FINAL DECLARATION
of the Russian-African Forum-Contest of Young Scientists "Future Engineers of the World are the Foundation of Sustainable Development" for transmission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Preamble

We, the participants of the Russian-African Forum-Contest of Young Scientists "Future Engineers of the World are the Foundation of Sustainable Development," students, postgraduate students, young scientists and engineers of the Russian Federation and the states of the African continent,

guided by the goals and principles of the UNESCO Constitution and the Charter of the United Nations,

taking into account the provisions of the Open Letter of the Forum participants addressed to UNESCO,

considering the Student Declaration of the Russian-African Raw Materials Dialogue,

recognizing the priorities of UNESCO, including Priority Africa and the development of international cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture,

confirming commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, primarily SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 17,

welcoming the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 26 February 2026 on the establishment of the National Centre for Human Resources and Scientific Support of the Mineral Raw Materials Complex "Corps of Mining Engineers" on the basis of Empress Catherine II Saint Petersburg Mining University,

noting that the activities of the said Centre are carried out in the logic of improving the higher education system aimed at developing practice-oriented training of engineering personnel,

declare our intention to develop international cooperation in the educational sphere in the following areas.

I. Institutional Cooperation

1. To promote the creation of a permanent **Russian-African Association of Young Engineers** as a sustainable platform for professional dialogue and the implementation of joint initiatives.

2. To consider **the National Centre "Corps of Mining Engineers"** as a possible institutional space for the development of Russian-African cooperation in the field of engineering education.

II. Practical Proposals in the Field of Education

2.1. ***International short-term practice-oriented educational programme in the format of Additional Professional Education (APE)***

"Engineer's Practice: Russia – Africa" (within the framework of the National Centre for Human Resources and Scientific Support of the Mineral Raw Materials Complex "Corps of Mining Engineers" on the basis of Empress Catherine II Saint Petersburg Mining University).

Programme goal: formation and consolidation among students, postgraduate students and young teachers from African countries of **practical engineering competencies** through direct participation in work at training and scientific grounds, laboratories and production sites. **Duration: 2 weeks. Languages:** Russian, English.

2.2. ***Request for UNESCO patronage***

Considering that the programme **"Engineer's Practice: Russia – Africa"**:

• corresponds to UNESCO priorities in the field of education, science and Priority Africa;

• is aimed at developing human potential and strengthening international scientific and educational cooperation;

• contributes to the achievement of SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 17;

• provides for equal access to participation regardless of country of origin, gender and social status;

• relies on a practice-oriented model of engineering personnel training;

we appeal to UNESCO with a proposal to consider the possibility of granting this programme UNESCO patronage, which would allow:

• ensuring international recognition of the programme;

• expanding the participation of African universities;

• attracting the expert and methodological potential of UNESCO;

• promoting the dissemination of best practices in practice-oriented engineering education.

III. Joint Educational and Scientific Initiatives

3. To develop and implement joint educational modules and short-term educational intensives in priority engineering areas.

4. To develop academic mobility programmes for senior students, postgraduate students and young scientists.

5. To promote the formation of a network of specialized universities in Russia and Africa working on the basis of agreed approaches to practice-oriented training.

IV. Science and Infrastructure

6. To support the creation of joint training grounds, internship bases and research laboratories.

V. Equal Opportunities

7. To confirm the importance of ensuring equal opportunities for young people to participate in scientific and educational activities regardless of country of origin, gender and social status.

8. To provide for measures facilitating the participation of girls and young women in engineering and natural science disciplines, including mentorship and exchange of practices.

VI. Knowledge, Information and Sustainable Development

9. To create a resource comprising a bank of Russian-African projects.

10. To take into account in project evaluation criteria the contribution to the achievement of SDGs and the adaptation of technologies to local conditions.

VII. Recognition of Competencies

11. To promote the development of proposals for professional accreditation of engineering personnel and public accreditation of educational programmes.

12. To facilitate the formation of mechanisms for the recognition of competencies within the framework of Russian-African educational cooperation.

APPEAL TO UNESCO

We appeal to UNESCO with the proposal:

➢ To promote the creation of a permanent Russian-African Association of Young Engineers as a sustainable platform for professional dialogue and the implementation of joint initiatives.

➢ To consider Russian-African youth scientific and engineering cooperation as a promising area of international partnership.

➢ To support the implementation of the programme **“Engineer’s Practice: Russia–Africa” under the auspices of UNESCO**.

➢ To promote the integration of relevant initiatives into the framework of UNESCO priorities, including Priority Africa.

FUTURE ENGINEERS OF THE WORLD ARE THE FOUNDATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT!

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
16 October 2026