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CONTENT

- **Chief Executive Officer's Message: Energising Africa** 06
- **AUDA-NEPAD Governance: New Chairperson of NEPAD Heads of State and Governance Orientation Committee** 08
- **The First 10 Years of Agenda 2014-2023: A Decade of Congruence** 10
- **Decade of Accelerated Implementation 2024-2033: By 2033, Africa Wants To Be...** 14
 - **Infrastructure, Trade and Market** 16
 - **Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability** 28
 - **Human Capital and Institutions Development** 36
 - **Science, Technology and Innovation Until Grand Challenges** 50
 - **Partnerships** 57
 - **Institutional Excellence** 58

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ACRONYMS

ABNE	African Biosafety Network of Expertise	HSGOC	Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee
ACE	African Community of Cyber Experts	ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ADFNS	Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security	IFD	Institutions de financement du développement
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	IVM	Integrated Vector Management Programme
AfSEM	African Single Electricity Market	NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
AI	Artificial Intelligence	NDP	National Development Plan
ALM	Africa Leadership Meeting	NRA	National Regulatory Agency
AMA	African Medicines Agency	OAU	Organisation of African Unity
AMRH	African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
APET	AU High-Level Panel in Emerging Technologies	PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
APPF	African Projects Preparation Facility	PIDA-PAP	PIDA Priority Action Plan
ASBP	African Seed and Biotechnology Programme	PIFAH	AU Programme for Investment and Financing of Africa's Health
AU	African Union	PMPA	Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa
AU-ADF	AU Agenda 2063 Development Fund	PRC	Permanent Representatives Committee
AUC	African Union Commission	R&D	Research and Development
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development	RAIP	Regional Agriculture Investment Plan
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	RCORE	Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence
CAP	Common African Position	REC	Regional Economic Community
CJED	Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
CMP	Continental Master Plan for electricity generation and transmission	STC	Specialised Technical Committee
FTYIP	First Ten Year Implementation Plan (Agenda 2063)	STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
GBVC	Genetically-Based Vector Control	STYIP	Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (Agenda 2063)
GEd	Genome Editing	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms		
HGSF	Home Grown School Feeding Programme		
HMSP	Health Products Manufacturing Support Platform		
HRISA	Health Research and Innovation Strategy for Africa		

ENERGISING AFRICA

This year resonates with profound significance for the African continent, marking a decisive moment in our shared pursuit of development and unity. As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the continent's inaugural post-independence continental institution, we take stock of progress and shortfalls in the realisation of the pan-African vision for a continent united, free and in control of its destiny.

2023 signifies not only a tribute to the contributions of our founding mothers and fathers, the daughters and sons of Africa, both on the continent and in the diaspora, but also marks the end of the First 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. AUDA-NEPAD, alongside the African Union Commission (AUC), has wrapped up a comprehensive evaluation, paving the way for the formulation of the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (2024-2033) that will set Africa's course for the next decade of acceleration.

The evaluation process, which involved the active participation of all 55 African Union Member States, represents a historic collective effort and inclusive approach to assessing the progress and impact of Agenda 2063's initial phase. Through comprehensive consultations, reviews, and assessments, AUDA-NEPAD and AUC tapped into the insights, data, and feedback from Member States, showcasing a united front in gauging the progress and impact of Agenda 2063. The outcome of the evaluation shows that the first decade of Agenda 2063 provided Africa with a unique opportunity for all 55 AU Member States to galvanise around a common development agenda.

As we close the chapter on the First 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, it is clear that Africa has made giant leaps, especially in infrastructure development and economic integration. However, it is equally important to acknowledge that the continent is not on track towards achieving all 20 goals. Most notably, these include continental efforts towards realising a high standard of living, quality of life, and well-being for all, transformed economies and job creation.

We are ushering in a dawn for the continent through the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) spanning 2024 to 2033 that will shape the future of our beloved continent. The Second Decade of Agenda 2063 has been declared the Decade of Acceleration, building on the gains made, addressing the challenges, and recognising areas where acceleration is needed to meet our collective goals.



H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas,
Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD



Seven moonshots that embody the ambitions of Agenda 2063 have been identified to accelerate progress. By 2033, Africa wants:

1. Every AU MS to attain at least middle-income status;
2. Africa to be more integrated and connected;
3. Public institutions to be more responsive;
4. Africa to resolve conflicts amicably;
5. African values to be explicit and promoted;
6. Africa citizens to be more empowered and more productive; and
7. Africa to be a strong and an influential global player.

To address one of the critical drawbacks of the First 10-Year Implementation Plan – the lack of costing – AUDA-NEPAD, working closely with the Commission and development partners, led the preparation of the costing framework of the STYIP. To realise our targets and ambitions over the next decade, we will require USD 8.9 trillion. In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD has launched a joint continental resource mobilisation and programming initiative dubbed Team Africa in collaboration with the AUC, RECs, and other key stakeholders. Team Africa seeks to domesticate and support the implementation of the STYIP at both regional and national levels by optimising the benefits of regional integration. Team Africa serves as a testament to the collective aspirations and ambitions of the African continent in addressing our developmental challenges through indigenous solutions.

This year, we also celebrated the remarkable impact of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Over the past decade, PIDA has been a game changer in shaping the infrastructure landscape of our continent, laying the foundation for sustainable growth and prosperity. Through strategic investments in transport, energy, water, and ICT infrastructure, PIDA, through the first PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP 1), has connected communities and facilitated trade, empowered African economies and improved the livelihoods of millions. Close to 30 million people gained access to electricity, with current overall access to electricity at around 44%. There has been a slight increase in intra-Africa exports to 16% of trade due to road and rail infrastructure. Furthermore, 112,900 direct and 49,400 indirect jobs were created during the construction and operation of PIDA projects.

Looking ahead, we commit to building upon these successes, aligning projects with our collective aspirations for regional integration, industrialisation, and the realisation of Agenda 2063. Working shoulder to shoulder with our Member States and development partners, we will ensure the efficient implementation of the PIDA Priority Action Plan, fostering sustainable development, job creation, and poverty reduction across the continent. In this regard, our staff will work tirelessly to secure the investment interests of USD 175 Million for the 22 high-impact PIDA projects following the historic Second Dakar Financing Summit, hosted by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal.

Under Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability, AUDA-NEPAD partnered with the AUC, RECs, and partners to support 49 Member States in tracking and reporting progress on agricultural goals and Malabo Declaration 2025 targets and completed the 4th CAADP Biennial Review (BR) Report. The BR is a critical tool to accelerate continental, regional and national efforts in collectively driving agricultural transformation.

Moreover, our advocacy has extended to establishing Africa's Common Position on Climate Change at global fora to ensure fair climate financing and programming for the continent. To this end, I am pleased to announce that on the 3rd of December 2023, on the margins of COP28, AUDA-NEPAD signed a host agreement with the Government of Egypt for the establishment of an AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (AUDA-NEPAD CRAC), in Egypt. The CRAC is another milestone achievement towards Africa's pledge to tackle issues of Climate Resilience and Adaptation.

Throughout the year, we continued to put people-centred development at the centre of programming and implementation. Under our Flagship Initiative, Energize Africa, we forged partnerships and engaged with youth to uplift Africa's greatest resource. We advanced the 100 Million MSME Initiative to transform Africa's micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. We mobilised a Euro 20 million commitment to support programmes on youth, gender and women's economic empowerment in three Regional Economic Communities.

At every step, we have spared no effort or resources to realise the aspirations of our founding mothers and fathers. The results outlined in this report underscore our determination and commitment to charting our course for the future; I am immensely proud.

With the unwavering commitment of our Member States, partners, and dedicated staff, I am confident that AUDA-NEPAD will continue to be at the forefront of driving the continent's development agenda and energising Africa.

NEW CHAIRPERSON AND HSGOC MEMBERS

NEPAD Heads of State and Governance Orientation Committee

In February 2023, H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, was appointed as the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) during the Assembly Summit. H.E. Paul Kagame, the outgoing Chairperson and President of the Republic of Rwanda, was endorsed as the Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the HSGOC, along with three other Vice-Chairpersons. The HSGOC Chairperson, elected for a two-year term, is responsible for reporting on AUDA-NEPAD activities to the African Union Assembly and providing recommendations for the Assembly's consideration and adoption. The HSGOC operates as a sub-committee of the AU Assembly, comprising 33 members, including eight Member States leading the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and 25 Member States. Membership rotates every two years, except for the five founding AUDA-NEPAD Member States: Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa.



H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi,
President of Egypt, Chairperson of NEPAD HSGOC

The composition of the new HSGOC for the period 2023 and 2025 is as follows:



A DECADE OF CONGRUENCE

Agenda 2063 aims to realise The Africa We Want— an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. Structured as a 50-year development blueprint, Agenda 2063 is implemented through Five 10-Year Implementation Plans that embody a set of ambitions and targets that the continent must strive to achieve through coordinated and collective efforts.

As the First 10-Year Implementation Plan spanning 2014 to 2023 has ended, the Executive Council tasked the African Union Commission (AUC) and AUDA-NEPAD with assessing the implementation of the development blueprint of Africa's first decade. Accordingly, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, together with other members of the AU Technical Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluation of Agenda 2063, worked closely with Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and development partners to evaluate the implementation of the first decade of Agenda 2063 and formulated the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP). These two tasks are also referred to as the Special Project.



WHAT WE LEARNED

Agenda 2063 is as relevant today as it was 10 years ago



The evaluation of the first 10 years of Agenda 2063 showed that Agenda 2063 provided a unique opportunity for all 55 AU Member States to galvanise around a common development agenda, thereby strengthening efforts towards regional and continental integration. More specifically, AU Member States committed to implementing common African positions on food sovereignty, climate change, and trade matters. As a result, the countries' National Development Plans (NDPs) align closely with the priorities articulated in the continental development agenda. Therefore, the first 10 years of Agenda 2063 are considered a decade of convergence, where Africa solidified its determination to pursue shared objectives. The next decade aims to build on the gains made and accelerate progress.

Two Agendas – Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 – One Plan

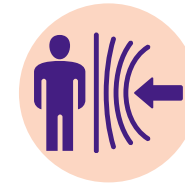


There is a strong level of congruence between Agenda 2063 and other development frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building upon this alignment, the “One Plan, Two Agendas” strategy has been devised, ensuring the pursuit of both agendas through the implementation of the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (STYP). This approach emphasises the strengthening of collaborative planning between the African Union and United Nations, leveraging implementation arrangements and resources to fast-track the realisation of these two agendas across Africa through “One Plan”. However, greater political commitment will be required to implement and report on the STYP and the SDGs as one.





Strengthening Resilience



The continent was not well prepared to address unforeseen external shocks and disasters that occurred during the first decade of Agenda 2063. Inadequate preparedness led to massive losses of some of the gains registered. In subsequent planning and implementation phases, there will be a need for dedicated measures and mechanisms devoted towards mitigation and socio-economic resilience against external shocks. The Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan will address aspects of resilience, most notably regarding internal and external shocks, which were not explicitly featured in the 10-Year Implementation Plan.

Domestication of Agenda 2063



Agenda 2063 is a people-driven development blueprint, meaning that it considers the aspirations and needs of the African people and seeks to empower them in shaping their future. Domestication of Agenda 2063 emphasises the ownership of its implementation by African governments, institutions, and citizens. Overall, there needs to be more public awareness and participation in Agenda 2063 in the next decade, especially at the sub-national and community level to enhance ownership, multi-stakeholder participation, and mutual accountability for accelerated implementation. Moreover, a key priority for AUDA-NEPAD will be the domestication of Agenda 2063 and the integration of the goals, targets, and principles of the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan into the specific context of African countries.

Sustainable Domestic Resource Mobilisation



One of the critical drawbacks of the First 10-Year Implementation Plan is that it needed to be costed, which posed a significant challenge for resource mobilisation. An analysis of the Union's budget (2014 - 2021) revealed that financial resources were inadequate to realise the expected results and, subsequently, the need to strengthen greater efforts for sustainable domestic resource mobilisation. Moreover, internal and external resources were not insufficient to implement the First 10-Year Implementation Plan at the continental, regional, and national levels. Against this background, a key priority for AUDA-NEPAD is to establish a dedicated development fund for Agenda 2063 to accelerate resource mobilisation and efficient deployment of technical and financial resources to countries.

AFRICA MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS

BUT CONTINENTAL PERFORMANCE IN ACHIEVING THE 20 GOALS OF AGENDA 2063 NEEDS TO CATCH UP

The assessment revealed that the continent's overall performance in achieving the 20 goals was poor, standing at 39% against the set targets. While remarkable performance was realised in areas such as coverage of internet penetration and the percentage of the population living with HIV that have access to anti-retroviral treatment, only minimal progress was made on several social-economic parameters such as pre-school, primary and secondary school enrolment, reduction in the prevalence of malaria and TB, increasing access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services, and increasing the number of households with access to electricity. The evaluation also revealed the need to enhance multi-sectoral and multi-partner planning and implementation. This entails, amongst others, strengthening the nexus between peace, security, and development, enhancing policy support, and pooling resources towards strengthening systemic capacities in planning, coordination, and implementation of Agenda 2063, especially at the country level.

Where did Africa make significant progress?[1]

-  **Goal 9**
Key Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions Established and Functional
-  **Goal 10**
World Class Infrastructure Criss-Crosses Africa
-  **Goal 12**
Capable Institutions and Transformed Leadership in Place at All Levels
-  **Goal 13**
Peace, Security and Stability are Preserved
-  **Goal 14**
A Stable and Peaceful Africa
-  **Goal 15**
A Fully Functional and Operational African Peace and Security Architecture
-  **Goal 19**
Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence

Where did Africa make moderate progress?

-  **Goal 3**
Healthy and Well-Nourished Citizens
-  **Goal 5**
Modern Agriculture for Increased Productivity and Production
-  **Goal 11**
Democratic Values, Practices, Universal Principles of Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law Entrenched
-  **Goal 17**
Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life

Where do significant challenges remain?

