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**SECOND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF II+)
4 – 8 September, 2006
MAPUTO – MOZAMBIQUE**

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**MAPUTO DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**DRAFT MAPUTO DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

Following the declaration of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) in January 2006, we, the Ministers of Education of the AU Member States, meeting on 7th of September 2006 in Maputo, Mozambique in the Second Extraordinary session of our Conference, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, considered and adopted the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), in preparation for its launch.

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Constitutive Act and the Vision of the African Union;

Also guided by the Vision of NEPAD in making human development in general and education in particular, one of its major priorities;

Further guided by the decision of the first extra-ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of Education that the African Union must take leadership in Africa's development;

Recalling the Algiers Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II);

Taking into account the findings of the African Union Commission's report of the Evaluation of the Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006), particularly the persistent education deficit with which Africa entered the third millennium;

Convinced that education is the most important tool at Africa's disposal for attaining the collective vision of the African Union;

Aware that the goals of the first Decade of Education were only partially achieved;

Recognizing and appreciating the contribution by development partners and organizations such as UNESCO and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA);

Recognizing and appreciating also the key roles played by African institutions, including the African Development Bank, the Association of African Universities (AAU) and Civil Society organizations;

Convinced that to successfully eradicate deficiencies in Africa's education systems within the Second Decade of Education for Africa and ensure that

education plays its role in the vision of the African Union, the following areas have to be directly addressed:

- Educational Management Information Systems;
- Quality Management;
- Teacher Development;
- Curriculum and Teaching Materials, especially in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, African languages, African History and Civic Education;
- Gender, and Culture as cross-cutting issues;
- Revitalisation of Higher Education;
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training, including education in difficult circumstances, post-conflict situations and special education.

We, as Ministers responsible for Education in our respective States, commit ourselves to:

- **Ensure** enhanced political action and leadership, for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- **Establish** mechanisms for collaboration, follow-up and implementation of programmes of Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- **Accelerate** efforts towards attainment of full gender equality in all areas of education;
- **Sensitize** all development partners in education to support our collective vision embodied in the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa, for positive policies that will facilitate the implementation of the Decade;
- **Strengthen** the role of Education in the promotion of regional and continental integration through bilateral, regional and inter-institutional networks;
- **Lobby** for mobilisation of resources in ICTs, to bridge the digital divide, in particular increasing bandwidth and connectivity in Africa, as agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis 2005), in order to facilitate the delivery of quality education, research and development in general and in support of the African regional integration.

In light of these commitments, we recommend to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to direct the AU Commission, in consultation with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and development partners, to:

- Facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- Secure funding to strengthen the Education Department in the Commission and at the RECs through capacity building and strategic recruitment;
- Investigate the nature and modalities, and set in motion the process of establishing an African Education Fund;
- Expedite the formalization of working relations between the Commission and expert agencies such as the Association of African Universities and ADEA in support of the Plan of Action.

ADOPTED IN MAPUTO ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2006