



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and seventy-sixth session

# 176 EX/56

PARIS, 16 March 2007  
Original: English/French

Item 56 of the provisional agenda

## **IMPLEMENTATION BY UNESCO OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN ADDIS ABABA IN JANUARY 2007**

### **SUMMARY**

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 176th session of the Executive Board at the request of Gabon on behalf of the Africa group of UNESCO.

An explanatory note together with a proposed decision are attached.

Decision proposed: paragraph 3.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

### **Follow-up to the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union Summit on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for the Sustainable Development of Africa**

1. The Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at the meeting at the 8th ordinary session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007, reaffirmed their determination to banish poverty, combat diseases, improve public health, increase agricultural production and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They agree to:

- encourage more African youth to take up studies in science, technology and engineering, and invite Member States to pay special attention to the teaching of science and technology;
- promote and support research and innovation activities and the requisite human and institutional capacities;
- ensure scrupulous application of scientific ethics in Africa with a view to preserving the continent's environment and national resources and preventing all practices harmful to African populations;
- ensure the enhanced role and the revitalization of African universities and other African institutions of higher education as well as scientific research institutions so that they can play an effective role as loci of science, technology and engineering education and development and also contribute to public understanding of science and technology;
- promote and enhance regional as well as South-South and North-South cooperation in science and technology;
- increase funding for national, regional and continental programmes for science and technology and support the establishment of national and regional centres of excellence in science and technology.

2. The Heads of State and Government of the African Union then called on UNESCO and other bilateral and multilateral organizations to support the Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union to implement the Summit decision on Science and Technology.

#### **Proposed draft decision**

3. The Africa Group Bureau and the African Executive Board Members met on 20 February 2007 at UNESCO. The meeting took into consideration and supported the motion tabled by the Permanent Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at UNESCO to present to the Executive Board a draft decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the commitment by UNESCO to assist the African continent in achieving sustainable development in all its forms,
2. Recognizing the role of UNESCO in promoting science, technology and scientific research,
3. Recognizing the importance of science, technology and scientific research in Africa,

4. Referring to UNESCO cooperation with African regional and subregional organizations as per document 175 EX/39, II.14(d),
5. Recalling the decision of the African Heads of State and Government on the report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology – Doc. EX.CL/315 (X) (Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII) in Annex I),
6. Recalling Addis Ababa Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development (Assembly/AU/Dec. 5 (VIII) in Annex II),
7. Taking note of the African Union Call on UNESCO to support the African Union and Member States to implement the Summit decision on Science and Technology,
8. Requests the Director-General to prepare a plan of action on how UNESCO will participate in the implementation of the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit decision and declaration to be submitted to the Executive Board at its 177th session and subsequently to the General Conference at its 34th session.

**ANNEX I**

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE  
OF MINISTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – DOC. EX.CL/315 (X)**

**The Assembly**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology;
2. **WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS** the Declaration of 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa;
3. **STRONGLY URGES** Member States to promote Africa's research and development (R&D) and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development by allocating at least 1% of gross domestic product (GDP) of national economies by 2010 as agreed by Khartoum Decision (EX.CL/Dec.254 (VIII));
4. **ALSO SUPPORTS** the establishment of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
5. **ENDORSES** the need for South-South and North-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation and to enhance its role in international partnerships.
6. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology.

## ANNEX II

### ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

**We**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 8th ordinary session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007,

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the principles and objectives stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and our common objective to advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology,

**Determined** to take all necessary measures to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary resources to enable them to discharge their respective mandates effectively,

**Recalling** our millennium commitment to achieve sustainable development for our continent,

**Reaffirming** that African people are now more than before determined to banish poverty, combat diseases, improve public health, increase agricultural production, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

**Realizing** that the achievement of these goals depends on our countries' ability to harness science and technology for development and also on an increased and sustained investment in science, technology and innovation,

**Recognizing** the need to build and strengthen Africa's institutions to enable them to conduct more scientific research so that the outputs of research may be utilized to solve our social environmental problems and contribute to socio-economic development,

**Recalling** the decision to declare the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and the adoption of the Framework for the Plan of Action for the Decade,

**Recognizing** the support in the field of science and technology by international organizations such as UNESCO,

#### WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

- **Encourage** more African youth to take up studies in science, technology and engineering, and invite Member States to pay special attention to the teaching of science and technology;
- **Promote** and support research and innovation activities and the requisite human and institutional capacities;
- **Ensure** scrupulous application of scientific ethics in Africa with a view to preserving the continent's environment and national resources and preventing all practices harmful to African populations;
- **Ensure** the enhanced role and the revitalization of African universities and other African institutions of higher education as well as scientific research institutions so that they can play an effective role as loci of science, technology and engineering education and development and also contribute to public understanding of science and technology;

- **Promote** and enhance regional as well as South-South and North-South cooperation in science and technology;
- **Increase** funding for national, regional and continental programmes for science and technology and support the establishment of national and regional centres of excellence in science and technology.

**We call** on UNESCO and other bilateral and multilateral organizations to support the Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union to implement the Summit decision on Science and Technology.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and seventy-sixth session

**176 EX/56**  
add. and corr.

PARIS, 10 April 2007  
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Item 56 of the provisional agenda

## IMPLEMENTATION BY UNESCO OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN ADDIS ABABA IN JANUARY 2007

### ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDUM

1. Please replace the summary contained in document 176 EX/56 by the following summary:

#### SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 176th session of the Executive Board at the request of Gabon, on behalf of the Africa group of UNESCO, and on the proposal of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

An explanatory note together with a proposed decision is attached.

Decision proposed: paragraph 3.

2. The proposed draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 176 EX/56 should read as follows:

The Africa Group Bureau and the African Executive Board Members met on 20 February 2007 at UNESCO. The meeting took into consideration and supported the motion tabled by the Permanent Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at UNESCO to present to the Executive Board a draft decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the commitment by UNESCO to assist the African continent in achieving sustainable development in all its forms,
2. Recognizing the role of UNESCO in promoting science, technology and scientific research,
3. Recognizing the importance of science, technology and scientific research in Africa,

4. Appreciating the importance of effective teaching of the basic sciences in the mother tongue to the promotion of scientific research, innovation and technological development, as well as the role of language institutes and academies in this regard,
5. Underscoring the critical role of local languages in the popularization of science and technology, the integration of indigenous knowledge into teaching and research in science and technology, and the promotion of scientific culture,
6. Referring to UNESCO cooperation with African regional and subregional organizations as per document 175 EX/39, II.14(d),
7. Recalling the decision of the African Heads of State and Government on the report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology – Doc. EX.CL/315 (X) (Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII) in Annex I),
8. Recalling Addis Ababa Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development (Assembly/AU/Dec. 5 (VIII) in Annex II),
9. Taking note of the African Union Call on UNESCO to support the African Union and Member States to implement the Summit decision on Science and Technology,
10. Requests the Director-General to prepare a plan of action, including specific programmes and activities in documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5, on how UNESCO will participate in the implementation of the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit decision and declaration to be submitted to the Executive Board at its 177th session and subsequently to the General Conference at its 34th session.