-  **Goal 1**
A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well-Being
-  **Goal 2**
Well-Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution under-pinned by Science, Technology and Innovation
-  **Goal 4**
Transformed Economies and Job Creation
-  **Goal 8**
United Africa (Federal or Confederate)
-  **Goal 16**
African Cultural Renaissance is Pre-Eminent
-  **Goal 18**
Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children

-  **Aspiration 1**
A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
-  **Aspiration 2**
An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and a Vision of the African Renaissance
-  **Aspiration 3**
An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law
-  **Aspiration 4**
A peaceful and secure Africa
-  **Aspiration 5**
Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, value and beliefs
-  **Aspiration 6**
An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential of the African People
-  **Aspiration 7**
Africa as a strong and influential global partner

[1] The full reports on the Evaluation of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan and Biennial Progress Reports can be accessed on www.nepad.org.



BY 2033, AFRICA WANTS TO BE...

Drawing from the lessons learnt in the design and implementation of the first decade of Agenda 2063, the second decade of Agenda 2063 is poised to be a decade of acceleration. The Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063 will set the basis for subsequent decades characterised by increased impact, stability, and influence – culminating into “The Africa We Want”. The STYIP will prioritise investments in drivers, pathways, and enablers to achieve results at the right speed and the required scale. In this regard, seven moonshots reflecting the aspirations of Agenda 2063 have been identified. These moonshots draw inspiration from the seven aspirations outlined in Agenda 2063. The moonshots are ambitious targets that are attainable over 10 years and purposed to bring the continent closer to “The Africa We Want”. The Plan also features priority areas, a results matrix with targets, and an outline of indicative strategies and enablers for effectively executing Africa’s development blueprint. The draft Plan features evidence-based analytical rigour benefiting from the foresight analysis that AUDA-NEPAD undertook, providing plausible scenarios for choosing priority areas and targets.

The AU Executive Council provisionally endorsed the draft evaluation report of the FTYIP and the draft STYIP in October 2023. The report of the Special Project report will be presented to the Assembly at the AU Summit in February 2024 for approval.

AGENDA 2063 MOONSHOTS



PROSPEROUS

Every AU MS to attain at least middle-income status



INTEGRATED

Africa to be more integrated and connected



DEMOCRATIC

Public institutions to be more responsive



PEACEFUL

Africa to resolve conflicts amicably



CULTURED

African values to be explicit and promoted



PEOPLE-DRIVEN

Africa citizens to be more empowered and more productive



INFLUENTIAL

Africa to be a strong and an influential global player

ACCELERATING PROGRESS

In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD continued to strengthen the capabilities of RECs and Member States in monitoring and reporting progress on Agenda 2063, underpinned by enhanced advocacy, knowledge sharing, and peer-to-peer learning. In this context, AUDA-NEPAD has established an interactive data-driven knowledge platform on Agenda 2063. The online platform features an interactive dashboard with built-in capabilities for in-depth time-series analysis to assess progress made at the country, regional, and continental levels, leveraging the data from biennial country progress reports. Moreover, the platform features an advocacy tool on Agenda 2063, Member States-driven communities of practice for collective learning, and a knowledge-sharing platform including country good practices and lessons learned. As Africa is launching the STYIP, AUDA-NEPAD has embarked on updating the Agenda 2063 dashboard, incorporating the seven moonshots to be attained over the next decade and the new indicators and targets set by Member States. Furthermore, AUDA-NEPAD digitised the Agenda 2063 data-entry template and developed an online platform for Member States to manage, upload, and publish national data sets. The platform is purposed to become a continental repository for information, data, and knowledge on Agenda 2063 implementation. The Agenda 2063 platform can be accessed [here](#).

USD 8.9 TRILLION








AUDA-NEPAD, working closely with UNDP, led the preparation of the costing framework of the STYIP. For Africa to realise the set of targets and ambitions over the next 10 years, it is estimated that the continent will require an additional three trillion United States dollars (USD 3 trillion), bringing the total cost to implement the STYIP to USD 8.9 trillion.



Team Africa: A united approach for Agenda 2063 Resource Mobilisation

With the current global financial crisis, mobilising the additional finances will call for innovative financing mechanisms. To this end, AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with the AUC, AfCFTA, RECs, and other key stakeholders, launched a continental resource mobilisation campaign dubbed Team Africa in 2023. Team Africa reflects a united approach in domestication and implementation of the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063 through joint planning, programming, and resource mobilisation at the continental, regional and national level. The launch was attended by representatives from all RECs, AU specialised organs, and other key vital entities, underscoring the significance of Team Africa. A compendium of catalytic strategic initiatives has been identified. These initiatives are poised to drive transformative change across the continent, addressing critical challenges and capitalising on opportunities. Efforts have been made to ensure the programme complements and builds synergies with existing flagship programmes. This approach ensures that there is no duplication of efforts and that resources are utilised optimally. Moreover, a comprehensive financial blueprint has been crafted for Team Africa. This ensures that all initiatives under the programme are backed by clear financial and technical resource requirements strategy.

Costing and Financing Gap for the Seven Moonshots of STYIP

STYIP Moonshots	Business As Usual (billion US\$)	STYIP Push (billion US\$)	Financing Gap (billion US\$)
 Moonshot 1: Every AU Member State attains at least middle-income status.	2903.22	4096.09	1192.87
 Moonshot 2: Africa is more Integrated and Connected	650.06	1153.25	503.19
 Moonshot 3: Public Institutions are more Responsive	954.85	1427.74	472.88
 Moonshot 4: Africa Resolves Conflicts Amicably	602.17	676.19	74.02
 Moonshot 5: Africa Values are Explicit and Promoted	12.59	20.19	7.60
 Moonshot 6: Africa Citizens are more Empowered and more Productive	366.09	1198.24	832.15
 Moonshot 7: Africa is a strong and influential global player	123.92	343.94	220.02
Total	5612.91	8915.63	3302.72



African Union Agenda 2063 Development Fund (AU-ADF)

Moreover, AUDA-NEPAD undertook a feasibility study for the establishment of an African Union Agenda 2063 Development Fund (AU-ADF). The AU-ADF takes a moonshot approach to financing Africa's unique challenges and opportunities guided by the ambitious seven 'Moonshots' of the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063 complimented by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. Recognising the limitations of traditional development finance models in Africa over the past six decades and the momentum to reform the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), there is a need to rethink innovative sustainable development pathways for Africa. The feasibility study evaluates the establishment of the AU-ADF as a strategic mechanism designed to meet the extensive financing requirements of the STYIP, and a series of successive Ten-Year Implementation Plans until 2063 while embedding resilience at the core of Africa's development needs. The Feasibility Study recommends a hybrid financing model that combines traditional development bank strategies with dynamic, private sector-driven financing methods. This approach is uniquely suited to meet the diverse and complex demands of the Moonshots and to meet the unique contextual environments of Member States. The AU-ADF is of strategic importance as it transcends its role as a mere financing mechanism. It is a strategic enabler that aligns financial resources with Africa's continental priorities. The AU-ADF is poised to be a key driver in realising the ambitious Moonshots of the STYIP, marking a significant step towards a prosperous, resilient, and self-sustaining African continent.

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRADE AND MARKET

Under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), AUDA-NEPAD aims to overcome connectivity challenges by developing cross-border infrastructure in transport, ICT, energy, and transboundary water. PIDA's primary objective is to fuel intra-Africa trade and facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services, thereby paving the way for a prosperous and interconnected Africa. To realise this vision, Africa requires infrastructure investments of USD 161 billion from 2021-2030. In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD collaborates with RECs, countries, specialised institutions, and the private sector to accelerate the implementation and financing of PIDA projects. AUDA-NEPAD also places a prime focus on unlocking transport and logistics challenges while enhancing access to markets for Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), in line with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

10 Years of PIDA: A Decade of Transforming Africa's Infrastructure

In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with AUC and JICA, launched the PIDA First 10-Year Progress Report at the Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental, and Interregional Infrastructure and Energy (STC-TTIE) Meeting. The PIDA Progress Report marks the first 10 years of the implementation of PIDA PAP 1 (2012-2020) and the transition to the second phase of PIDA PAP 2, which runs from 2021 until 2030. PIDA PAP II consists of 69 Projects, with at least 10 projects per Region (North, South, East, West, and Central).

Over the past 10 years, PIDA has driven remarkable progress in Africa's transport, energy, ICT, and transboundary water resources. The PIDA PAP 1 projects have transitioned from planning to active stages, with many now operational, under construction, in financial transactions, or undergoing structural development.

The PIDA Progress Report reveals that close to 30 million people gained access to electricity, with current overall access to electricity at around 44%. There has been a slight increase in intra-Africa exports to 16% of trade due to road and rail infrastructure. PIDA enabled the water storage infrastructure needed for food production and trade. ICT broadband penetration is now more than 25%, exceeding the 10% target. One of the intended outcomes of PIDA is also to address economic marginalisation and social exclusion issues by facilitating the creation of economic opportunities and decent employment. During construction and operation, 112,900 direct and 49,400 indirect jobs were created.



PIDA'S IMPACT 10 YEARS

112,900 direct
and indirect
49,400 jobs
created during
construction and
operation



30
million
people
gained
access to
electricity

Water storage
infrastructure enabled
for food production
and trade

ICT broadband
penetration has
surpassed the target
of 10%



Intra-Africa
exports
increased to 16%
of trade due to
road and rail
infrastructure

USD 82
BILLION

Investment commitments **exceeded** PIDA PAPI initial target
by USD 14 billion, reaching USD 82 billion

PIDA FINANCING

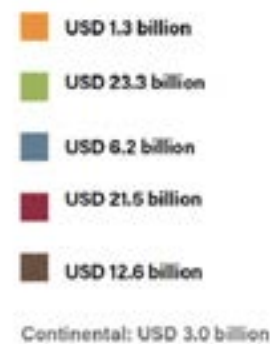
By the end of 2020, investment commitments had exceeded the PIDA PAP 1 initial estimation by USD 14 billion (20% above the initial target), reaching USD 82 billion. Financing for PIDA PAP 1 came from several sources, including USD 34.35 billion (42%) from AU Member States, USD 19.67 billion (24%) from ICA Members (including World Bank Group, AfDB, ICA MDBs, and DFIs), USD 19.42 billion (24%) from China, USD 2.28 billion (3%) from the private sector, and USD 5.88 billion (7%) from other sources. The portion of private sector financing (3%) of PIDA projects has been meagre when compared with other emerging economies, such as India (19%) and Mexico (16%).

The ownership principle is critical to the success of infrastructure development projects promoted across Africa through PIDA. Its principle is based on the belief that infrastructure development projects must cater, first and foremost, to the needs of African countries. It is necessary to acknowledge that the most significant source of financing commitments to PIDA PAP1 (42%) comes from the AU Member States. The inability to consider ownership may lead to poor implementation and eventual failure of infrastructure projects.

Africa's Infrastructure Needs (2012-2040): USD 360 billion

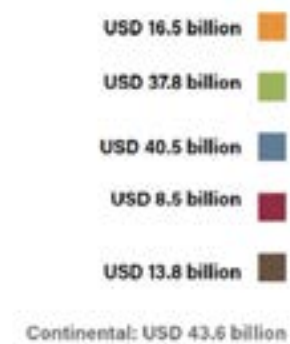
19%

PIDA PAPI
2012-2020
USD 67.9
Billion



44%

PIDA PAP2
2021-2030
USD 160.7
Billion



SECOND DAKAR FINANCING SUMMIT



It can never be said enough, infrastructure is the heart of development and the common thread of integration, because it supports economic activity and ensures the mobility that is essential to the integration process. However, in Africa, our deficit in physical and digital infrastructure remains high.



The Second Dakar Financing Summit (DFS-2) was hosted by the Government of Senegal and jointly co-organised with AUDA-NEPAD from 2 - 3 February 2023 under the theme "Maintaining the momentum towards world-class infrastructure in Africa". The DFS-2 was attended by several African Heads of State and Government, including H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal and H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, as well as the Prime Ministers of Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, and more than 18 Ministers of Finance, Economic Planning, Infrastructure and Public Works. The Summit aimed to accelerate financing for the PIDA PAP 2 Projects



**H.E. Macky Sall,
President of Senegal**

22 PIDA PAP 2 Projects Packaged and Presented Valued At USD 65 Billion

Realised four written investment interests to the tune of USD 175 million

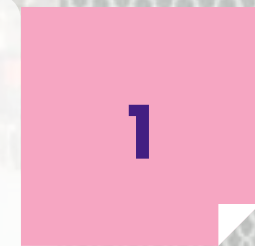
22 PIDA PAP 2 projects amounting to USD 65 billion were packaged and presented to investors, multilateral development banks, and the private sector. The DFS-2 culminated in the Dakar Declaration on Synergies of Action for Infrastructure Financing in Africa.

Post-DFS2, AUDA-NEPAD organised an investor dialogue with development finance institutions (DFIs). Following the investors' engagement, AUDA-NEPAD has obtained four written investment interests amounting to USD175 million in funding for four PIDA PAP 2 projects presented at the DFS-2 from project developers and development financing Institutions. The Agency is working with the regional institutions responsible for these projects to make the necessary links with the investors and support the countries in achieving the funding needs of the projects.

Building Partnerships and Mobilising Resources for PIDA Project Preparation

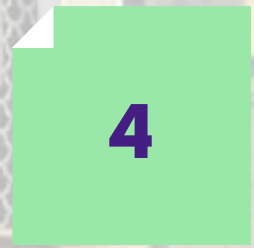
AUDA-NEPAD is committed to tackling a critical challenge in Africa's infrastructure development: The lack of investment-ready projects. Several notable achievements were realised in 2023.

1 AUDA-NEPAD collaborated with Afreximbank to develop an Africa Project Preparation Facility (APPF), which will prioritise PIDA projects featured at the Dakar Financing Summit in February 2023. The facility will leverage the AUDA-NEPAD Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) to complement Afreximbank's technical support in project preparation.



