

The AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank Programme invites you to the

# INCEPTION THINK TANK CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN FUTURES



## PROGRAMME

Share insights on Africa's development prospects and its alignment with the Agenda 2063 vision.

Day 1: 10 January 2024			
Item	Time	Description	Lead
<b>08:30 - 09:00 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE</b>			
1	09:00 - 10:30	Welcome Remarks and opening session  1. AUDA-NEPAD CEO <b>Mrs Nardos Bekele-Thomas</b>  2. AUC Commissioner, Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining <b>H.E. Amb Muchanga</b>  3. Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies, <b>Dr Fonteh Akum</b>  4. Director General for Africa, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development <b>Ms. Birgit Pickel (Recorded Message)</b>	AU Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, ISS, GIZ

2	10:30 – 10:50	<b>Keynote 1:</b> Connecting African knowledge production to African decision-making.	<b>Ms Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi</b> , Executive Vice-President, African Centre for Economic Cooperation (ACET)
3	10:50 – 11:20	<b>Plenary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role and significance of the AUDA-NEPAD Economic Analysis and Foresight Unit: The Africa Policy Bridge Tank, flagship programme</li> <li>An update on the 2nd Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 (<b>Ms Pamla Gopaul</b>)</li> <li>Data for Development and Success Story: A Trilateral Cooperation of UK, Brazil, and Africa (<b>Mr Lukovi Seke</b>)</li> </ul>	<b>Mr Toulassi Kossi</b> , AUDA-NEPAD Head of Industrialisation, Market Trade, Economic Analysis and Foresight
4	11:20 – 11:50	<b>Plenary:</b> Africa's development trajectory and potential and how global events shape Africa (Africa in the world)	<b>Dr Jakkie Cilliers</b> , Head of African Futures & Innovations Programme, ISS
5	11:50 – 12:30	Discussion	All
<b>12:30 – 13:45 LUNCH</b>			
6	13:45 – 15:15	<b>Parallel Workshop 1:</b> The Future of Africa's Industrialization: Advancing Economic Diversification, Developing Value Chains, and Facilitating Structural Transformation Across the Continent  <b>Parallel Workshop 2:</b> Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy for Africa's Development	Nkafu Policy Institute (NPI)  Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO)
<b>15:15-16:00 BREAK</b>			
7	16:00 – 17:30	<b>Parallel Workshop 3:</b> Futures of Green Minerals in Africa: Building Anticipatory Governance and Regional Value Chains  <b>Parallel Workshop 4:</b> The impact of full gender equity on development prospects	South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)  African Futures & Innovation (AFI), Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
<b>Day 2: 11 January 2024</b>			
<b>08:00 – 08:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE</b>			
<b>08:30 – 09:00 PLENARY INCLUDING FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS 1 TO 4</b>			
9	09:00 - 10:30	<b>Parallel Workshop 5:</b> Building forward better: The role of economic transformation.  <b>Parallel Workshop 6:</b> Energy Transition in Africa: Case study on Morocco	African Centre for Economic Cooperation (ACET) Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS)

