



HABARI

September 2022 Newsletter



@NEPAD_Agency



AUDA-NEPAD



/NEPAD.Page

AUDA-NEPAD Launches Energize Africa



The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD in partnership with Afreximbank, co-launched the AUDA-NEPAD Energize Africa initiative on the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Energize Africa initiative recognises that Africa's youth and women – making up more than half of the continent's populations - must be at the core of Africa's economic growth and inclusive development strategies.

"The Energize Africa initiative is about harnessing youths' creativity and skills into the continent's economic growth and development, whilst expanding income opportunities for the youth – through creation of jobs, innovation, and entrepreneurship," said Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, the AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer.

Energize Africa's focus is on young professionals to enhance public sector efficiency; stimulate solution-focused research and development, through innovation hubs, and; Entrepreneurship opportunities for Africa's youthful populations for improved socio-economic well-being.

Prof Benedict Okey Oramah, President and Chairman of Board of Directors,

Afreximbank remarked that, "The Energize Africa collaboration is a demonstration of the partnership with AUDA-NEPAD towards ensuring that youth are at the core of our development. The youth are indeed the leaders of tomorrow."

Recognising that the continent with the highest percentage of entrepreneurs among working-age adults is Africa, AUDA-NEPAD has designed the Energize Africa initiative as a continental platform of youth professionals, institutions, and facilities to strengthen innovative solutions, skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship.

"If we do not harness the youth dividend, it will remain a "potential." Energize Africa is an opportunity to invest in the future of Africa," H.E. Dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission said during the high-level opening session of the launch event.

"My presence here today is meant to signal the political commitment of the African Union Commission to ensure we see change on the issue of youth employment in Africa, within the

context of Agenda 2063," Dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa added.

Several messages of support from Energize Africa patrons and champions were delivered during the launch.

"Energizing Africa is indispensable to leverage Africa's most valuable resource, its human capital. It is important for supporting start-ups to get on their feet and serve as long-term sources of innovation and growth – put simply, by giving young people a chance to design their future. Let us join efforts to energize Africa and build, the Africa we want, to ensure that no one is left behind," stated Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations in her message of support.

H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia remarked that, "Real consultation with youth to build viable programmes will be key to making Energize Africa a success."

Ambassador Dr John N. Nkengasong, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State congratulated the AUDA-NEPAD

CEO on the launch of Energize Africa. He concurred with Ms Bekele-Thomas in highlighting the fact that the initiative promises to mobilise young people across the continent and to transform the public sector.

Elaborating on the context of Energize Africa in the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Secretary General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, H.E Wamkele Mene said that "The African Continental Free Trade Area offers opportunities for seamless access to new markets, particularly in digital technologies."

The importance of strengthening relations between the private and public sectors in creating a brighter future for Africa's youth was expounded on by

Dr James Mwangi, CEO Equity Bank, who committed to also championing Energize Africa with AUDA-NEPAD.

Messages of support for Energize Africa were also received from Mr Jean Van Wetter, Director General of the Belgian Development Agency and Mr Sebastian Ashong-Katai from Ecobank.

The successful launch of Energize Africa concluded with the unanimous acknowledgement that youth are partners for the sustainable development, peace, and prosperity of Africa, with a unique contribution to make to the continent's present and future development.

“ The Energize Africa initiative is about harnessing youths' creativity and skills into the continent's economic growth and development, whilst expanding income opportunities for the youth ”



Climate Finance to Address Global Challenges on Climate Change, Land Degradation and Biodiversity Loss



Climate financing will play an important role in unlocking Africa's potential to combat climate change. It is estimated that Africa requires about 2.5 trillion dollars of climate finance between 2020 and 2030 averaging about 250 billion dollars each year. However, the total annual climate finance flows in Africa for 2020 were only 30 billion dollars, which is just about 12 percent of the amount needed.

On the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD convened a high-level event on Climate Finance to Address Global Challenges on Climate Change, Land Degradation and Biodiversity Loss.