3 AUDA-NEPAD joined the AUC and the China Mission to the AU in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the China – Africa collaboration Belt and Road Cooperation. During the meeting, AUDA-NEPAD called for robust support in PIDA project preparation and institutional capacity strengthening to enhance PIDA project delivery.

2 AUDA-NEPAD is working with the European Union, under the overall framework of the Global Gateway Initiative (GGI), to define concrete actions to advance PIDA projects within regional economic corridors across Africa.



4 In October 2023, a dedicated session of the PRC subcommittee on NEPAD focused on the PIDA PAP 2 project. AUDA-NEPAD presented challenges in implementing PIDA PAP 2 and urged AU Member States to increase program budgets to support the AUDA-NEPAD Service Delivery Mechanism for PIDA projects preparation. Despite a substantial gap in project preparation financing, it was highlighted that the Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) currently relies solely on funding from development partners.

GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR

AUDA-NEPAD supported the **Central Corridor Trade and Transit Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA)** to develop a Master Plan for its transformation into a Green Economic Development Corridor and is currently working with CCTTFA and its member countries to enhance the bankability of the following projects:

- Akagera River Navigability Project, involving Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- The Modernisation/Extension of the Port Bell development project in Uganda.
- The electrification of The Uvinza-Musongati-Gitega Standard Gauge Railway between Tanzania and Burundi.

Supporting MSMEs in Infrastructure and Intra-African Trade

In an effort to boost entrepreneurship and support eco-friendly infrastructure and cross-border trade, AUDA-NEPAD, with support from GIZ, initiated a call for digital solutions led by MSMEs. Small and medium-sized enterprises were encouraged to propose digital-based ideas addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges, with a focus on green infrastructure and/or intra-African trade. The response was overwhelming, with over fifty submissions utilising various technologies such as machine learning, geo-satellite data, drones, geographic information systems, mobile applications, and online platforms.

Out of these submissions, ten outstanding proposals were chosen to receive technical advisory services and capacity building. The selected MSMEs represent seven AU Member States, including Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, Malawi, Togo, Zimbabwe, and Egypt.



LINKING UP AFRICA'S ELECTRICITY

Demand for electricity in Africa is expected to more than triple by the year 2040 due to various factors such as rapid industrialisation, migration to cities, rising household incomes, and the effects of climate change. Therefore, a concerted effort to plan and coordinate power generation and transmission infrastructure on a continental scale is necessary. Moreover, the creation of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) - one of the largest electricity markets in the world, covering a population of more than 1.3 billion - requires physical interconnection of Africa's continental energy infrastructure. Against this background, African energy ministers tasked AUDA-NEPAD in 2019 to lead the development of a Continental Master Plan (CMP) for electricity generation and transmission. The CMP aims to create one grid for the continent to curb the electricity deficit and allow a well-balanced sharing of affordable, reliable, and clean energy resources. The CMP is implemented by AUDA-NEPAD, supported by several partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union - Global Technical Assistance Facility (EU-GTAF), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The Second Phase of the CMP concluded in 2023 with the adoption of the CMP Report at the Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental, and Interregional Infrastructure and Energy (STC-TTIE). The STC-TTIE called for:

- 1 The adoption of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM), with its Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP) component, as an AU Agenda 2063 Flagship Project.
- 2 AUC and its partners, working with a host Member State, to mobilise resources for convening an African Energy Summit in 2024.
- 3 AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and development partners to establish a more comprehensive Continental Renewable Energy Risk Mitigation Facility, expanding the existing Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility to de-risk and expedite the integration of renewable energy sources within the African energy landscape.
- 4 AUC, ECA, AUDA-NEPAD, AFREC, AfDB, Regional Power Pools (RPPs), and development partners to develop a continental energy security policy framework as called for by the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and also develop an Energy Security Index and Dashboard to track advancements in achieving Africa's energy security.
- 5 AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, AFREC, ECA, AfDB, Power pools, and development partners to conduct a comprehensive assessment of local manufacturing of renewable energy technologies and beneficiation of critical minerals for battery manufacturing aligning with the African Green Minerals Strategy.



BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERDEVELOPMENT

AUDA-NEPAD is committed to enhancing the cyber capabilities of African countries for effective cybersecurity management and economic resilience. In collaboration with the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) from 2021 to 2023, the initiative focused on building the cyber capacities of AU Member States. This effort led to the creation of the Cyber Capacity Building Coordination Committee (CCBC committee) and the African Community of Cyber Experts (ACE), involving representatives from over 15 regional bodies and experts from more than 30 African countries, respectively. These professionals have undergone training in various aspects, such as cybercrime, cyber incident management, internet standards, and industry norms.

The ACE and CCBC committees joined forces to create an Africa Agenda for Cyber Capacity Building and devised a plan for establishing the GFCE Africa Hub. AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with AUCSEG and FCDO, organized a Crisis Management and Cyber Diplomacy workshop for SADC, with plans to extend it to other regions. AUDA-NEPAD has assessed the cybersecurity maturity of 10 AU Member States and aims to expand this evaluation to all members. Gender mainstreaming in cyber capacity building is a top priority for AUDA-NEPAD, with the Network of African Women in Cybersecurity providing crucial guidance. While AUDA-NEPAD and GFCE support these efforts, there's recognition that more actions are needed to achieve these goals.

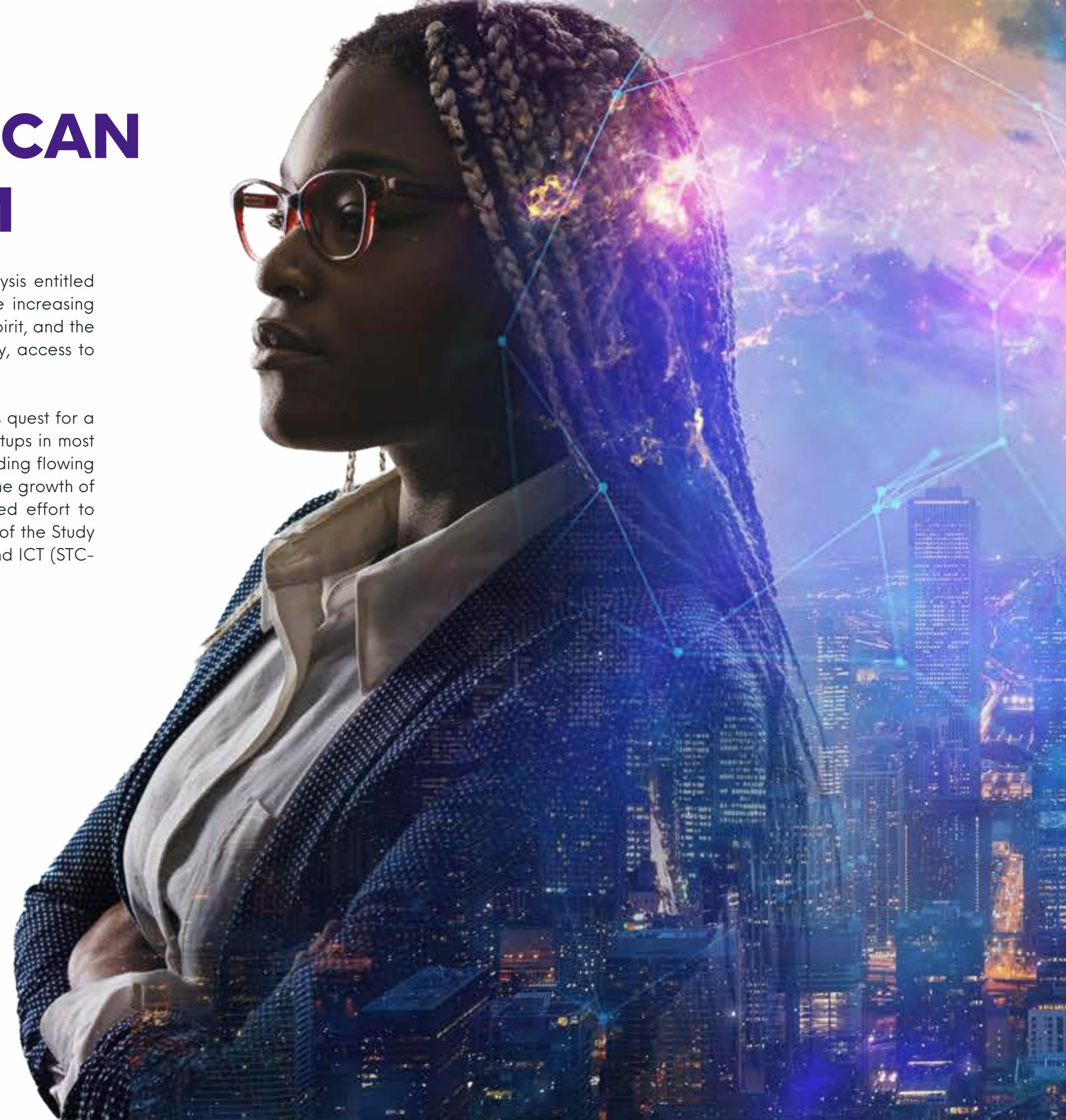
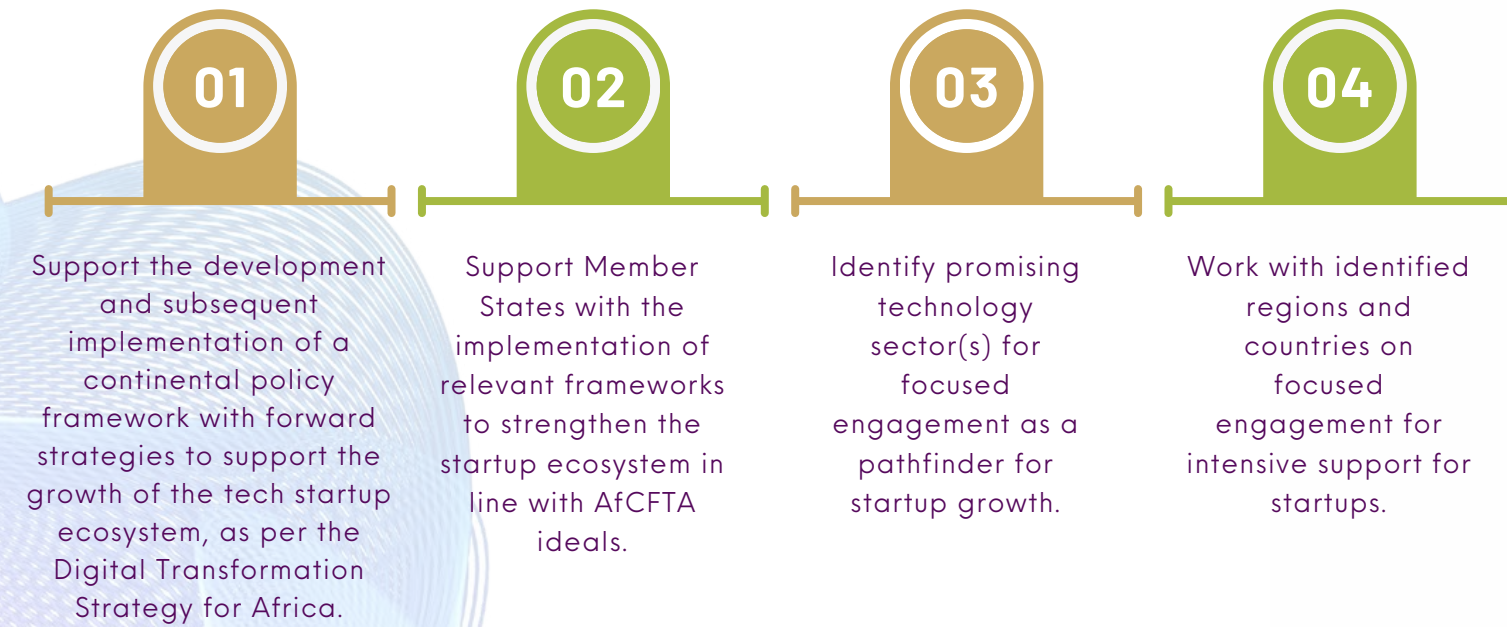
On the sidelines of the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building (GC3B) held in November 2023 in Accra, Ghana, AUDA-NEPAD held bilateral meetings with Smart Africa to discuss initiatives for 2024 and possible collaboration on capacity building, having secured funding from the World Bank. The Agency also engaged the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE), the MITRE Corporation and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to discuss interest and collaboration in cybersecurity and cyber capacity building.

In a bid to promote the AU Data Policy Framework, AUDA-NEPAD organised a session to discuss national and regional data infrastructure during the maiden Data Governance and Innovation Forum for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective was to gather inputs, insights, and recommendations from stakeholders and PIDA ICT project owners on developing a Data Centre Master Plan to implement a robust data centre infrastructure. Through support from GIZ, AUDA-NEPAD will implement the Dataadaptation project under the AU Data Policy framework to engage citizens of African countries.

STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN TECH STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with Mozilla, conducted a landmark startup ecosystem situational analysis entitled Positioning African Tech Startups as Engines of Growth & Development Study, which highlighted the increasing awareness of the contributions of startups, the efforts across the continent to tap the entrepreneurial spirit, and the opportunity to create jobs and address Africa's developmental challenges, including food security, access to education and health and enhancement of trade logistics, among others.