<b>10:30 - 10:45 Break</b>			
9	10:45 - 12:15	<p><b>Parallel Workshop 7:</b> The Future of Technology in Africa (AI and leapfrogging)</p> <p><b>Parallel Workshop 8:</b> Digital Education /Transformation: Shaping Africa's Post-Covid Economic Futures.</p>	<p>African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)</p> <p>Afro-Sino Centre of International Relations (ASCIR)</p>
<b>12:15 - 13:30 LUNCH</b>			
<b>13:30 - 13:50 PLENARY INCLUDING FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS 5 to 8</b>			
10	13:50 - 15:30	<p>Discussion with Think Tanks, African policymakers and academia on "Prioritizing Policy Research: Enabling Think Tanks to Support Agenda 2063/UN SDGs 2030 Implementation for Future Development Trajectories"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi</b>, Executive Vice-President, African Centre for Economic Cooperation (ACET)</li> <li>▪ <b>Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos</b>, Chief Executive Officer, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Patrick Olomo</b>, Ag. Head Economic Policy and Sustainable Development, AUC</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Said Adejumobi</b>, Director Strategic Planning, Oversight &amp; Results Division (SPORD), UNECA</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Kennedy Mbeva</b>, Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER), University of Cambridge</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr. Foretia</b>, Co-Chair of the Denis &amp; Lenora Foretia Foundation and Executive Chairman of the Nkafu Policy Institute (NPI)</li> </ul>	Facilitated by Dr Marius Oosthuizen
<b>15:30 - 15:45 BREAK</b>			
11	15:45 - 17:15	Futures perspectives from RECs, moderated by <b>Aïssatou Hayatou</b> , Head NEPAD Office AUC	RECs
12	17:15 - 17:30	<p>Wrap up: <b>Dr Jakkie Cilliers</b>, Chairman of the Board and Head of African Futures &amp; Innovation - Institute for Security Studies (ISS)</p> <p>Vote of Thanks: <b>Ms Pamla Gopaul</b>, Lead Coordinator Economic Analysis and Foresight Unit and the Africa Policy Bridge Tank (APBT) flagship programme, AUDA-NEPAD.</p> <p>Closing Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr Amine Idriss</b>, AUDA-NEPAD Director of Infrastructure, Industrialisation, Market Trade, Economic Analysis and Foresight</li> <li>▪ <b>Director Djamel Ghrib</b>, Director Economic Development, Integration and Trade EDIT (ETIM), African Union Commission</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Paul-Simon Handy</b>, Regional Director East Africa and Representative to the AU. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Addis</li> </ul>	AUDA-NEPAD and ISS

## Day 3: 12 January 2024 – BY INVITATION ONLY

### TRAINING PROVIDED IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH

08:00 – 08:30 REGISTRATION AND ARRIVAL COFFEE			
1	08:30 - 10:30	Access and navigation of the African Futures website	AFI & Pardee Centre
2	10:30 - 11:30	Installation and access to IFs (tea/coffee available outside)	AFI & Pardee Centre
3	11:30 - 12:30	Flex display and specialized displays (tea/coffee available outside)	AFI & Pardee Centre
12:30 – 13:45 LUNCH			
4	13:45 – 16:30	Training continues (tea/coffee available outside)	AFI & Pardee
16:30 – 17:00 BREAK			
5	17:00 – 17:30	Wrap up, vote of thanks and next steps	AUDA-NEPAD
17:30 DEPART			

### Workshop information

**Parallel Workshop 1:** The Future of Africa's Industrialization: Advancing Economic Diversification, Developing Value Chains, and Facilitating Structural Transformation Across the Continent.

**Session host/moderator:** Dr Denis Foretia, Executive Chairman, Nkafu Policy Institute (NPI)

**Discussants:** Mr Charles Boamah, Former Senior Vice President, African Development Bank Group & Mr Paul Tassong Njukang, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy Planning and Regional Development in charge of Planning, Republic of Cameroon.

Industrialisation is universally acknowledged as the key driver of economic growth and development, fostering job creation, technological innovation, and economic spillovers into various sectors. Despite Africa's immense potential for industrialization, the continent grapples with impediments hindering the seamless flow of goods and services, increasing production and trade costs, and diminishing competitiveness of African products on both regional and global markets. Although endowed with abundant natural resources, the continent is predominantly a commodity exporter. The establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) underscores the critical need to bolster manufacturing and industrial production, to capitalize on opportunities within this unified market. Regrettably, strides in transforming and leveraging economic potential remain inadequate. African economies remain highly reliant on unprocessed commodities for export revenue, with the continent contributing less than 2% to the world's total manufacturing output.

