



5^{ÈME} SESSION ORDINAIRE DE LA COMMISSION MONDIALE DE L'ÉTHIQUE DES CONNAISSANCES
SCIENTIFIQUES ET DES TECHNOLOGIES
5th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON THE ETHICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND
TECHNOLOGY (COMEST)

6 – 9 Décembre 2006/6 – 9 December 2006
Hôtel Le Méridien Président - Dakar – Sénégal

FORUM DES JEUNES CHERCHEURS AFRICAINS/
FORUM OF YOUNG AFRICAN RESEARCHERS:

DECLARATION FINALE/
FINAL DECLARATION

**(6 DECEMBRE – 6TH OF DECEMBER 2006, SALLE – ROOM CONFERENCE B 12
HOTEL LE MERIDIEN PRÉSIDENT – DAKAR – SENEGAL)**

Adopté à Dakar, le 9 décembre 2006/
Adopted in Dakar, 9th of December, 2006

We, the participants of the Forum of Young Researchers – representing associations of young African researchers, universities and African research institutes, government institutions and African-based NGOs – came together on the 6th of December 2006 in Dakar, during the Fifth Ordinary Session of UNESCO’s World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), to debate the ‘*Social Responsibility of Researchers in Africa*’,

Guided by the UNESCO Constitution, which requires UNESCO to promote ‘the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind’ and to play a guiding role on the ethics of Science and Technologies,

Witness to the fact that scientific and technological research is fundamental to development,

Certain that scientific and technological research has a crucial role to play in bringing Africa out of poverty and enabling it to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Aware that Africa has specific needs and expectations from scientific research, including the eradication of recurrent diseases, hunger and conflicts, as well as the preservation of environmental and natural resources,

Acknowledging the limited contribution of the African continent to the production of international scientific knowledge and to the ethics of science and technology,

Observing that scientific research is relegated to the lowest rank of priorities in African Member States, despite the large number of opportunities available,

Noting the numerous challenges that face African researchers in general, and young researchers in particular,

Convinced that young researchers have a vital role to play in the development of the continent,

Acknowledging the need to make research more visible and accessible to development professionals and the wider community,

Aware of the communication gap between researchers and their African and international peers, between researchers and leaders, and between researchers and the community,

Noting the lack of synergy in research at the national, sub-regional and continental levels,

We undertake to:

Respect and promote ethical values in the field of research,

Use the knowledge we have acquired to serve the continent and promote its development,

Assume our very high level of responsibility towards all of humanity, and in particular towards the African people,

Work first and foremost on research topics that respond directly to the needs of African communities,

Operate in multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary teams to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of research,

Establish and develop networks at the national, African and international levels, in particular with the African diaspora, to share our experience, knowledge and skills,

Contribute to the mobilisation of financial and material resources, both at national and international levels, for the development of research,

Make our work more visible and accessible, notably through scientific papers, exhibitions and public conferences,

Meanwhile, we ask that:

African Member States,

Give greater recognition to the existence and competence of African expertise,

Take the results of endogenous research into account in the decision-making process and when devising development policies,

Implement real policies on research and allocate part of their GDP in proportions close to international standards in order to create acceptable working conditions,

Create monitoring systems to ensure respect for ethical standards in the field of science and technology,

Make good use of African human resources in the sciences by creating conditions that will allow large numbers of young African scientists into the African research field to prevent the ‘brain drain’,

Encourage the mobility of young African researchers on the continent in order to share experiences on issues specific to Africa in the context of globalization,

Encourage the participation of young researchers in international meetings;

The African Union and organisations for African integration,

Create ‘centres of excellence’ at the regional and continental levels to facilitate coordination of African scientific resources and encourage young researchers to stay in Africa,

Create an exchange forum for African researchers to identify priority orientations and research themes which comply with the needs and expectations of African communities,
Create an enabling environment for discussion between young African researchers and those in the rest of the world on scientific issues that are of interest to all of humanity.

International institutions and development partners

Contribute to the creation of ‘centres of excellence’ for scientific and technological research in Africa,

Increase their technical and financial support for research activities in Africa,

Help the process of popularisation and wider use of the results of research in Africa,

Assist in the process of ethics training of young researchers so that they can fully assume their social responsibility,

Encourage regular scientific meetings for young African researchers.

As young African researchers, we firmly believe that Africa has very rich potential that must be used to its advantage. We therefore undertake to tackle the many challenges the continent is facing, particularly the scientific divide, in order to give the African continent an honourable status in the world. For this reason, we are committed to working together through innovative action, activities in the field and diverse initiatives in our own countries, as well as through our commitment to Pan-Africanism, our motivation, energy, skills and our firm commitment to bringing Africa out of its current state.

We, therefore, invite African Member States, policy-makers, international agencies and NGOs to work together and support these efforts in order to achieve these goals of sustainable development.