **ELIMINATE** gender stereotypes and provide financial support in STEM careers for girls and women to pursue scientific careers and implementation accompanying measures that will contribute to provide them with quality training in ICT, mentoring, leadership and entrepreneurship and provide them employment opportunities;
7. **ADVANCE** the implementation of the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework and its domestication at regional and national levels to ensure cross border recognition of qualifications thereby enhancing mobility of skills and competencies across the continent;
8. **STRENGTHEN** Teacher Development, Retention and Mobility to address significant shortage of qualified teachers particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and innovation.

9. **INVEST** in rebranding and modernizing TVET sector to be attractive and relevant, create linkages between universities and TVET institutions and promote partnerships with private to foster skills development (including new digital skills), innovation, entrepreneurship and employability;
10. **BUILD** human resources capacity and intellectual capital in universities and research institutions by fast-tracking postgraduation training through collaborative programmes and brain circulation, including diaspora capacity;
11. **IMPROVE** ICT capacity including use of ICTs platforms at all levels of education, to promote education access and quality; research, knowledge generation, and innovation, develop ICT infrastructure to improve access to computer tools and take advantage of the Industrial revolution 4.0;
12. **STRENGTHEN FORESIGHT CAPACITY** at African universities and other partners institutions and support capacity building in this important area to support planning and future implementation of key programs;
13. **COMMIT TO** improving infrastructure and increase staff capacity development including female research leaders in Africa's universities to support the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063.

III. ON ENGAGING PRIVATE SECTOR

14. **PROMOTE** the creation of Private Public multi-sectoral Partnerships on Education, Science Technology and Innovation to spur among others collaboration, industrialization, technology incubation, value chain promotion and financing for start-ups;
15. **DEVELOP innovative** mechanisms for supporting Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa such as tax breaks to industries that support education training, research grants, scholarships and support to innovation hubs;
16. **PROMOTE** use of the intellectual property rights system including patents, trademarks for stimulating and supporting innovators.
17. Convene annually an event for African Youth in innovation (***Africa Innovators***) including Innovating Education in Africa.

Adopted on 3 November 2018, Lilongwe Malawi