African Group statement during the joint session FFD and Post 2015 sessions : Technology Facilitation Mechanism and other science technology and innovation issues

Delivered by

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Co-facilitators

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group associates itself with the statement made by H.E Mr. Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Co-facilitators

Science, Technology and Innovation are a multifunctional tools and critical enablers for achieving development goals. In Africa, particularly, achieving sustained growth, competitiveness and economic transformation will require investments in and access to technologies and innovations in areas such as industrialization, agriculture, infrastructure, clean energy, education, health, water among others.

The African Group underline the need for the enhancement, development, transfer and diffusion of technology and innovation in line with each country's development needs; for strengthening the science and technology component of education curricula; and call for the Establishment of an innovation funds to support innovative enterprises in the early stages and during commercialization stage of the technology.

We underline the need to establish a coordinated approach to create the necessary critical mass of scientists, and computer engineers. The focus on human capacity development will be at both secondary and higher education levels (including TVETs) with the aim of popularizing science, technology, innovation and ICT research as potential career paths.

We highlight the need to foster linkages between multinational companies and the domestic private sector, specifically facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills to the region.

We call also for investors to integrate local businesses into their value chains, and—provide educational, training and employment opportunities.

For those, among other reasons, the African Group is of the view, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and in the spirit of global solidarity, based on the outcome of the 4 days structured dialogue as highlighted in General Assembly resolution 68/310, to establish a technology facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination, including of a clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, in particular for African countries.

The Group support the establishment of an online platform to map existing technology facilitation initiatives, enhance international cooperation and promote networking and information sharing, knowledge transfer and technical assistance.

We also call for the expeditious and full operationalization of the technology bank and the science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs by 2017.

We call also for the commitment of the international community to promote the ICT infrastructure development and capacity building in LLDCs, in particular a universal

broadband policy, as agreed in the Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries.

We encourage north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation in sharing knowledge, skills, and expertise.

We encourage United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programs with technology based mandates to further promote the development and diffusion of relevant technologies through their respective work program.

Co-facilitators,

The Group also strongly calls for the inclusion of Capacity Building development in the Post 2015 development track, because of it's transversal nature, we see it as a complementing mechanism to the pillar already identified in the FFD track.

In fact, Capacity Development is the core vehicle to actualize the Continent's exit strategy from Aid and take full control of its development. Africa has recognized Capacity Development as an agenda in its own right and has set its own priorities with the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) adopted by the 14th African Union Summit of February 2010, as Africa's common reference and policy guide on building, harnessing, nurturing, utilizing, adding value and retaining capacity.

We therefore, underline the critical need to reinforce national efforts in african countries in areas such as institutional infrastructure, human resource development, public finance, mortgage finance, financial regulation and supervision, agriculture productivity, SMEs, basic education in particular, public administration, social and gender budget policies, early warning and crisis prevention, and debt management.

I thank you.