As countries attempt to curb the devastating effects of climate change, there is a growing consensus that African governments must adopt a more proactive stance in promoting industrial development. This involves not only creating conducive conditions for industrialization—such as investing in infrastructure, cultivating a skilled workforce, and fostering an improved investment climate—but also identifying and supporting emerging industries. African Union Member States must expedite economic and structural transformation by expanding manufacturing capacity and strengthening value chains through export diversification, tariff reduction, and the removal of non-tariff barriers. Harmonizing standards and regulations, enhancing trade facilitation, and investing in infrastructure are imperative steps needed to propel this transformation.

This workshop, on the theme “The Future of African Industrialization: Advancing Economic Diversification, Developing Value Chains, and Facilitating Structural Transformation Across the Continent,” is designed to confront existing challenges. It aims to look into the future and provide policymakers and stakeholders with tangible strategies to promote sustainable and inclusive industrial development. The workshop seeks to stimulate discussions that lead to actionable insights, fostering a future where Africa's industrial landscape aligns with the principles of economic diversification, value chain development, and structural transformation.

## Parallel Workshop 2: Science, Technology and Innovation Policy for Africa's Development

**Session host/moderator:** Dr. Bitrina Diyamett, Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO)

**Discussants:** Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat, Science, Technology and Innovation integration in North African countries. The Maghtech Network (Maghtech.org) & Prof. Alexis Habiyaemye, South African Research Chairs Initiative, University of Johannesburg.

Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want, which, at its core, is a plan for Africa's structural transformation, has seven aspirations, where the 1st and the 7th talk to the central issue of the agenda – structural transformation. The first aspiration being, A Prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, and the seventh being, Africa as a Strong, Resilient and Influential Global Player and Partner.

At the center of the two aspirations is Africa that is capable of adding value to the diverse wealth of her natural resources, and thereby creating massive employment and decent jobs for individuals in Africa and income for the government that is capable of providing first class services for the people of Africa, which in turn leads to high standard of living in the continent. The Agenda also foresees Africa that is self-reliant and equal player in global trade, exporting not only natural resources, but also manufactured goods of highest quality.

As observed by renowned scholars and as experience of the now developed countries indicate, at the heart of the structural transformation and such characteristics of Africa we want, is science, technology and innovation (STI) capabilities. And therefore as also explained in the Agenda itself (pg 11), the continent will not be able to achieve all the above without adequate capabilities in STI. As demonstrated by the examples of more developed countries, where the example of the Asian Tigers is particularly telling, building STI capabilities require well-guided and evidence-informed STI policies that are carefully coordinated with sectoral policies. Such policies in turn require quality research that is informed by theoretical propositions on the working of the national systems of innovation emanating from the empirical evidence from the region itself.

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## Parallel Workshop 3: Futures of Green Minerals in Africa: Building Anticipatory Governance and Regional Value Chains

**Session host/moderator:** Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

**Discussants:** Mr Charles Boamah, Former Senior Vice President, African Development Bank Group & Mr Paul Tasong Njukang, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy Planning and Regional Development in charge of Planning, Republic of Cameroon.

The climate-driven green energy transition provides opportunities for resource-rich developing countries to gain a first-mover advantage in the green economy. This prospect requires leveraging the increased demand for green minerals while ensuring a socially and ecologically just transition.

The changing green minerals and metals ecosystem spurred by the global drive towards decarbonisation presents a unique opportunity for African countries to stimulate a paradigm shift away from a development model anchored on extraction, towards one in which mineral resources are harnessed to accelerate regional broad-based development and build resilient, self-reliant, diversified, and wellbeing economies (i.e. value beyond mineral revenues).

In order to achieve just regional green mineral futures, regional green minerals stakeholders should increase their capacity for anticipatory governance to: (1) mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in line with broader low-carbon ambitions; (2) implement requisite policies to foster social inclusivity; (3) develop local and regional value

chains and lower commodity dependence; (4) enhance regional collaboration to scale value chains and benefits. This 90-minute strategic foresight workshop aims to collaboratively explore high-impact strategic priorities for the future of green minerals in Africa. The goal is to develop a draft strategic foresight framework that enhances anticipatory governance and foresight for regional value chains within the evolving global commodity and energy ecosystems. The resulting framework will serve as a practical guide for policymakers, development partners, member states, think tanks, and the African Union, especially the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC). It will specifically support the mandate of the AMDC to implement the African Mining Vision, create advanced geological information systems, strengthen mining linkages and value addition, and the reconsider artisanal and small-scale mining, skills development, and community livelihoods (a new social contract) in alignment with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

