



AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event  
23-24 November 2022, Nairobi

## AU-EU INNOVATION AGENDA STAKEHOLDER EVENT HYBRID FORMAT (NAIROBI, KENYA & VIRTUAL PLATFORM)



# EVENT REPORT

## 1. Programme of the event

Day 1 23 November 2022								
09:00 – 09:45	Plenary Session: Opening Addresses							
09:45 – 10:30	Overview of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda & Results of the Public Consultation							
10:30 – 11:30	National innovation policies and link to the Innovation Agenda							
11:30 – 12:00	Q&As							
12 noon	Lunch break							
1 pm	Public Health	Green Transition	Innovation & Technology	Capacities for Science			Cross-cutting issues	
	Thematic Workshop 1: Needs and Technologies for healthy societies with responsive & resilient health systems	Thematic Workshop 2: Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)	Thematic Workshop 3: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)	Thematic Workshop 4: Investing in innovation in Africa	Thematic Workshop 5: Innovation ecosystems in Africa	Thematic Workshop 6: Skills' development & mobility (e.g. ARISE Programme; ERC, MSCAs; ERASMUS+; intra-African Youth Mobility Scheme, etc.)	Thematic Workshop 7: Higher Education Institutions & the AU-EU Innovation Agenda	Thematic Workshop 8: Monitoring & Evaluation of objectives and actions
5 pm	Wrap-up session							
7 pm	Networking dinner							

Day 2 24 November 2022							
8:30 am	Training Session 1: Intellectual Property Rights: from discovery to patent	Training Session 2: Preparing proposals for Horizon Europe and other funding programmes (e.g. Erasmus+); a multi-step training			Training Session 3: Open Science & Data Science (e.g. Africa Knowledge Platform)		
	Information Session 1: Africa Initiative in Horizon Europe: update on projects from Work Programme I, 2021-2022		Information Session 2: EURAXESS Africa	Information Session 3: Erasmus+ in Africa	Information Session 4: OACPS Policy Support Facility in Africa	Information Session 5: Clustering/Partnership management	
12:30 pm	Match-making session: 'AU-EU Innovation Fair – Meet the innovators': 3 minutes-pitching in plenary hall (over lunch) followed by poster session, with each innovator at her/his stand						
16:00 – 17:30	Plenary Session: Summary and conclusions						

## 2. Main takeaways and notes of the Event

### Executive Summary

The joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda is a brand-new policy initiative that aims to accelerate the translation of Research and Innovation into tangible positive impact on the ground, so to generate products, services, businesses and jobs, in Africa and Europe. It proposes four objectives, articulated into short-term, medium-term and long-term actions (within a time span of 10 years), for each of the four priority areas of the AU-EU cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation [namely (i) Public Health, (ii) Green Transition, (iii) Capacities for Science and (iv) Innovation and Technology], as well as for (v) Cross-cutting issues. The European Commission and the African Union Commission convened stakeholders from the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) and beyond, at the Mövenpick Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya (and online), on November 23 and 24, 2022, for the hybrid “AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event” (<https://aueu-innovationagenda-stakeholderevent.com/>). This Stakeholder Event aimed to provide a forum to: (1) Present and discuss on the findings of the online public consultation on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda (which took place between February and June 2022); (2) discuss on specific stakeholder demands and ideas, and possible implementation routes for the Agenda, so to co-create its implementation plan; (3) showcase the AU and EU vibrant innovation ecosystems, in the form of a matchmaking session entitled “AU-EU Innovation Fair – Meet the innovators”, to catalyse partnerships and foster collaborations and entrepreneurship; (4) provide strategic training and information sessions focused on topics of particular relevance to the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Participants had the chance to network and discuss potential collaborations in the field of innovation. Attendees at the meeting exchanged views, gained knowledge from one another, networked and discussed possible implementation strategies to deliver an effective AU-EU Innovation Agenda. This report illustrates the main outcomes from the discussions of this event, especially from its plenary sessions (i.e., opening and closing ones) and the thematic workshops (n=8) held during the Stakeholder Event. All this input will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the final version of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, to take place in the first quarter of 2023.

#### **Summary of main takeaways of the two day-event:**

##### 1. Increased collaboration on Research and Innovation initiatives

Both AU and EU have been investing in research and innovation in various fields, (e.g. health, agriculture, climate change, energy and technology), to drive sustainable socio-economic growth. Throughout the two days, a strong consensus emerged on the recognition of innovation is a crucial driver of economic growth and job creation. AU and EU representatives and stakeholders concluded that, by working together, they can leverage their resources and expertise to achieve a more significant impact. The EU has a wealth of experience and knowledge in promoting innovation and supporting the growth of start-ups and entrepreneurs; at the same time, the AU’s innovation ecosystem is growing at an unprecedented pace, bringing to light significant breakthroughs. Through close collaboration, the AU and EU can benefit from each other’s experiences to create a more vibrant and collaborative innovation ecosystem. Accordingly, the EU and AU discussed existing gaps and needs as well as actions and possible initiatives to respectively realise and enable the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, across the four thematic priorities of (i) Public Health, (ii) Green Transition, (iii) Innovation and Technology and (iv) Capacities for Science and the additional area of (v) Cross-cutting issues, all included in the Agenda. With a view to triggering the co-creation of the implementation plan of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, a number of initiatives were presented and discussed during the different thematic workshops as potential tools to enable the implementation of the Agenda (more details in Section 3 on Thematic Workshops). Future endeavours are still needed in order to broaden the inventory and align

programmes and projects under respective actions foreseen by the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, so to maximise its impact.

## 2. Gaps & Needs

With reference to the priority area of **Public Health**, preventing shortages of essential medicines, vaccines and healthcare technologies and services was deemed as key. Discussions highlighted also the importance of ensuring a geographically balanced distribution of resources depending on the transfer of technology and the improvement and development of a high-quality vaccines, medicines and health technologies, reinforcing capacities and infrastructures accordingly. One proposed way to strengthen these systems is to increase the availability and usage of necessary enabling and emerging technologies, like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and use of data. Concerning the priority area of **Green Transition**, fostering the proactive incubation of agricultural projects and programs by co-investing in start-ups, agro-SMEs, and their ecosystems was highlighted as essential. The use of digital solutions for production could also be expanded, as well as the processing and marketing of food produces by connecting food system stakeholders to create more sustainable and environmentally friendly food systems. Investing in renewable energy sources in Africa and other regions (such as Europe) was also considered as fundamental to combat global warming. To combat the effects of climate change and maintain momentum, it was also deemed crucial to create and discuss climate resilience and adaptation solutions through consultative meetings. With regards to the priority area of **Innovation & Technology**, aspects such as access to finance, mentorship and training programs, were considered as key needs for start-ups and entrepreneurs. The AU-EU Innovation Agenda aims to promote technology and inventive solutions that are affordable, accessible and ethically sound. This necessitates a focus on establishing trustworthy digital infrastructures, protecting user data and considering the ethical implications of AI. For the priority area of **Capacities for Science**, increasing cooperation between European and African institutions is considered essential to facilitate the sharing of expertise. It was also proposed to enhance mobility through increasing openness, recognition and applicability of higher education credentials and programs. Expanding on current programs may enhance the number of future researchers and innovators who can quickly move between and within the two regions while reducing the risks of talent drain by encouraging joint masters and doctorate degrees among institutions in the AU and the EU. It was also suggested to improve digital capabilities and help raise the bar for digital education to facilitate the digital transition. Consequently, the AU and EU countries would be expected to constantly upgrade and modernise their research and higher education systems. Finally, with regards to **Cross-cutting issues** such as that of **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)**, actions will be executed progressively within a defined operational framework, according to short-, medium- and long-term actions, within a 10 year timeframe, once the AU-EU Innovation Agenda is officially adopted in 2023. This is expected to allow for frequent evaluations of the Agenda's implementation, enabling possible evidence-based, data-driven course corrections and reorientation. With the Innovation Agenda aiming to strengthen value chains via increased international cooperation and funding for innovative strategy implementation, an impact-oriented M&E approach, typical of research and development initiatives and programs, is expected to be put in place.

## 3. Contribution to sustainable development

The issue of sustainability was considered as critical throughout the discussions both from time span and environmental viewpoints. Indeed, some projects and programmes, to be started through the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, are expected to continue (or persist through legacy initiatives) long after the Agenda ends, while others may have a shorter lifespan. Solutions that promote economic growth while simultaneously contributing to sustainable development, with consideration given to the environmental impacts of technological progress, are to be considered a primary focus. In particular, stakeholders highlighted the importance of engaging financing partners to join AU-EU partnerships to give access to innovative financial engineering, particularly for early-stage firms and start-ups, to boost the uptake and scale up of novel approaches, technologies and proceedings and turn them into accessible products and services, effectively and sustainably.

## Conclusion

On the whole, this Event represented an unprecedented and unique opportunity for the AU and the EU to speak to one another about future enhanced cooperation on Research and Innovation. The AU-EU Innovation Agenda calls for creating a dedicated consultative platform to increase the quality and effectiveness of public-private partnerships, academic institutions, financial institutions and civil society organisations working together to strengthen innovation ecosystems and the translation of innovations into products, services, businesses and jobs. The measures outlined at the event will facilitate the fine-tuning and pursuit of the Agenda's objectives and actions within predetermined time frames.

## Keynote Speeches

### Day 1, 23 November 2022

#### 1. Plenary Session – Opening addresses

Moderators **Ms Nienke Buisman** (Deputy Director & Head of Unit, Global Approach & International Cooperation, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation), and **Dr Monica Ebele Idinoba** (African Union Commission Department of Education, Science & Technology), opened the first plenary session greeting and welcoming participants to the Stakeholder Event. Ms Buisman reminded participants about the Ministerial Meeting held in July 2020 between Ministers of Research and Innovation of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), which acknowledged the great potential for collaboration on Research & Innovation (R&I) between African and European countries. Ms Buisman noted that ever since, this cooperation has focused on developing the **AU-EU Innovation Agenda**, which was published as a draft "Working Document" in February 2022. It consists of four objectives, to make the collaboration real and to translate research results into concrete outputs focusing on growth and job creation, more precisely (i) "Make it real": Translating innovative capacities and achievements into tangible outputs; (ii) "Generate impact by design": Fostering and/or strengthening innovation ecosystems to enhance socio-economic impact on the ground; (iii) "Strengthen people, communities, and institutions": Developing sustainable, long lasting and mutually beneficial higher education, research and innovation partnerships, and (iv) "Learn, monitor, and scale it up": Scaling up instruments that can take forward existing successful programmes and projects between AU and EU partners. Ms Buisman reiterated that the need for translating research results into tangible outputs was underlined also by the AU-EU Summit of February 2022. An online public consultation on the working document of the Innovation Agenda took place between February and June 2022, one of the purposes of this Stakeholder Event is to discuss the results, and to identify missing gaps in the actions currently foreseen by the Agenda and means for implementing the Agenda.

In her welcome speech, **Ms Maria Cristina Russo** (Director for Global Approach and International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation at the European Commission) expressed her delight and gratitude towards attending participants and thanked all the organisers of the event in Brussels, Addis Ababa and Nairobi. Ms Russo stated that she and colleagues from the AU met also in Nairobi to launch a pilot project on Innovation in September 2019. The launch process has come a long way since then while there is a lot more to be done. Ms Russo acknowledged other speakers of the Event and introduced all other interventions of the opening session, namely by **Prof Chomora Mikeka** (Director of STI at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Malawi and Vice Co-chair of the AU-EU HLPD on STI), followed by **Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi** (Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, Ministry of Education); then, **Ms Irene Giribaldi** (Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kenya), followed by the recorded video message of the **H.E. Prof Mohammed Belhocine** (AU Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation), and the intervention from remote by **Mr Hans Stausboll** (Acting Director for Africa, DG International Partnerships at the European Commission).

Ms Russo acknowledged that, since the COVID-19 crisis, R&I have been recognised as essential endeavors in the collaboration between the EU and the AU and their respective Commissions. Important activities were carried out before, during and after COVID-19, in particular for vaccine development and deployment and for implementing medical countermeasures against the pandemic. Ms Russo also mentioned other crises such as the one caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the subsequent humanitarian crisis and shortage of raw materials, which could be addressed using R&I to cope with the needs of the citizens affected.

Ms Russo highlighted the long-standing cooperation between the EU and Africa, with cooperation agreements already in place with some countries, such as the Republic of South Africa. She mentioned the important and long-standing AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), where partnerships have been launched in several fields of research, such as the partnerships on Food and Nutrition Security and Agricultural Sustainability (FNSSA), Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE) and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), besides the more recent partnership on Innovation. With special regards to the EDCTP, Ms Russo recalled that this partnership was launched in the early 2000s with the aim to develop innovative medicines, diagnostics and vaccines to tackle poverty-related diseases in Africa. She stated the partnership proved to be a very important endeavor, especially during the COVID pandemic and afterwards. Ms Russo shared that the collaboration was focused from the start on R&I developed between Africa and Europe, which will eventually benefit the citizens of both continents. She highlighted the vibrancy of innovation ecosystems of both Europe and Africa and called for the expansion of the partnership.

Ms Russo stated that the first-ever AU and EU Ministerial Meeting of R&I of the AU and the EU was conducted in July 2020 under the auspices of the South African Presidency of the AU. Ms Russo expressed her gratitude for the efforts and leadership of the organisers. Since it was agreed to develop the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda at the Ministerial Meeting, the AU-EU working group dedicated to developing this Agenda, with inputs from stakeholders and independent experts, has done an impressive work which will be shown during the discussions of this Stakeholder Event.