"The continent's development agency, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, is leading efforts at continental and national levels by

implementing a range of programmes to combat climate change, desertification, and biodiversity loss," said Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, the AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer.

"African Ministers have agreed to speak with one voice at the upcoming COP27 on closing the financing gap, as the Continent's efforts need to be supported as per global commitments made," Dr Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi the Minister of Environment Nigeria remarked.

The Minister also stated that Nigeria has introduced Green Bonds, focussing on green products and jobs and pointed out that Africa must make concerted efforts to boost domestic resource mobilisation for sustainable climate financing.

Dr Andrew Steer, Chief Executive Officer of the Bezos Earth Fund highlighted the positive strides that

Africa is taking towards climate resilience, in pointing out that, "Africa is the continent that is showing the most ingenuity and innovativeness in climate change. Africa is the continent with the greatest opportunity for restoration."

Director at the Global Restoration Initiative, Mr Sean DeWitt, lauded the Initiative's collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, for the remarkable work of Africa's flagship programme for Landscape Restoration, the Africa Forest Restoration Initiative (AFR100). AFR100 has made good progress towards its goal of bringing 100 million hectares of degraded forest landscape into restoration by 2030.

"There is great synergy between Energize Africa, the initiative launched by AUDA-NEPAD and the Land Accelerator initiative, with potential to scale up land restoration projects among youth and local populations," added Mr DeWitt. He agreed with Mr

Kwame Ababio, AUDA-NEPAD's Senior Programme Office on Environment, who reiterated that energizing African youth in the area of sustainable environment management remains imperative.

Hon. Princess Gloria Akobundu, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD Nigeria emphasised that, "No one can deny the topicality of climate change. It deserves the highest priority in the current global environment. For the most vulnerable countries and populations, we need to act decisively on climate change."

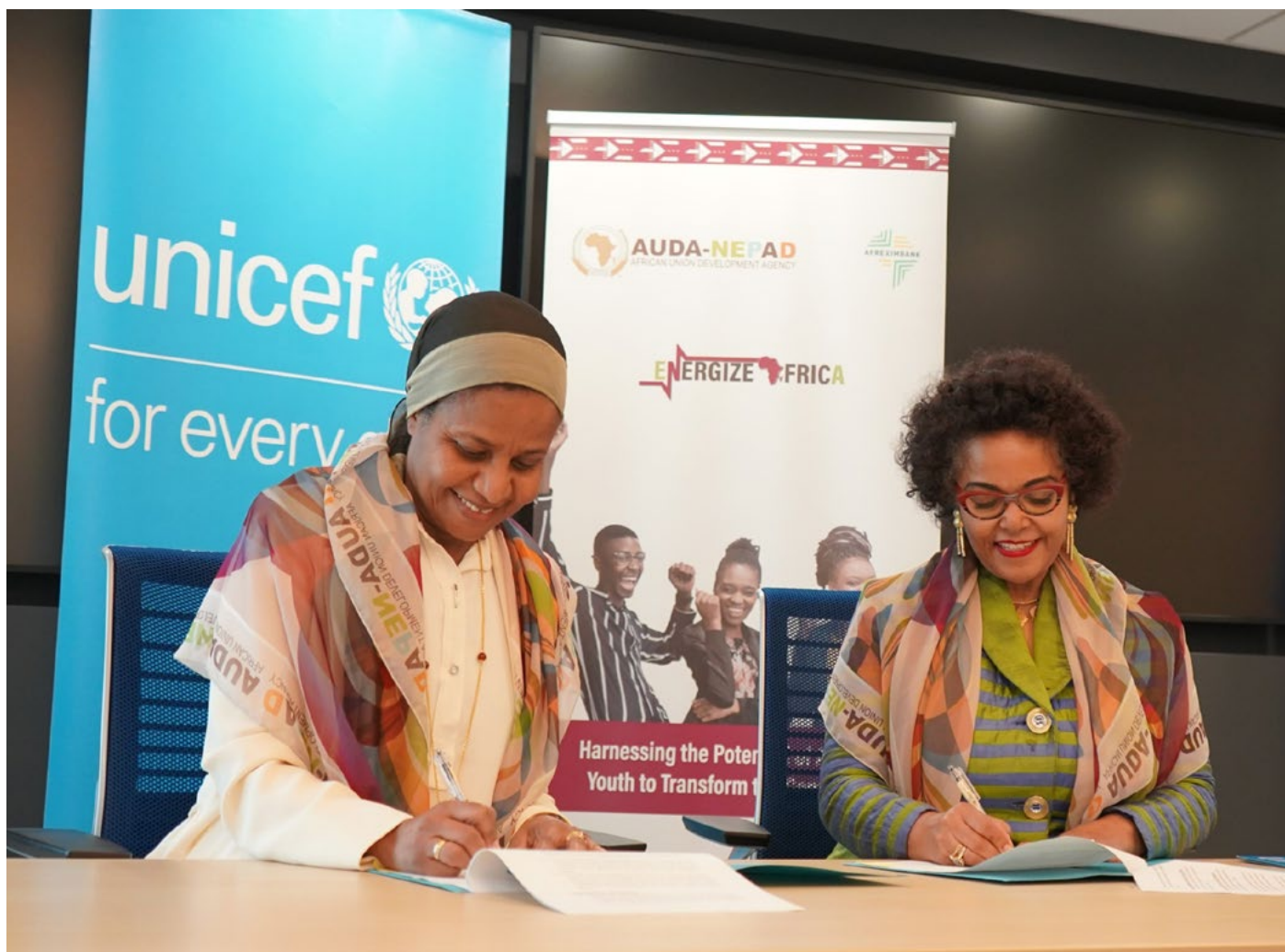
"AUDA-NEPAD is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in mobilising significant resources from various sources, at the magnitude that would match the needs for achieving sustainable development, in Africa," said Mr Amine Idriss Adoum (AUDA-NEPAD Director, Programme Delivery and Coordination), who gave the closing remarks at the event.

