



# MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ON INFORMATION ACCESS WITH REGARDS TO THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 AND THE CHARTER FOR AFRICAN CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

## DURBAN COMMUNIQUE

## 6 JULY 2018



LIBRARIES ON THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

## MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ON INFORMATION ACCESS CONFERENCE: DURBAN COMMUNIQUÉ: 5 – 6 JULY 2018

**We**, the Ministers and country representatives from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Kenya, Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia met to discuss the progress of Africa's libraries since our meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 which issued the Cape Town Declaration, in the presence of the African Union Commission (AUC), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA),

**Noting** significant progress since the Cape Town declaration,

**Having deliberated** on the current status of libraries on the continent and the resources required to position them to drive the African Union Agenda 2063 and United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,

**Aware** that access to information is a universal human right and a basic tool for socio-economic and cultural development,

**Mindful** that libraries are powerful centres of knowledge delivering services like literacy, Information and Communication Technology skills and indigenous/local knowledge systems,

**Recognising** the aspirations of the African Union for justice, peace and security which strengthen the right to knowledge and free flow of information and

**Noting** the need for the improvement of library services for people with disabilities,

**Hereby commit ourselves to:**

**Raising** the development of libraries on the African Union agenda,

**Supporting** the inclusion of libraries as a key performance indicator for development,



**Providing** the resources for the development of African libraries to enable them to effectively respond to the African Union Agenda 2063 and UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,

**Encouraging** the establishment of institutional networks and partnerships between libraries nationally, regionally and on the continent for exchange of knowledge and experiences,

**Fast-tracking** implementation of continental innovative strategies to improve Information and Communication Technologies and knowledge management,

**Ensuring and protecting** intellectual property rights including copyright and neighbouring rights laws and balanced implementation,

**Supporting** the work of the African and international library and information associations and institutions,

**Enacting** library policies that promote library development and freedom of access to information.

**Promoting** the development and the promotion of local content in African libraries as a critical component of African Renaissance and Pan Africanism,

**Urging** Member States to ratify and domesticate the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, and

**Having** annual meetings of African Ministers responsible for arts, culture, heritage and libraries.

**Adopted in Durban, Republic of South Africa on 6 July 2018**

## **MINISTERS PRESENT**

1. Algeria

2. Angola

3. Botswana

4. Equatorial Guinea

5. Kenya

6. Lesotho



7. Malawi

8. Morocco

9. Mozambique

10. Sudan

11. South Africa

12. Uganda