Furthermore, Ms Russo emphasised the need to ensure inclusive participation in this Agenda, its preparation and finalisation, and she appreciated the diversity of expertise and of European and African experts attending the Stakeholder Event. She enunciated that in 2020 a new strategy for cooperation for Africa was adopted by the European Commission and the European External Action Service. Ms Russo underscored the importance of a collaborative relationship between the AU Commission and the European Commission referring to the visit of the President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, to Addis Ababa in December 2019. Ms Russo also referred to the imminent 28<sup>th</sup> November “College to College meeting” between AU and EU Commissioners, with a dedicated session on Innovation and Education.

Ms Russo also mentioned the new strategy of “The EU Global Approach to R&I” which sees cooperation with Africa as one of its pillars. She emphasised the cross-cutting nature of innovation in this cooperation. Ms Russo finalised her speech by reminding participants of the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package, a policy communication that mobilises substantial funds for the EU’s cooperation with Africa. She stated that STI are key components of this initiative, with some dedicated funds to these areas. Finally, Ms. Russo expressed her expectation of lively discussions at the Stakeholder Event, that will be used as an input to finalise the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, which will be presented for adoption by AU-EU R&I Ministers in 2023. Ms Russo thanked the participants for their attendance.

Dr Monica Idinoba took the floor and introduced the next speaker, **Prof Chomora Mikeka** (Director of STI at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Malawi, and Co-Chair, together with Ms Buisman, of the AU-EU HLPD Bureau on STI). Prof Mikeka started his speech recognising the protocol observed by his opening session's co-chair Ms. Russo, and he remarked that Nairobi, Kenya, is well placed to be the meeting place of choice. Prof Mikeka welcomed all the participants on behalf of the AU Technical Committee on Education, Training, Science, Technology and Innovation and the Ministers of Ministry of R&I.

He highlighted that time for describing problems has lapsed, that this is now the age of solving problems and that the very purpose of the gathering is to have feedback and input to go beyond problem description and start focusing on solutions. Prof Mikeka reiterated that the first Ministerial meeting of the AU and EU on policy dialogue held in the year 2020 agreed on the enormous potential of the collaboration between Africa and Europe. On this impactful gathering, Ministers have agreed that countries should prioritise results-oriented cooperation focusing on joint investment, initiatives to improve innovation performance and capacities across

both continents in STI for economic development. During this Ministerial it was decided that the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda would focus on four priority areas: (i) Public Health, (ii) Green Transition, (iii) Innovation and Technology, and (iv) Capacities for science.

Prof Mikeka expressed his expectation from scientists, researchers, technical experts and survey participants gathered at Nairobi's stakeholder meeting both physically and virtually to provide their input and feedback on the working document of the agenda, to make its final version as impactful as possible. Prof Mikeka recognised that this is an opportunity to leverage discoveries and make sure that they are translated into products, processes, systems and methods which can be commercialised to boost businesses and institutions at the national, regional and continental level. He reminded participants of the fact that the AU has set up the "African Continental Free Trade Area" which creates a market for innovation.

Prof Mikeka stated that there are developments on the academic front where the approach has shifted to industrialising innovations. He acknowledged the feedback received through the public consultation on the Innovation Agenda and highlighted that mutual respect shall be the basis of a successful partnership between the AU and the EU. He stressed that isolated cases of discomfort need to be addressed to allow for a genuine, transparent and win-win partnership for the betterment of the both the African and European communities.

Prof Mikeka emphasised that Africa needs to rise, and this can be achieved through collaboration with Europe. He stressed his belief that the hybrid first consultative meeting will allow all key players already involved in the thematic activities to advise on the final version of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, expected to be adopted in 2023. Prof Mikeka stressed that the AU special technical committee on Education, Training, Science, Research and Innovation invites all regional economic communities, Member States, experts, government agencies, offices and commissions, universities, colleges and non-governmental institutions to join this common agenda and to keep the legacy of the late Kenyan American professor Calestous Juma on freedom to innovation. Prof Mikeka referred to his involvement of Calestous Juma's initiatives "CJ network", one of the biggest e-platform for science, training and innovation. With regards to the priority area of Public Health, he invited public sector actors to support affordable and good quality medicine including drug and vaccine discovery, which was witnessed during the COVID crisis that had a disproportionate impact on Africa. He then referred to the COP-27 organised in Egypt vis-à-vis the green transition theme of the current event. With reference to the priority area of Innovation and Technology, Prof Mikeka pinpointed the "matchmaking" session foreseen for Day 2 of the Stakeholder Event: the "AU-EU Innovation Fair – Meet the innovators". In the area of capacity building (i.e., Capacities for Science), he stressed that the EU has supported African states in ensuring transparency and the possibility to make knowledge accessible and available to all. In his closing his remarks, Prof Mikeka reassured participants that the comments to be made during the event will be reported to the high-level structure for political buy-in, allowing other structures beyond science and innovation to join efforts to collectively achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Prof Mikeka wished participants a successful AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event and congratulated all the members of the Bureau of the AU-EU HLPD on STI, the ad-hoc team members of team Africa and team Europe and the drafting committee members for making the process possible for open discussion and to improve awareness including during the UN General Assembly Science Summit in New York in September 2022.

Dr Monica Idinoba took the floor and invited **Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi**, Kenya's Principal Secretary of the State Department for University Education and Research, to speak. Ambassador Nabukwesi acknowledge the co-chairs of the event Ms Maria Cristina Russo, Prof Chomora Mikeka, the EU Ambassador to Kenya Ms Henriette Geiger, the AU Commissioner Belhocine and Mr Hans Stausboll, and welcomed all participants and distinguished guests with greetings from Honorable Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education of Kenya.

Ambassador Nabukwesi thanked the organisers for choosing Kenya as a host of the event and wished the participants a fulfilling stay in the country. He acknowledged the honor bestowed on the Ministry of Education of Kenya to give opening remarks at this vital event. Ambassador Nabukwesi expected the workshop to

provide a platform to raise awareness and modalities of the proposed bi-continental long-term AU-EU Innovation Agenda, across its priority areas. He also hoped the workshop would provide a forum for East African stakeholders to discuss mutual expectations in participating in this process.

Ambassador Nabukwesi mentioned that STI are essential for social and economic development of countries and regions, being central for the competitiveness of regions and countries in an increasingly globalised and knowledge-based world. He remarked that most European, North African and North American countries are focused on intensive application of contemporary science and technology especially in areas such as information, health and medicine, industry, infrastructure, agriculture, environment and space among others. He also acknowledged that most African countries have recognised in the recent past the importance of science, as evidenced by the establishment of national ministries and other organs that spearhead the integration of science and technology in the various sectors of production processes.

At the pan-African level, the AUC has developed a 10-year roadmap referred to as the "Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy-2024" (STISA-2024). As a follow up, many African countries have cascaded STISA-2024 at the national level. Ambassador Nabukwesi briefly highlighted the latest development in reference to STI cooperation and the different levels of cooperation between Africa and Europe structured around consecutive multiannual programmes, such as the current Framework Programme Horizon Europe, open for international cooperation. Ambassador Nabukwesi encouraged participants to take advantage of this programme, through which an opportunity exists for Africa and Europe to strategically articulate, address, mutually develop and implement beneficial activities and programmes. Ambassador Nabukwesi referred to Kenya's relatively developed innovation ecosystem and high rate of success and participation in Horizon programmes which has increased in Horizon Europe compared to the previous Framework Programme Horizon 2020, this being an outcome of the "African Initiative" started under the first Work Programme 2021-2022 of Horizon Europe. The Ambassador recognised Kenya's potential to increase its participation in Horizon Europe under the new "African initiative II" of the Work Programme 2023-2024, indicating the key role that the EU Delegation to Kenya may play in further disseminating information and encouraging Kenyan institutions to continue to participate in this programme.

Ambassador Nabukwesi reiterated the strong political support from the AU and EU on the importance and urgency of investment in science and technology through cooperation. He then wished all the participants fruitful deliberations and expressed his expectation of a significant input from the discussions on the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

Ms Nienke Buisman thanked Ambassador Nabukwesi for the warm welcome and proceeded to inviting **Ms Irene Giribaldi**, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Kenya.

Ms Giribaldi welcomed all participants on behalf of the EU. She remarked that this conference is an opportunity to learn more about the AU-EU Innovation Agenda and increase the cooperation among many African and European stakeholders. She expressed her hope that this Stakeholder Event would showcase the EU's and AU's vibrant innovation ecosystem. The new AU-EU Innovation Agenda aims to develop and market new technology that addresses the most pressing challenges of society. Through this strategy, it will be possible to provide states, innovators and investors with the tools needed to accelerate innovation. She recognised the crucial role of R&I in accelerating job creation, making them an important part of the AU-EU partnership.

Ms Giribaldi gave three examples of how R&I are essential in the EU-Kenya cooperation and for delivering the Global Gateway Africa - Europe Investment Package. Firstly, the EU invests substantially in Kenya towards the transition to a 'green and climate neutral' economy in partnership with EU Member States and Kenyan stakeholders: for instance, on research in recycling processes and manufacturing sustainable fertilizers, such as 'Green Hydrogen' fertilizers. Secondly, the EU's investment in digitalisation contributes to leveraging the socio-economic benefits of emerging technologies since Kenya is a global innovator in this field. The EU supports artificial intelligence through the development of multi-stakeholder approaches, while considering crypto currency with great interest: its opportunities, risks and especially the growing imperative for

regulation. Thirdly, the EU would like to strengthen sustainable and long-lasting collaboration in higher education between Kenya and EU countries; for that matter, a “Team Europe” working group was created last year in order to specifically follow the developments of this collaboration.

Reiterating the expectations of Director Russo, Ms Giribaldi stated that Kenya can benefit also from EU programmes managed at global and regional level. As an example in this regard, Ms Giribaldi mentioned Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme running from 2021 to 2027 with a budget of 95.5 billion Euros, making it one of the largest and most ambitious innovation programmes in the world. Erasmus+ is another opportunity that benefits students and doctoral researchers. ARISE is another programme that boosts Africa’s potential for innovation by supporting the next generation of innovation leaders in Africa. Ms Giribaldi expressed her delight to see participants in Kenya and wished them fruitful discussions, hoping this event would fuel attendees with new ideas, new knowledge and opportunities.

Dr Monica Idinoba thanked Ms Giribaldi and introduced the following speaker, **AU Commissioner H.E. Prof Mohammed Belhocine** (Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation) whose video message was broadcasted to participants. Commissioner Belhocine welcomed distinguished guests, speakers and participants to the AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event in Nairobi, on behalf of the AU Chairperson, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat. Commissioner Belhocine expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders who contributed to the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on STI. He referred to the adoption of the EU-Africa strategic plan and its first action plan by the Heads of States of Africa and Europe in Lisbon, which has defined a new chapter in the AU-EU cooperation. He acknowledged that the AU-EU cooperation embraces rich and complex histories on which to forge stronger partnerships built on our identities and renewed institutions. He also mentioned that capitalising on the lessons of the past would provide for a solid framework for long-term systemic and dually integrated cooperation.

Commissioner Belhocine noted that the AU and EU commit towards the realisation of shared objectives, taking into account the shifting times and the various key priorities at inter-regional, continental and global levels and Africa’s and Europe’s mutual interest. In this context, several initiatives to structure and support programmes that will contribute to holistic and highly coordinated results were launched. A political structure was endorsed by the third EU-AU summit in 2010 in Tripoli, Libya, and launched in October 2011, with the aim to enhance dialogues, build mutual trust, promote better common understanding and build common ownership. As a technical platform, it helps to define and set priorities of mutual benefit for current and future collaboration including joint implementation design.

Commissioner Belhocine stressed that emphasis should be put on the value of coordination of the various initiatives. To this effect, he recommended giving due consideration to meetings such as this Stakeholder Event, ensuring that it is reflective of the real time demands and contexts. In the same light, he underscored the priority need to reinforce cooperation between research communities and the creation of joint academic research programmes. He also mentioned the importance of focusing on the productive sector including research infrastructures and technical development in Africa and Europe.

Commissioner Belhocine referred to the step-by-step process in 2013 to identify priorities for implementation focusing on common challenges across the partnership ecosystem. In this regard, ensuring food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture including water were endorsed as the first set of priorities for the AU-EU cooperation on STI. In 2017, during the AU-EU summit, a second roadmap included climate change and sustainable energy (CCSE). African Union Commissioner Belhocine stated the current meeting on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda could be considered as part of a third roadmap on Innovation. He emphasised that, as the preceding roadmaps, the current roadmap shall be well aligned to our development goals for job and wealth creation and to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Commissioner Belhocine noted that in Africa this roadmap will be instrumental in delivering the people centered Agenda-2063 and in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. He stated that the AU assembly adopted a new departmental structure with establishment of a stand-alone unit within the Department of

Education. He remarked that policies, strategies and programmes are important but are not sufficient; they must be put in place by taking into account the realities on the ground. As deliberations and dialogue are happening at the current event, he observed that the great tests and accomplishments ahead lay on funding as well as cohesive knowledge driven implementation. In this respect, he underlined the need for a funding strategy that pulls on bi-regional forces. Commissioner Belhocine urged for the maximisation of synergies for the provision of funding for this Agenda as well as for the gathering of feedback from citizens and organisations as part of this event in order to realise impactful results. Commissioner Belhocine welcomed all participants once again, wished the participants pleasant deliberations and expressed his expectation towards a stronger and impact-oriented partnership on STI.

Ms Buisman took the floor and thanked Commissioner Belhocine. She introduced **Mr Hans Stausboll**, who joined from Brussels, as Acting Director for Africa at the European Union Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA).

Mr Stausboll started his speech with greeting all participants and the organisers who made the event possible. Mr Stausboll cherished the large number of participants and the great interest that this initiative managed to mobilise. He stated the EU-AU partnership in R&I has never been more important given the huge global challenges and trends such as climate crisis and environmental degradations already leading to drought, wildfires, increased water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and food insecurities. With technologies transforming our world and changing our societies and economies faster than we can anticipate, Mr Stausboll underlined the huge potential to benefit from the challenges in relation to the creation of sustainable decent jobs, for example, by increasing resilience in Africa and through a young and very entrepreneurial work force. He also recognised that managing these resources requires innovation driven by knowledge, science and research, highlighting that this must be done by generating new scientific evidence, increasing the uptake of research and innovation in terms of new affordable products, services and processes, strengthening Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem and value chains alongside building capacity and the necessary skills.

Mr Stausboll emphasised that this is the reason why the EU's Global Approach to R&I strives for more science development and policy making, including mobilising the research community for policy dialogue with partners and innovation that accelerates the progress towards SDGs. Mr Stausboll stated that the EU strives to reinforce STI capacities for development with actions aimed at capacity building for individuals and organisations. Furthermore, he also acknowledged that supporting the STI policy framework and governance would contribute to removing barriers towards a free flow of knowledge and technology, such as earth observation data processes.

Mr Stausboll remarked that the AU-EU Innovation Agenda is an essential endeavor that the EU is looking forward to realising together with the AU. This common Innovation Agenda is of such importance to the EU that it is a flagship initiative of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package. Announced during the EU-AU summit in February 2022, the package aims to support multiple areas that contribute to sustainable growth, and the green and digital transition in Africa. It includes STI as a specific area of investment, catalyzing efforts to support the creation of thriving innovation ecosystems in the EU's partner countries.

Mr Stausboll also mentioned a second flagship initiative on STI of the Global Gateway, a new initiative of 80 million Euros to focus on increasing the capacities of African Regional Centres of Excellence in the area of green transition, contributing to capacity building, knowledge and data management, policy and decision-making processes, business development as well as supporting relevant stakeholders, such as practitioners, scientists and policy makers, through tailored services. Mr Stausboll stated that the Global Gateway Africa-Europe investment package includes other areas where STI play an important role, such as agriculture, food processing and health sectors both at the national and regional level.

Finally, Mr Stausboll also presented another EU initiative on "Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa (MAV+)", where the EU is working with several African countries,

partnering with the AU Commission and the Africa CDC among other bodies in Africa. Mr Stausboll finalised his speech reiterating the EU's commitment to collaborate when addressing global challenges.

## 2. Day 1, Plenary Session – Overview of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda & Results of the Public Consultation:

Ms Nienke Buisman thanked Mr Stausboll and invited **Mr Lukovi Seke** from AUDI-NEPAD and **Dr Vincenzo Lorusso** from the European Commission on stage to give an overview of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda as well as the results of the public consultation on its Working Document, that took place online between February and June 2022.

Mr Seke started by emphasising that, together, they represented the “Team Africa-Europe”, where, especially for the next ten years, they are fully invested in the mandate of improving the facilitation of collaboration on matters related to innovation.

Then, Dr Lorusso took the floor and outlined that his presentation will be shared with Mr Seke and expressed again his thanks to the stakeholders and the Working Group of the AU-EU HLPD on STI dedicated to the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Dr Lorusso explained that the event started as a result of the Ministerial Meeting of July 2020 when the AU-EU Innovation Agenda was conceived, involving the AU Commission, the European Commission and all AU and EU member states and stakeholders. He stated that this brand-new Agenda aims to foster the translation of R&I into “tangible positive impact on the ground”, namely in businesses, products, services, jobs and employment opportunities in Africa as much as in Europe. He further said that the AU-EU Innovation Agenda is acknowledged in the final declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-AU Summit of February 2022 as a means of positive collaboration between Africa and Europe and as an opportunity to share knowledge and technology; this further charging this AU-EU joint mission of political relevance. He noted that, from an EU perspective, the AU-EU Innovation Agenda is one of the three flagship initiatives for STI under the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, together with two other flagships on Earth observation and space and of African regional centres of excellence in the area of Green Transition.

Dr Lorusso clarified that the working document of the Agenda was published on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2022, on the first day of the Africa-Europe week, which culminated in the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-AU Summit. As mentioned before, the AU-EU Innovation Agenda include four objectives according to the four priorities of the AU-EU cooperation, that are furthermore articulated into short-, medium-, and long-term actions. The priorities include public health, green transition, innovation and technology as well as capacities for science. Dr Lorusso reiterated that, from a policy standpoint, the AU-EU Agenda aims to be as inclusive as possible as it builds on the existing policy document in a way that embraces the AU policy agenda of 2023 and EU policy documents as well as the EU Africa cooperation and, importantly, the global UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs.

Mr Lukovi Seke thanked Dr Lorusso for his presentation and expressed his gratitude to Senior Officials and Ministers of the AU-EU HLPD on STI for making the event possible. Furthermore, he noted that the focus of this Stakeholder Event lies on the possible improvement of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. He advised participants to take into account the pilot mapping exercise on AU-EU R&I partnership on Food & Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). Believing that Europe and Africa should work together to attain common goals. Mr Seke pointed out that all sectors should partner to achieve an innovation-led economy for all member states.

Dr Vincenzo Lorusso then noted that a number of instruments are expected to enable the implementation of this Innovation Agenda further to its adoption, stating that it is important that this Innovation Agenda is

co-owned by both the AU and the EU from conception throughout implementation stages. Furthermore, he called on member states, development banks and various agencies to join forces, get involved and engage to ensure the effective realisation of the Agenda.

With the year 2022 being the year of the so-called “stakeholder dialogue process” around the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda, it comprised two main activities: an online public consultation (mid-February to end-June) and Nairobi’s Stakeholder Event. As part of this, the AU-EU Team gathered all the input and feedback from stakeholders to ensure the final version of the Agenda will be fully pertinent to unmet needs on the ground. Further to finalisation, the Innovation Agenda will be presented for adoption by AU-EU ministers of STI which is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2023.

The second part of Dr Lorusso’s and Mr Seke’s presentation focused on the findings coming from public consultation on the Working Document of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, which took place from mid-February to the end of June 2022. The two presenters thanked all stakeholders and organisations that took part in the public consultations.

Going through the results of the public consultation, Mr Seke noted that the process was welcomed by stakeholders with endorsements, suggestions and feedback, further gathered during a dedicated session at the 8<sup>th</sup> Science Summit at the 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in New York in September 2022. He emphasised the need for inclusivity of all sectors, also including the civil society, and the need to harness capacity in terms of research infrastructure. Mr Seke also underlined the importance of funding and of Monitoring and Evaluation, which are very crucial for a better management of STI. Lastly, Mr Seke pointed out that, while researchers and research institutions were deemed as key beneficiaries of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda by 70% of respondents to the public consultation, the involvement of other parties is also important. He called on higher education institutions to take this opportunity. Explaining the statistics, Mr Seke noted that, out of 303 contributions, 54% were represented by individual “experts” and 46% by institutions. In terms of geographical provenance of inputs, Africa led with 62% contributions, followed by Europe (33%). He noted that this is likely because AU member states are 55, in majority compared to the 27 EU members.

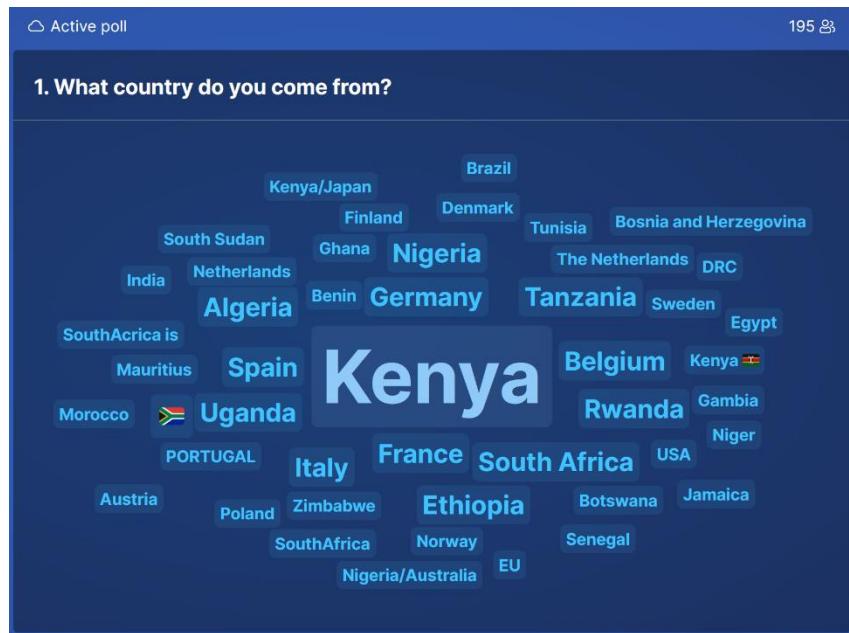
Dr Lorusso specified then that approximately 53% of the 303 respondents came from higher educational institutions (50% of which being public and 3% of them private). The rest had diverse backgrounds ranging from civil society organisations, non-profit and governmental organisations, to approximately 10% of private enterprises. In terms of geographical distributions, the top African countries in terms of participation were Algeria, South Africa and Nigeria followed by Uganda and Kenya. In Europe, the top three countries that participated were Italy, France and Spain.

Interestingly, it was noted that all start-ups, business incubators and technology hubs that took part in the public consultation came from the African continent.

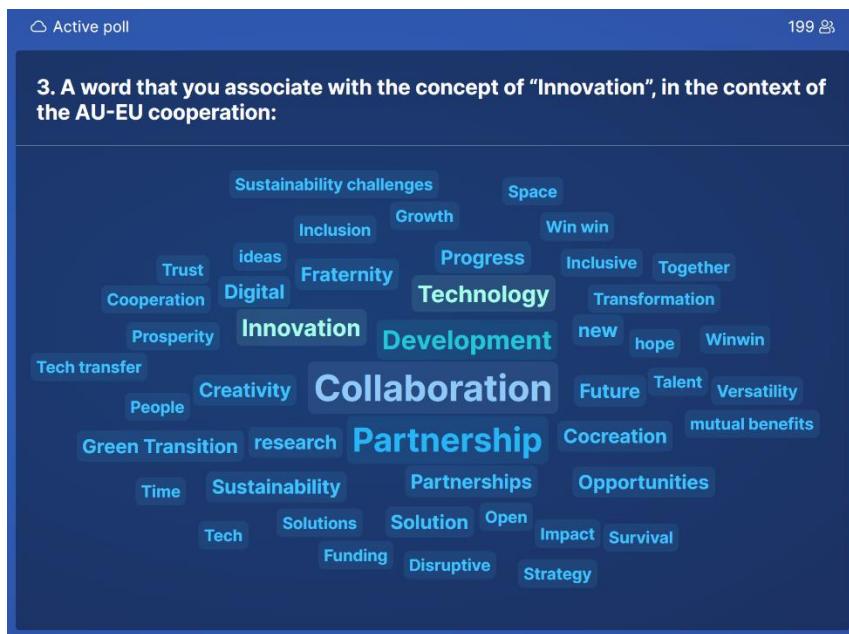
All four objectives of the Innovation Agenda were endorsed by the majority of participants, who also remarked the importance of strengthening capacity of research institutions and of research infrastructures starting with human capacity development. Looking at priority areas of intervention, the domain that was most supported was that of Public Health, with over 70% of participants acknowledging it as “highly important”, followed by Innovation and Technology.

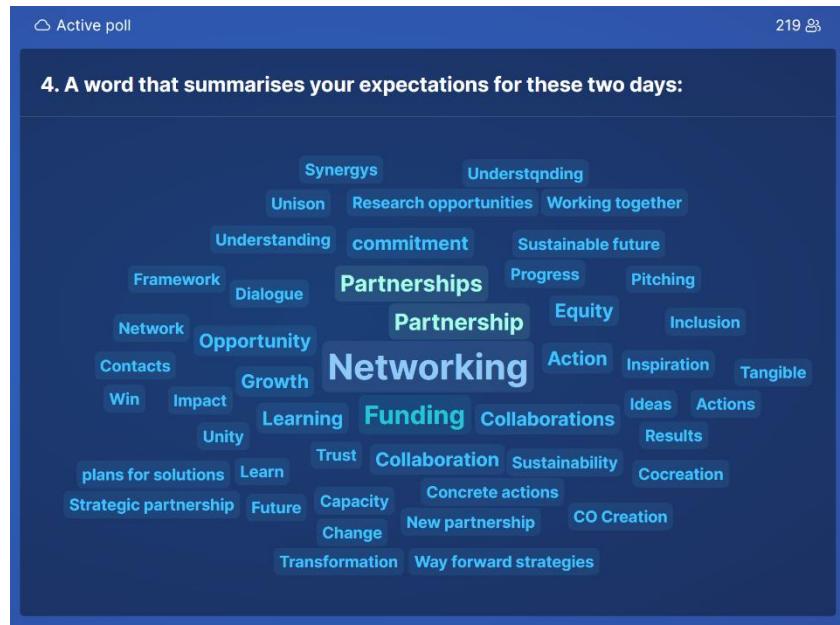
Dr Lorusso introduced then an online Slido-based survey, in which Stakeholder Event participants were asked to participate, with questions on their countries of provenance, sectors of background, ideas on innovation in the context of AU-EU cooperation and expectations for this two days-event (see figures below, Section 5 “Other Results & Recommendations”, for results of the polls).

