

PREAMBLE:

WE the PARTICIPANTS in the GSC-UNDP-SIG WORKSHOP, co-hosted by SIG, UNDP, AAS and the TWAS Regional Office for Africa, held at HILTON NAIROBI on JANUARY 16-17, 2006, in our capacities as:

- **SENIOR SCIENTISTS from REPRESENTATIVE UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTES and CENTRES in AFRICA and BEYOND;**
- **LEADERS of REPRESENTATIVE ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE and RESEARCH COUNCILS, RESEARCH LABORATORIES in AFRICA and BEYOND;**
- **REPRESENTATIVES of selected UN AGENCIES, of selected FUNDING AGENCIES, and FOUNDATIONS, and also of new initiatives, such as the NEPAD COUNCIL,**

NOTING the wide spectrum of scientific and socio-economic problems and challenges confronting the people of Africa, such as **POVERTY, MALARIA, HIV/AIDS, FOOD INSECURITY, MALNUTRITION and HUNGER, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION and DESERTIFICATION**, etc.;

NOTING ALSO the widespread problems of low agricultural crop productivity, loss of biodiversity, over-dependence on firewood and charcoal as primary sources of energy, especially in rural and peri-urban communities;

AWARE OF THE FACT that in the midst of these and a host of other problems, Africa is endowed with many talented African scientists in the Diaspora, and a rich abundance of natural resources, most of which have hitherto been neglected due to lack of awareness of their potential socio-economic benefits, and also due to a multiplicity of other factors;

REALIZING that through the development of science and technology capacity, appropriate Government policies, and through training a critical core of African scientists and technologists and providing them with an enabling working environment, and through establishing appropriate partnerships and strategies, the people of Africa can harness the continent's rich natural endowments towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

APPRECIATING the catalytic role played by the AAS, TWAS, SIG, UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and GSC partnership towards facilitating the hosting of the workshop; and

CONSIDERING that the vision, the mission and the objectives of the SIG-UNDP-GSC initiative are in consonance with aspirations of the African Union, NEPAD, ARCT, TWAS, AAS TWNSO, AAU, ICSU, UNECA, UNESCO, UNU-INRA etc.,

HEREBY WELCOME the GSC initiative and make the following conclusions and recommendations:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GSC will:

1. Offer a framework for scientists from the US, Canada, and other developed countries, including scientists in the African Diaspora, to contribute to the development agenda;
2. Convert brain drain to brain gain through Diaspora engagement;
3. Ensure co-ownership by stakeholders and equitable partnerships of hosts and fellows;
4. Allow for flexible placement of Diaspora scientists, e.g. by region versus country of origin, according to mutual needs;
5. Emphasize and provide incentives for mentorship by senior local scientists in host countries;
6. Ensure African participation and representation in the governance structure of the programme, in the interest of equitable partnership/co-ownership;
7. Serve as an instrument to bring S&T into the development agenda in target countries;
8. Play a role in building/improving the S&T training and research infrastructure in Africa;
9. Be driven by priorities of target countries, with a focus on capacity building in those countries;
10. Promote South-South collaboration within Africa and between African and other countries;
11. Address problems of communications within and mobility across Africa;
12. Require stringent criteria for selection of host institutions, fellows and evaluation;
13. Emphasize (but not be limited to) basic and strategic research in areas such as genomics, proteomics, stem-cells, solid state physics, photonics materials science, nanotech, ICT;
14. Identify implementable targets to be achieved by 2012 (5 years);
15. Include a built-in mechanism for sustainability to ensure that the North-South and South-South partnerships are long-lasting;
16. Seek synergies and complementarity with existing initiatives (e.g. NEPAD, UNESCO, AAS, TWAS, ICSU, AU, etc.);
17. Assist in developing a strategy towards industrialization in Africa e.g. manufacture of value-added products (electronics, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, etc.);
18. Encourage mentorships and transfer of entrepreneurial skills to target countries; engage private/public partnerships;
19. Determine a process for ensuring intellectual property rights;
20. Promote cultural and social dimensions of S&T, thus enhancing technology diffusion/penetration to the grass roots.

The Workshop Participants will:

1. Seek political commitment for sustainability and will act as advocates for the GSC programme;

2. Explore the possibility of creating a database of African experts/institutions, ideally by consolidating existing databases;
3. Help to define level and scope – budget, number of fellows, duration – and to vet potential host sites and help determine placements, possibly through a committee appointed by SIG and including representatives of MSI, TWAS, AAS, AAU, ICSU-Africa, UNECA, UNDP-SSC, NEPAD;
4. Explore funding sources, including but not limited to the African Development Bank; Technical Cooperation Funds in Nigeria, Egypt, elsewhere; Africa Renaissance Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Africa; NEPAD; African Capacity Building Foundation; Development Bank of Southern Africa/ Knowledge Management Africa; foundations; European Union (Edulink).