Africa needs more funding to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as investments in water storage and climate-resistant crops, or improved construction to withstand more extreme weather events. There are also significant opportunities in Africa's energy sector through an abundance of renewable energy resources including solar, geothermal and wind power.

“ The AUDA-NEPAD is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in mobilising significant resources from various sources, at the magnitude that would match the needs for achieving sustainable development, in Africa ”



AUDA-NEPAD and UNICEF sign MoU to promote child rights in Africa



The African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the United Nations Children’s Fund signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 23 September to address education, nutrition and health care challenges facing children and young people in Africa.

The three-year agreement aims to scale-up African solutions, for African children, including through increased access to technical assistance and promoting regional and international cooperation.

Speaking at the signing ceremony held in the UNICEF headquarters in New York, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD said: “I am pleased to note that this cooperation has not waited for this moment, but that already there has been some level of engagement between our institutions in the areas of advancing the African Union Year of Nutrition as well as with education, skills and employability.”

Within the framework of the MoU, the two agencies will join forces to advance the rights of children and young people in Africa through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC).

“The new partnership agreement between AUDA-NEPAD and UNICEF will strengthen our joint efforts in Africa to transform education, particularly for girls, improve nutrition, and strengthen community health systems,” said Hannan Sulieman, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director.

SSTC is increasingly important in enabling collaboration as well as knowledge and skills sharing between African countries. Through SSTC, UNICEF and AUDA-NEPAD will cooperate to re-imagine education in Africa through improved access to relevant technology and skills development as well as advocacy for technical and vocational education and training. The partnership will contribute to the goals of Energize Africa.

Rethinking Africa's Development Cooperation and International Partnerships



Development is a dynamic process, which is driven by various social, political, economic and environmental factors. These factors influence the rise of new trends in the development cycle. Consequently, this triggers the need to revisit and deconstruct conventional schools of thought on development, which usually result in dependency rather than interdependence between Africa and its global partners. It is these factors and trends that policy makers usually grapple with as they devise and implement development initiatives.