The Study also revealed that the journey towards a more robust startup ecosystem and the continent's quest for a Digital Single Market is fraught with challenges, which include limited awareness and support for startups in most countries, inefficient and fragmented legislative frameworks, uneven distribution of venture capital funding flowing into Africa, and a lack of coordination and collaboration among existing hubs. These challenges limit the growth of startups and their contribution to achieving Agenda 2063. The Study makes a case for a concerted effort to address these challenges sustainably at pan-African, RECs, and national levels. The summary findings of the Study were presented to the 5th meeting of the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Communications and ICT (STC-CICT) in Addis Ababa in November 2023. Going forward, AUDA- NEPAD will:



BRIDGING THE FINANCING GAP TO ACHIEVE WATER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE SANITATION

To mobilise at least an additional USD 30 billion a year to achieve water security and sustainable water in Africa, the AU High-Level Panel on Water Investment in Africa proposed the development of a Water Investment Action Plan. The plan with five actionable pathways aims to facilitate impactful spending, promote mutual accountability of resources in the water sector, and unlock financing from targeted domestic, continental, and global sources for water and sanitation projects. Initiated in 2023, the plan has undergone an iterative process throughout its development, incorporating inputs from various expert groups. It has also been presented at various platforms, including the Africa Climate Summit in August 2023, the SDG summit during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023, and a side event organised by the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and the High-Level Panel at the 10th Roundtable on Financing Water in Africa in November 2023. These platforms have provided opportunities to share progress and preliminary findings and validate the plan.

During the UN General Assembly, the High-Level Panel launched the "Mind the Gap" campaign. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the water and sanitation investment gaps, and address existing capacity, data, and governance gaps on the continent and, consequently, drive change, and promote behaviour that encourages improved water stewardship. The campaign also seeks to inspire meaningful contributions toward mobilising financing for climate-resilient water security and sanitation infrastructure. In September 2023, a call was made to AU Member States, government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society to submit programmes and projects that foster cross-sectoral leadership, promote new funding sources, encourage innovative approaches, advance official development assistance to de-risk water investments and strengthen institutional regulation for water, for support under the plan. As a result of this call, 19 countries submitted proposals, with over 50 opportunities identified for water investment besides the list of priority projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), which are to be also supported through the implementation of the plan. These proposals encompass various activities, including integrated water resource management, capacity-building initiatives, and project preparation for infrastructure development programmes. The Investment Action Plan will provide a strategic framework for implementing the recommendations outlined in the High-level Panel's report and serve as a roadmap for mobilising investments in the water sector. The report was also presented at COP 28.



10th Roundtable on Financing Water Enhancing financing for national and transboundary water projects Side Event

AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with the AUC and the High-Level Panel (HLP) 2023, held a side event at the 10th Roundtable on Financing Water in November in Abidjan to explore innovative financing solutions for transboundary water projects. The side event showcased the AU Investment Action Plan and a PIDA PAP 2 project, the Angololo Multipurpose Water Resources Development Dam, and highlighted AUDA-NEPAD's resource mobilisation efforts. The side event also facilitated a panel discussion with key stakeholders, including the African Development Bank, International Finance Cooperation, Limpopo Water Commission and UNICEF on financing solutions, partnerships, and key success factors for securing project financing.



Fostering Collaborative Synergies in Infrastructure

AUDA-NEPAD is dedicated to enhancing stakeholder engagement and fostering collaboration within the PIDA framework. This commitment extends to project owners, partners, and key financiers, including project preparation facilities. AUDA-NEPAD continued to promote consensus building towards accelerated preparation of projects. Strategic partnerships with the NEPAD-Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility and Global Water Partnerships Southern and West Africa in providing technical advisory support reinforced AUDA-NEPAD's role as a catalyst in advancing infrastructure development across the continent. Partner meetings have provided proactive platforms to synergise and address project preparation challenges. Discussions have focused on identifying activities for the coming year on pivotal projects like the Noordoewer Violsdrift Dam, Noubiel Multipurpose Dams, Hydrometric Stations involving key stakeholders from Namibia, South Africa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program and the Volta River Basin. These ongoing efforts solidify AUDA-NEPAD's commitment to shaping a resilient and collaborative future for infrastructure development in Africa.

ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AfCFTA



ACCELERATION OF AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the 13 flagship projects of Agenda 2063 aimed at creating a single African market for goods and services facilitated by the free movement of persons, capital, technology, and investments. The AU Assembly declared 2023 the year for “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation” to create more significant political commitment and fast-track implementation by enhancing collaborations among Member States, RECs, AU institutions, the private sector, and partners.

In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD continued strengthening collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat and embarked on several initiatives to support increased regional integration and intra-African trade. Drawing on the experience of both institutions, the AfCFTA Secretariat and AUDA-NEPAD worked towards developing a joint work programme and action plan that will articulate specific areas of cooperation.

“ Increased cooperation is at the core of the AfCFTA. Together, the Secretariat and AUDA-NEPAD can help African countries achieve their socio-economic goals. – H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat ”

“ The success of the AfCFTA is the success of AUDA-NEPAD - we are in this together. As members of the African Union family, it is crucial that we work in tandem to amplify our impact - H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD ”

Assessing the Impact of the AfCFTA

By eliminating trade barriers to trade across Africa, the impact of the AfCFTA is expected to be significant and transformative. To understand the wide-reaching consequences of the AfCFTA for intra-African trade, decent job creation, inclusive growth, or sustainable development, African leaders tasked AUDA-NEPAD to coordinate the AfCFTA Impact Assessment Study. The study aims to provide evidence-based policy recommendations for implementing the AfCFTA at the national, regional and continental levels. In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD launched the kick-off cross-institutional working session in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC, JICA, UNIDO, Afreximbank, UNECA, AfroChampions, ITC, and think tanks. The first implementation phase for the study was successfully completed, laying the foundation for developing the standard assessment guide to be funded by JICA. In addition, AUDA-NEPAD collaborated with UNICEF in conducting a study on the impact of trade in Africa on children and youth to unlock the untapped potential of intra-African trade for the continent’s youth.



Amplifying Voices of the African Private Sector on Trade and Investment Issues

In collaboration with AFREXIM Bank, AUDA-NEPAD contributed to the design and dissemination of the findings of the annual Pan-African Private Sector Trade and Investment Committee (PAFTRAC) survey, which seeks to amplify the views of the African private sector on trade and investment issues and raise awareness of the benefits of trade and investment policies.



One-Stop-Border Posts and Trade Facility

To unlock the logistical challenges of the Chirundu Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe, AUDA-NEPAD worked with the Government of Zambia, Liquid Intelligent Technology and Fibrecom on a proof of concept (PoC) on the benefits of extending ICT connectivity to all agencies at Chirundu Border Post. The PoC aims to provide more bandwidth from Internet Service Providers to border agencies to fast-track the speed and efficiency of ICT services.

GROWING AFRICA'S MSMEs

The 100 million MSMEs Initiative aims to strengthen and upskill micro, small, and medium enterprises. The initiative's delivery approach revolves around an MSME Academy, a Financing Support Programme, and a Marketplace. These pillars are designed to provide comprehensive support to MSMEs across the continent, enabling them to enhance resilience, access new markets, and leverage technology to tap into the vast African market, comprising 1.3 billion consumers. 70,000 MSMEs have benefited from tailored training in managerial business skills for MSMEs, including ways to market goods and services, tips on daily cash flow management, and logistics since the launch of the Initiative. USD 84 million was mobilised in financial guarantee funds to benefit MSMEs in Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia through a partnership with DFC and USAID. In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD launched the 100 Million MSMEs Initiative in Comoros under the leadership of H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union. More than 300 youths were trained. The Initiative was also expanded to Benin, benefitting more than 200 female entrepreneurs during the International Digital Education and Skills Fair organized by the Ministry of Technology and Digitalisation.

In partnership with USAID and the Stanford Seed Transformation Programme, AUDA-NEPAD also provided scholarships for African MSMEs CEOs. Eighteen AU Member States benefited from the scholarship programme as shown in the following. 57 youth and women-led African MSMEs benefited from the Stanford Seed Transformation Programme Scholarships Cycle 2 which ended in June 2023. Forty percent of the attendees were women-led MSMEs. In addition, AUDA-NEPAD facilitated a training session on the Kaizen methodology, a renowned strategy for continuous improvement, during the second AU SME Summit held in September 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ninety MSME leaders were effectively trained. Forty seven percent of the trainees were female, further emphasising the AU's dedication to uplifting and promoting female entrepreneurs in the African business landscape.





G20

- ARGENTINA
- AUSTRALIA
- BRAZIL
- CANADA
- CHINA
- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- INDIA
- INDONESIA
- ITALY
- JAPAN
- MEXICO
- RUSSIA
- SAUDI ARABIA
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SOUTH KOREA
- TURKEY
- UNITED KINGDOM
- UNITED STATES
- EUROPEAN UNION

ADVOCATED FOR A G20 CHAIR FOR THE AFRICAN UNION

Through the AU Africa Policy Bridge Tank, the Agency advocated for the African Union to become a permanent member of the G20. In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD contributed to the G20 Communiqué and T20 policy dialogues, which is the official engagement group of the G20, bringing together think tanks and experts. The African Union, the second regional organisation after the European Union, was welcomed as a permanent member of the G20 during India's presidency in 2023.



AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Africa's food systems face numerous challenges, including hunger, malnutrition, climate change, and limited access to modern agricultural technologies. Recognising the urgency to address these issues, African countries have come together under the AU to develop the Common African Position (CAP) on Food Systems. This unified approach aims to transform food systems across the continent, foster sustainable agriculture, ensure food and nutrition security, and promote inclusive socio-economic development in line with Agenda 2063. In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD has been tasked to coordinate the CAPS's design and implementation. The CAP is anchored in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) – Africa's development framework for agricultural transformation. The CAP emphasises transformative change through radical new interventions, policies, and partnerships that result in significant long-term changes for Africa's food systems. AUDA-NEPAD's main intervention areas, through the CAADP framework, are to build climate-resilient and inclusive food systems.

Furthermore, the Agency focuses on environmental sustainability, aligned with Africa's priorities and interests on climate change. Key areas of intervention include support to the African Group of Negotiators on climate change and the African Heads of State Committee on Climate Change to address a just architecture on climate financing for Africa through the African Common Position on Climate Change. AUDA-NEPAD also works on the nexus between food systems, climate change, and biodiversity while addressing disaster risk, reduction, recovery, and management. Furthermore, interventions include the conservation of marine and aquatic resources and implementing the Kinshasa Declaration on Rural Development to increase youth entrepreneurship and citizen participation.

Increasing Agricultural Investments through CAADP Support



The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has significantly boosted agricultural-led development. Currently, 49 Member States have either signed CAADP compacts or formally subscribed to the CAADP delivery architecture, aiming to increase public investment in agriculture and improve agricultural productivity. To support this effort, the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have provided technical support in developing subsequent generations of National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and RECs' Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs). These plans are designed to address various issues, including building resilience to climate change, enhancing nutrition, ensuring food safety, and promoting gender and youth involvement.

Additional frameworks and instruments have been developed for Member States and RECs to complement CAADP implementation under the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth. A collaborative effort involving AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and partners has assisted 49 Member States in tracking and reporting progress on agricultural goals and the Malabo Declaration 2025 targets, culminating in the completion of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review (BR) Report.

In November 2023, the 5th Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Water, and Environment adopted a roadmap for shaping the Post-Malabo Plan. Similarly, compliance status reports for NAIPs and RAIPs, along with the audit report of the Biennial Review process, have been successfully presented to the 5th STC. These reports include specific recommendations to the relevant Member States and RECs to enhance CAADP implementation and the BR report process.

A Citizen Engagement Platform has been introduced in four COMESA countries, focusing on Post-Malabo efforts and the implementation of National Development Plans (NDPs). Additionally, 15 Member States have received support in assessing their country's food system priorities and pathways to design a sustainable food systems program for Africa.



Promoting Intra-Africa Agri-Food Trade



AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat, and RECs joined forces to celebrate the 14th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS), the 19th CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP PP) and related CAADP Policy Learning Event (MAPLE), and the CAADP High-Level Ministerial Forum (HLMF), hosted by the Government of Zambia from 30 October to 2 November 2023. The events provided a platform for sharing experiences and lessons and discussing opportunities and strategies to promote and boost intra-Africa agri-food trade and improved nutrition in Africa, in line with the Malabo Commitment on Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities. The ADFNS and CAADP PP culminated in the launch of the Food Systems Parliamentarian Network.

Improving Nutrition Security



AUDA-NEPAD is tackling the significant challenge of malnutrition in Africa through its Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative. This strategic programme connects agricultural-led development by supporting the production and procurement of diverse local foods, particularly from smallholder farmers across 16 countries. The HGSF guidelines aim to achieve various objectives, including boosting local agriculture, engaging communities, promoting economic development, ensuring food security, enhancing child nutrition, improving health and development, and increasing school attendance, retention, and education.

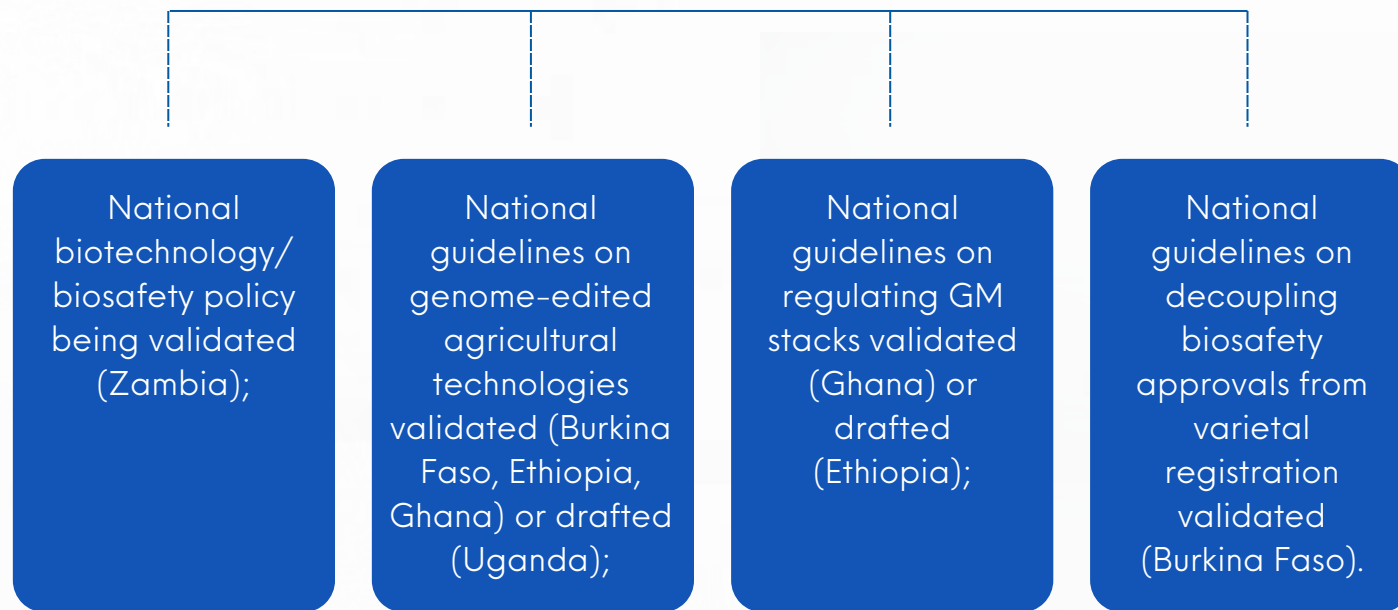
The 14th African Day of Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) highlighted the youth's role in combating hunger and malnutrition through the preparation and consumption of local/indigenous food. AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF), introduced the Youth4Nutrition Initiative and organised the "Africa Youth Food Expo," featuring Africa Youth Chefs under the theme "Recipes for Better Nutrition."

