

DECISION ON THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF ALGIERS ON START-UPS IN AFRICA

The Executive Council,

RECOGNIZING the significant role of start-ups in the implementation of African Union strategies on the Digital Transformation of Africa 2020-2030 and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), and more globally for the implementation of the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

RECALLING the objective of the digital transformation strategy for Africa (2020-2030) to use technologies and digital innovation to transform African societies and economies in order to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, eliminate the digital divide and eradicate poverty to guarantee the advantages of the digital revolution for socioeconomic development;

RECALLING the objective of the ten-year strategy for science, technology and innovation for Africa (STISA 2024) to accelerate Africa's transition to a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation, as well as its strategic objective to promote economic competitiveness through the promotion of innovation, the creation of added value, industrial development and entrepreneurship;

RECOGNIZING the progress made by African countries in establishing ecosystems conducive to the promotion of start-ups as a tool for the creation of wealth and decent jobs, as well as the great added value of the start-up ecosystem in the development of Africa's economy,

1. **NOTES** with satisfaction the holding of the first African Conference on Start-ups from 5 to 7 December 2022 in Algiers, Algeria and **COMMENDS** the Government of Algeria for this initiative;
2. **ENDORSES** the Ministerial Declaration of Algiers on the Development of African Start-Ups adopted during the said Conference, and whose objective is to promote high-level pan-African cooperation in the area of start-ups and innovation by facilitating the expansion of start-ups and their access to regional sources of financing;
3. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the Government of Algeria to promote start-ups in Africa;
4. **UNDERScores** the need to implement the measures contained in the African start-ups roadmap and in particular:
 - a. the installation of national focal points and a permanent secretariat of the African Conference on Start-ups
 - b. the establishment of an annual action plan
 - c. the appointment in each country of an incubator or accelerator to serve as focal point for the ecosystem;

5. **SOLICITS** the support of the African Union and African institutions responsible for start-ups and entrepreneurship to strengthen strategies and action plans by facilitating the movement of start-ups and talents throughout the continent, and secure access to financing for young entrepreneurs with innovative projects;
6. **URGES** the African Union Commission and its relevant departments, in collaboration with Member States, to establish a pan-African strategy for the development of start-ups;
7. **DECIDES** to include the issue of development of start-ups in the prerogatives of the Specialized Technical Committee for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, which will be responsible in evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the commitments of the Declaration of Algiers;
8. **DIRECTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees to consider the possibility and feasibility of the creation of a fund for start-ups, to finance innovative projects on the continent.