With regards to the first question on provenance, the majority of attendees connected to the online poll were from Kenya, followed by a variety of nationalities from both the AU and the EU, such as Nigeria, Germany, Tanzania, Belgium, Rwanda, South Africa, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Uganda, Spain and many others (figure below).



When stakeholders were asked to provide a key word that they associated the concept of innovation in the context of AU-EU cooperation, the most frequently submitted words were “collaboration”, “partnership”, “development” and “technology”.





After presenting the live outcomes of the polls, Mr Seke and Dr Lorusso expressed their gratitude to the audience for their participation and attention and pledged for commitment to the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

### **3. Day 1, Plenary Session – National innovation policies and link to the Innovation Agenda:**

Ms Buisman invited the following speakers, namely **Dr Gonzalo Arévalo Nieto** (Director-General on research planning at the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation), who joined virtually from Spain; **Mr Daan du Toit** (Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources at South Africa's Department of Science and Innovation); **Mr Paolo Lombardo** (Head of Regional Representation for East Africa, European Investment Bank) and **Ms Hendrina Doroba** (Division Manager for Education and Skills Development, African Development Bank).

Dr Arévalo Nieto started his speech by expressing his gratitude to all participants from various sectors. He congratulated the AU and the EU for organising the event and thanked both Unions for giving him the privilege to address participants. Dr Arévalo Nieto explained that, in Spain, plans are ongoing for collaboration with Africa having been approved by the council of ministers thus highlighting the importance of science and innovation. He referred to several Spanish public and private stakeholders that have partnered with African counterparts on different initiatives. Dr Arévalo Nieto stated that Spain has an extended institutional network on the African continent. He noted that the AU-EU Innovation Agenda brings not only an enhanced dialogue but also a vision of further corporation. Dr Arévalo Nieto referred to the priority areas of the agenda stating that Spain has remarkably supported the area of Public Health as well as the tackling of infectious diseases in the growing populations in Africa. For this purpose, centres were already set up in Mozambique as well as a national centre for tropical medicine in Equatorial Guinea. In both countries, the projects were carried out through the Spanish National Health Institute. Dr Arévalo Nieto stated that strong and effective public investments in this region is of benefit worldwide. He then stressed Spain's support for the area of green transition, including food security and sustainable agriculture as well as climate change and sustainable energy. Concluding his speech, Dr Arévalo Nieto thanked again the AU and the EU while looking forward to the implementation of the agenda.

Dr Monica Idinoba introduced the following speaker, Mr Daan du Toit, Deputy Director-General: international cooperation and resources at South Africa's Department of Science and Innovation. Mr du Toit started his speech with gratitude and greeting all participants and the organisers who made the event possible. Mr Toit shared some slides and noted that it is highly relevant that representatives and member governments are given the opportunity to reflect on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The key thesis of his intervention was that the successful implementation of the agenda needs the support from governments that, in turn, can derive significant benefits for their own national programs from this multilateral partnership Agenda. Mr du Toit pointed out that, ultimately, the AU and the EU are represented by the taxpayers, the citizens of Africa and Europe. Therefore, the Agenda should be collectively owned by all. Speaking on the national policy response to the Agenda, Mr du Toit gave an insight on the South African New Decadal Plan, which is a 10-year plan for science and innovation being adopted by the Ministerial cabinet in South Africa. While speaking on the Decadal Plan, Mr du Toit referred to it as the next phase in science and innovation policy formulation in South Africa, noting that it responds to several global and local dynamics, many of which would be relevant in several countries. Most importantly, he added, the Decadal Plan seeks to achieve several system goals such as human resource investments and research as well as international cooperation. Mr du Toit emphasised that the focus should be on the impact and how innovation contributes to socio-economic development, fighting poverty, increasing the quality of living as well as science and innovation capacities. He remarked that the Decadal Plan is about achieving greater impact through enhanced partnerships, which will be enabled by improved governance and focused on policy and investments. Mr du Toit highlighted the need for more bilateral partnerships to be co-funded by African countries and indicated that South Africa will continue to co-invest with European governments in entrepreneurial partnerships. Finalising his speech, Mr du Toit stated that the objectives of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda are also factored into the South African Decadal Plan, and so are the priorities of Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation and Technology and Capacities for science. Mr du Toit reiterated that commitment from national governments is crucial for the success of the Innovation Agenda, which means that stakeholders must work collectively and make national governments see the importance of the Innovation Agenda.

Mr Paolo Lombardo, Head of the regional representation for East Africa of the European Investment Bank (EIB), stated that the EIB is committed to innovation, noting that in the last ten years the EIB, alongside the EU, has invested over EUR 70 billion on the African continent. Mr Lombardo pointed out that his speech would be organised in two parts; the first on strategic considerations that are linked to innovation and the second with insights on what the EIB has done and will do to support innovation. He recognised innovation has been a key driver of economic development over the years and the fact that, in recent times, it has acquired a far more strategic importance. Mr Lombardo highlighted some of the global challenges that can only be solved with innovation, mentioning climate change, adaptation, food security and job creation. He referred to innovation not only as "a choice" but also as "the only way forward" in a matter of existential nature. In that regard, Mr Lombardo noted that the African continent is highly prolific, dynamic, entrepreneurial and creative, and called for a drive for innovation among government forces. Mr Lombardo continued by saying that innovation requires the ability to take on board invention and that the readiness and acceptance of change is well-pronounced in Africa, as shown by the fact that Africans of all ages have embraced the digital transition. Speaking of challenges, Mr Lombardo remarked that scaling up businesses is still a problem and the capital reason for that has been lack of sufficient availability of financial products. Another problem he noted is the suitability of products. Also, Mr Lombardo stated that the innovation space in Africa is vibrant. Speaking on the objectives of the EIB, he mentioned that over the past 22 years, the EIB has executed various investments in innovation amounting to about 220 billion Euros of which a good part was in the EU, although in today's world with porous boundaries most firms that gained support in Europe are moving to Africa. This is how the export of innovation products in science and technology came across Africa. Over the last five years, there have been investments of over 600 million Euros in equity

funds, which in turn has leveraged investments of over 2.5 billion Euros. Looking ahead, Mr Lombardo mentioned the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, which is a fairly new initiative that aims to invest 150 billion Euros in Africa alone, of which innovation is a key objective. Mr Lombardo noted that the EIB started the “green transition” in Kenya in 1997 by developing a modern way of electricity generation. In conclusion, Mr Lombardo affirmed that the EIB is ready to accelerate support for innovation and expressed the EIB’s interest in supporting innovation exchange between AU and EU as well as an intra-Africa innovation exchange. He also called on governments to actively support the Agenda emphasising that success will be on the ability to work together.

Dr Monica Ebele Idinoba took the floor thanking Mr Lombardo and invited Ms Hendrina Doroba, Division Manager for Education and Skills development at the African Development Bank.

Ms Doroba took the floor and greeted participants of the summit, thanking the organisers of the event for inviting the Africa Development Bank to be part of the conversation as well as for the inclusiveness of the consultations. Ms Doroba thanked the AU-EU for taking up the action and making sure that high level policy resolutions like the Innovation Agenda are being translated into action. Ms Doroba highlighted that, at the African Development Bank, investments are made through national governments, and she therefore encouraged the AU-EU to be more inclusive to ensure ownership from African governments. Ms Doroba stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has really tested the African continent in terms of STI in a way that calls for discussions on how Africa can contribute and what resources Africa has to be able to address the pandemic. Ms Doroba noted that Africans and African governments still need to progress in STI. She then indicated that the African Development Bank has been investing in STI for the last 40 years, with the last 10 years being characterised by strategic investments in higher institutions as well as vocational educational training in STI. Speaking of opportunities to support the Innovation Agenda, Ms Doroba mentioned the “skill for employability and productivity in Africa action plan”, which aims to reaffirm the African Development Bank’s commitment in supporting member countries to ensure investment in STI. Also, she noted that the African Development Bank focuses on infrastructure to promote STI and technical education and training in a bid to prepare the youth for the innovation space. Ms Doroba detailed that the “skills for employability and productivity in Africa action plan” was designed to improve the lives of Africans and to ensure that the right skills are developed to be able to contribute effectively to the economic transformation of the continent. She affirmed that the African Development Bank is committed to infrastructure development and creating an enabling environment as well as creating the right partnerships to support governments to be more creative in resource mobilisation to achieve the agenda. Ms Doroba stated that the African Development Bank is also considering how best to work within the framework to effectively contribute to the Innovation Agenda. Among the priority areas, Ms Doroba indicated those of Innovation and Technology and Capacities for science, investments in ICT, private sector partnerships, public health infrastructure strengthening, mainstreaming climate change and green technology investments, as shown by efforts to mobilise over 25-billion-dollar investment in addressing the climate change as well as promoting green growth. Ms Doroba stated that the “skills for employability and productivity action plan” has created a framework which the AU-EU partnership could consider in the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Lastly, Ms Doroba explained that the African Development Bank is people-focused and, therefore, deems STI as key for prosperity for all Africans. She then called on the AU-EU to work with the African Development Bank to push this Agenda forward.

Dr Monica Idinoba took the floor thanking Ms Doroba for her contributions and closed, together with Ms Buisman, the opening sessions of this Stakeholder Event.

## Day 2, 24 November 2022

### 3. Plenary Session – Wrap-up / Closing messages:

At the end of the second day, on 24 November 2022, conclusions were addressed jointly by **Ms Maria Cristina Russo** (Director for Global Approach and International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation at the European Commission), and **Prof Chomora Mikeka** (Director of STI at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Malawi and Vice Co-chair of the AU-EU HLPD on STI).

They acknowledged the sessions and exchanges of the two days as very productive, witnessing the participation of more than 350 attendees in person in Nairobi, plus approximately 200 additional ones remotely. They also recognised that the event's programme was ambitious, with almost 20 different sessions being organised in total. They also defined as "impressive" the quality of interventions and underlined, above all, the enthusiasm and positive energy of the participants. Ms Russo remarked the long way that led to this Event, from September 2019, when the Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership was launched, to later in July 2020, when the first-ever Ministerial meeting of AU and EU R&I Ministers defined the overall scope of the Innovation Agenda: "We would not have expected such success at that time, and within such short time-frame".

She then recalled the objectives of the Agenda: 1) the first one aiming to transform innovative EU and AU research capacity and achievements into tangible and economically viable outputs; 2) the second relating to improving the EU and AU innovation ecosystems to better facilitate the transfer of know-how from R&I outcomes to market uptake and valorisation; 3) the third one on strengthening the knowledge triangle of education, R&I with a special focus on public participation and inclusion of the youth, through fostering capacity empowerment, entrepreneurship and co-creation and 4) the fourth on mobilising all relevant STI actors to join the AU-EU Innovation agenda, building strong partnerships while giving them a voice. Ms Russo observed that, during these two days, a lot was achieved notably around this fourth objective, which indeed can be considered as the result and the sum of the previous three ones. In addition, Prof Mikeka recognised that this is just "the beginning" of a process, "as it will take years to fully implement the Agenda and see the fruits of our investments" appreciating nonetheless that what was discussed and achieved in these two days represents a great leap forward in the AU-EU Cooperation. Accordingly, both Ms Russo and Prof Mikeka thanked all attending participants for "making this happen" and for what we did together during these two days.

#### Key elements to take away from these two days of conference:

In their closing remarks, Ms Russo and Prof Mikeka summarised the main takeaways that they felt were gathered during these two days:

1/ Lots of positive feedback on the plenary sessions and thematic workshops were shared by participants, who had acknowledged and appreciated that these sessions were prepared and delivered in full AU-EU partnership, in a spirit of co-creation and cooperation amongst equals - this being precisely the ambition of this AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

2/ The importance of engaging communities on the ground, to ensure that solutions are provided according to their needs, emerged clearly from the two days' discussions. From this derives the need for considering social innovation as a multidimensional endeavour making sure that innovative solutions to be delivered are

affordable, accessible and compatible with the needs of the citizens and the society in general. For instance, in order to develop innovative solutions for agriculture, it will be essential to involve farmers and their communities to ensure the relevance, affordability and accessibility of such innovations to the targeted users.

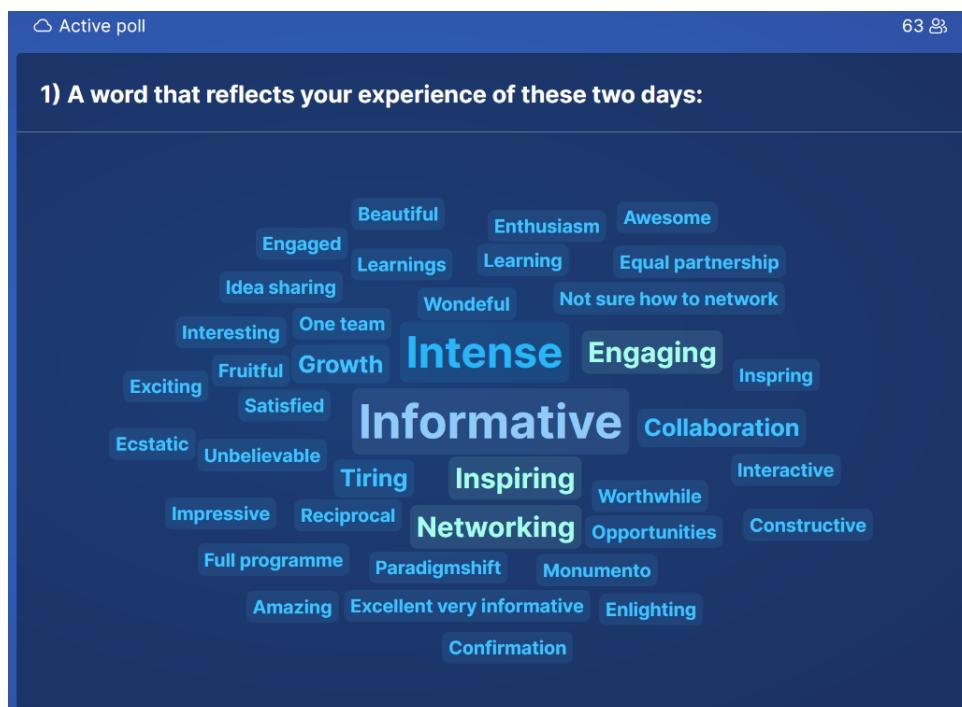
3/ The event showcased numerous mind-opening and inspiring pitches by energetic young innovators, paving the way for future partnerships and engagement towards the youth, whose role in innovation is absolutely vital.

