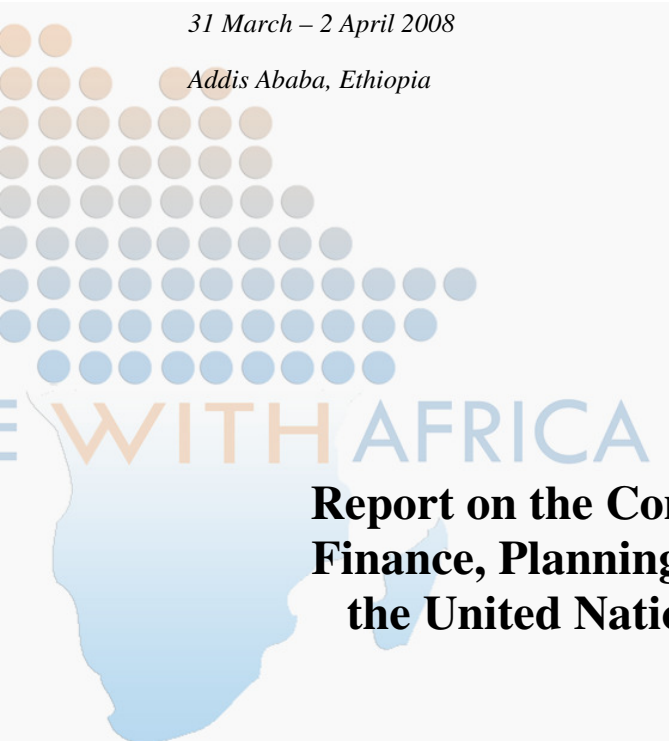


**UNITED NATIONS
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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**Report on the Conference of African Ministers of
Finance, Planning and Economic Development of
the United Nations Economic Commission for
Africa**

ANNEX I

Resolutions

856 (XLI)

Science with Africa: Strengthening Research and development, and Innovation for Africa's socio-economic development

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling General Assembly resolution (A/RES/60/205) of 22 December 2005 which underscored the important role of science, technology and innovation in enhancing economic well-being and which underscored the 2003 Declaration of Principles and the 2005 Tunis Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

Recalling also the avowed commitment of African Union Heads of State and Government made at their eighth Summit in 2007, to promoting Africa's research and development (R&D) agenda and to developing innovative strategies for wealth creation and economic development by allocating at least one per cent of national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2010 as agreed by the 2006 Khartoum Summit, in decision EX.CL/Dec.254;

Taking into account the Addis Ababa Declaration on Science and Technology and Scientific Research for Development as espoused in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology in 2006 in decision EC/CL/Dec.254 VIII;

Recognizing the need for concerted efforts to fulfill and implement the Science and Technology Consolidated Action Plan through United Nations system wide-support to the African Union Commission and its NEPAD programme, as well as other partnership mechanisms;

Noting with appreciation the outcomes of the Science with Africa Conference held in Addis Ababa held from 3 to 7 March 2008 and organized by ECA, AUC and their partners, and the Conference recommendations to scale up initiatives to strengthen innovation, scientific research and development in member States:

1. Commends the leadership of ECA and the African Union Commission for undertaking this timely and major event, namely the Science with Africa Conference and its far-reaching impact for strengthening the African scientific community;
2. Urges African Governments to take the necessary steps in harnessing innovation, research and development activities to address development challenges, by increasing national budgetary allocations for research and development activities within the context of enhancing economic productivity and fostering innovation in national economies;
3. Encourages African economic operators and higher education and research institutions to jointly support innovation, research and development activities within the context of enhancing economic development and productivity;
4. Invites the African Union Commission and ECA, in collaboration with the United Nations Science and Technology Cluster, the African Development Bank and other international partners, to establish an African Cluster for Science and Technology to foster the coordinated implementation of the Science with Africa Conference outcomes and recommendations as a mechanism to support the implementation of the African Union and its NEPAD Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action as well as the Science and Technology activities outlined in the ECA Business Plan and the ECA work programme and priorities for the 2008-2009 biennium and beyond;
5. Calls on Africa's development partners to provide the necessary support to ensure the implementation of a recommendations;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Chairperson of AUC to take the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the Conference, including facilitating partnership arrangements between Governments, the economic operators and civil society, assisted by research institutions and to report thereon at the next meeting of the Joint Conference.