The approach to Africa's renewal is still limited, fragile and unable to respond to the ever-changing realities and challenges of the 21st century that Africa is systemically confronted with. Moreover, the COVID-19 and Russian-Ukrainian conflict are further exacerbating the fragility of Africa's development efforts.

At a high-level dialogue on 22 September, held at the University of Columbia and convened by the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD, with the support of UNECA and OECD Development Centre in collaboration with the European Commission, the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas highlighted the fact that in 2022, Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) as a share of the world GDP is expected to fall to 4.7%, the lowest level since 2002.

"This reverses the catching up process that had been underway between 2000 and 2010, during which Africa's global economic weight steadily increased from 4.7% to 5.3% of the world's output. In this context, the question arises as to how Africa should reposition itself 20 years after the creation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in the current global context to enable it to participate in the global economy. It is necessary to consider how to harmonise support for Africa. Promoting Africa's self-sufficiency through investment in improving productive capacities, as well as new ways of accessing development finance, are paths that would allow a reassessment of the relationship with other development partners such as the European Union, China and India," Ms Bekele-Thomas said.

Economist, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs remarked that the development and partnership agenda is an investment agenda. He outlined six major categories of development as being:

- **Education:** All children should be in school with adequate resources.

- **Health systems:** There should be enough clinics and hospitals with requisite workers for all.
- **Electricity:** Everybody should have access to electricity.
- **Farming and agriculture:** Africa should be a food exporter to the rest of the world and not the other way round.
- **Infrastructure:** Basic infrastructure, including roads and urban infrastructure need to be in place as Africa is quickly becoming urbanised.
- **Digital connectivity:** The cost of digital connectivity should not be prohibitive.

Dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission noted that, "Today's transformative cooperation with Africa must also leverage on private-sector investments and markets promoting healthy global competition. The African Union has been working tirelessly to harmonise its vision through its Agenda 2063, in line with global development agendas but contextualized to challenges specific to the African continent."

"The ultimate goal for Rethinking Development Cooperation and International Partnerships is achieving Africa's self-sustainability and sufficiency," Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, AUDA-NEPAD's Director of Technical Cooperation and Programme Funding informed participants at the dialogue.

Policy coherence is the fundamental point to shift the paradigm in Africa's development cooperation. Africa should be able to design Africa-owned policies and Africa's partners should respect that and accompany the continent to implement them. The Continent should not remain as a battleground for conflicted global interests.

Apart from the paradigm shift required towards policy coherence, part of the feedback received from some participants is that Africa's partnership to rethink African's development cooperation, must include Europe, China, India, et cetera, who are the majority of the future populous. AUDA-NEPAD will actively take forward the discussions in renewing Africa's development trajectory.

Consensus was reached by everyone that attended the high-level dialogue that achieving Africa's self-sustainability is feasible if proper values are given to its resources and adequate support is provided. In addition to new ways of accessing development finance, reassessment of the relationship with development and international partnerships is critical.

Africa Co-Guarantee Platform Partners Reaffirm Commitment to Catalyzing Trade and Investment

The partners pledged to extend direct transaction support for specific projects, including infrastructure development and optimizing balance sheets by sharing risk

Amid rising urgency for instruments to de-risk investment across Africa, the Africa Co-Guarantee Platform's (<https://bit.ly/3BViQAd>) (CGP) six partners have affirmed commitments to better leverage guarantee and insurance products, resulting in more trade and investment across Africa.

The partners pledged to extend direct transaction support for specific projects, including infrastructure development and optimizing balance sheets by sharing risk. They will develop new and hybrid products to address issues such as intra-regional trade, the current food and fertilizer crises, and enhanced coverage for infrastructure investments, public-private partnerships, and fragile/transition states and situations. The CGP will also work with stakeholders to build capacity in the use of risk mitigation instruments that strengthen project preparation and bankability.

The partners are the African Development Bank, African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), GuarantCo (part of PIDG, the Private Infrastructure Development Group), the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit Insurance (ICIEC), and Afreximbank, which hosted the steering committee meeting.