4/ The event also highlighted the importance of giving space to “experimental research”, even if it may look as early stage or risky, as this may indeed lead to breakthrough innovations – it was therefore deemed as crucial to give space to the ideas of young people and providing a space and suitable platforms and networks for experimenting.

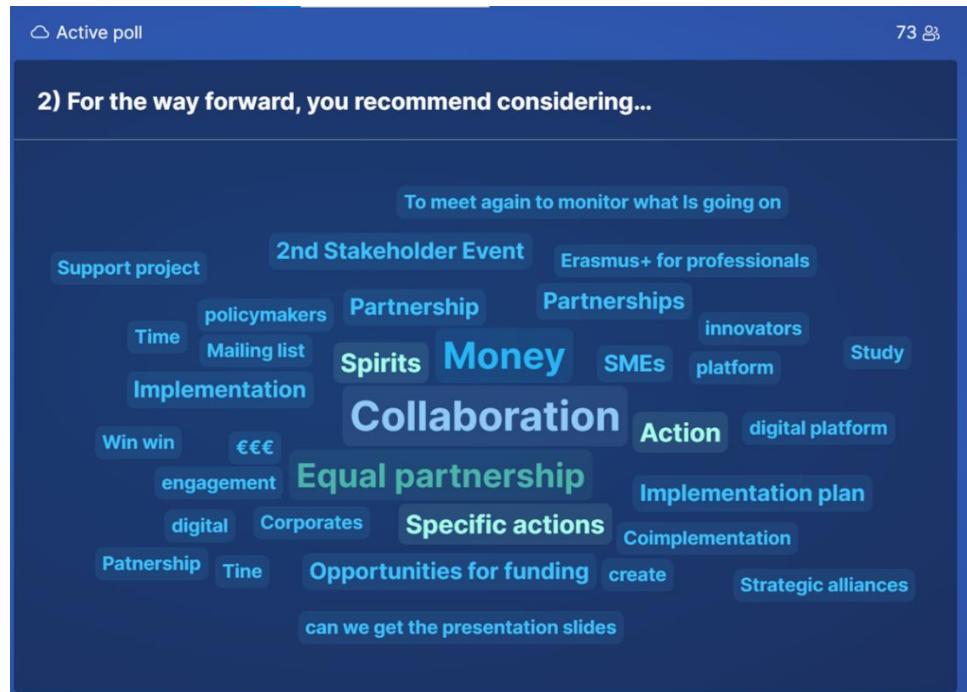
In conclusion, it was considered as necessary to continue working together to capitalise on the inputs received during this Stakeholder Event. Ms Russo and Prof Mikeka noted that it will take a few months to incorporate the outcomes of these discussions in the final version of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, which is to be approved by AU and EU Senior Officials in the framework of the AU-EU HLPD on STI in May 2023, before it will be presented jointly by the AU and European Commissions for adoption by AU and EU Ministers of R&I in 2023.

At the end of the event, an additional Slido-based survey was performed. Participants were asked to address two final questions:

1) Please provide “A word that reflects your experience of these two days”. Below is the overview of the feedback received, with most frequently proposed words being “informative”, followed by “intense”, “engaging”, “networking” and “inspiring”.



2) “For the way forward, you recommend considering...”, asking stakeholders to provide their suggestions in the format of keywords. Below is the overview of the feedback received, with most frequently proposed words being “collaboration”, followed by “equal partnership”, “money”, “action” and “specific actions”.



### 3. Notes and Takeaways from the Thematic Workshops

#### Thematic Workshop 1: Public Health

##### Moderator:

Dr Vincenzo Lorusso, Policy Officer, EU-Africa cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

##### Rapporteur:

Dr Teresia Nyawira, Senior Science Analyst, National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya

The workshop gathered ca 60 participants in total from Africa and Europe, including testimonial contributions by:

- Dr Monique Wasunna (Eastern Africa Director, DNDi)  
& Dr Chirac Bulanga (Director, DRC General Office, DNDi)
- Dr Dirk Gillé (Vice President, Global Public Health R&D Capacity Development Head, Johnson & Johnson)
- Mr Fitsum Lakew Alemayehu (AU Liaison Manager | CiSPHA Coordinator, WACI Health)
- Mr Tom Kinyanjui Njoroge (Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Neural Labs Africa)
- Mr Gabriel Pedone (Global Health Director Strategic Partnerships, bioMérieux)
- Dr Mwiti Makathimo (Head of Public Affairs, Health Policy, Programs & Partnerships, Novartis - EAC)
- Dr Adiele Nkasiobi Onyeze (Medical Officer, WHO Regional Office for Africa)
- Prof Petro Terblanche (Managing Director, Afrigen)
- Dr Yaw Badiako (Yeemachi Biotech, Ghana)
- Dr Annette Aronsson (Director WHO-centre, Karolinska University Hospital)  
& Dr Grethe Heitmann (EXAC)
- Mr Rahim Daya & Ms Hilda Nyareso (Shamiri Institute)
- Dr Samuel Wakhusama (Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, World Organization for Animal Health - WOAH), ahead of the meeting.

#### I. Examples of tangible outcomes/deliverables expected for each action foreseen by the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda (Ice Breaker Session)

##### General overview of evoked outcomes

- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in solving real world challenges in health
- Use of R&I to inform public policy
- More precise use of data to inform decision making and practice in health care delivery
- Implementation of mentorship programmes
- Effective and efficient patient care practices
- Genomic sequencing for solutions to real time problems

- Support of start-ups
- Promote networking and collaborations amongst key stakeholders
- Personalised and affordable mental health with specifically targeting the youth
- Embracing and use of emerging technologies as a solution to public health challenges
- Socialisation of healthcare at community level in ensuring holistic health in Africa
- Consideration of health economics in health care delivery (consider preventive strategies first) and promote health economics research
- Leverage on technology/ use of Information Health Management solutions
- Having Antimicrobial Resistance as a priority area under short-term strategy
- Leverage of technology at point of care delivery strategies
- Capacity building, networking, collaborations in research/medical ethics programmes
- Importance of promoting R&D with a special focus on youth, women and demography, mitigation and management of global challenges
- Kenya currently working on the ST&I priority areas, and therefore need to integrate the AU-EU Innovation Agenda into countries priority lists

## 1) Short-term Actions

1.1) *“Supporting the transformation of health R&I outputs into relevant products, policy guidance and services.”*

- Clinical trials for medical technologies and ensuring regulatory tools are in place
- Capacity development initiatives and multipronged collaborative approaches to reach different and target communities
- Adopt strategies such as in the case of Clinical Trials Community Africa Network (CTCAN)- for submission of clinical trials, managing clinical trials' sites
- Cross Pharma capacity development and dissemination of information in relation to Clinical Trials that have already been conducted (communication coordination)
- Management and ownership of clinical trials data through clear well-governed strategies
- Collaboration model e.g Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform (LEAP); a clinical research network for testing and improved equitable and affordable access to leishmaniasis treatment at site
- Efforts towards one – dose- cure to sustain elimination for sleeping sickness
- Advancing gender equity and gender responsive R&D especially for the neglected populations in particular women and promoting women participation as PIs (for leadership) and as research participants. Adapting treatment for children (addressing unmet needs)
- Improved and friendly sampling and disease diagnostics services that are accessible and affordable
- Locally generated innovations for global problems
- Use of locally available data for use in design of drugs; foster collaborations in designing African solutions

- Job creation and education systems/programmes that are enterprise to support job creation and offer solutions to local challenges
- Evaluate understanding and implementation of policies by stakeholders
- Training and mentorship programmes
- Main areas of support to include financial solutions, diagnostic solutions, advanced analytics, and educational support
- Supporting global health equity in cutting edge technological solutions and drug solutions
- Increase Clinical Trials footprint in sub-Saharan Africa

**1.2) "Developing joint innovation and research agendas on health priorities, enhancing best practices and common standards in the selected areas of cooperation, and spreading availability and use of key enabling and emerging technologies (e.g., digitalisation, ICT, robotics, AI) to enhance the performance and resilience of public health systems, which have been shown to be extremely fragile under the 'stress test' of the COVID-19 pandemic, that will be also impacted by on-going climate change."**

- Promoting resilient and responsive health systems for local solutions
- Reducing maternal morbidity and mortality through procedures such as external aortic compression (to manage post-partum haemorrhage) through knowledge transfer to medical personnel and researchers
- Ensuring countries integrate the AU-EU agenda into the national Science Technology Innovation agenda/ research agenda for purposes of ensuring implementation
- Use of Artificial Intelligence and technology to offer efficient and accurate diagnosis and treatment
- Building specialised research ecosystems

## **2) Medium-term Action**

**2.1) "Ensuring technology transfer and improving and developing quality vaccine, medicines and health technologies and production, to avoid shortage and ensure affordability, availability, and accessibility for the people in need, while also ensuring equal distribution among geographical areas."**

- Ensuring technology transfer and improving and developing quality vaccine, medicines and health technologies and production, to avoid shortage and ensure affordability, availability, and accessibility for the people in need, while also ensuring equal distribution among geographical areas.
- Improve and develop quality medicines and ensure affordability, availability, and accessibility for the people in need.
- Collaborations in translation of research results into policy/ promote knowledge management.
- Strengthen regional platforms for clinical research and access through capacity building and improved infrastructure.
- Addressing challenges brought about by brain drain though improving the environment (improved infrastructures, promoting innovation ecosystem).

### 3) Long-term Actions

3.1) “Designing and implementing new and innovative methods and tools to counteract future health threats due to long standing, (re)emerging, or antimicrobial resistant pathogens, and to promote one health and precision medicine, in a changing environment.”

- Innovation, collaboration and integration of sustainable R&D and promotion of access for development of medicines for neglected populations.
- Acceleration of capacity building of health structures in Africa and promotion of healthcare ecosystems in collaboration with different countries
- Sustainable investment in research and innovation of new drugs to achieve set public health strategies
- Strengthening partnerships to develop robust strategies for access to new health tools (private, public, not for profit)
- Advocating for change and influencing public policies for equitable and effective global R&D system for affordable, accessible, and safe treatment for all
- Target AMR, respiratory infections, protect consumers health and emergency care through prevention, screening and diagnostics and appropriate treatment
- Increased R&D funding through encouraging private sector involvement in research funding
- Promote precision medicine to solve African problems, particularly by collecting African related genomic data. Leveraging Africa’s genetic diversity to democratise precision oncology.

### Overview of Gaps and Needs

Workshop participants highlighted the following gaps and needs as aspects that should be addressed by the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

- Data generation for African populations; data sharing will propel innovative culture
- Mental health programmes among the youth and neglected population
- Need for policy frameworks to address issue of data ownership and access
- End to End approach from design to consumer e.g. technology assessment early in development of start-ups to ensure the market afford the technology e.g., vaccines, medical technologies
- Infrastructure barriers
- Strengthen community level interventions e.g., acceptability and affordability and thus policy shift
- Align health services with the community needs
- Engage policy makers from design of programs

## Thematic Workshop 2: Green Transition – Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)

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### Moderator:

Dr Bernard Rey, Senior Expert, Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalization, DG International Partnerships, European Commission

### Rapporteur:

Dr Pamela Paparu, Senior Scientist Plant Pathology, National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda

This workshop included testimonial contributions by:

- Dr Judy Omumbo (Senior Programme Manager, Science for Africa Foundation)
- Mr. Hamis Said Hincha (Project Officer, Food Security for Peace and Nutrition-Africa)
- Dr Irene Annor-Frempong (LEAP4FNSSA Coordinator, FARA)
- Dr Jonas Mugabe (AGriDI Project Manager, ICIPE) and Dr Fathiya Khamis (Senior Scientist, ICIPE)
- Ms. Margherita Trestini (Marketing Director, Prototipi)
- Mr. Gibson Gisore (Chief of Staff, Adanian Labs) and Mr. Kenneth Agina (Business Development Manager, Adanian Labs)
- Mr Robert Kubai (Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilization Officer, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation)
- Dr Carlo Fadda (Research Director, Biodiversity for food and agriculture, Alliance Bioversity CIAT)
- Dr Johnson Ouma (Executive Director, R&D, GALVmed)
- Mr Lindokuhle Mdletshe (Founder and CEO, INNOBIZ Group (Pty) Ltd)

### I. Examples of tangible outcomes/deliverables expected for each action foreseen by the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda (Ice Breaker Session)

#### 1) Short-term Actions

##### 1.1) "Supporting the development of innovative climate services through a new "space STI cooperation" action for risk reduction at local and regional level"

- Use of Remote sensing for
  - Early warning systems for droughts
  - Digital governance – Realtime change on the farm
  - Assessment of quality of grazing lands and its impact on stakeholders
  - Soil analysis for farmer guidance on what to plant and what not to
  - Pests and diseases monitoring
- However, to be useful, remote sensing must be combined with
  - Validation of digital data by real people
  - Actual diagnosis of pests and pathogens

## 2) Medium-term Actions

2.1) "Fostering digital applications and green technologies to give impetus to agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption, and by co-designing with food system actors to scale digital solutions for production, processing and marketing to support sustainable and agroecological transition."

