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**THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE 6TH PACF ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD ON 11TH-15TH AUGUST 2014
AT STELLA MARIS HOTEL, BAGAMOYO, TANZANIA**

1. The 6th PACF Annual Conference held at the Stella Maris Hotel, Bagamoyo-Tanzania was attended by 220 delegates from 11 Countries including Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Finland, Japan, and Sweden. The Conference was held from 11th to 15th April 2014 with the theme: ***"Enhancing Africa's socio economic development through cluster based competitiveness as a catalyst for transformation, innovation, entrepreneurship, accelerated regional integration and intra-Africa trade"***
2. The conference acknowledges the great reception and hospitality extended to the delegates by the United Republic of Tanzania, the Bagamoyo Local Government Authority, the Coast Regional Administration and the People of the United Republic of Tanzania.
3. The conference acknowledges and appreciates the presence of Honorable Mizengo Peter Kayanza Peter Pinda (MP), the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania who graced the conference as the Guest of Honour.
4. The conference also acknowledges and appreciates the presence of the following personalities:
 - a. Honorable Minister of Communication, Science and Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania, Prof. Makame Mbarawa.
 - b. Honorable Mrs. Mwantumu Mahiza, the Regional Commissioner of Coast Region, in the United Republic of Tanzania.
 - c. Mr. Dan Sjögren, from the Scandinavian Institute for Competitiveness and Development (SICD), representing the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).
 - d. Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the outgoing Chairman of PACF Council
 - e. Prof. Burton Mwamila, the outgoing Chairman of PACF Executive Board
 - f. Eng Peter Chisawillo, the outgoing Treasurer cum Secretary of the PACF Board and President of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (TCCIA)
 - g. Mr. Nchidzi Mmolawa, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources of Republic of Botswana
 - h. Dr. Yasin Naku Ziraba, the Chairman of PACF Eastern Africa region,
 - i. Dr. Sebastian. C. Obasi, Secretary PACF-ECOWAS Region
 - j. Dr. Hassan Mshinda, the Director General of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Tanzania
 - k. Engr. Dr. Mohamed Jibrin, FNSE, MNIM Director General/CEO, National Board for Technology Incubation, Abuja-Nigeria
 - l. General (rtd) I. Garba, 1st Vice Chairperson of Abuja Chamber of Commerce- (ABUCCIMA), Nigeria

- m. Eng. Omar Bakari, the Director General of Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Tanzania
 - n. Ms. Thato B Morule, Chief Strategist, National Strategy Office, Office of the President of Republic of Botswana
 - o. Ms. Pauline Paledi, Chief Executive Officer, Botswana Diamond Manufacturing Association
 - p. Ms Stieneke Samuel, Chief Director, Regional Clusters, Ministry of Industry and Trade of Republic of South Africa
 - q. Prof. Emmanuel Twarabamenye, Deputy Team Leader, Innovation sub-programme, SINFDEN, University of Rwanda
 - r. Dr. Vitoria Langa Jesus, Executive Director, National Fund for Research and Innovation, Republic of Mozambique
 - s. The conference acknowledges all leaders of national PACF Chapters in participating countries for finding resources and coming with delegates to the 6th PACF conference.
 - t. The conference welcomed new PACF national chapters from Rwanda and Botswana for coming with high placed officials and in big numbers.
5. The conference commends PACF Tanzania Chapter, on behalf of PACF Eastern Africa region, for successfully organising and hosting the 6th PACF Annual Conference. The Conference also acknowledges partners and sponsors of PACF Tanzania Chapter, particularly, the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA).
 6. The conference appreciates the presence of the Scandinavian Institute for Competitiveness and Development (SICD) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) whose continued collaboration with PACF has contributed greatly to the body of knowledge and financial support for development of Cluster Initiatives in Africa.
 7. On Progress made after the 4th and 5th Annual Conferences, the Conference
 - a. RECOGNISES that the issues raised at the two conferences are still relevant and current to cluster development in Africa.
 - b. NOTED from the national chapters' presentations that there have been notable successes and new challenges while some actions are being taken to address challenges in cluster development. However, there is still a lot to be done to achieve accelerated economic development in Africa through cluster based approaches, particularly in lighting more cluster fires, in making triple helix collaboration work, in documenting lessons and in raising funds for cluster development initiatives.
 8. The 6th PACF conference noted the following:
 - a. After viewing of exhibitions, the Guest of Honour, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania officiated at the opening of the Conference by delivering a keynote speech. He INFORMED the Conference that the government of Tanzania is playing an active role in supporting clusters initiatives and he believes that through Cluster Initiatives efforts Tanzanian products have improved across the sectors and will break through into the export market. He COMMITTED the government of Tanzania to facilitate the training of 500 new cluster development Facilitators and create 300 new Cluster Initiatives by 2017.

- b. He further COMMITTED the government to consider the facilitation and implementation of the resolutions from the 6th PACF Conference.
9. It was NOTED that Cluster Initiatives have the solution to Africa's Socio-economic problems. It was RECOMMENDED that Cluster Initiatives should be embedded in the National Economic Structure Framework.
10. It was agreed that investing in human resources development, both in vocational and higher education is critical for cluster development in Africa.
11. Industry-academia-public partnership in cluster development is still relevant and more efforts should be made to encourage members of academia to get involved in this movement
12. Each country should anchor its National Steering Committee at an institution which is more appropriate to its development environment.
13. It is recommended that all African countries should play an active role in supporting cluster initiatives to facilitate the training of CI Facilitators and create new Cluster Initiatives incorporated in their National Economic Strategies
14. All participating countries agreed on the importance of mainstreaming Cluster Initiatives in their National Planning Strategies
15. Cluster initiatives are important in building National competitiveness and sustainable development for African countries
16. Each country should allocate resources to promote Cluster Initiatives to replace donor funding dependency
17. Countries should have human development strategies to develop Cluster Development Facilitators and Cluster Practitioners by incorporating innovation and cluster concepts in all their learning institutions.
18. The PACF Board and Council must make sure that there is strong collaboration and linkages with all regional economic bodies (SADC, EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, AU and UNECA) have a desk officer dealing with Cluster Development issues.
19. Profiling, benchmarking, and effective monitoring and evaluation of Cluster Initiatives are critical to provide evidence of growth and the provision of information to the relevant stakeholders including the policy makers and private sector.
20. Access to finance is a challenge to most of the Cluster initiatives and more efforts are needed to make sure that a successful model is developed or identified, domesticated and replicated in all countries.
21. The conference welcomed the frank and positive discussions held during the conference, agreed on a set of actions to be taken and decided to continue to meet regularly.
22. The AGM resolved that South Africa will host the 7th Annual Conference in 2015 and Senegal will host the 8th Annual Conference in Dakar in 2016.
23. It was agreed that all future PACF conferences should provide simultaneous translation services during the proceedings.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE DELEGATES, BAGAMOYO, TANZANIA, 15th AUGUST 2014