In his opening remarks, Afreximbank's Director of Guarantees and Specialized Finance Kofi Asumadu-Addo, said: "This is a critical moment and the CGP is needed more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine crises and the consequent macroeconomic challenges facing the continent, require urgent action on our part as risk mitigation providers. Collectively, we have the capacity among the Platform partners to respond adequately and appropriately to help de-risk and attract investments into and across Africa.



We need to bring this to bear in order to reduce the trade and investment financing gap. Afreximbank supports the CGP – but we want to see more concrete results."

Max Ndiaye, Acting Director of Syndications, Co-Financing and Client Solutions at the African Development Bank, said: "This platform was launched in 2018 by President Adesina and the senior leadership of the other partners to help overcome the clear risk mitigation gap in Africa, which stands in the way of closing more trade and investment deals. The urgency has only become greater since then. We need a transaction-focused platform that really delivers for our stakeholders."

ATI's Chief Underwriting Officer, Benjamin Mugisha, said the platform would leverage each member's strengths to provide proactive solutions to address Africa's needs. "The Co-Guarantee Platform has a unique opportunity to synergize its members' shared vision and mandate and has committed to proactively do this going forward. The platform will leverage each members strengths to providing proactive solutions to address the needs of the continent."

Ibrah Wahabou, AUDA-NEPAD's Head of Infrastructure and Connectivity, said: "The Co-Guarantee Platform is Africa's bold response by Africa-based DFIs and the African Union Development

Agency to deal with the exaggerated, unjustified perception of Africa as a risky place for investors. Together, through the CGP, we are changing the narrative based on concrete deals."

GuarantCo Associate Director Ben Storrs said: "We look forward to supporting the development of the Co-Guarantee Platform and institutional partnerships to address Africa's infrastructure challenges at a greater scale. Collectively, we hope to continue building local capacity to enable greater use of innovative credit mitigation solutions to unlock critical infrastructure financing."

Bessem Soua, ICIEC's Division Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, said: "The Co-Guarantee Platform is a unique opportunity for multilateral partners to work together on scaling up risk mitigation capacity to de-risk investments and trade in Africa. Priorities and concrete steps have been agreed among the partners to take the platform to the next level and ensure a collective and coordinated response to the continent's needs."

The Partners also launched the CGP's web presence (<https://bit.ly/3y1sFLP>) to provide information about the platform and its partner institutions. The site also contains an email address to submit transactions and queries.

APET commences drafting of 3 reports on 3-D printing, 5G & internet of things and water management technologies



An experts consultative meeting on developing 3 experts report of the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) has been successfully held in Accra, Ghana, from the 31st of August to the 2nd of September 2022. This was held on the margins of the Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue (CJED) National Dialogues on the domestication of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024, organised by APET. The CJED national dialogues convene policy and decision makers, executives, youth and relevant stakeholders to deliberate on harnessing appropriate innovations and emerging technologies for Africa's socio-economic development towards domestication of the priorities of STISA 2024 and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

APET has prioritised and recommended 3-D Printing, 5G & Internet of Things(IoT) and Water Management technologies

as emerging technologies worth harnessing for Africa's socio-economic development. Various African experts submitted applications to join the writing panels through a Call for Experts advertised on the AUDA-NEPAD website. The selection criteria comprising multistakeholder voices and regional representation were utilised to select the writing teams.

Prof Aggrey Ambali, scientific advisor to APET and senior advisor to the AU Development Fund, welcomed the experts and participants of the national dialogue to the meeting in his opening remarks, emphasising the importance of technology and innovation to socio-economic growth. He paid tribute to the late Dr Calestous Juma for his contributions to APET and the development of CJED. He stated that STISA 2024 is the "Blueprint" for Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa, which is why the CJED was established as a platform for



science and innovation deliberation. "Since then, the CJED has served as a bridge for STI in Africa," he noted. Prof Ambali also suggested that everyone contribute to the growth of STI in Africa and that any decisions made during these national dialogues will inform policies for member states to harness the benefits of STI in their respective countries.