- Start-ups for biofertilizers as a means to limit chemical use and promote biodiversity conservation.
- Policies and regulatory frameworks for marketing of agricultural innovations e.g., for biopesticides, combination vaccines for animals, etc.
- Regulators skilled in agroecosystem friendly innovations – this will improve rate of product registration

## 3) Long-term Actions

3.1) "Improving the agricultural innovation ecosystem to strengthen capacities of actors to innovate, including research organisations, to co-design and scale technology and innovation through multi-stakeholder approaches, to build thematic networks in Africa and to strengthen relationships for exchanges of knowledge and experiences between Europe and Africa, to co-invest in start-ups and agro-SME and their ecosystem, and most importantly to enhance capacity for proactive innovation policy development."

- There is a lot of innovation in the private sector and ingenuity in small family businesses. Need for linkages through governance, information platforms, etc.
- Communication/information about our innovations need to encourage behavior change among the target beneficiaries
- Focus on targeted innovations that address problems at specific nodes of value chains.
- Up-to-date registries of target beneficiaries for effective deployment of intervention
- Improved credit access for SMEs - need for smaller loans and longer payment periods

## II. TESTIMONIALS

**Medium-term Action 2.1)** "Fostering digital applications and green technologies for agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption."

1) Digital Agriculture Project-aimed at eliminating contact across the agricultural value chain during COVID

- Digital mapping of farmers and agroecologists
- Linking farmers to extension, markets, climate information, etc.
- 5978 farmers involved, and of this 27.9% youth, and 30% women
- They have now conducted ToTs for local trainers, educated farmers on carbon credit
- Promoted nutrition sensitive agriculture

2) East African Farmers Federation

- Promoting sustainable agro-ecosystems through farmer led innovations
- Fostering links between institutions – research, civil society, policy makers and private sector
- Re-skilling - Training of farmer organisations in agroecology management skills for farmer-led research
- -Socio-economic aspects included in ecosystem management

3) CGIAR – BUILDING PATHWAYS TOWARDS MORE NATURE-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS

4) Project example: Nature-positive solutions for shifting agrifood systems to more resilient and sustainable pathways

- Nature Positive Food Systems refer to protection, sustainable management and restoration of productive system (carbon sequestration and soil, water, and climate regulation)

- Prevent degradation and restore degraded land e.g., in Western Kenya where land is highly degraded
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Social inclusion, capacity development and policy advocacy

**Long-term Action 3.1 “Improving the agricultural innovation ecosystem to co-invest in start-ups and agro-SME”**

- SMEs partnering with governments to produce vaccines (poultry, cattle) for smallholder farmers. Partnership includes vaccine distribution and technical information to the farmers
- Adenain Labs is supporting innovators by developing digital tools for product traceability, pricing, customer segmentations, marketing. They are providing climate data, promoting borderless Africa, etc.

## Thematic Workshop 3: Green Transition - Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)

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### Moderator:

Prof Emanuela Colombo, Rector's Delegate to Cooperation and Development, UNESCO CHAIR in Energy for Sustainable Development, Department of Energy, Politecnico di Milano.

### Rapporteurs:

Dr Adedoyin Adeleke, Research Fellow UNESCO Chair on Energy for Sustainable Development, Department of Energy, Politecnico di Milano

Mr. Antonio Márquez Camacho, Policy Officer, EU-Africa Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

This workshop included testimonial contributions by:

- Ms. Adriana Zacarias Farah (Senior Program Management Officer, Head of Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs), Deputy-Head of 10YFP Secretariat, UNEP)
- Dr Kennedy Mbeva (Strategic Advisor, Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN); and Postdoctoral Research Associate, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford)
- Dr Abigael Okoko (International Centre for Frugal Innovation, hosted by Nuvoni Centre for Innovation Research, Kenya)
- Ms. Anne Wacera Wambugu (Strathmore University)
- Dr Moumini Savadogo (Executive Director of West African Service Centre on Climate Centre and Adapted Land Use, WASCAL)
- Prof Mokhtar Sellami (Director in charge of Science, Technology and Innovation in the National Council for Scientific Research and Technologies (CNRST, Algeria), Co-coordinator Pillar 1 projects, LEAP-RE)
- Ms. Susan Onyango (Social Science Researcher, GEO2D)
- Ms. Sandra Banda (Project Manager, Energy Modelling and Planning Researcher, UNESCO Chair on Climate Change Resilience and Sustainability, Strathmore University)
- Mr Francesco Palumbo (Program Officer, Climate Change, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Kenya)
- Prof Izael Da Silva (Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at Strathmore University. The Strathmore Experience: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy)

### I. Examples of tangible outcomes/deliverables expected for each action foreseen by the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda (Ice Breaker Session)

#### 1) Short-term Actions

**1.1) "Developing or transferring innovative renewable energy production and use devices, suitable for easy and prompt adoption by 'energy communities', 'energy villages', and/or at household level, with affordable and sustainable access for less favored territories and less favored groups, to prevent deterioration of rural environments and improve the urban ones (smart & green cities)"**

- People-Centred Approach: technological devices and capacity for the people to use and maintain it.

- Facilitate entrepreneurship to support projects until commercialisation to the market: develop program on how to go to help projects into commercialisation.
- Increasing penetration of electricity use from the end use (other sectors) side – RE for energy access & climate action.
- More work on biogas for electricity, cooking gas and fungi for farmers.
- Guaranteeing platform for the financial sustainability of startups.
- Distributed energy system crucial to tapping into innovations.

**2.2) "Supporting the development of innovative climate services through a new "space science, technical and innovation cooperation" action for risk reduction at local and regional level, based on in-situ and remote networks of climate changes and impacts, as well as on resilience and adaptation practices, in line with the Lisbon Manifesto of the High-Level Europe-Africa Forum on Earth Observation from Space of July 2021.**

- Enabling conditions for the development of climate technologies.
- Gender-focused trainings.
- Strong partnerships.
- WASCAL first with Germany - Interactive Green Hydrogen Atlas for West Africa – developing it into a policy and strategy document.
- Creating hub for climate services and greener development.
- WASCAL now partnering French Research Ministry – Four Thematic webinars planned for next year - improving early warning signals for climate disasters, dealing with flooding in West Africa, scaling up climate-smart agriculture, minimising climate risk.
- Develop a program like LEAP RE for climate change.

## **2) Medium-term Actions**

**2.1) "Fostering digital applications and green technologies to give impetus to agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption, and by codesigning with food system actors to scale digital solutions for production, processing and marketing to support sustainable and agroecological transition."**

- Applied data science, green information system (to manage consumption patterns, manage energy, take account of stakeholder action), artificial intelligence (acceleration of resilience in the energy sector), etc.
- Partnerships – exists in energy sector, but less on climate.
- Innovative mindset needs to be created from early-stage education if they would be fit for innovative mindset at adult life (example of Singapore).
- Include innovation in primary education approaches.
- Use of AI to explore data analytics and improve on quality and transparency of data.

**2.2) "Developing in Africa renewable fuels in a changing world for climate change mitigation."**

- Green hydrogen (great potential in Africa), clean cooking, geothermal, innovation, solar PV, public transport, biofuel, electric power, etc.
- Needs to be developed further taking opportunities for multiple energy fuels to satisfy diverse energy needs (from cooking stove to green hydrogen, e-mobility)

## **3) Long-term Actions**

**3.1) "Improving the agricultural innovation ecosystem to strengthen capacities of actors to innovate, including research organisations, to co-design and scale technology and innovation through multi-stakeholder approaches, to build thematic networks in Africa and to strengthen relationships for exchanges of knowledge and experiences**

*between Europe and Africa, to co-invest in start-ups and agro-SME and to enhance capacity for proactive innovation policy development”.*

- Adequate policy implementation, precision agriculture, data, warning systems, institution local languages, implementation, etc.
- Supporting SMEs and give a special focus on the SMEs.

Other general points raised:

- Importance of bilateral & multilateral partnerships.
- Supporting SMEs going green.

## **Thematic Workshop 4: Innovation & Technology – Investing in Innovation in Africa**

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### **Moderator:**

Dr David S. Serukka, Principal Program Officer in the Pathogen Economy Bureau at Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat

### **Rapporteurs:**

Ms. Mahlet Teshome Kebede, Biosafety Expert-Environmental Lawyer, Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission

Ms. Anna Hakami, Policy officer Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, DG International Partnerships, European Commission

The workshop gathered ca 45 participants in total from Africa and Europe.

### **Takeaways from testimonials and plenary discussion.**

Eight African and European actors from private sector and public sector (including e.g., development banks, think tanks, international organisations, civil society organisations, and incubators), gave testimonials and shared their perspectives on the topic of the workshop. After that, a discussion was held with the whole group.

The names of these actors are:

- Ms Bitrina Diyamett, Executive Director, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO) (Tanzania) (*Think tank*)
- Ms Anta Diallo, Manager Africa-Euroequity, BPI France (France) (*Public Investment Bank*)
- Mr Philip Kiracofe, CEO, Startupbootcamp AfriTech (South Africa) (*Start-up incubator*)
- Mr Patrice Léger, Investment Officer, Fund for Innovation in Development, FID (France) (*Fund hosted by national development agency*)
- Ms Peris Wakesho, Change Leader, Ashoka (Kenya) (*NGO/Civil society organisation*)
- Mr Mario Brataj, Team Leader for Economic and Private Sector Development, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, in Kenya. (Italy) (*National development agency*)
- Mr Thierry de Oliveira, Unit Head, Enabling Innovation Unit, Science Division, UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme (Kenya) (*International organisation*)
- Lucy Kimeu, Analyst, TLcom Capital LLP (Kenya) (*Venture capital firm*)

The following were the main points raised:

- When we think of different stages of innovation: from having an idea, to prototyping, to taking it to the market. Much of funding is in the first stage. What is largely missing is funding for that middle part – “The missing middle”.
- There is a need to increase funding opportunities that expands across all stages of innovation, for companies and organisations of different sizes. (Some participants shared that when they try to access funds, the response is often that their company/organisation is too small, or they do not have the initial substantial funds that is expected).
- Need for funding across a range of sectors: for example, not only in financial services and ICT. Sectors of production, manufacturing, logistics were some of the sectors pointed out as examples where there is a large need.
- Difficulties for individuals, for example social innovators, to access finance. What if you do not fit perfectly in either the category of a company, or the category of an NGO? This can have impacts on the funds you access.
- Gaps in investments from local actors from the African continent. Having local investors is key for the sustainability of funding African innovation ecosystems.
- You need to experiment to find innovation. There is a gap in finding funds for experiments and pilot projects where there is a bigger risk that investors would need to take.
- Need for public policies and regulations that are fit for stimulating innovation and not holding it back. Public policy needs to support innovation and technology development. Very useful would be more regulatory sandboxes. Cross-border trade of products and innovations, within Africa and between Africa and Europe, should be facilitated.
- A need to strengthen capacities: also in terms of storytelling and in terms of formulating bankable projects.
- A gap related to the gender dimension: women are not equally represented in this field. For example, out of 5.2 billion venture capital funding raised only 1 percent goes to female founders.
- There are many actions already taking place to try to tackle issues and challenges related to Innovation and Technology, but they need to be expanded and scaled up. Below are some actions that were brought up in the workshop, as well as needs:
  - **Connecting entrepreneurs and investors, governments, research organisations, civil society organisations and other actors.** Increase the visibility of African entrepreneurs within Africa and globally. Facilitate businesses from Africa and Europe meeting and creating business partnerships. Try to overcome barriers created using different “languages” in different sectors to foster better understanding. [For example, such actions are carried out by BPI France, Startupbootcamp AfriTech, and UNEP].
  - **Increase possibilities for companies and organisation to access acceleration and incubation services.** Accelerators and networks play an important role in connecting governments who may have specific challenges they try to solve with companies with new ideas and investors. [For example, such actions are carried out by Startupbootcamp AfriTech, and Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (through the E4Impact Accelerator in Nairobi)].
  - **Support experiments to reach innovation.** There are funds/organisations working specifically to tackle this, who can accept the risk of developing an innovation without being sure it will succeed. However, those companies showing a successful innovation need additional funding to scale-up. Monitoring and evaluation is key to learn what works and what does not. [For example, such actions are carried out by Fund for Innovation in Development, FID].

- **Support social innovators:** so that they can dedicate their time to their inventions and try to scale them up. [For example, such actions are carried out by Ashoka].

- **Vibrant ecosystems need to overcome structural challenges facing women and youth trying to realise innovations.** Dedicated attention to this is needed. [For example, the venture capital fund TLcom Capital LLP has committed funds to First Check Africa, a female founded early-stage fund that invest in female founded business].

