



Ministry of Education
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



3RD AFRICAN MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON INFORMATION ACCESS

Theme

**Libraries on the African Development
Agenda: Progress made**

29TH - 30TH OCTOBER, 2019



**3RD MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION
ACCESS FOR AFRICAN MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF LIBRARY
SERVICES, 29 - 30 OCTOBER 2019**

ACCRA DECLARATION

We, the Ministers responsible for libraries and country representatives from Angola, Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Eswatini, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe met in Ghana from 29th to 30th of October 2019 to deliberate on advancements so far on our commitment made (Communique) at the 2nd Ministerial meeting held in Durban, South Africa in July 2018 which looked at new developments since the Cape Town Declaration in August 2015.

Present at the meeting in Ghana were a significant representation of Directors of Libraries in Africa, a cross section of the library community in Africa, the continental association, African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) and the world library body, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Having discussed extensively, progress made by the various countries/ regional groupings present since Durban vis-à-vis the Cape Town Declaration and inspired by the commitment shown so far;

Mindful that libraries hold the key to the dissemination of knowledge required for economic and socio-cultural development of nations;

Recognizing that the vigorous pursuance of the UN Agenda 2030 and the African Agenda 2063 by libraries, as the forerunners, put libraries in their rightful place as the engine for total national development;

We, hereby, adopt collectively that we shall:

1. Scale up advocacy for the inclusion of libraries in our countries' development planning process;
2. Synchronize the Cape Town Declaration and the Durban Communiqué and further pursue the unaccomplished declarations to their conclusion;
3. Intensify the call for the inclusion of technology in our libraries, particularly public libraries, in terms of ICT facilities and free internet to expedite the development of our people;
4. Promote the ideals and support the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions as the leading continental mouthpiece for ensuring favourable policies for the work of libraries and the building of professional expertise of African Librarians;
5. Vigorously promote the collection and documentation of oral African tradition to showcase our rich cultural heritage. To this end, National Libraries are further encouraged to consider preferential treatment to African Literary works in pursuit of the ideals of Pan-Africanism;
6. Encourage, support and fast-track the establishment of National Libraries in countries without such;
7. Play pivotal roles in achieving the Africa We Want (Agenda 2063) and Agenda 2030 through the pursuit of resource support for libraries to meet their expectations.
8. Urge the Africa Union Commission to provide a Desk to oversee the inclusion of libraries and their activities in national development policies and plans, and put on its calendar a two-day annual meeting of African Ministers responsible for libraries.

Adopted in Accra, Republic of Ghana on 30th of October 2019

MINISTERS PRESENT

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Angola | 2. Burkina Faso |
| 3. Cameroon | 4. Central African Republic |
| 5. Ghana | 6. Guinea Bissau |
| 7. Kenya | 8. Lesotho |

9. Malawi

11. Senegal

13. Uganda

10. Nigeria

12. South Africa

14. Zimbabwe