The Deputy Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) of Ghana, through a representative, then delivered a message of goodwill. MESTI is committed to strengthening Ghana's scientific and technological capacity through R&D, in line with the government's vision of STI at the centre of socio-economic development. The Ministry believes that science and society must interact. They are also committed to being associated with the AUDA-NEPAD CJED initiative and are prepared to be actively involved and deepen the collaboration in order to achieve the initiative's objectives.

A key activity during the meeting was for the experts to engage with policy and decision-makers to discuss transformative education on the continent. The experts also discussed upcoming planned webinars with CJED stakeholders to discuss their technologies and obtain feedback from the experts on the reports being drafted.

The members of the expert panel on 3D Printing are Dr Lameck Mugwagwa, Senior Lecturer and MEng Program Coordinator, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering National University of Science and Technology; Ms Juka Fatou Darboe, CEO, Make3D Company Limited; Dr Jonathan Mufandaedza, Former Chief Executive Officer Registrar Of National Biotechnology Authority; and, Dr Kingsley O. Obodo, Post-Doctoral fellow, North-West University. Other experts are Ms Jaquiline Sehlaghe Mokabaki, Managing Director, Alpha Drones; Mr Richard Holdbrook, Technical Associate, Maker Space Ghana Tech Lab; Mr Samson Genya, CEO of Endlesstec Limited; and Dr Eng. Sipiwe Trinity Nyadongo, Senior Lecturer, National University of Science and Technology.

For the 5G&IoT expert panel, members include Ms Afi Edoh, Former Project Specialist E-HUB SARL U; Dr Ojenge Winston, Lecturer Africa Centre for Technology Studies, ICIPE; Professor Mqhele Dlodlo, PhD, Professor and Vice-Chancellor, National University of Science and Technology; Dr Paul Kariuki, Executive Director and Research Fellow UKZN; Dr Kihuha Cyrus Kamau, Deputy Director and Chief Analyst Infrastructure and ICT; Mr Kiyangi Brian, Radiation Protection Officer, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda, Atomic Energy Council; Ms Lydia Makendo Manoti, Program Manager, Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships, African Academy of Sciences; Mr Nayebare Micheal, Remote Infrastructure Engineer (AWS & Linux) Enables Platforms Inc; Mr Samuel Asiwaju, 5G Cloud Native Developer, Ericsson; Mr Edzai Zvobwo, Mathematician and IT expert, MathsGee;

Lastly, for water management and purification technologies, we have: Dr Emmanuel Yamoah Tenkorang, Dean of the School for Development Studies Cape Coast University; Dr LY El Hadji Babacar, Université Gaston Berger St Louis; Dr Richard Lander Kwame Glover, Scientific Director, African Science, Technology and Policy Institute (ASTePI); Ms Beth Koigi, CEO, Majik Water Kenya Climate Innovation Centre, Strathmore University; Mr Oluwafemi Omosuyi, Executive Director, OBA Global Citizens Limited; Prof Sabelo Mhlanga, CEO, SabiNano;

At the end of the 3-day deliberation, the experts developed "draft 1" versions for their reports, outlining 5 key pillars: Skills and Human Capital Development; Infrastructure and Data; Enabling Environments for development and deployment; Economic Growth; and, Building sustainable partnerships. It is anticipated that stakeholder engagements to support the drafting, reviewing, and finalisation of the reports will be held till the end of 2022, with an anticipated report launch in the second quarter of 2023.

The 7th Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CJED) took Place in Kenya to Address Food Nutrition in Africa

The African Union High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) hosted the 7th Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CJED) between the 28th - 30th of September 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya. The CJED was established in 2018 to support policy and decision-makers, executives, youth groups, local innovators and other relevant stakeholders in harnessing science, technology, and innovation (STI) and emerging technologies to advance the socio-economic development and growth in Africa. The 7th CJED will focus on how strategic innovations and emerging technologies can strengthen food security and nutrition in Africa.

According to a recent Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report, approximately 418 million people (21% of the African population) were undernourished in 2020. Furthermore, of the 61.4 million stunted children under five years of age on the continent, about 12.1 million are wasted, and 10.6 million are overweight. This calls for African countries to establish actionable interventions, measures, and policies to address and improve the state of food nutrition and security in Africa.