## 2. Takeaways from the discussions in sub-groups

There were discussions taking place in sub-groups guided by the following questions:

- *Are there potential gaps & needs that are still unaddressed by the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda?*
- *If so, what are possible additional short-, medium- or long-term actions that could address such unmet needs?*

The following were the main points raised:

### INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Local recognition of innovation** is key and, based on the applicability of the innovation to Africa/Europe, it is best to reflect inward. It would be good to have a definition of innovation that is more grounded locally, recognising the affordability of innovation.
- More **very early seed-funding needed and grants** to make some first steps possible for the innovative start-ups; instruments to start and scale.
- Grant funding and incentives for R&D to demonstrate tech feasibility (that can also have a multiplier effect).
- More capabilities to **support and enable local production**. Funding for business in the production sector. If that is not there, it will not be possible to overcome the issue of things being cheaper to produce elsewhere. (For example, where to source electronic components? Currently needed to import from Europe for a premium price).
- Hard to get funding for capital expenditures for start-ups in production, for example textile.
- Long-term actions: **Build a fund to support ecosystem building**, innovation hubs and networks to scale their impact.
- Ashoka stipend model to enable runway for African entrepreneurs.
- Better **regulations and enabling environment** for entrepreneurs. Reduce red tape. Connect policy makers directly with entrepreneurs/business owners.
- **Promoting the idea of Policy/Corporate Sandboxes:** a controlled environment for innovation within government and beyond under existing regulations but operating in a relaxed space for the business to experiment and flourish. Build a sandbox to facilitate scale of innovations.
- A need to figure out where the gaps are related to standards for technologies.
- **Clear regulations are missing when it comes to standards**, especially in Africa, and the experience of Europe may be considered particularly in terms of the journey towards **having an integrated market**.
- **Capacity building for policy makers** is key for enhancing the **design and evaluation** of innovation projects.

- AU and EU need to work on innovative **tendering processes**. As it stands processes are prescriptive. Tender processes should show what is desired to have as an outcome, but not be prescriptive on what solution is best.
- There is a gap in directing cutting edge technology to what is applicable on the ground.
- How to share learnings between the countries? (In the area of 'Innovation and Technology').
- **Building a culture of entrepreneurship** and promoting it in our societies. Addressing the black tax. How to use best practices to encourage more youth to take a high-risk entrepreneurial journey? Connect young people and university graduates with companies.
- Building support mechanisms around the **founders of business/innovators** as a way for boosting their business, such as supporting them by doing their Pitch Deck for them, while they can focus on their strengths.
- Development of an **Artificial Intelligence Accelerator** for African challenges.
- **Exchange of innovative products between EU and AU**. There needs to be minimum set of standards for African products so that innovators could move their products with ease. Many customs duties in Africa making exchange of products hard.
- Protection and recognition of innovation.
- **Registration of IPRs is a key component, and a common IP framework** between the AU and EU countries may be useful.
- **Support to tech/innovation hubs, incubators and accelerators**, which requires more funding to be more structured. **Twinning programs and mentoring programs** could be a way to share European/African incubators/accelerators experiences.
- Short-term action: acknowledge social entrepreneurship as a key accelerator of impact in the Innovation and Technology conversation and programming.
- Lack of a centralised research database to act as reference point.
- Lack of visibility of research by universities and corporates.
- Lack of visibility of intra-continental learnings/advancements.
- Mid-term actions: **Knowledge sharing/data sharing and cooperation between researchers in the AU and EU**, which would require a legal framework.
- Short-term actions: **Knowledge pooling** (research results, R&D) and innovation transfer.

## CROSS-CUTTING

- Cross-cutting actions: there is a **lack of international network, or access to SMEs on the ground**, and the strategy to achieve that is still unclear.
- Cross-cutting actions: how are we **catalysing the local investors**? Is it through the provision of incentives? The Innovation Agenda needs to clearly elaborate a strategy on this.
- A platform of resources for all the stakeholders, including founders, funders, academia, governments, SMEs, etc.
- Cross-cutting action in the mid-term: **Innovation database/clearing house mechanism** will be a useful instrument to have; to centralise this and incentivising the corporate entities and universities to provide data to feed into this database. A mapping exercise to see the founders, the funders, the

academia etc. and the provision of an easily accessible database that streamlines the process for entrepreneurs/incubators.

- Provision of an index of **EU and AU focal points for each sectors and having physical offices** where innovators can meet them and get advice. The AU and EU may help in acting as an advocate for those innovators and advocate for policy change where there are bottlenecks in the system in their countries.
- Long-term actions: **Establishment of more research facilities and innovation hubs in African countries to support companies, universities etc. to innovate.** Universities should develop innovation centres to try to trigger innovation in academics and students.
- **More collaboration between universities and hubs** within the two continents to share the best practices.
- Mobility between AU and EU countries and within the AU. Short-terms actions: Visa issuance for AU and EU citizens for business trips.

#### GENERAL POINTS ON THE AU-EU INNOVATION AGENDA

- Appreciated the fact that there is **room for more pronounced actions**.
- **On Financing the Innovation Agenda:** Who is going to finance the Innovation Agenda is a question that needs to be clearly articulated in the document towards “making it real”.

### Thematic Session 5: Innovation & Technology – Innovation Ecosystems in Africa

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#### Moderator:

Dr Mactar Seck, Chief of the Technology and Innovation Section for the UN Economic Commission for Africa

#### Rapporteur:

Mr Peter Koren, Programme Manager, Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalisation, DG International Partnerships, European Commission

Mrs Simona Mari, Senior Expert, Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalisation, DG International Partnerships, European Commission

The workshop gathered approximately 55 participants in total from Africa and Europe.

#### 1. Takeaways from testimonials and plenary discussion

An insightful discussion burst out around the ice-breaker activity as within couple of minutes almost 100 post-it's were covering the walls showcasing the commitment and the hunger to highlight key issues to be addressed with concrete deliverables. Some of these ideas were captured and grouped into sections below highlighting their common theme, without trying to provide an exhaustive summary of the diverse set of inputs, comments and remarks voiced by the participants.

**Support to innovation & technology**, the central area of this workshop, collected the first tangible outcomes and deliverables expected under the Innovation Agenda with an aim to respond to the needs and create tangible results on the ground. Specific examples include:

- The need to support innovation at all levels, going beyond tech, including social innovation initiatives involving EU and African partners
- Support radical new products and services through start-up competitions spanning local, regional, and global levels.

- Bundle soft-landing, incubation, acceleration and scale-up as an integrated support package for start-ups and innovators
- Support smallholders to enable targeted innovations and make grassroot innovations bankable
- Increase the number of technology transfers from the EU while enable commercialisation channels for African research
- Support Citizen Science Innovation Initiatives in collaboration with academia, private sector and government entities
- Bring research and innovation closer to children and youth in a 'Future Innovators Program' while promote the presence of women innovators as key actors.

**Bridging the gap between universities and industries** in particular increasing the presence of the private sector to build more robust innovation ecosystems responding to the needs echoed through the discussions repeatedly:

- Co-build innovation programs between universities and private sector including coaching for universities to maximise the uptake of research results.
- Create a funding scheme for private sector research and development when they work with public sector.
- Finance cluster projects with participation from researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and non-profit organisations for cross-fertilisation
- Develop an innovation platform (beyond digital platform) linking science to innovation actors fostering collaboration between research institutions, accelerators/incubators, innovation hubs, academia and industry.
- Foster close collaboration to drive research uptake directly to manufacturing.

**Supporting and strengthening the role and capacity of incubators, accelerators and innovation hubs** took a prominent place in the discourse as they play a key role in catalyzing innovation through targeted support and services for start-ups, entrepreneurs, and SMEs:

- Finance incubators and organisations supporting SMEs for at least 1/3 of their revenue and at least for 3 years.
- Support the creation of twinning programs between EU-AU for at least 100 accelerators, incubators, and hubs.
- Enable incubators to provide targeted support promoting women and youth led innovation uptake to the market.
- Facilitate interaction between business incubators, accelerators and different hub networks in Africa fostering exchange of good practices and collaboration opportunities
- Support more contextually relevant and value-added service offerings by accelerators and incubators while providing funding for outreach programs
- Enable the formation of regional innovation hubs and support the financial sustainability of existing innovation hubs in Africa

**Skills, training, mobility for innovation actors** forms the basis of creating a thriving innovation ecosystem. While adequate networking opportunities, through people-to-people connectivity, enable knowledge exchange and sustainability through strengthened linkages between the distinct actors of the ecosystem:

- Provide advisory services to spin-offs and start-ups on innovation management and entrepreneurship
- Enable re-skilling and upskilling of citizens to profit from innovation and support revised education programmes to facilitate a new industry workforce
- Increase the capacities for science to enhance and enable African researchers to lead research projects
- Support the integration of digital tools and hands-on technical skills with a specific focus on increasing digital skills and training for rural based SMEs and youth
- Provide cross-border opportunities for talent exchange for practical learning.
- Enhance the opportunities for entrepreneurs' mobility and innovation hub staff exchange.
- Facilitate access for African partners into European innovation centres.

**Enabling access to finance and increasing financial support** has been marked as a key element to overcome the barriers many innovators and entrepreneurs face in the continent to pilot, test, expand, scale-up and to enter markets beyond their local area both in Africa and in Europe. Some concrete ideas mentioned include:

- Venture capital investing in start-ups to increase the number of African unicorns.
- Create an impact investment funds to better support the scale of impact start-ups.
- Provide funding for commercialisation for youth led innovation in partnership with universities.
- Create fundraising impact acceleration programmes focusing on climate resilience and the SDGs.
- Establish an Africa Innovation Fund through a joint venture between the AUC and AfDB at its core.

**Creating the right conditions and enabling environment** through appropriate institutional frameworks, strategies and policies is essential for the innovation ecosystem to flourish and an inclusive innovation culture to emerge leaving no one behind.

- Support the establishment of local and regional innovation policies while reducing paperwork and unnecessary bureaucracy and increasing accountability and transparency.
- Provide institutional support for innovation hubs and support setting up guidelines towards their management.
- Develop commercialisation pathways and roadmaps for science and technology for citizens and the academia.
- Create a functional open science platform based on an open-source technology to empower innovation.
- Enhance accessible digital technology and infrastructure through reducing, subsidising data plans and internet costs to enable resource limited communities with access to the digital economy.
- Establish easy market access for African SMEs in other countries and continents while improving visa facilitation for Africans to visit the EU.
- Create a donor portfolio where countries can directly reference to when seeking support to strengthen their innovation ecosystem.

The testimonials delivered by fourteen African and European actors (see list in Annex) showcased some of the ongoing programmes, projects, and initiatives already contributing or enabling the implementation of the Innovation Agenda in the area of ‘Innovation and Technology’. Some of them are mentioned below for reference, such as the:

AFRICAN UNION INNOVATION FRAMEWORK • BIC AFRICA •  
AEDIB.NET • STI4SDGS IN AFRICA • ENRICH AFRICA • SADC  
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY • KENYA INNOVATION  
OUTLOOK • ACP INNOVATION FUND • ASSESSING STI METRICS  
FOR AFRICA • SME INCUBATOR SCHEME • CSIC SCIENTIFIC  
COOPERATION CALLS • MAURITIUS NATIONAL INNOVATION  
CHALLENGE • AFRICONEU • GLOBALSTARS • AFRILABS  
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

## 2. Takeaways from the discussions in sub-groups

There were discussions taking place in sub-groups guided by the following questions:

- Are there ***potential gaps & needs*** that are still unaddressed by the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda?
- If so, what are ***possible additional short-, medium- or long-term actions*** that could address such unmet needs?

The following were the main points raised by the 3 sub-groups during their debriefing which were consolidated jointly and presented in a concise matter:

### NEEDS & GAPS

- Overcome the poor linkages between universities, private sector, policy makers and civil society and the low-level inclusion of micro-SMEs.
- Address the lack of affordable infrastructure and the widening digital gap which restricts access to information and resources.
- Confront the lack of STI policies and the lack of adequate funding from African countries towards research and innovation.
- Target a cultural shift to create a solution-oriented mindset and an innovation-oriented vision of the government in support of STI.
- Address the lack of capacity building, training, and skills of innovation actors and of innovation managers.
- Tackle the need to create and define structured networking opportunities which go beyond digital platforms to connect people.
- Overcome the existing research organisation silos to better integrate them in the overall innovation ecosystem.
- Address the barriers impeding the free flow of knowledge, technology, resources and people.

### ACTIONS BRIDGING THE NEEDS & GAPS

- Provide financing through innovation hubs building on their existing work in the field instead of defining innovation funding with different targets.

- Implement market-driven actions that focus on local innovation, target the informal sector and include civil society organisations for advocacy.
- Support university incubators to bring in corporate experience to enable students to create innovative solutions addressing local challenges.
- Widen the scope of knowledge exchange and dissemination to cover also funding opportunities.
- Introduce innovation challenges and innovation vouchers that SMEs can use to fund research using a cascading funding model.
- Build open infrastructures for innovators to test their products and support affordable internet and data plans to encourage more users to participate.
- The AU and EU to play a key role in encouraging governments to actively engage with ecosystem players, supporting innovators from the ground with clear policies to enable commercialisation and market uptake.
- Develop regular capacity building, TVET, vocational training and curriculum development while promoting peer 2 peer learning and mentorship support.

## GENERAL POINTS ON THE INNOVATION AGENDA

The participants welcomed positively the opportunity to share ideas, exchange experience and to learn from each other in a truly inclusive manner; while they were looking forward to seeing their contribution reflected and the established partnerships and feedback channels to be sustained throughout the entire process of shaping and implementing the Agenda.

## LIST OF TESTIMONIALS

- Ms Aidah Ng'ang'a, Head of Community and Ecosystems, iHUB/CcHub
- Ms Covadonga Rayon, Project Manager, EBN – European Business & Innovation Centres Network
- Prof Nelson Ojijo, Associated Professor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
- Mr Peter Gitika, Country Focal Person, KeFAAS – Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
- Dr Isabel Diaz, Deputy Vice President of International and Cooperation, CSIC
- Ms Brennan Van Dyke, Chief Capacity Development and Innovation Branch - Science Division, United Nations Environment Programme
- Mr Eduardo Herrmann, Head of Department - Management Board Member, Steinbeis Europa Zentrum
- Dr Madhvee Madhou, Research Coordinator, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
- Dr Samuel Partey, Programme Specialist, UNESCO
- Dr Angela Sarcina, Economy and Policy Analyst, Joint Research Center – European Commission
- Mr Gideon Brefo, CEO, Hapa Foundation
- Dr Sara Medina, Member of the Board, SPI – Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação
- Dr Joanes Atela, Director, Africa Research and Impact Network
- Dr Abdur Rahim, Managing Director, WAZIUP e.V.

