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
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 14th 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