



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ABDOULIE JANNEH
Executive Secretary

Date: 10 December 2010
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Excellency,

I have the honour to invite you to the second session of the Committee on Development Information Science and Technology (CODIST- II) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), scheduled to take place from 2 to 5 May 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event shall include workshops, a colloquium and awards ceremony of the 2010 'Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA)'. The theme for CODIST-II is: *Innovation for Africa's industrial development*.

You would recall that the first CODIST session on the theme "*Scientific Development, Innovation and the Knowledge Economy*", was held from 28 April to 1 May 2009 in Addis Ababa. This meeting highlighted the need for creating an enabling environment for the growth of innovation in Africa. In this regard, the role of research and development (R&D) was cited as being of paramount importance and that this could be enhanced through collaborative initiatives between universities, research institutions, industry and commerce. The meeting also alluded to the need for strong scientific, technological and innovation capabilities in order to ensure a sustained economic growth in Africa. A framework to enact policies for governments to support and facilitate scientific development and innovation for socio-economic performance was adopted.

The Second session of CODIST will explore the extent to which African countries have harnessed innovation to enhance industrial development on the continent. There is no doubt that industrial development is critical to changing and modernizing Africa's economic structure. This would entail amongst other issues, the application of new technologies to production and thereby increasing and diversifying exports and move the region from its continued dependence on low value-added and unstable primary products. The meeting will examine in detail the following:

(a) **Innovation strategies and industrial development plans** - the streamlining of the STI strategies into industrial development policies as well as the overall national development plans of African countries;

(b) **Enabling environment, innovation and industrial development** - governance of technology and innovation and the legal and regulatory mechanisms that affect the transfer, diffusion and adoption of science, technology and innovation (STI);

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(c) **S&T and R&D for industrial development: national and institutional lessons and experiences** - linkages and collaboration between R&D institutions and the industrial sector in Africa;

(d) **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) innovation and industrial development** - ICT innovations and industrial sector development opportunities and challenges;

(e) **GIS innovations and industrial development in Africa;** and

(f) **Knowledge, innovation and industrial development** - the role of information and knowledge management as a facilitator of innovation and industrial development in Africa.

CODIST-II will also strengthen the role of ECA in assisting its member States to develop and implement policies and strategies in ICT, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Geo-Information as well as Libraries and Information Services. The session will review progress made by the ECA and member States towards implementing the recommendations of CODIST-I.

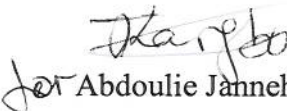
Since the agenda of CODIST-II will address the theme with a focus on issues relating to Science, Technology and Innovation, ICT, Geoinformation and Libraries, it is important that members of your delegation should have expertise in these areas. In addition to this, representatives of other relevant organizations as well as from the youth, women, media, higher education and research institutions and the private sector will also be considered.

I would appreciate receiving your early response to this invitation detailing the members of your delegation.

Please send all correspondence related to this meeting to:

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Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


for Abdoulaye Jannet