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PAHD Dept.

Cape Town, 28 July 2002

**CAPE TOWN DECLARATION ON RESEARCH
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, 28th July 2002

CAPE TOWN DECLARATION ON RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, Ministers responsible for Research, Science and Technology in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States meeting in Cape Town, South Africa on 28 July 2002, at a Forum devoted to address priority issues of Research for sustainable development, including the social, environmental, economic, cultural, and political aspects in ACP states:

- A. Recalling** the principles of the Georgetown Agreement, the ACP Vision for Sustainable Development, and the Nadi Declaration;
- B. Recalling** in the context of our unity and solidarity the commitments made, inter alia, in the UN Millennium Declaration, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Brussels Declaration on Least Developed Countries and the Monterrey Consensus;
- C. Committing** to undertake a critical review and assessment of the situation of sustainable development in ACP states, and to consider new ways and means whereby we, the political leaders in our states, can take the lead in promoting and strengthening appropriate policies and interventions in strategic areas for sustainable development;
- D. Recognizing** the multitude of economic, social, environmental, cultural and political impediments to sustainable development faced by ACP countries and concerned about the impoverishment that plagues the populations of our states;
- E. Noting** the vulnerable status of ACP countries in the global economy, and the need for enhanced development arrangements with developed countries to address the weak economic status of ACP states;
- F. Acknowledging** the essential role of scientific and technological research as a fundamental engine for sustainable development of our countries;

- G. Emphasizing** the need to intensify our efforts in implementing research activities and dissemination of knowledge, to address impediments to sustainable development, particularly in areas of human resource development, health, HIV/AIDS, environment, water and sanitation, energy and transport, agriculture, culture, globalization, trade and productivity;
- H. Believing** that ACP states will emerge as strong actors in the global economy when they embrace a unified and co-ordinated approach to development, and that regional integration, and cooperation of policy makers and research institutes and higher education institutions are important in addressing common developmental challenges;
- I. Acknowledging** the support that our development partners, including the European Union, the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies and Programmes, bilateral agencies, private sector and other organizations, have provided in the generation of knowledge, human and social development, and institutional capacity;
- J. Stressing** the need to allocate and disburse on a timely basis sufficient funds for research activities and capacities through the use of national and regional resources, and within the context of, inter alia, the 9th EDF and the EU 6th Framework Programme;
- K. Reaffirming** our commitments in all relevant declarations, resolutions, partnership agreements and arrangements aimed at encouraging research for sustainable development in ACP States, particularly the Cotonou Agreement;
- L. Conscious** of the role of researchers and the State in promoting good governance and socio-political reform leading to sustainable development;
- M. Recognizing** that researchers require partnerships with non-state actors and the private sector for demand-led research committed to the production of knowledge that can address all aspects of sustainable development;

WE HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **We commit** ourselves to political leadership leading to policies that **place research** at the forefront of development and the effective integration of research into national development plans in order to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development.
2. **We emphasize** the need for Science and Technology (S&T) policies and plans that lead to sustainable development and the reduction of poverty through effective policy dialogue.
3. **We undertake** to pursue all necessary measures to ensure that the needed resources to promote research, development, technology diffusion and innovation are made available. We pledge to progressively increase current budgetary allocations and to achieve a minimum investment of 1 per cent of GDP per annum within a period of 10 years.
4. **We commit** ourselves to the promotion, popularization and utilization of science and technology.
5. **We undertake** to create support and strengthen Centers and Networks of Excellence and promote the sharing of facilities and expertise among our countries to build training and research capacity.
6. **We reaffirm** our commitment to science particularly mathematics and technology education as one of the essential foundations for human and economic development.
7. **We acknowledge** the critical role of technical and vocational training for all the ACP States and commit ourselves to its promotion in the achievement of sustainable development.
8. ***We undertake to support research linked to health and nutrition, including bio-medical research.*** We also commit ourselves to promote and support research in traditional and alternative medicine.

9. **We commit** ourselves to supporting research efforts that enhance and facilitate the promotion and establishment of sound energy and environmental management policies and practices.
10. **We further** commit ourselves to research that will strengthen and enhance food security for populations in the ACP States.
11. **We acknowledge** the importance of emerging and intermediate technologies including, inter alia, information and communications technologies and bio-technology in creating opportunities to address the burden of poverty.
12. **We undertake** to conceive and support research programmes including industrial research, value addition and support for small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs to strengthen our States capacity to participate effectively in the global economy while encouraging the protection of our intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge and the preservation of biodiversity in the ACP States.
13. **We call upon** development partners to complement our national and regional resource mobilization efforts by contributing to the generation and utilization of knowledge required to address the impediments to science and technology as a means to sustainable development.
14. **We further reaffirm** the importance of social research with a view to appreciating all dimensions of social development.
15. **We pledge** to implement and support all programmes promoting gender equality recognizing the importance of programmes to correct historical imbalances and paying particular attention to access to Science and Technology education and careers.

16. **We pledge** to advocate and support at the national, regional and international levels the Cape Town Declaration on Research for Sustainable Development and the Plan of Action.
17. **We ask** the ACP States, ACP General Secretariat, and the joint ACP-EU institutions in collaboration with all relevant national, regional and multilateral development partners and finance institutions to support, participate in, and monitor the implementation of the Cape Town Plan of Action.

Done at Cape Town, 28 July 2002

**For the ACP Ministerial Forum on
Research for Sustainable Development**

**Hon. Dr. B. S. Ngubane
Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology
Republic of South Africa
Chairman**

Declaration of Appreciation

We, Ministers responsible for Research, Science and Technology in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) meeting in Cape Town, South Africa on 28 July 2002, at a Forum devoted to address priority issues of Research for Sustainable Development in ACP States hereby:

- ? **Express** our sincere and grateful appreciation for the warm and friendly hospitality extended to Delegates by the South African Government and its people;
- ? **Extend** our gratitude and appreciation to the South African Deputy President, H. E. Mr. J. Zuma, for the inspirational key-note address during the opening session of the Forum, and his support for the promotion of research for sustainable development;
- ? **Compliment** the South African authorities for the excellent conference and accommodation facilities;
- ? **Congratulate warmly** the South African Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr. B. S. Ngubane, for the timely and appropriate initiative to host the 1st ACP Forum on Research for Sustainable Development in Cape Town;
- ? **Conveying** also our appreciation for the personal, enthusiastic and dedicated involvement of Dr. B. S. Ngubane in the various deliberations of the Forum; and
- ? **Compliment** the South African Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST), and all other involved South African Governmental Departments, for the excellent and professional organizational arrangements.