To this end, the 7th CJED focused on the threats and solutions to food security in Africa by addressing food importation against self-sufficiency within the continent. This can be accomplished by focusing on ending conflicts and wars, climate change, and political instability and adequately preparing for current and future pandemics. African countries should also strengthen the linkages between land tenure systems and agricultural productivity in Africa. This includes exploring innovative methods of harvesting, processing and preserving crops and vegetables to ensure food security in Africa.

Promoting youth inclusiveness in agri-business, entrepreneurship and



commercialisation should also be prioritised to ensure the application of innovative and emerging technologies in transforming African agriculture systems. Thus, African youth can ensure emerging technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, and the 5th Generation (5G) internet are effectively harnessed for food security. Furthermore, the role of women in agriculture and rural development should also be strengthened by ensuring women are included in labour, finance, land tenancy, adoption of farming innovations, markets and agricultural training and education. The executive dialogue also explored the role of indigenous knowledge and culture in nutrition, public health security, and preventive care in nutrition and health towards reducing lifestyle diseases.

Based on the rich discussions, the executive dialogue provided needed capacity strengthening of policy and decision-makers, executives, youth groups, local innovators and other relevant stakeholders. There were dedicated discussions and case study sessions to exchange knowledge and

national experiences to enhance food nutrition across the African continent. This platform provided a broader understanding of effective strategies in utilising innovation and emerging technologies in Africa. In addition, on the margins of the 7th CJED, artificial intelligence experts convened to deliberate and continue developing the African Union Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy in Africa. This focuses on how African countries can harness AI for socio-economic development.

In conclusion, APET believes that the executive dialogue is pertinent in addressing the opportunities and challenges that African countries face with harnessing STIs and emerging technologies to improve food nutrition.

Botswana Launches AU Year of Nutrition

By Baboloki Semele



Although the African region seems to have witnessed a decrease in malnutrition of its population by about 13.5%, from 35.5% in 1990 to 22% in 2019, more work still needs to be done to improve nutrition and food security in the continent. This words were echoed by Botswana's Minister of Health, Edwin Gorataone Dikoloti when launching the African Union year of nutrition in Botswana last week. In particular, Minister Dikoloti highlighted Agenda 2063 goal number three which emphasizes the importance of healthy and well-nourished citizens, synchronizing it with the UN Sustainable Development Goal Number 3 on good health and wellness. The African Union has declared 2022 as the Year of Nutrition under the theme "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development."

According to Dikoloti, this theme is appropriate and fitting, as it seeks, not only to celebrate the gains made in nutrition; and focus the continent on maintaining stronger political momentum on nutrition, but also challenges member states to earnestly contribute towards ending all forms of malnutrition in Africa.

"This can be achieved through new pledges and resolves to support, resource and finance action plans dedicated to achieving set targets and results by all AU member states which include our beautiful Botswana." Adds the minister.

In her welcoming remarks, the permanent secretary in the ministry of health Grace Muzila, took a trip down memory lane, and recalled the commitment made seven years ago by the global community, to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. She pointed that evidence shows, however, that nearly 828 million people across the globe were affected by hunger in 2021, an increase by 150 million since 2019. Should these trends continue, she pointed that the world will not achieve Zero Hunger by 2030, as intended. She therefore called Africa to double her efforts, not only in ensuring food sufficiency, but also by committing to improving the nutritional status of her people, particularly women and children. Subsequent to that, she further presented evidence as presented in the continental nutrition accountability scorecard launched by the African Union and the Africa leaders for Nutrition (ALN) in 2019, which indicates that globally, 150.8 million children under five years are stunted, and 58.7 million of those stunted are in Africa. The report also

specified that only seven member states have stunting rates below 19%, while fifteen member states have child wasting prevalence below 5%. The report further shows thirty eight member states have women's anaemia prevalence of more than 30%, whereas only 18 member states have at least 50% of infants exclusively breastfed.