## Thematic Workshop 6: Capacities for Science – Skills' Development and Mobility

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### Moderator:

Dr Fadila Boughanemi, Deputy Head of Unit, International Cooperation II  
(Asia, Africa, Middle East & External Relations), DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

### Rapporteur:

Dr Obed Otega, Senior Program Officer, African Academy of Sciences (AAS).

This workshop included testimonial contributions by:

- Prof Aristide Gountôh Douagi (Lecturer at CAMES, Nangui Abrogoua University, Ivory Coast)
- Dr Eva Broer (Head of Research Office & Research Policy Advisor, International Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands)
- Prof Samuel Nyanchoga (Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya)
- Dr Bridget K. Mutuma (African Academy of Science Affiliate 2021-2025, ASLP Fellow, ARISE-PP Fellow)
- Dr Ibrahim Karidio Diori (Centre de Recherche Medicale et Sanitaire, CERMES, Immunology and Haematology, Niger)
- Dr Mónica Martín-Lanuza Olmeda (Coordinator for International Cooperation and Partnerships, Vice-presidency for International Affairs, Higher Council for Scientific Affairs, Spain)
- Dr Bedan Thendu (Aviation Applications Expert, EGNOS in Africa, Dakar, Senegal)
- Ms Laura Royer (Policy Officer, The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities)

### Expected deliverables/outputs.

- A tool to mobilise investment in Research and Research Infrastructures across Africa

### Initiatives/instruments to implement actions of the Agenda.

- Erasmus+: should be enhanced.
- The African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE): should be more long-term.

### Unresolved gaps, needs and possible solutions.

- Invest in reintegration of returning researchers to Africa.
- Sustainability of interventions; how to ensure that work continues even after funding ends
- Enhanced awareness creation of available opportunities
- Localisation of solutions/to ensure they work in African context.
- Consider reconfiguring the instruments to reflect the innovation agenda and need for integration.
- Recognise the role of effective administration in host institutions/organisations.
- Enhance co-creation of projects right from conceptualisation to implementation.
- Simplify the processes involved.

- EU Delegations to be more involved in mobilisation/awareness creation/dissemination activities about ongoing or prospective initiatives.
- Provide matching grants to support capacity building initiatives e.g., for postgraduate students.
- Enhanced skills/technology transfer initiatives to ensure follow up and effectiveness.
- More flexible initiatives to enable more participation from e.g., women and youth.

## Thematic Workshop 7: Capacities for Science – Higher Education Institutions and the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

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### Moderator:

Prof Jane Catherine Ngila, - Visiting Professor University of Nairobi, and Interim Executive Director of African Foundation for Women and Youth in Education, Sciences, Technology and Innovation.

### Rapporteur:

Mr. Axel Leisenberg, Policy Officer, EU-international cooperation in Higher Education, Research and Innovation, French Ministry for Higher Education and Research

This workshop included testimonial contributions by:

- Prof Rabani Adamou (Director Master Research Program on Climate Change and Energy, West African Service Centre on Climate Centre and Adapted Land Use, WASCAL)
- Prof Jan Palmowski (Secretary General of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities)
- Ing Marc Zolver (Foreign Expert - Industry Academia Cooperation, Directorate of University Advancement and Institutional Development, University of Nairobi, Kenya)
- Dr Rawlance Ndejjo (Assistant Lecturer, Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda)
- Dr Dominique Dumet (Representative of IRD in Kenya and Eastern Africa)
- Dr Njira Njira Pili (Moi University, Kenya - partner in Erasmus+ CBHE project “NEMEDUSSA - Nematology Education in sub-Saharan Africa”)
- Prof Matteo Dell'Acqua (Associate Professor, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy)
- Ms Mary Mukuhi (Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, RUFORUM)
- Dr Bridget K. Mutuma (African Academy of Science Affiliate 2021-2025, ASLP Fellow, ARISE-PP Fellow)

**Short-term actions****Capacities for Science**

- ① Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU Higher Education / Governmental institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities
- ② Improving transparency/recognition of qualifications/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility & Digital education transformation

**Medium-term actions****Capacities for Science**

- ① Promoting joint master/doctoral degrees between AU-EU universities, mobility of researchers
- ② Creating enabling STI environment for sustainable innovation ecosystems (Quadruple helix actors)

**Long-term actions****Capacities for Science**

- ① Bridging R&I in fostering the emergence of or strengthening centres of excellence
- ② Modernizing/Reinforcing R&D & Higher education systems (RHESSs)

**Tangible deliverables/outputs expected****Short-term**

- Increase mobility Africa-Europe + intra-Africa
- Training programs for students and young scholars/post-doc → reskilling/ upskilling to overcome the lack of qualified young people

**Medium-term**

- Impact on local communities: partnerships with civil society, business, etc.
- Joint degrees of African institutions

**Long-term**

- Excellent research and teaching in African universities → play in the Premier League

Tangible deliverables/outputs	Ongoing or future programmes/projects and initiatives	Additional gaps and needs
<b>Short-term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase mobility between Africa and Europe + within Africa.</li> <li>• Training programs for students and young scholars/post-Docs → reskilling / upskilling to overcome the lack of qualified young people.</li> </ul> <b>Medium-term</b>	<b>Funding programmes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erasmus+ (mobility, capacity building),</li> <li>• Horizon Europe (R&amp;I projects),</li> <li>• ARISE</li> <li>• Intra-African mobility scheme, etc.</li> </ul> <b>Networking/enabling environment.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowering partnerships: joint international laboratories</li> <li>• EHEA – Africa conversation on quality Assurance and recognition</li> </ul> <b>Infrastructures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic shared infrastructure</li> </ul>	<b>Gender (women/youth)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural barriers, adaptive skills</li> <li>• Lack of guidance and of representation in government</li> </ul> <b>Curriculum development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of skills of lecturers and management</li> <li>• Harmonisation of curricula to encourage mobility, quality assurance</li> </ul> <b>Infrastructure/enabling environment</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on local communities: partnerships with civil society, businesses, etc.</li> <li>• Joint degrees of African institutions</li> <li><b>Long-term</b></li> <li>• Excellent research and teaching in African universities → “play in the Premier League”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES&amp;T Complex in University of Nairobi (center of excellence)</li> <li>• WASCAL and SASSCAL (large scale capacity build. and research-focused Climate Service Center in West and Southern Africa)</li> <li>• Capacity building for curriculum building (transdisciplinarity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of “domesticated partnerships”</li> <li>• Tech hub for mutualisation</li> <li>• Too much investment in physical equipment</li> </ul> <p><b>Multidisciplinary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of tools for transdisciplinarity</li> <li>• Bring SSH more into the picture</li> <li>• Lack of policy-oriented innovation</li> </ul>
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## Thematic Workshop 8: Cross-cutting issues – Monitoring & Evaluation of Objectives and Actions of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

**Moderator:**

Mr Lukovi Seke, Specialist of Science and Technology, AUDA-NEPAD

**Rapporteur:**

Dr Armela Dino, Science Policy Analyst, Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation

This workshop included testimonial contributions by:

- Prof Bi Irié Vroh (Ag. Executive Director African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission)
- Dr Tichaona Mangwende (Head of Science and Technology, AUDA-NEPAD)

The Workshop discussed the task of monitoring and evaluating the 10-year AU-EU Innovation Agenda, which is expected to focus on the following main segments:

- 1) Core R&D and Innovation Indicators
- 2) Impact oriented monitoring methodology
- 3) The theory of change

### 1. Core R&D and Innovation indicators

Indicators to be used in the tracking of progress made in the implementation of the 10-year AU-EU Innovation Agenda will mainly be based on core STI indicators. Some of them are the ones collected and analysed based on international guidelines provided by the OCED and known as the OECD family of manuals. The African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) and the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) programme coordinated by AUDA-NEPAD since 2007 are the main instruments found on the AU side that use the Frascati and Oslo manuals to accompany AU member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) efforts to track the level of investment in research as percentage of gross domestic product. The main indicator is known as Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD) with various sub-indicators covering both personnel (headcount and full-time

equivalent) and expenditures (current costs and capital expenditures). Innovation being technological (product and process) or non-technological (organisational and marketing/commercialisation) helps measure the level of competitiveness among countries based on new and improved products and/or process as well as organisational or marketing methods.

## 2. Impact oriented monitoring methodology<sup>1</sup>

Impact oriented monitoring (IOM) methodology was a new methodology developed under the EU Framework Projects (FP) 7 by the “EVAL-HEALTH” consortium of nine institutions from Africa (among which AUDA-NEPAD), Asia, Europe and Latin America for **monitoring and evaluation of international public health research projects**. During 46 months, the consortium comprised of Innovatec (coordinator, Spain), African Union-NEPAD, the University of Leeds (UK), the Royal Tropical Institute (The Netherlands), Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical (Portugal), Mahidol University (Thailand), the Association for Stimulating Know How (India), the College of Medicine of the University of Nigeria (Nigeria) and the Universidad del Rosario (Colombia) focused on the key activities described in the box below. The project had two research components focusing on different aspects of the M&E process: (i) *to identify and analyse the role of different types of evidence in health policy in low and middle-income countries, including research results*; (ii) *Development and testing of a new methodology to monitor and assess the impact of research projects that are funded by FP7 in the area of International Public Health*.

### Box 1: EVAL-HEALTH OBJECTIVES

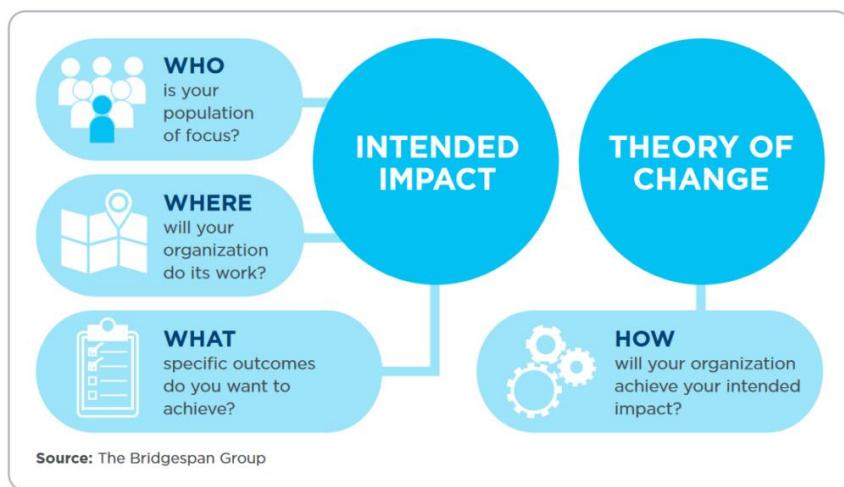
- Developing a sound methodological approach to evaluate and monitor implementation and performance of EU funded interventions in developing countries in the health sector by: (i) Identifying best practices in M&E aid and their impact on health issues from major international donors and agencies active in the field; ( ii) obtaining comprehensive insight of the EC funded bilateral interventions in health sector; (iii) Developing specific methodological models and tools for M&E of the impact of EU funded bilateral interventions (sector/budget support, Individual projects, R&D actions), and (iv) Testing on the field the suitability and applicability of the developed methodologies through case studies methodology.
- Understanding how the developed tools and methodologies adapt to different EU interventions.
- Disseminating the results obtained in the project to the main project stakeholders as a means to increase and improve European funded interventions effectiveness in the health sector. The aim of adopting this methodology was to avoid reinventing the wheel while more human and financial resources have been dedicated to providing a new approach of monitoring and evaluating research funded projects.

Source: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/261389>

## 3. The theory of change from objectives to outputs and impacts

This method focuses on the type of expected intervention(s) to achieve some specific change based on a causal analysis cognisant of available evidence.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272009660> | <https://www.nepad.org/publication/impact-oriented-monitoring-new-methodology-monitoring-and-evaluation-of> | <https://innovatec.es/eval-health/>



### 3.1) Who – structures that will play a key role in the M&E

#### EU – European Commission

- E.g. The European innovation scoreboard; Research & Innovation performance (DG R&I)

#### AU Special Technical Committee on STI and Education-Training

- African Observatory of STI (AOSTI under AUC)
- AUDA-NEPAD through AU flagship initiative known as the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII)<sup>2</sup> programme.

### 3.2) What

Short-, medium- and long-term actions were suggested as far as the four programmatic clusters are concerned in the technical document: (1) Public health, (2) Green transition, (3) Innovation and Technology, and (4) Capacity for science. The methods to be used will be determined by the actions to be taken.

### 3.3) When – Through annual review period

- A kick-off meeting needed to design the methodological approach
- Annual M&E report meeting on the achievement
- Mid-term review meetings for further adjustment
- End of projects' internal and external evaluation

### 3.4) How

The establishment of a Monitoring-Evaluation-Learning taskforce is crucial. Key players are needed to support the support the ME process. Among them are:

1. Firms including start-ups
2. Higher Education institutions: public and private tertiary institutions
3. Government sector (including councils)
4. Data scientists

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nepad.org/programme/african-science-technology-and-innovation-indicators-astii>