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**Parallel Workshop 4:** The impact of full gender equity on development prospects, African Futures & Innovation (ISS)

**Moderator:** Ms Nyiko Khoza, Private Sector Engagement and Partnerships, AUDA-NEPAD

**Discussant:** Dr. Yeboua Kouassi, Senior Research, AFI-ISS

One of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Likewise, the African Union's Agenda 2063, a master plan for 'the Africa we want', places gender equality at the forefront of the continent's vision. Among the seven aspirations outlined in the agenda, Aspiration 6 and its related Goal 17 specifically focus on achieving full gender equality to enable a people-driven development for Africa. Many efforts have been made over the past decades to tackle gender inequality. Still, no country or region has yet achieved full gender parity, although some countries and regions have made more progress than others.

Despite the significant progress made in the area of policy and legislation and the ratification of international and regional conventions and commitments by African countries, gender inequalities persist as a significant social issue. They affect various aspects of life, including education, employment, political representation, healthcare and access to resources. According to a report by McKinsey, Africa's overall gender parity stands at 0.58 (1 would be full parity), and given the current rate of progress, it could take 140 years for the continent to achieve full equality. This alarming forecast calls for drastic actions to address gender inequalities on the continent not only for its intrinsic value, i.e. to improve upon the well-being of all human beings but also because of its potential economic benefits.

This workshop, on the theme "The Impact of Gender Inclusion on Africa's Development Prospects" is designed to discuss the findings of a ground-breaking modelling exercise on the impact of gender inclusion on Africa's development prospects conducted by the African Futures and Innovation Programme at the Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria (South Africa). The workshop seeks to discuss the current state of gender inequalities in Africa and likely trends in a business-as-usual scenario (or Current Path forecast) to 2043, the end of the third ten-year implementation plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the impact of an ambitious but reasonable reduction in gender inequalities (Gender scenario) on Africa's growth and human development prospects. The workshop seeks to stimulate discussions on gender and Africa's development and convince African policymakers to step up their efforts to reduce gender inequalities on the continent.

## **Parallel Workshop 5:** Building forward better: The role of economic transformation, African Centre for Economic Cooperation (ACET)

**Host:** Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Sekyere, Director, Research, Policy and Programs, ACET, Dr Habtamu Edjigu, ACET Transformation Fellow, and Dr Emezat Mengesha, Head of Gender, ACET.

**Discussants:** Dr. Tadele Ferede, AAU Economics faculty & Dr. Getenet Almeu, Institute of Development Research at the College of Development Studies at AAU.

Economies worldwide are striving to recover from the devastating impacts of the diverse shocks of COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the consequences of the climate crisis. These shocks have led to massive external debt, widening fiscal deficits, food and energy insecurity, global inflation, high levels of unemployment, and stalled economic growth. As a result, two decades of progress on development targets are at risk of being reversed. ACET believes that economic growth, while necessary, is not sufficient to enable this recovery and empower attempts to build forward better. African economies need to transform to ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development.

ACET's African Transformation Index 2023 Report shows that more transformed economies are more likely to be resilient to shocks. Unfortunately, many African economies are still struggling to transform and remain vulnerable to persistent negative shocks and their pass-through effects on growth, employment, social outcomes, and social cohesion. A nexus approach is required to explore the interrelationships between economic growth and economic transformation, including the trade-offs and synergies between the two concepts, the challenges that need to be addressed to sustain inclusive growth, and the opportunities available to African economies to "build forward better" in the process.