For her part Mrs Cisse Mariama Mohammed, the director for health, humanitarian affairs and social development at the African Union Commission pointed that Botswana has demonstrate its leadership by aligning her national food and nutrition strategies to those of the African Union. She emphasized that over the years Botswana has exhibited an admirably remarkable programmatic budgetary commitment to food security and good nutrition for her citizens.

"This can clearly be seen from an investment in social protection programmes such as the home grown school feeding, which is fully funded from domestic resources." Said director Mohammed.

On other issues director Mohammed noted that despite progress made by Africa in addressing food and nutrition challenges, the continent continues to experience key challenges such as climate change and disasters, including droughts and floods, conflicts and high cost of living and the recent recovery from Covid 19, which has affected food security and nutrition negatively. These challenges, she says if not addressed will continue to undermine the progress made in nutrition and food security, leading to adverse political, social and economic development issues. Post launch of the AU year of nutrition, delegates toured the home grown school feeding projects at Ben Them Primary School and Naledi Senior Secondary. The initiative has since been rolled out to all schools from Primary to senior secondary school across the country, with 100% domestic funding.

Workshop on LMO Risk Assessment for Francophone African Regulators



The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention of the Biological Diversity (CBD) in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD and other partners conducted a workshop on the risk assessment of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) for Francophone African stakeholders, from 19 to 22 September 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.

In his opening remarks, Dr Lamine Kane, Focal Point of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, welcomed participants on behalf of the Minister in charge of environment in Senegal. He thanked the CBD and its partners for their constant capacity building efforts for national stakeholders in Africa.

Dr Jeremy T. Ouedraogo, Head of AUDA-NEPAD ABNE programme also commended the CBD Secretariate and its' partners for the capacity building initiative for Francophone Africa. "Risk assessment is relevant only when countries are committed to implementing the technologies that require such assessment", he said. In this regard, he encouraged participants to actively interact and get the most out of the meeting and more importantly make the necessary recommendations to their authorities back home to make sure the knowledge gained in the training generate tangible results.

Dr Elisabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary of the CBD, also delivered a video message to participants. She highlighted that risk assessment is central in the decision-making process particularly in rapidly changing areas like modern biotechnologies. "Risk assessment provides science-based information for decision-making. Assessing risks timely is critical to safely harnessing evolving technologies", she added.

During the four days, participants were taken through the legal framework of risk assessment of LMOs, the principles and methodology of risk assessment as well as practical case studies. At the end of the workshop participants acknowledged the relevance of the meeting which provided them with the necessary information on LMOs regulation and assessment. They however recommended that further trainings be organized to strengthen the initial knowledge gained in this workshop.

AUDA-NEPAD in pictures



The AUDA-NEPAD hosted a two-day workshop to introduce and seek Member States' buy-in of 'Project Bijimin'. This AUDA-NEPAD project seeks to contribute to strengthening the health system of members states. By leveraging the collective knowledge of health professionals across the continent and the diaspora, Project Bijimin will undertake to train and up-skill community health workers in Burundi, CAR, Chad, Lesotho and South Sudan.



Launched on 19 September 2022, the Energize Africa initiative is about harnessing youths' creativity and skills into the continent's economic growth and development. Energize Africa is hinged on three key components:

1. Building capacity for young professionals to enhance public sector efficiency;
2. Stimulating solution-focused research and development, through innovation hubs, and;
3. Providing entrepreneurship opportunities for Africa's youthful populations for improved socio-economic well-being.



On September 14th, the AUDA-NEPAD held a meeting with the Special Assistant to the President of the United States and Senior Director for African Affairs, Judd Devermont, where the special assistant expressed their commitment towards strengthening the strategic alliance between Africa & the United States of America specifically in promoting Agenda 2063 flagship projects and programmes including PIDA, AfCFTA, Africa CDC and integrating Diaspora.

Harnessing potential of Africa's youth to transform our continent !

Do you want to know more about #EnergizeAfrica? Watch the video below:



Introducing the new AUDA-NEPAD initiative to harness youth potential and transform Africa

2022 African Union Day in Pictures



HABARI