

**DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO HOST THE AFRICAN OBSERVATORY
OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
Doc. Assembly/AU/8(XII) Add.5**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Government of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation;
2. **RECALLS** the AU Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 161 (VIII) declaring 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that Member States and the RECs, as the chief stakeholders, should take the lead in the domestication of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and foster its implementation throughout its Lighthouse Projects;
4. **RECOGNIZES** the need to establish an African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation and its role in promoting science and technology for the sustainable development of the Continent;
5. **WELCOMES** the commitment and proposal by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of science, technology and innovation as part of the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) implementation, as approved by the AU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, in January 2007;
6. **APPRECIATES** the offer of Equatorial Guinea consisting in providing office space and a financial contribution in the amount of US\$3,600,000 for the implementation of the African Observatory project under the supervision and management of the AUC;
7. **INVITES** Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNESCO, the European Union (EU), non-governmental organizations and partners to support this African initiative including with financial assistance in order to ensure its sustainability;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work closely with the Government of Equatorial Guinea, UN agencies and other stakeholders to supervise and manage the establishment of the African Observatory of science, technology and innovation in Equatorial Guinea.