Furthermore, AUDA-NEPAD, partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), developed guidelines for the private sector to achieve 'Win-Win' outcomes in nutrition in Africa. These guidelines, incorporating the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and a food systems approach, are currently being disseminated to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for validation. In addition, under the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), AUDA-NEPAD and JICA, in collaboration with ECCAS and EAC, conducted regional training on nutrition-sensitive programming for experts from 14 Member States.

BIOSAFETY REGULATION

AUDA-NEPAD’s flagship programme – the African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) – seeks to assist AU Member States in building functional regulatory systems to enable the safe harnessing of modern biotechnology and emerging technologies for socio-economic development. Support to Member States was in three critical areas: creating an enabling policy environment, training to improve the critical mass of regulators with enhanced technical competencies, and support to the African Group of Negotiators on matters of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, including providing opportunities for strategic partnerships, learning and networking.

Technical support to MS towards the creation of enabling policy and legal environments resulted in several successful outcomes:



AUDA-NEPAD has been actively supporting biosafety initiatives across various African countries. In Rwanda, assistance was provided for the enactment of biosafety laws, while Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia received support for the revision of their biosafety laws. At the regional level, assistance was provided to finalise implementing regulations for ECOWAS biosafety regulations.

To ensure ownership and understanding of biosafety processes within member states (MS), AUDA-NEPAD conducted training sessions. This led to informed decisions on applications for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and genome editing research in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Malawi. The training also resulted in informed decisions on the environmental release of GMOs in Ghana, improved capacity in deploying GM crops in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Malawi, and enhanced competencies in risk assessment, risk management, GMO-free certification, and data transportability across several countries.

AUDA-NEPAD provided crucial support to the African Group of Negotiators for Biodiversity (AGN) during important international meetings. This assistance ensured that African Parties effectively safeguarded the continent's interests in global processes. Member States also benefited from opportunities for strategic partnerships, learning, and networking, including participation in study tours to India and agricultural biotechnology/biosafety short courses.

AUDA-NEPAD pursued her reporting obligation as an observer at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and co-leading the development of consensus documents on safety assessments and the biology of three mosquito species. This ensures that Africa’s regulatory needs and interests are reflected and that African experts adequately represent and engage in the OECD processes. AUDA-NEPAD rolled out an e-learning module, developed in partnership with ICGEB, to institutionalise biosafety training in Africa. Currently, 283 stakeholders from 12 Member States, including regulators, lawyers, and media specialists, are enrolled in the course



ADVANCING ACCESS TO SEED AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

The African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP) is a proactive response to the African Union Decision aimed at advancing access to seed and biotechnology. Its primary goal is to enhance food security, nutrition, and poverty alleviation in Africa by establishing effective seed systems and promoting the use of biotechnologies within the seed sector. The ASBP is a comprehensive initiative designed to overcome existing barriers and elevate the seed sector as a key element in achieving food security on the continent.

Following recommendations from the 4th meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment, various actions were taken and reported during the 5th STC held in November 2023. These included coordinating the development of an action plan for the ASBP, strengthening regional and national chapters of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASB PP), and supporting biotechnology initiatives at various levels. AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with AUC, conducted activities such as consultations on integrating genetic improvement innovations into National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and capacity development on crop diversity conservation. These efforts contributed significantly to Africa's representation of biodiversity, biosafety, and access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources in international agreements.

Additionally, AUDA-NEPAD supported the development of the Seed Sector Performance Index (SSPI), serving as a valuable indicator and cross-country comparison tool for measuring the health of seed systems across Africa. This information feeds into the 4th Biennial Review cycle. AUC and AUDA-NEPAD further backed a capacity development workshop on crop diversity conservation and use in Nairobi, Kenya, to enhance the knowledge and skills of policy experts and conservation practitioners. The workshop aimed to address critical issues related to the conservation and use of neglected and underutilised plants, contributing to improved nutrition, income, and climate resilience in Africa.

AUC and AUDA-NEPAD supported the Fourth Steering Group meeting of the ASBP held in Mombasa, Kenya from 6 - 10 November 2023. Key outcomes included the endorsement of the establishment of the Eastern Africa Regional GenBank, mobilisation of the African Negotiators to the Governing Body 10 of the ITPGRFA, the establishment of Partnerships for Integrated Seed Sector in Africa (PISSA), and the Seed Delivery Action Plan for biofortified crops.

AUDA-NEPAD, through its flagship biosafety programme, supported AU Member States to establish functional biosafety regulatory systems, specifically, developing and reviewing biosafety policies, laws and regulations, training and learning opportunities to improve the critical mass of regulators with enhanced technical competencies and participation in international negotiations.

Nineteen Member States (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, Zanzibar, and Zimbabwe) were capacitated in biosafety and the management of biotechnology and emerging technologies towards enhancing agriculture productivity and food systems.

The AU High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) published a policy document on the application of genome editing in agriculture, including emerging trends, such as stacked genes or traits and regulating the low-level presence of biotech traits. The policy recommends a harmonised approach across Member States and for AUDA-NEPAD to support the development of policies within the AU Member States. Subsequently, AUDA-NEPAD provided training and drafting support to six Member States: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria. This support culminated in the development and adoption of national guidelines in these countries. To upscale this support to other Member States and ensure a harmonised approach, there is the need to make guidelines and templates available at the continental level for domestication.

AUC and AUDA-NEPAD provided support to the African negotiators in various Multilateral Environmental Agreements that are agriculture-, biodiversity- and biotechnology-related, e.g., UNCBD, ITPGRFA, IUCN, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES.

PRIVATE SECTOR AND AGRIBUSINESS

AUDA-NEPAD, under the Programme on Private Sector, Investments, and Agribusiness, developed a 3-year strategic plan to leverage investments under the CAADP Malabo framework. The programme focuses on organisational support to Member States to operationalise in-country CAADP CAP-F Secretariats and public investments to unlock private sector Investments in priority value chains in the NAIP process, fostering political and policy dialogues as a mechanism for increasing investments and optimising agro-processing and supply chain development.

AUDA-NEPAD supported Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria in operationalising their CAP-F Secretariats, including mobilising resources for deploying standard operating procedures (SOPs) and governance structures for the CAP-F Secretariats. In addition, AUDA-NEPAD mobilised financial support from the GIZ's Agri-Business Facility (ABF) and the Irish Aid grant to AUDA-NEPAD's Food Systems Transformation Support project. Additionally, the CAP-F Secretariats were supported to conduct in-country resource mobilisation. Malawi and Kenya secured support from the Michigan State University (MSU) and JICA, respectively. AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with the Sustainable Trade Initiatives (IDH), supported the initiative for increased optimisation of agro-processing and supply chain development to design and develop baselines for appropriate interventions for agro-processors in 5 countries. With funding from IDH and ABF, implementation starts in 2024.



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION ACTION AT COP 28



Addressing the profound impact of climate change on Africa, AUDA-NEPAD concentrated its efforts on supporting AU Member States in promoting the Common African Position (CAP) on Climate Change at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) held in Dubai, UAE, from November 30 to December 12.

In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD worked with key partners such as AUC, AfDB and ECA in enhancing the African voice at COP 28. After 20 years of negotiations and a common position, Africa gained much from taking a strong position in several negotiations at COP28. The gains include i) COP28 Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, which aims to reduce emissions and create food security for Africa. With 152 signatories and an early financial commitment of USD 7.1 billion, there is potential for African agriculture and food systems to be boosted; ii) COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health. USD 1 billion funding raised at COP28 for transforming health systems to cope with climate change induced illness and protect vulnerable populations; iii) Hundreds of millions of dollars pledges by the governments of Germany, France and Japan, along with philanthropic organisations and African and global institutions towards the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa to build new green infrastructure; iv) The capitalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund with an initial USD 700 million in pledges, and v) for the first time, a call for a “transition away” from the fossil fuels that are fueling the extreme weather that has torched, drenched, and parched countries around the globe.

In addition, the Green Climate Fund announced the sum of USD 100 Million for Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Ethiopia to support adaptation in food systems.

In a significant development on December 3, 2023, AUDA-NEPAD signed a host agreement with the Government of Egypt for establishing the AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (AUDA-NEPAD CRAC). This center, located in Egypt, aims to advance Africa's Common Position, promote climate resilience and adaptation, and serve as a knowledge hub for innovations.

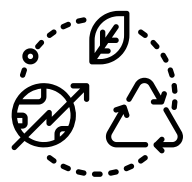




Restoring Africa's Forests and Degraded Land

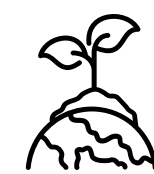
AUDA-NEPAD, through its African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFRI100), continued working with 34 African countries on commitments to restore 129 million hectares of degraded landscape by 2030. More than 5 million hectares of landscapes are currently under restoration. AFRI100 supported countries in tracking and monitoring landscape change and the establishment of forest landscape restoration registries. Moreover, capacity-building training on land restoration for business entrepreneurship for women and youth from 25 countries was undertaken under the land accelerator programme.

Blue Economy



In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD worked to develop African common positions and raise the African voice on the Blue Economy at strategic regional and global events, including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, the Regional Workshop on Marine Resource Sustainability Challenges in SADC, and the Blue Future Conference in Moroni, Comoros. The Agency also supported the development of the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa and the Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy and Climate Action in Africa: Island States and Coastal States at the Forefront. In addition, technical support was provided to the African Regional Group of Rome-based Ambassadors and Delegations to the FAO 35th Committee on Fisheries and the 36th Committee on Forestry to support the elaboration of common positions on Fisheries, Aquaculture, Blue Economy, and Forest Governance. Furthermore, the Agency implemented the EU-funded Fisheries Governance 2 project (in collaboration with AU-IBAR), and the Maximising Africa's Sustainable Blue Economy Development project supported by the Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC).

Kinshasa Declaration on Rural Transformation



Rural development is critical to sustainable economic development in Africa as most of its population lives in rural areas. Also, most African economies still rely heavily on their rural economies as primary drivers of growth and development. Many economic activities, especially those related to agriculture and the extractives sector, are primarily carried out within the rural space. To accelerate the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration on Rural Transformation in Southern Africa and replicate it in other regions, the Joint Implementation Programme Team (JIPT) composed of AUDA-NEPAD, SADC Secretariat, and WFP, organised the inaugural SADC Rural Innovation and Transformation Expo in September 2023 under the auspices of H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The key outcome was the selection of an initial 25 innovators for funding and upscaling out of the 160 in attendance, and a call for action, calling upon AUDA-NEPAD and partners to support innovation and young emerging farmers. 630 youths in rural enterprises and 79 start-ups were supported in Cameroon, Mozambique, and Zambia. A Joint Implementation Project Team (JIPT) comprising AUDA-NEPAD, the SADC Secretariat, and the World Food Programme (WFP) was created to support the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration.



THE TRIPLE NEXUS ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

AUDA-NEPAD engaged with RECs and participating countries on the Triple Nexus Programme on peace, security, and development to harmonise and align with regional priorities and actions. The consultations also sought to identify regional and country-specific needs to enrich the programme document and explore financing opportunities for the Triple Nexus programme. AUDA-NEPAD also hosted the review of the AU policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), in collaboration with the AUC and Egypt. Activities in the first quarter of 2024 will be focused on mobilising resources for identified priorities from the countries and RECs.



HUMAN CAPITAL AND INSTITUTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Agenda 2063 recognises that the key to achieving sustained, shared, and inclusive prosperity lies in the development of Africa's people. AUDA-NEPAD facilitates entrepreneurship development and employment, promotes Africa's health systems and social well-being, and strengthens national, regional, and continental centres of excellence in human and institutional capacity development. More specifically, the Agency is working to put the continent on a development pathway by delivering tangible impact in education, skills development, health, and gender equality. AUDA-NEPAD strives to build capable institutions and cultivate transformative leadership at all levels to bring the continent closer to The Africa We Want. By nurturing Africa's human capital and fostering inclusive development, AUDA-NEPAD aims to pave the way for a people-driven, inclusive, vibrant, and prosperous Africa, in line with Agenda 2063.

Energize Africa

Putting Youth at the Centre of Africa's Socio-Economic Development

Energize Africa directly responds to Member States' call to harness the youths' creativity and innovativeness into socio-economic growth. The flagship initiative aims to create a pool of highly qualified young professionals to influence public and private sector performance, stimulate solution-focused research and development through innovation hubs, and develop entrepreneurship opportunities for Africa's youthful populations for improved socio-economic well-being. By leveraging partnerships, investments, and innovative strategies, Energize Africa seeks to invigorate and utilise the innovativeness and creativity of Africa's youthful population to drive the growth and transformation of African economies – by creating jobs, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The initiative was applauded and endorsed by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) during the 40th session of the HSGOC at the African Union Summit in February 2023.



#EnergizeAfrica





Energize Africa Pillar 1: Enhancing Youth Participation for Effective and Efficient Public Service Delivery

An in-depth assessment of skills in RECs identified workforce gaps across the service value. The Agency is preparing to advertise job openings and deploy 100 Energize Africa fellows in four RECs, the AUC, and the AU organs, and specialised agencies. The Agency is collaborating with the AUC on the Africa Continental Qualification Framework (ACQF). The team is planning an assessment and mapping exercise of existing qualification frameworks across the continent. AUDA-NEPAD has conducted similar benchmarking initiatives within the continent, including technical consultations with Member States, in collaboration with the RECs, to refine the business case for the Africa Critical Skills Bank (CSB). Subsequent steps include collaborating with the RECs to develop and validate an implementation strategy for the development of Regional Qualification Frameworks (RQFs).

Moreover, AUDA-NEPAD has conducted a baseline and benchmarking of similar initiatives within and beyond the continent. Technical consultations with MS in collaboration with RECs have been undertaken to refine the business case for Africa-Critical Skills Bank (CSB).

Putting Youth at the Centre of Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan

AUDA-NEPAD, through Energize Africa, partnered with YouthConnekt Africa and the Government of Kenya at the Sixth YouthConnekt Africa Summit, hosted by H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya. The Summit convened 20,000 youth and 17 Ministers of Youth. AUDA-NEPAD co-hosted a high-level policy dialogue to sensitise the youth to take up their mantle as the drivers of Agenda 2063 Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP). Moreover, 500 young women entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs were equipped with essential skills in digital marketing and knowledge of access to markets and finance. The partnership aims to catalyse knowledge transfer, learning, and collaboration to fast-track youth-centered development at the continental, regional, national, and sub-national levels.



Energize Africa Pillar 2: Regenerating the Private Sector

AUDA-NEPAD, through the AU Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation (AUC/OSTI), conducted a training of trainers to strengthen Africa's capacity in digital skills and drive the "AI Skills 4 All" in Morocco, in collaboration with the Université Ibn Tofail. AUDA-NEPAD is also collaborating with the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation of Morocco in organising a Symposium on Harnessing AI in Higher Education to enhance research and innovation in 2024. The AU STI team also participated in a capacity-building exercise with UNECA and Innovation Ecosystems experts to gain a broader understanding of the role of innovation hubs in promoting development and to identify the current gaps in Africa's Innovation ecosystem. The insights gained will inform the Energize Africa interventions as the initiative transitions into the implementation phase.



STRENGTHENING THE OCCUPATIONAL PROSPECTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Africa is expected to have a youth population of 664 million by 2030. Despite this, the continent faces challenges in creating a skilled workforce suitable for the job market. Recognising the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), many countries have initiated national programmes. However, these programmes encounter obstacles such as a shortage of qualified teachers, insufficient scholarships, inadequate infrastructure, lack of practical vocational curricula, and outdated technical equipment.

Addressing these challenges, AUDA-NEPAD, with funding from the German Government and the European Union (EU), is implementing the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) Programme in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and KfW Development Bank. The initiative supports innovative skills development programmes in eight pilot countries, piloting Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, and Tunisia. Projects are selected based on their relevance to addressing the daily challenges of AU Member States in skills development, with a special focus on supporting women and youth from low-income backgrounds. Close collaboration with employers and the private sector ensures that training content aligns with the labor market, enhancing employability through practical on-the-job training.

In the first phase, SIFA funded 16 projects at different stages of implementation, supporting public and private training institutions in delivering skills programmes for youth in priority growth sectors. This includes procurement of training equipment, Training of Trainers, curriculum design, and infrastructure development. In 2023, SIFA began its second phase, continuing to fund new projects and launching the SIFA Grantee Technical Support Initiative, aiming to build technical capacities and provide support to beneficiaries. Additionally, SIFA spearheads the African Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (ASPYYE), a knowledge repository on TVET and skills development. The portal covers various topics, including private sector engagement, apprenticeships, inclusive TVET, and digital transformation, facilitating the enhancement of skills development for employment.



WORLDSKILLS AFRICA DESK

In collaboration with GIZ, AUDA-NEPAD is working to launch the WorldSkills Africa Desk to promote TVET and skills development on the continent. Consultations with WorldSkills International are underway to define the governance and programmatic actions of the Africa Desk. Work is also underway to develop the membership structure, the legal and finance models, and advocacy, communication, and partner mobilisation campaigns. AUDA-NEPAD is working with the government of Zambia, which will host the next continental WorldSkills Africa Competition in 2025, to rally Member States to join the regional chapter and participate and mobilise partnerships for capacity building and sponsorship of the event. WorldSkills Africa will be launched on the margins of the February 2024 Heads of State and Government Summit to buttress the launch of the African Union Theme of the Year for 2024: "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa".



GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The AU Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Strategy prioritises economic empowerment, including financial and technology inclusion; sexual and reproductive health and rights, including harmful traditional practices, violence against women and girls, and peace processes; the Maputo Protocol institutional gender governance systems; and leadership, voice, and visibility. To promote accountability for the implementation of gender equality and youth empowerment, the AU launched the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion Initiative (WYFEI 2030). Implemented in partnership with the Better Than Cash Alliance and the AfCFTA, WYFEI 2030 is a 10-point agenda delivered via three communities of action: Quotas (to correct gender and youth imbalances), Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship, and Business Development.



Strengthened Capacity in Entrepreneurship

AUDA-NEPAD strengthened entrepreneurship in Benin and Comoros, training 600 young entrepreneurs (including 400 women) in various business modules, emphasising stakeholder engagement, digital literacy, e-commerce, marketing strategy, and risk management. Special modules focused on leveraging opportunities within the AfCFTA. Additionally, 148 women in the AUDA-NEPAD Ghana Home-Grown School Feeding Programme were trained using the digital School Meal Planner. Young women entrepreneurs also received masterclasses on Digital Marketing and Access to Market and Finance during the Youth Connekt Africa Summit, engaging more than 20,000 young people.



Peer-to-Peer Learning and Sharing

AUDA-NEPAD assessed Rwanda's gender and youth quota policies to document scalable best practices for peer-to-peer learning. The findings will be featured in AUDA-NEPAD's compendium of good practices on gender and youth quotas. The agency engaged Ministries of Gender in Morocco, Tanzania, Ghana, Rwanda, and Namibia for peer learning and sharing of best practices. The good practices of Tanzania were presented on Pan African Women's Day.





Contributions to Gender Mainstreaming

AUDA-NEPAD validated the AU Gender and Youth Mainstreaming Guidelines and the Scorecard. The agency supported the creation of the AU African Women in Processing (AWIP) Initiative and the development of the AWIP business plan. Digital marketing training was provided to processing women during the Intra African Trade Fair 2023 in , Egypt. AUDA-NEPAD also played a role in creating the HERAfCFTA Initiative and validating the draft AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade.



Ending Violence Against Women

AUDA-NEPAD collaborated with the private sector, ILO, and Shared Value Africa Initiative to organise consultations on Positive Masculinity ahead of the 3rd AU Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership. This effort aims to consolidate actions of violence against women and girls.



Forging Partnerships

AUDA-NEPAD partnered with Sonke Gender Justice and Trace TV to conduct positive masculinity awareness sessions and implement initiatives like the Youth Success and Mentees Hub, AU Trace Youth Corner Radio, and AU Trace Academia for Women and Youth.



Operationalisation of Trust Funds

AUDA-NEPAD is working with the AUC to operationalise the AU Trust Fund for Women and the AU Youth Fund, which will be hosted by AUDA-NEPAD.



AU 2024 Theme of the Year

Aligning with the AU Theme of the Year 2024, "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century," AUDA-NEPAD and AU-CIEFFA are working on revitalising the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) Cluster on Girls and Women's education and implementing the #AfricaEducatesHer Campaign.



HEALTH SYSTEMS

The AU health vision is to eliminate Africa's burden of avoidable ill health, disability, and premature death by dramatically reducing the disease burden and facilitating access to healthcare services, medical products, and health technologies. AUDA-NEPAD's interventions are guided by various AU Policy Frameworks, including Agenda 2063, Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030), Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2016-2030), African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025), Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Business Plan (PMPA) 2012, African Union COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Access Strategy 2020, Catalytic Framework to End HIV and Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria by 2030, and Health Research and Innovation Strategy for Africa - HRISA-(2018-2030).

Enhancing Africa's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry

Significant strides have been made in implementing the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA), as evidenced by the establishment of the Health Products Manufacturing Support Platform (HMSP) with the support of Unitaid. This development was pre-launched during the 2nd World Local Production Forum, marking a pivotal moment in Africa's journey towards self-reliance in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The HMSP is a groundbreaking initiative with immense potential for Africa's pharmaceutical industry. Its scope extends across a broad spectrum of manufacturing archetypes. These include medical devices, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), point-of-care diagnostics, biopharmaceuticals, and more. This diversity ensures a holistic approach to healthcare product manufacturing. The HMSP is committed to providing support in crucial areas that are integral to the success of pharmaceutical manufacturing. This support encompasses business operations, regulatory management, and capital investments. A meticulously designed two-year roadmap has been formulated to guide the operationalisation of the HMSP. This roadmap outlines vital milestones and objectives to be achieved over this period. The PMPA has succeeded in identifying and engaging relevant stakeholders instrumental in driving the platform's success. The involvement of key players ensures a collaborative and coordinated effort towards strengthening pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa. By providing tailored support, fostering collaboration among experts, and covering a wide range of manufacturing archetypes, the HMSP is poised to catalyse the growth of the pharmaceutical industry in Africa. This progress aligns with the overarching goals of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, ultimately leading to improved access to quality healthcare products for the continent.

ENSURING ACCESS TO SAFE, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABLE MEDICAL PRODUCTS

Access to safe, quality, and affordable medical products remains a significant challenge in many African countries due to non-existent, weak, or outdated regulatory frameworks. The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Programme, implemented under the PMPA framework, seeks to facilitate and harmonise medical product regulation to improve access. AUDA-NEPAD and WHO serve as the joint secretariat for this programme.

AMRH Technical Committees (TCs) made progress in 2023 in strengthening regulatory systems and harmonisation across the continent. Key accomplishments include:

- Development of a series of governing frameworks and standard operating procedures (SoPs) that are essential for undertaking harmonised continental regulatory activities
Groundwork for the establishment of a regulatory information system
- Review of the AU Model Law on Medical Products Regulation to respond to new developments in the regulation of medical products continentally and globally
- Assessment of the implementation status of Institutional Development Plans (IDPs) by National Medicines Regulatory Agencies (NMRAs) to inform support to NMRAs
- Launch of a pilot for continental medicines evaluations and inspections
- Prequalification sessions with the WHO in-vitro diagnostics team for African medical device experts
- The designation of four Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence (RCOREs) for Vaccines Regulatory Oversight. These centres include the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), in partnership with the School of Pharmacy at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), and the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Ghana.

The Secretariat also supports the RECs in strengthening regional medicines regulatory harmonisation (RECs MRH) initiatives. The purpose is to move from fragmented country-based medicines regulatory systems to collaborative ones at a regional level. Moreover, the AMRH Secretariat assisted NMRAs in addressing gaps and challenges in achieving WHO Maturity Level 3 (ML3) status, which denotes a stable, well-functioning, integrated regulatory system. A survey indicated that most of the NMRAs (72%) are in ML1, while ML 2 and 3 accounted for 12% and 16% of NMRAs, respectively. An implementation tracker and a resource mobilisation strategy are on the horizon to ensure the NMRAs have mechanisms to support IDP implementation.



CONTINENTAL MEDICINES REGULATORY BODY

The AMRH Secretariat is working to promote a gradual move to a continental medicines regulatory body, the African Medicines Agency (AMA). 26 Member States have ratified the AMA Treaty. Nine others have signed but have not ratified the Treaty. The AMA structure has been drafted, while several frameworks have been developed and approved. These include Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Priority Medical Products, Continental Guidelines and Procedures for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMP), and a one-year roadmap for piloting continental assessment of registration of medical products. In addition, the terms of reference and job description of the AMA Director General have been endorsed by the AMA Conference of State Parties, and the AMA Board is being established to guide AMA operations, including the selection of the Director General. Furthermore, to aid the operationalisation of AMA, the African Medicines Regulators Conference (AMRC) Meeting in August 2023 urged the RECs to formulate a costed minimum plan for regional MRH projects to steer their operations and ensure long-term effectiveness and sustainability.



STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

Africa's community health system faces challenges, including a shortage of community health workers and gaps in knowledge about preventing common health issues. AUDA-NEPAD's Bijimi Project aims to address these issues by building the technical capacity of community health workers, particularly in rural areas.

In 2023, Project Bijimi focused on strengthening the community healthcare workforce in Burundi, Lesotho, Central African Republic, Chad, and South Sudan. The project aimed to enhance the capabilities of healthcare workers and educate communities in these regions. Recognising the importance of occupational health and safety (OHS), the project integrated OHS into the primary healthcare system. Specialised training in OHS was provided to 50 participants from these countries, equipping healthcare workers with the knowledge and skills to ensure their well-being and that of their patients.

Project Bijimi successfully established a mechanism to seamlessly integrate OHS practices into the primary healthcare system, promoting safe and sustainable healthcare practices in the participating countries. A significant achievement was the commitment of all five countries to incorporate the OHS element into their national primary healthcare roadmaps, showing dedication to the long-term sustainability of healthcare services.

Project Bijimi's holistic approach, combining healthcare worker training and community education, demonstrates its commitment to building a resilient and effective healthcare system. By prioritising occupational health and safety, the project safeguards the well-being of healthcare professionals and enhances the quality of care provided to communities, contributing to healthier and more prosperous societies.



SOUTHERN AFRICA TUBERCULOSIS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

Mining contributes significantly to the economies of Southern African countries. However, this comes at a cost, with the region being burdened with a high incidence of infectious diseases like TB and HIV among mineworkers. Since 2018, AUDA-NEPAD has been collaborating with the SADC Secretariat and other partners to implement aspects of the SADC Health Protocol, the SADC TB Strategic Plan 2020-2024, and the Declaration on TB in the Mining Sector with funding from the Global Fund.

TB in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa (TIMS)

The TB in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa (TIMS) initiative is being implemented in three phases: the last phase, with a total funding of US\$10.5 million, is due to end in June 2024. AUDA-NEPAD serves as the Secretariat to the Southern Africa Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the TIMS project. Key results in 2023 include:



Development of regulatory OHS frameworks

Several regulatory frameworks were developed to strengthen OHS on the continent. These include the Regional Occupational Exposure Limit Guidelines/Model Law, the Occupational, Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) guidelines for Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASM), the Occupational Health Services Framework for Lesotho and Malawi, and the ILO International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) Training and Mentorship Curriculum. The OSH laws in several Member States were also reviewed and strengthened.



Technical Support

Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia were supported in developing a joint Occupational Safety and Health Information System (OSHIS) using the DHS12 tool. The open-source OSHIS is a valuable tool for capturing occupational safety and health data, identifying patterns and trends, and initiating early remedial actions. The OSHIS will be rolled out or adapted in other AU Member States. These four countries were also assisted in implementing the new regional code of practice requiring countries to establish occupational health services for miners and examiners. Additionally, Lesotho was supported in developing the OHS Bill and its regulatory framework, while Malawi and Zambia were assisted in upgrading management systems for occupational hygiene laboratories. South Africa was supported in reviewing its Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Regulations. Several Member States received support in developing policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE) in health interventions. Consultations were held with Member States to expand the programme to West Africa, including Guinea, Mali, and Senegal."



Training and Curriculum

30 IT specialists from Lesotho, Mozambique, and Zambia were trained on the DHS12 tool. Twenty-three Lesotho health officials received training in the ILO fundamental principles, workers' rights, and the Lesotho OHS framework. Twenty-nine occupational health medical practitioners from across the continent undertook the Training of Trainers course on the ILO ICRP curriculum. OSH specialists in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia were capacitated to expand OHS and conduct workplace inspection activities.



Curriculum Review and Knowledge Products

The training curriculum for occupational health and safety practitioners was reviewed and validated. Several project case reports were also appraised for publication.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

Significant progress was made in implementing the African Leadership Meeting's Investing in Health Declaration of 2019. One of the critical interventions in 2023 was the pre-launch of the AU Programme for Investment and Financing of Africa's Health (PIFAH). This programme, designed to harness private sector engagement, revolves around four key verticals: Diagnostic Services, Digital Health, Human Resources for Health across all cadres, and Manufacturing.

A noteworthy quick-win project that exemplifies this commitment was initiated to combat neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in São Tomé and Príncipe, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This initiative aims to eliminate NTDs in these regions, demonstrating the tangible impact of private sector involvement in healthcare. Furthermore, the Agency organised seven national health financing dialogues that led to the development of national health investment plans and projects to be presented to potential investors. These plans and projects are essential in driving sustainable healthcare advancements across the continent.

As part of the ALM's comprehensive approach, a framework for private sector engagement in the health sector was crafted, discussed, and subsequently adopted. This framework serves as a guiding beacon for public and private sector stakeholders, ensuring coherent and impactful investments in the health sector.



SUSTAINING THE HIV/AIDS RESPONSE, STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND HEALTH SECURITY

In collaboration with the AUC and the Africa CDC, a costed 6-pillar Roadmap to 2030 was drafted and will be presented to the February 2024 AU Heads of State Summit for endorsement. The roadmap seeks, among other things, to operationalise regional health financing hubs, enhance local manufacturing capabilities, and implement initiatives targeted at the youth and other key populations to prevent and manage communicable and non-communicable diseases. In addition, preparations are underway to for a high-level health conference to be held in July 2024, as per the AU Decision. The conference will provide a platform for solidifying support to achieve the roadmap's objectives and propel Africa towards a future where HIV and related infections are eliminated, NCDs are controlled, health systems are resilient, and sustainable healthcare strategies support the continent's development.





SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The AU aims to harness science, technology, and innovation effectively for Africa's socio-economic development and to empower African leaders and innovators to address continental challenges by leveraging cutting-edge and emerging technologies. Current interventions are focused on identifying and evaluating promising technologies that hold immense potential for Africa. Additionally, AUDA-NEPAD is facilitating funding for ground-breaking research and development projects across the continent through innovative financing initiatives.

AU High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) and Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue (CJED)

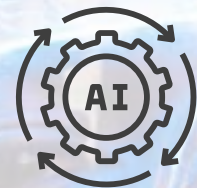
Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Africa's Socio-economic Development

The AU High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) is AU's Think Tank, composed of eminent experts tasked with providing expert contributions on technology development, acquisition, and deployment for Africa's economic growth. The APET, in its advisory role, provides an opportunity for the continent to leverage current and emerging innovations and technologies that have high potential to transform Africa's science base into a competitive advantage. The Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue (CJED) provides an excellent opportunity for learning, exchanging knowledge and experiences, and building mutually beneficial relationships focused on 21st century emerging technologies. The Dialogue aims to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of African executives, senior officials, decision-makers, and policymakers to provide technical advice to governments on innovative and emerging technologies.



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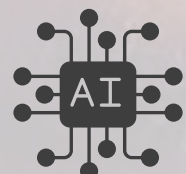
Three transformative AI reports



APET launched three transformative technology reports: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and Next-Generation Batteries. These reports were sequels to the initial publications on gene drives, drones, and microgrids. The reports highlighted the potential of AI in doubling GDP growth rates by 2035, the role of blockchain in transformative governance, and the strategic use of next-generation batteries to address energy needs, respectively. Additionally, APET introduced a policy framework for Genome Editing in African Agriculture, aligning with biotechnology advancements for socio-economic development. APET also hosted roundtable discussions on emerging technologies and digital transformation in Africa, aiming to drive radical change across the continent.

2

Efforts to finalise the first draft of the AU-AI strategy



APET made progress towards completing the first draft of the AU Artificial Intelligence (AU-AI) continental strategy, which serves as a roadmap for AI technology implementation in Africa. Contributions were received from AI experts to enrich the document and develop domestication strategies. Rigorous validation with Member States and drafting a domestication roadmap to ensure alignment and readiness for adoption is in progress. An abridged version for policymakers was also prepared, highlighting the commitment to inclusive growth, job creation, and sustainable socioeconomic development through AI technology.

3

Three-day dialogue on strengthening AfCFTA implementation



In line with the AU 2023 theme, the 8th CJED focused on "Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Accelerated African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation and Industrialisation in Africa." The three-day dialogue held in Harare, Zimbabwe generated specific policy recommendations, including strengthening public-private partnerships, formulating comprehensive national strategies for emerging technologies, and investing in research and development. Emphasis was placed on education integration, intellectual property protection, customs harmonisation, digital infrastructure investment, and local value addition. The event highlighted the potential of science, technology, and innovation (STI) to stimulate economic growth and streamline trade when coupled with robust intellectual property enforcement and public engagement.

4

Promoted ethical STI practices



In partnership with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), AUDA-NEPAD held consultations to enhance the ethical framework of STI practices. The progress reflects the commitment to fostering ethical practices in governance and STI, paving the way for evidence-based decision-making, reduced corruption, and preserving Africa's cultural heritage.

AFRICAN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION INDICATORS (ASTII)

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) indicators are critical in supporting evidence-based policy development and tracking Africa's scientific targets within the current knowledge-based and innovation-led economies. Following the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action on Agenda 2063, the Heads of State and Government recommended investing at least 1% of gross domestic product (GDP) for scientific development. Both the STI Strategy for Africa 2015-2024 (STISA-2024) and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development require increased investment in research (SDG 9.5) to accelerate industrialisation, enhance innovation and improve infrastructure.



Fourth African Innovation Outlook Report

In collaboration with the AU Observatory for STI (AUC/AOSTI), AUDA-NEPAD is working on the Fourth African Innovation Outlook Report to be published by the second quarter of 2024.



Enhanced Member States' capacity to develop and use STI indicators

AUDA-NEPAD supports and strengthens the capacity of AU Member States and RECs to develop and use STI indicators in planning and policy development. So far, 43 countries have been trained since 2007, in collaboration with STI desks within RECs and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Also, in 2023, 38 African STI policy and data experts were selected to undertake a 4-week Global North-South postgraduate module on Innovation, Transformation, and Resilience for Sustainable Development at Lund University in Sweden. Moreover, the Agency is working with Brazil and UK/FCDO to enhance national and regional expertise in real-time data collection (digitisation) in six pilot countries (Cabo Verde, Eswatini, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles, and South Africa) and sustain the generation and use of R&D and innovation indicators for national and regional planning under the second phase of the UK-Brazil-Africa Trilateral Development Cooperation pilot project focusing on SDG 17: International Partnerships for Sustainable Development. This process has allowed AUDA-NEPAD to join the G20 through its network of think tanks (Think20), with more activities scheduled in 2024 in Brazil. Moreover, AUDA-NEPAD facilitated peer learning visits for the six pilot countries to Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, hosted by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British Embassy in Brasilia, respectively. The visits focused on health research, innovation, and demographic data.



Expanded partnerships

AUDA-NEPAD joined the Global Alliance for Life Economies Research and Innovation (GALERI) and Think20.

ADVANCING GENOME EDITING IN AFRICA

The Genome Editing (GE) initiative has continued to scale up engagements in eight Member States (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe) to promote the uptake of the GE tool to optimise agricultural value and supply chains. The aim is to foster a broader understanding of genome editing among different stakeholder groups by highlighting its potential and the interventions required from key actors across the innovation ecosystem.

The 2023 communication and advocacy exercise, spearheaded by National Lead Agencies, successfully lobbied for the enactment of supportive policies, increased investments, and the upskilling of scientists to propel GE innovations in agriculture. The participating countries developed National Communication and Advocacy Strategies and Action Plans on GE, which were all validated by critical stakeholders. The strategies identify country-specific needs to be addressed through multi-stakeholder efforts, accompanied by six-month action plans to guide the implementation of in-country activities. In addition, four GE training modules were developed by a team of leading African experts from eight countries. The four modules include Science, Policy Making and Regulation, Product Development, Intellectual Property, and Commercialisation. The modules aim to promote a common understanding of genome editing and enabling factors across countries, as part of communication and advocacy towards harmonising key messages. Six of the participating countries also developed a set of interventions to foster innovation-focused on-the-job training programmes to promote product development at scale and effectively support industrialisation. In addition, key actors, including scientists, policymakers, regulators, R&D, and media from the participating countries benefitted from a study tour to Ethiopia. The tour facilitated learning and sharing of experiences on leading cutting-edge science, research, and innovation efforts to support industrialisation and overall national development. Further engagements by ministers, senior policymakers, regulators, scientists, R&D, and the media were realised through an inaugural continental dialogue on enhancing the domestication and use of genome editing in Africa.

Critical inputs were obtained from Member States on the planned continental landscape analysis exercise to be undertaken in sixteen countries. The exercise aims to assess the continent's competencies and current trajectories related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture. Lastly, the Initiative established strategic collaborative alliances to support country-level interventions with key institutions, including the African Agriculture Technology Foundation (AATF), the Africa Harvest Biotechnology Foundation International (AHBFI), the Alliance for Science, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Open Forum for Agric Biotechnology (OFAB), and the Africa Orphan Crops Consortium (AOCC). These partnerships enabled AUDA-NEPAD to intervene as a critical partner at the 2023 African Conference on Agricultural Technology (ACAT) organised by the AATF to enable strategic engagement on modern biotechnology and GE.



PROMOTING EFFECTIVE VECTOR CONTROL IN AFRICA

The Integrated Vector Management (IVM) programme aims to create a collaborative continental platform for effective vector control, involving the health sector and other industries. It strives to empower the region to apply both existing and emerging strategies for managing vectors, responding to recent policy decisions emphasising innovation in vector control tools.

In 2023, AUDA-NEPAD took significant steps to strengthen genetically based vector control (GBVC) efforts. Stakeholder consultations in Burkina Faso and Uganda facilitated knowledge exchange, issue identification, and collaborative problem-solving to enhance the continent's capability against vector-borne diseases. Health and biosafety regulators in these countries underwent extensive training on GBVC guidelines and regulatory tools, providing them with essential skills to navigate the evolving GBVC landscape and ensure safe implementation.

Simultaneously, the IVM programme initiated a horizon-scanning mechanism for gene drives in Africa. This systematic approach, presented at the Pan-Africa Malaria Control Association (PAMCA) Annual Conference in Addis Ababa, involves a multidisciplinary Technical Expert Group (TEG) to comprehensively evaluate gene drives' positive and negative impacts in the African context. The TEG's efforts ensure that Africa stays well-informed and prepared for the latest developments in GBVC technologies.

The IVM programme has advanced in establishing the Africa Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Advisory Panel, with initial consultations held in Mozambique focusing on defining objectives, identifying stakeholders, and creating a comprehensive implementation plan. This advisory panel holds significant promise for strengthening vector management strategies in Africa, fostering collaboration, and advancing the fight against vector-borne diseases.

Furthermore, the IVM Programme actively engaged key stakeholders to encourage multisectoral collaboration, cooperation, and participation in the research, development, and regulation of GBVC tools. These efforts resulted in the establishment of a national IVM Platform in Uganda. Additionally, high-level technical engagements with the ministries of health, environment, and agriculture in the Union of the Comoros supported the country's endeavors to control and eliminate malaria and other vector-borne diseases using existing vector control tools and exploring emerging technologies.

Lastly, the programme played a crucial role in supporting the AU Malaria and Vector Control Experts Meeting and the AIDS Watch Africa Meeting. These meetings aim to assess progress in the fight against malaria and other vector-borne diseases on the continent, offering recommendations to sustain efforts for the elimination of these diseases, to be adopted by the AU Assembly in 2024.



MONITORING THE SAFETY OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS IN AFRICA

The AU-3S programme aims to ensure the safety of populations in Member States by establishing a continental safety monitoring system for priority medical products. Initially focused on vaccine safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program shifted to generate African-specific safety profiles for novel vaccines. The pilot countries—Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa—were chosen to cover over 35% of the African population, enabling a coordinated, multi-country approach to COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring. This strategic shift addresses the accelerated roll-out of vaccines without safety data for the African population. The programme has successfully delivered four safety monitoring solutions across the pharmacovigilance ecosystem of the five pilot countries.

These are

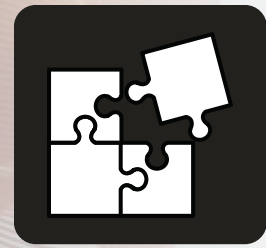
1. in-country pharmacovigilance capacity strengthening;
2. Deployment of cloud-based digital safety collection tools to ensure real-time quality data collection;
3. integrated cross-country safety data integration and signal detection platform (a databank with over 50,000 unique adverse events reports); and
4. the first-ever African-led Joint Signal Management Group of experts to review and advise Member States on product safety utilising the collected data. The thrust of the programme is to transition into a functional and sustainable continental safety monitoring platform.

In 2023, the programme delivered on the following specific focus areas:

- » **Developed a roadmap to a sustainable continental safety platform:**
The AU-3S Steering Group established an Ad Hoc Continental Safety Platform Working Group (CWG) to develop a roadmap to guide AU-3S to a functional and sustainable continental platform.
- » **Rolled out the AU-3S programme to more countries:**
In September 2023, the AU-3S programme expanded with the official inclusion of DRC, Egypt, and Rwanda. Additionally, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Mozambique, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda were approved as new Member States, bringing the total to twelve (12) member countries. The programme aims to reach fifteen (15) countries by the end of 2024.
- » **Expanded product scope:**
In addition to the six COVID-19 vaccine bands, seven additional priority medical products (New Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2), Dolutegravir-Based Regimen, Cabotegravir Replevining, Bedaquiline Fumarate, Pretomanid, Malaria Vaccine and COVID-19 Therapeutics) were identified and recommended by the AU-3 CWG through risk-based assessment approach.
- » **Recorded COVID-19 vaccine adverse events:**
During this period, the current AU-3S Joint Signal Management (JSM) Group reviewed and discussed events of interest and potential signals resulting from two years of cross-country data collection. Notable events of interest are the Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), facial paralysis, and arthritis.
- » **Enhanced the data collection mechanism:**
As the programme's data collection processes rely on mobile-based applications and customised National Regulatory Agency (NRA) applications, a new web-based Med Safety Web Portal was developed to enhance the data collection process, especially for safety reporting by more healthcare professionals and the public.

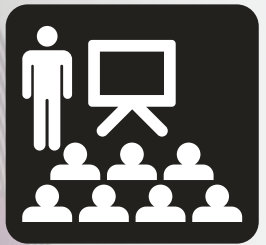
- » **Optimised the technology platform:**
The AU-3S technology platform is being enhanced to include more priority medical products and countries. The COVID-19 vaccine safety data from the initial five (5) participating countries has increased from 38 193 in February 2023 to 45 099 as of October 2, 2023. Ongoing efforts aim to migrate additional COVID-19 safety data, with a target of surpassing 80 000 by the end of the year. This reporting rate is unprecedented in Africa and has been recognized by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- » **Strengthened MS capacity:**
Sub-delegation agreements provided additional funding and capacity-strengthening support to participating countries. These funds supported the AU-3S countries in addressing PV-specific gaps and IDPs. Remarkably, through this AU-3S programme support, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA) achieved the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) Maturity Level 3 (ML3) for vigilance function as the 3rd AU-3S country to achieve this milestone.
- » **Public Health Impact:**
The AU-3S COVID-19 vaccine pilot demonstrated immediate, significant, and sustainable public health impact, reaffirming the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine and supporting vaccine uptake and administration among AU Member States.
- » **Evidence-based information to support the litigation process:**
Two participating countries reported that the COVID-19 vaccine safety data collected by the AU-3S programme has been used by their governments during vaccine injury litigation and compensation claims.

GRAND CHALLENGES AFRICA PARTNERSHIP



Establishment of R&D funding mechanisms in two AU Member States

AUDA-NEPAD supported establishing two (2) national R&D platforms (Grand Challenges chapters) in Rwanda and Malawi, as part of its innovative financing mechanisms to accelerate investments in R&D on the African continent. Subsequently, Grand Challenges Rwanda launched a request for proposals (RFQ) on “Innovative frontier technologies for climate-resilient agriculture, food security and safety in Africa” to promote research that fosters innovation in the country. Grand Challenges Malawi initiated an RFQ on “Development of Renewable Energy Technologies” to support innovations that will reverse the negative trends of the global energy crisis and improve energy supply and security within Malawi and the continent.



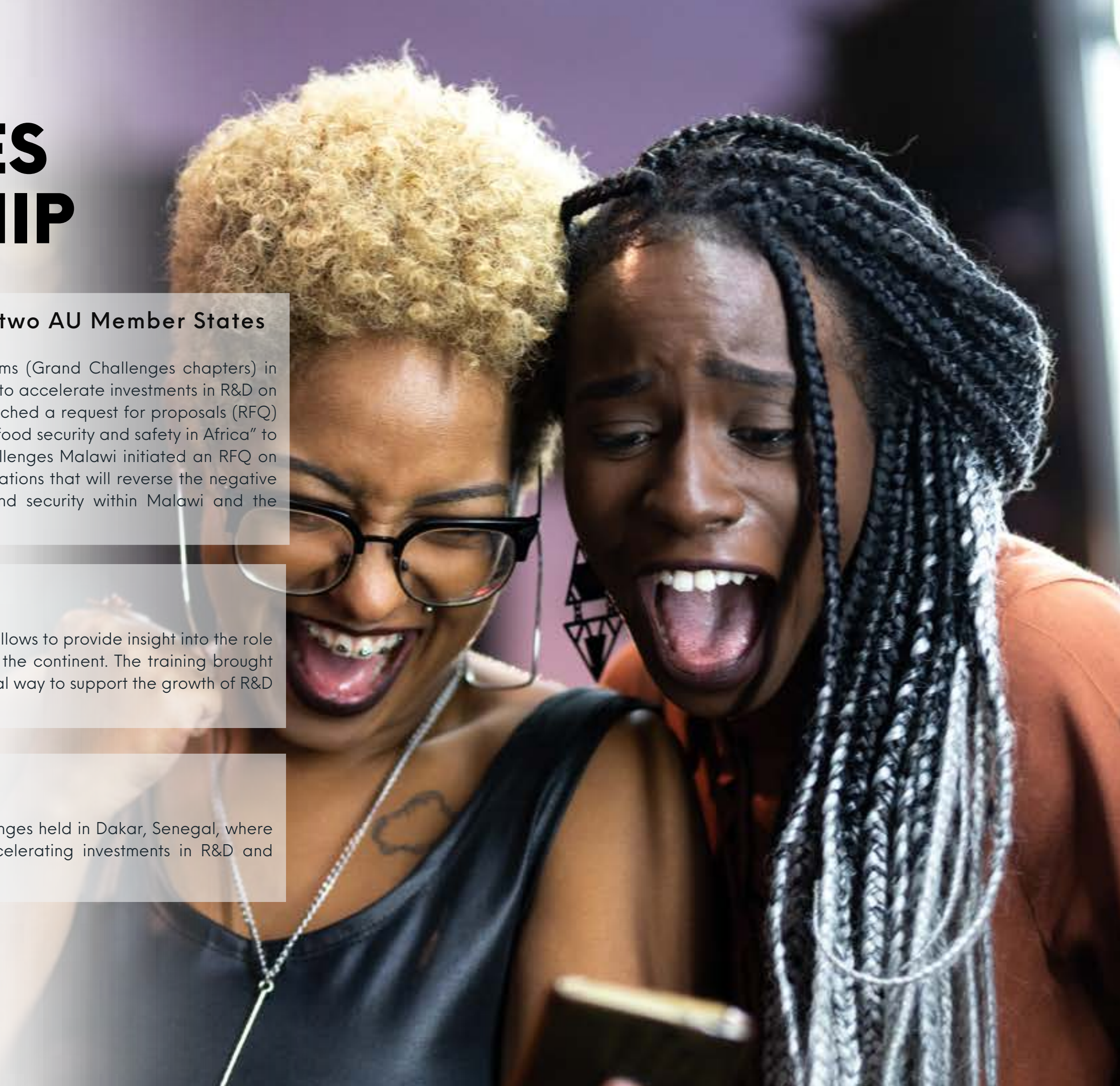
Calestous Juma Fellows training on policy

AUDA-NEPAD conducted training on policy for the Calestous Juma Fellows to provide insight into the role of policy in supporting the development of R&D and innovations on the continent. The training brought together policymakers and scientists to deliberate on the most optimal way to support the growth of R&D and innovations on the continent.



Annual Grand Challenges Meeting

AUDA-NEPAD participated in the 2023 Annual Global Grand Challenges held in Dakar, Senegal, where the AU led discussions on the role of African governments in accelerating investments in R&D and innovation on the continent.



PARTNERSHIPS

2023 was a remarkable year for the Agency, providing an opportunity to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of existing partnerships and their value addition to the implementation of Agenda 2063 priority programmes and projects. The Agency's partnership base, which includes key actors from Governments and Development Agencies, Foundations, Financial Institutions, the Private Sector, and Academia, continues to grow.

Value-adding partnerships are enabling conditions for the achievement of the Africa We Want. Therefore, the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan provides an opportunity to rethink and realign the continent's strategic partnerships to the objectives and goals of the seven Moonshots. The agency will continue to lead and act as the continent's technical interface on policy development recommendation and implementation with partners and stakeholders and, most importantly, undertake the full range of resource mobilisation with a keen focus on developing flexible financing instruments that will drive domestic resource mobilisation investments in the productive and catalytic sectors.

Partners that supported AUDA-NEPAD in 2023



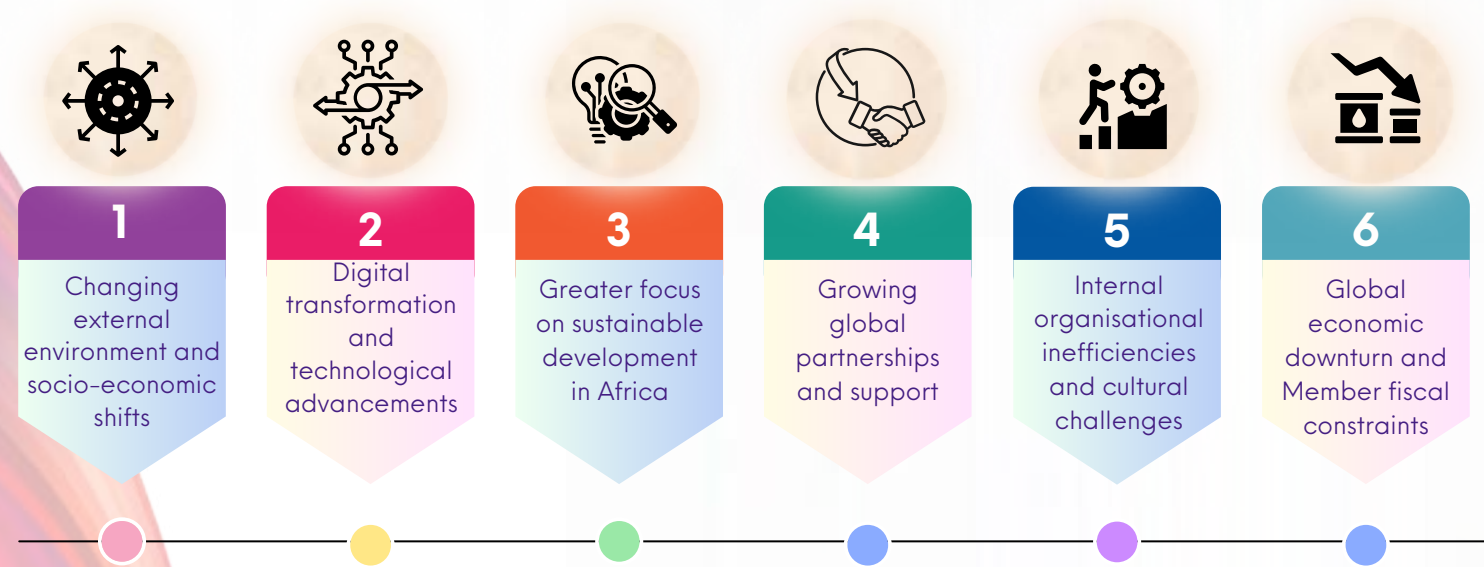
INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

AUDA-NEPAD has initiated a comprehensive Organisational Development (OD) intervention to develop a multi-year programme framework. The OD is strategically designed to enhance AUDA-NEPAD's overall organisational performance. This process involves an organisational assessment to identify gaps and create a roadmap for addressing them, including improving workflows, fostering innovation, addressing employee-related issues, enhancing communication, developing leadership skills, and promoting diversity and inclusion.

AUDA-NEPAD operates within the AU Agenda 2063 framework. The organisation navigates diverse levels of development, political stability, and infrastructure across African countries, requiring adept management of intergovernmental relationships and regional integration efforts. Within such a diverse environment, AUDA-NEPAD undoubtedly faces various challenges that impact the Organisation's ability to deliver its mandate efficiently and effectively. Understanding and addressing these challenges through targeted interventions will improve operational effectiveness, streamline decision-making processes, and enhance team collaboration.

The project's structured approach involves understanding the current state, envisioning the future state, and defining the organisational journey. The execution plan spans three phases: initiation, development, and consultation. AUDA-NEPAD is currently reviewing the first draft of the programme, with ongoing staff consultations to validate findings.

AUDA-NEPAD operating in a changing development landscape





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