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## **Parallel Workshop 6:** Towards a Just Energy Transition in Africa: Challenges, Results of Cooperation, and the Moroccan Case Study, Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS)

**Session discussant:** Professor Larabi Jaïdi, Senior Fellow, Mrs. Sabine Emran, Economist, Policy Center for the New South and Dr Rubin Makomere, University Associate, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania.

Ensuring a just energy transition in Africa is one of the most pressing issues in today's climate change agenda. With only 4% contribution to carbon emissions, Africa suffers from the most severe consequences of climate change. In order to create the right conditions for an efficient and just energy transition on the continent, African governments and their development partners have a key role to play.

In recent years, several African countries started transitioning from traditional energy sources to utilising renewable ones. This action is driven by initiatives such as the Paris Summit and the United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

Within this framework, African countries have regarded the European Union (EU) as a crucial strategic ally for a considerable time. The European Green Deal transformative agenda launched by the European Commission in 2019 outlines the EU's ambition to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This illustrates how Europe is shaping its energy vision, but also offers opportunities to converge modalities with Africa, encouraging mutual cooperation towards more sustainable energy solutions. However, for the African continent, climate justice financing, technological barriers and regulatory frameworks are among the burdens that still hamper the continent's efforts to channel an efficient energy transition.

Climate justice in Africa and its financing was highlighted at COP27 through the Loss and Damage Fund, but also through various initiatives addressing Africa's financing needs for the energy transition, including the new financial architecture framework. However, it's important to assess where Africa stands today in terms of resources and energy mix.

The North African region has demonstrated strong performance in the use of renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind. As a result, Morocco has emerged as a major contributor to Africa's transition to sustainable energy by committing to renewable resources, reducing dependence on conventional fossil fuels, and building a resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure. It's therefore important to look at Morocco's current energy mix, how the country has considered renewable energy sources in its energy transition path, and what the country's strategy is when it comes to green hydrogen.

The aim of this 90-minute workshop is to provide insights into the current energy transition landscape in Africa and the path towards an equitable energy transition that fosters effective cooperation. It will explore the prospects for cooperation between African countries and the European Union, examine the convergence of initiatives announced by the EU and those directly affecting African countries, highlight the financing needs and gaps for energy transition in Africa, and provide an overview of Morocco's energy transition vision and strategy, focusing on key projects, obstacles and achievements.

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**Parallel Workshop 7:** Digital Education /Transformation: Shaping Africa's Post-Covid Economic Futures, Afro-Sino Centre of International Relations (ASCIR)

**Moderator/Host:** Arhin Acheampong, Deputy Director, Afro-Sino Centre of International Relations (ASCIR)

**Discussants:** Prof. Adams Bodomo, Senior Research Fellow, Education/Culture Pillar, ASCIR & Pamela Adwoa Carlsake, Executive Director, ASCIR

Digital transformation is essential for Africa's economic and social development. Particularly for its potential of driving economic growth, creating new jobs, and improving social development to fulfil the African Union's Agenda 2063. Adopting digital technologies helps solve some of the most pressing challenges in agribusiness, financial services, supply chains, healthcare, and education in Africa. While the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on the health and well-being of people across the continent, it has also highlighted the importance of digital technologies and accelerated the adoption of digital solutions in a number of areas in Africa. The pandemic also exposes Africa's economic vulnerabilities and dependency on global markets. A joint report by the African Union Commission (AUC) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that Africa experienced reduced capital utilization, rising global trade costs, and increased risks of supply chains during COVID-19. Such vulnerabilities raise the necessity of accelerating digital transformation to facilitate regional integration in Africa and create jobs.

This workshop, on the theme, "Digital Education/Transformation: Shaping Africa's Post-Covid Economic Futures" explores an integrated framework on multilayered digital education transformation in Africa designed by the Afro-Sino Centre to contribute to shaping Africa's post pandemic economic futures. The workshop seeks to stimulate discussions that lead to actionable insights, fostering a future where Africa's digital environment is robust to advance the continent's economic transformation.

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**Parallel Workshop 8:** The Future of Technology in Africa (AI and leapfrogging), African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

### For more information contact:

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