



## Background: Technology and the continent's future

### **Technology is;**

- Providing solutions to some of society's grand challenges
- Disrupting the status quo and creating a future of unknowns
- Accelerating the growing economic inequalities between and within nations.
- Opening doors to new markets, new technologies, and new sources of competition, which spur the creativity and productivity
- Forming the basis of strategies for economic competitiveness

## Background: African Union Perspective

- The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2014-2024) focuses on long-term sources of economic growth with a view to enable Africa to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
- African Union Agenda 2063 recognizes the role of science, technology and innovation for economic development. Yet, Africa faces a lot of resistance in exploring her “freedom to innovate”
- Emerging Technologies are needed for the continent to address its challenges and opportunities for development
- This became a matter of concern to ministers of science and technology on the continent such that they had to make a recommendation to the African Union Heads of State and Government that there should be a process of the continent seeking its own experts’ guidance on matters of technology that is in the horizon.

# Members of the High-Level African Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET): established in October 2016



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## APET- collective re-thinking of the future of Africa

- Aims to advise the AU on current and emerging technologies that have the potential to transform Africa's science base into a competitive advantage and contribute to achieving the goals set out in the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2014-2024.
- Builds capacity of stakeholders drawn from diverse professional backgrounds who are critical in terms of providing evidence-based analyses and recommendations that should inform policy direction at the continental, regional and national level on the utilization of existing and emerging technologies.
- Part of a system for obtaining expert contribution on the matters of technology development, acquisition, and deployment for economic development. An African Think Tank for effectively harnessing innovation and emerging technologies for the socio-economic transformation of the continent
- Identifies and foster appropriate regulation and use of existing and emerging technologies of greatest help to Africa's economic development. *AU Member States and RECs must be engaged to promote a culture that allows responsible regulation of emerging technologies without imposing an undue burden on adoption, and to create an enabling environment where debates on the subject can flourish and divergent views on emerging technologies can be accommodated*

# APET Reports on Emerging Technologies

## PUBLISHED REPORTS



- Endorsed by the Conference of AU Ministers of Education, Science and Technology (STC) in January 2018.
- Adopted by the Executive Council of the AU and later by the Heads of State and Government in January 2018 (Decision of the Executive Council, p 18 & 19).

## • UPCOMING REPORTS

- Intended for release in the second quarter of 2021
- APET seeks to provide expanded and continuous guidance and platforms for engaging Member States.
- The goal is to provide a set of tools for governments to interpret the current and potential role emerging technologies currently play in sustainable development on the African continent



# THANK YOU!

Email:

