



# HABARI

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# Energising Africa

Message by the AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer, H.E. Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, - 2023 Annual Report

2023 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 Organisation 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.

Seven moonshots that embody the ambitions of Agenda 2063 have been identified to accelerate progress.

By 2033, Africa wants:



## 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



## PAN-AFRICAN

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

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.

### Download our latest reports:

2023 AUDA-NEPAD Annual Report [[DOWNLOAD](#)]

Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2024-2033) [[DOWNLOAD](#)]



## ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU ASSEMBLY

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
17-18 FEBRUARY 2024

# Reflections on the TICAD Journey: 30 Years of Achievements and Africa's Development Prospects

**C**elebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023, TICAD remains committed to fostering discussions and building momentum among diverse stakeholders from Africa, Japan, and the global community to drive the progress of African development.

In commemoration of this milestone, AUDA-NEPAD and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have undertaken a joint survey to validate the significance and achievements of TICAD over the past 30 years. The survey aims to identify key achievements, and major challenges and provide insights for the future development of Africa. As part of these efforts, a side event was collaboratively organised by AUDA-NEPAD and JICA on the margins of the AU Summit in February 2024 to discuss the outcomes of the first phase of the survey.

H.E. Mrs Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, commended the efforts of the TICAD Partners and their immense support towards issues of sustainable development across the African continent. She reminded all that the African continent was still vulnerable to political, environmental, social and economic challenges.

Therefore, she called on the Partners of TICAD to reinforce and deliver on the principles guiding the partnership which entails mutual respect, cooperation, and shared prosperity as enshrined in the Agenda 2063 - to eliminate the challenges Africa faces whilst enhancing the opportunities that Africa possesses.

She also called upon the partnership to give high priority and redouble its efforts to support the acceleration of the seven Moonshots in the Second Ten-



Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 which is the priority for the next decade. In this regard, she highlighted the need for TICAD to look into the necessity of harnessing Africa's human capital through youth and women empowerment, to promote inclusive growth that leaves no one behind. Additionally, the CEO encouraged partners to continue working with the Union to address the root causes of

conflict and instability to foster a culture of peace, reconciliation and discipline across the continent as well as work jointly to combat climate change and environmental degradation.

She concluded her remarks extending warm and heartfelt congratulations to the conveners and partners of TICAD for a remarkable 30 years and a beautiful, continued friendship ahead.



She indicated that the future of Africa is exciting and full of optimism, determination, opportunities and a renewed sense of purpose. *"Together, we can overcome the challenges ahead and realise the vision of a truly free, united, and prosperous Africa"*, she said.

Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. FUKAZAWA Yoichi, underscored Japan's unwavering commitment to proactively address the diverse challenges faced by individual countries. He highlighted Japan's intention to foster collaboration specifically for the African continent. This commitment is particularly crucial as part of the preparatory efforts leading up to the TICAD ministerial meeting scheduled for 2024 and the subsequent TICAD-9 in 2025.

In his statement, Mr. Steve Patrick Lalande, Director for Partnership and Resource Mobilisation, African Union Commission (AUC), emphasised that

the historic occasion not only marks three decades of collaboration and partnership between Africa and Japan but was also an opportune time to celebrate progress made to date.

Mr. NAKAMURA Toshiyuki, Special Advisor to the JICA President, outlined the development and impact of JICA's cooperation over the last 30 years. The speech highlighted the fruitful partnership between JICA and AUDA-NEPAD, showcasing the collaborative efforts that have played a pivotal role in the TICAD process.

Moderated by Dr. Gideon Nimako, the panel emphasised on the accomplishments, tangible impacts, and future direction of the TICAD process.

Dr. Msingathi Sipuka, Chief of Staff and Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Infrastructure, Connectivity, and Industrialisation both representing

AUDA-NEPAD reflected the institutional and technical development through the TICAD process. They acknowledged the significant strides that have been made in various sectors, from infrastructure development and healthcare to education and trade.

Ms. Selamawit Solomon, Deputy Managing Director of Kaizen Excellence Centre, highlighted that, TICAD is dedicated to fostering not only economic development but also broader and deeper social changes, contributing to the comprehensive and sustainable future of African nations and the establishment of the TICAD Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is a testament to it. Finally, Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara, Resident Representative of UNDP Tanzania emphasised the flexibility of the Platform and desire to engage with the private sector and the international community in addressing emerging agendas for Africa's development.

In conclusion, the representatives of the AUDA-NEPAD called upon the platform to increase its efforts and align with the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP), emphasising that, the Agenda 2063 STYIP is Africa's development Plan and will guide as well as determine the nature of collaboration and strategic partnership for the next decade's priorities.

The hybrid event was attended by AU Member States, Development Partners, International Organisations, Private Sector Entities, and Civil Society Organisations. This endeavour will surely be crucial as part of the preparatory efforts leading up to the TICAD-9 in 2025 and beyond.

# Insights on the Year of Education

On the sidelines of the 37th African Union Summit, AUDA-NEPAD's Human Capital and Institutions Development Directorate hosted a series of events aligned with the launch of this year's AU Theme, titled "Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century," commonly referred to as the Year of Education.

Leading the coordination of these activities was Ms. Unami Dube, Senior Programme Officer, Institutional Development. Here are her insights:



**Tell us about this year's theme. What is the rationale behind it?**

*This theme puts a spotlight on the dire state of education in many African countries. This follows a study conducted by UNESCO in 2022 post the COVID-19 era, which showed that many countries were off course and would not be able to meet the targets of Sustainable Development Goal # 4. The study found that many young children face myriad barriers which prevent them from accessing education. Moreover, the schooling systems are not able to avail quality education that can equip young people to achieve their full potential. This is due to poor infrastructure, shortages of teachers and appropriate learning guides to mention a few. This bleak state of affairs on Africa's human capital seriously undermines individual countries and the continent as a whole to achieve its aspirations towards a prosperous and inclusive future as set out in Agenda 2063. As a result, this year's theme builds on global efforts to rally policy makers and stakeholders to think deeply about how we can do things differently and better to equip, empower children and young people for a brighter future.*



**Statistics indicate that in Africa, as many as 98 million children and young people within the official age range are not enrolled in pre-primary, primary, secondary, or higher levels of education. What does this imply for the continent, and what impact does it have on Africa's economic growth prospects?**

*Let's bring the story closer to home. Education is the foundation for social and economic development. Looked at holistically, the schooling environment nurtures talent, potential and a child's ability to grasp social abilities, scientific and conceptual thinking as well as build self confidence of a child. When it said that nine out of ten children cannot read by the fourth grade, this means that they have missed a critical foundation stage which is crucial for their secondary, tertiary as well as life-long learning abilities and ultimately affect their pathways to*

*economic prospects later in life. The lack of adequately trained teachers also impacts on the transfer of knowledge resulting in post-secondary youth as well as tertiary students not having the requisite competences required in the workplaces. Some of these include critical thinking, problem solving, social empathy, use of technology and self-management. Put together this results in a skills mismatch where the skills or qualifications possessed by young people are not required by industry and business sectors. This is equally true for those that choose the academic stream as well as those that take the vocational training pathway, let alone those that drop out and never have the chance to enter the labour market. This mismatch between the education system and demands of the labour market results in a missed opportunity to inject young people's skills and potentials to build our economies, whilst also resulting in high informality, under-employment and*

vicious cycles of poverty for some. If this situation persists, Africa will not be able to reap the demographic dividend that is much spoken about.

**Give us a brief outline of Continental Education Strategy. What role will AUDA-NEPAD play in its implementation?**

The Continental Education Strategy (CESA) provides guidance to policy makers, stakeholders and actors on the transformation of education on the continent. CESA addresses aspects related to Early Childhood Development, Teacher development, Science -Technology-Innovation, integration of Science-Technology-Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), post-secondary education in tertiary and technical vocational education and training (TVET), digital education to mention a mention. The AUDA-NEPAD works within the STI, STEM and TVET through active participation in the respective CESA Cluster groups to engage with other partners in joint advocacy and networking, as well as undertaking programmatic actions as a development agency to implement attendant sector policy frameworks such as the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) and the Continental TVET Strategy.

**You hosted a Skills Initiative for Africa seminar, during which the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, H.E Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, signed implementation agreements with 12 grantees who submitted proposals for the innovative revamp of TVETs. Can you elaborate on this? How does it align with this year's AU Theme?**

This was an exciting moment for us as the SIFA Team. The main objective of the SIFA programme is to improve demand-oriented approaches to improve employability and economic prospects for young people. This means that SIFA advocates for applicants to demonstrate partnership between the training institution with private sector as a means to improve the linkages to industry and better alignment of training delivery to meet the needs of industry. To date, under the Funding envelope

from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, we have 18 Implementation Agreements signed with projects in South Africa, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Tunisia, Kenya and Ethiopia. The grants have been awarded to fund construction and supply of equipment for vocational training in mechatronics, renewable energy aquaponics, welding, refrigeration, ICT skills, hospitality, electrical engineering, as just some of the examples on hand. The signing of the 12 Implementation Agreements was for the funding under the European Union's envelope of EUR 9,5 which targets innovative projects in TVET delivery along three themes. These are - Digital Tools and Skills; Female Entrepreneurship and Employability; Training Innovation in Informal Sectors. The projects were selected following a rigorous eligibility screening, evaluation by an Innovation panel made up of Independent Experts before undergoing technical review by the SIFA Investment Committee. In the end 15 projects were shortlisted for award from a total of 360 submissions. The projects presented proposals ranging from incubation of women entrepreneurs, Mould and Die Technology, leveraging the METAVERSE Digital Tools, transfer of green and digital skills for women, digital innovation hubs, animation in the film industry and recognition of prior learning approaches for women in construction industry. The grantees are now tasked with undertaking activities focused on market validation and user testing of their proposed innovation, to validate the feasibility of TVET innovations in the market. This was the first group of grantees with a second Call for Proposal currently underway towards signing of a second group of grantees expected by June 2024.

**Additionally, you launched the WorldSkills Africa Desk on the margins of the AU Summit to serve as a platform for rallying Member States to participate in a global movement under the banner of WorldSkills International. Who are the partner organizations, and what will be the role of this desk in simple terms?**

This is an exciting moment for the Continent, to showcase its talent as well as build a skills economy to drive growth and development of our economies. Imagine, with the road, rail, port, industrial infrastructure drive underway on the Continent, not to mention, expansion of trade, markets, manufacturing of pharmaceutical and agro-processing, where will the artisans and tradesmen to build come from? From the vocational education and training sector. Therefore WorldSkills is a global movement that seeks to raise the profile of skills excellence to drive economic growth, productivity and competitiveness, by providing a platform for benchmarking to global occupational standards, peer learning and exchange amongst TVET practitioners. At the core of WorldSkills is the bringing together of vocational training institutions with industry. The AUDA-NEPAD provide Secretariat support to rally member states to become Members of the regional chapter, work with partners to avail capacity building of TVET experts and work with the Government of Zambia towards the hosting of the next WorldSkills Africa Competitions which will take place in Livingstone Zambia in 2025.

**Lastly, what role will TVETs play in the 21st Century?**

If we are to build our economies, and give the upcoming generations a possibility to earn a decent living and having dignity as citizens of Africa, we must see TVET as equal to contributing to an economy's productivity and competitiveness. The world of TVET is also changing in response to the new world of work, digitally enabled economies and the realities of the 4th Industrial Revolution as well as new sectors such as the green, blue and orange economies. In the meantime the basic skills for building, maintenance and repair will remain in demand both on the continental and globally. To harness Africa's demographic dividend parents and young people need to see TVET as a viable pathway from learning to earning that help uplift many and give them a hope for a brighter future.

# Powering Africa's Future by 2063: Making Electricity Accessible for Everyone



At the last African Union Summit held in February 2024, two major initiatives took centre stage: the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and the Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP). These initiatives were endorsed at the summit as flagship projects of Africa's long-term development strategy, Agenda 2063. Essentially, they aim to ensure universal access to electricity and to put the continent on a solid sustainable socio-economic development path.

Agenda 2063, the continent's strategic framework for socio-economic transformation, envisions an Africa characterised by sustainable development, inclusive growth, and integrated infrastructure. Energy is the lifeblood of development, crucial for powering industries, improving living standards, and driving economic growth. Central to the Agenda 2063 vision is the AfSEM and the CMP, which aligns with Agenda 2063's aspirations for industrialisation, economic diversification, and regional integration through the development of a robust continental power infrastructure.

The African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) aims to establish a comprehensive marketplace for electricity throughout Africa, interconnecting various power pools to facilitate easier electricity trade between countries. This initiative promises increased stability, reduced electricity prices, and enhanced accessibility for all. On the other hand, the Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP) represents a strategic blueprint for enhancing and modernising Africa's power systems. It encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including the construction of new power plants and interconnectors complimented by the modernisation of existing transmission lines, essentially revitalising Africa's energy infrastructure on a significant scale.

Being recognised as flagship projects boosts the status and visibility of CMP and AfSEM, garnering increased attention and support from stakeholders such as governments, international organizations, and investors, which streamlines the implementation process. Additionally, endorsement as flagship projects ensures enhanced political backing and commitment from African governments, increasing the likelihood of receiving sustained attention, resources, including funding and technical assistance, to overcome implementation challenges and achieve their objectives as key priorities of Agenda 2063.

Following this endorsement, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) held a two-day stakeholder consultation on 21-22 February. During the workshop stakeholders deliberated on Deliverables 2 and 3 of the CMP, pivotal components in advancing the masterplan's objectives. Deliverable 2 encompasses Transmission Network Scenario Studies, which provide critical insights into the optimal configuration of Africa's power transmission infrastructure to facilitate efficient electricity trade and integration. Deliverable 3, on the other hand, pertains to Multiple Energy Project Prioritisation Criteria, offering a framework for assessing and prioritising energy projects based on their socio-economic impact, technical feasibility, and environmental sustainability.

In addition to endorsing Deliverables 2 and 3, the workshop aimed to secure ownership and commitment from all stakeholders involved in the development of the CMP. This collaborative approach ensures that the CMP's implementation remains inclusive, drawing upon the expertise and resources of diverse stakeholders, including the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Power Pools, Regional Economic Communities, European Union, African Development Bank, the French Development Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, International Atomic Energy Agency, Power African, Get.Pro and other key institutions.

As Africa embarks on the next phase of Agenda 2063 implementation, the endorsement of AfSEM and CMP as flagship projects marks a significant milestone in the continent's journey towards sustainable development and prosperity. By harnessing the power of regional cooperation and strategic planning, Africa is poised to unlock its vast energy potential, driving economic growth, and improving the quality of life for millions across the continent.





**Postcard from Ethiopia's Capital**

**EU SIFA Innovation Funding Window III Awards**

Hey there!

Guess what? The EU SIFA Innovation Funding Window III Awards took place on February 14-15, 2024!

It's all about empowering African youth and enhancing skills through innovative TVET initiatives.



**Here's the scoop:**

- Grant funding for TVET institution revamp
- Innovative skills development projects funded
- Grantees celebrated for their achievements in youth empowerment and job creation

Speakers emphasized the importance of investing in education and strengthening continental integration for Africa's transformation.

**The Highlight:**

The signing of Implementation Agreements by the 12 Grantees and the AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer, showcasing of the projects, and celebration of the grant recipients' achievements.

Focusing on innovative skills development in TVET, the event recognised the grantees' vital role in youth empowerment, job creation, and skills enhancement across Africa. Additionally, it also showcased the importance of collaboration between vocational education and training practitioners and private sector to drive systems change, in order to realise the goal to empower youth, women, and vulnerable groups with requisite skills and competences.

**What was said?**

"It is our responsibility to transform Africa's future, and TVETs are one of the areas we need to focus on", AUDA-NEPAD CEO, H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas

"Strengthening Continental Integration, addressing employment challenges, and investing in education- these are the crucial aspects in the transformation agenda of Africa" EU, Head of Policy and Cooperation, Mr Thomas Huyghebaert

For more info, contact Ms. Unami Dube at [UnamiM@nepad.org](mailto:UnamiM@nepad.org).

**Keep Flying the Agenda 2063 Flag High!**



# Mobilising Sustainable Nutrition Financing: Insights from the African Union Summit High-level Nutrition Side Event



**H. E. Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas**



**Director Estherine Fotabong-Lisinge**



To meet nutritional targets outlined in the Malabo Framework, such as reducing stunting by 10% by 2025, Goal 3 of Agenda 2063, and Sustainable Development Goal 2 - Zero Hunger, there is a critical emphasis on sustainable resource mobilization strategies, particularly focusing on nutrition and locally produced nutritious foods. The African Union Summit High-level Nutrition side event, held on February 16, 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “Achieving Nutrition Goals in Africa post-Malabo: Public and Private Sector Sustainable Nutrition Financing,” provided invaluable insights into mobilizing funding for nutrition, strategically leveraging funding sources, and engaging the private sector to improve nutrition outcomes.

Discussions centered on urging the private sector to adopt nutrition-sensitive investments as part of the AU strategic framework for better nutrition, aiming for a win-win solution. Farmers’ needs include having accessible and stable markets and receiving agricultural support. The event emphasized the critical role of the private sector, along with other stakeholders, in accelerating progress in nutrition financing, recognizing its essential role in achieving sustainable development across Africa.

In her remarks, H. E. Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas indicated that AUDA-NEPAD is working with member states to mainstream food systems and nutrition in the CAADP process and accelerate private sector engagement in Africa. She further expressed optimism about the future of Africa, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts to unite stakeholders dedicated to advancing global nutrition goals and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Ethiopian government funds the Seqota Declaration plan, Ethiopia’s Seqota Declaration Resource Mobilization Plan, which is committed to ending stunting among children under two years by 2030. It builds on and catalyzes the implementation of the national Food and Nutrition Strategy by delivering high-impact nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and climate and nutrition-smart infrastructure interventions. The government of Ethiopia has launched the ambitious Expansion and Scale-Up Phases that aim to reach more vulnerable households with multi-sectoral interventions.

Ensuring commitment and contributions from all parties involved in accelerating nutrition financing is of paramount importance to combat malnutrition on the continent. Similarly, establishing a common understanding of the win-win outcomes in Nutrition in Africa is crucial and the outcome of this engagement will inform post-Malabo agenda and ensure its fate for the future.

# AU and AUDA-NEPAD Host Knowledge Marketplace



The African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), with the support of the German government, successfully hosted a Knowledge Marketplace Exhibition to launch the African Union Year of Education Transformation. The Knowledge Marketplace Exhibition was hosted on the margins of the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Under the theme: *“Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa”*, the knowledge marketplace was held on February 17 - 18, 2024, at the Foyer of the Nelson Mandela Hall of the AUC Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Knowledge Marketplace served to socialize the theme of the Year by showcasing various initiatives in line with the thematic outcome areas of the Transforming Education in Africa Concept Note and Roadmap. The Knowledge Marketplace launched the commemorative engagements of

the Theme of the Year by providing an interactive and dynamic exhibition that facilitated the showcasing of innovation, sharing best practices, and fostering knowledge exchange in Education from across the Continent.

The Marketplace included a digital exhibition that showcased strategies, operations, and activities of CESA Cluster leads, development partners, and stakeholders that utilized the Knowledge Marketplace to engage with Member States and other stakeholders. It provided visitors with an interesting virtual reality experience of education scenarios in the eye of the storm, which was facilitated by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

Exhibiting partner institutions included: AUDA NEPAD, AU ESTI, AU CIEFFA, European Union, GPE, HP, HUMANA, IFEF, ILO, OBREAL, OECD, Pan African Initiative on the Inserejeune Tool, Pan African University, PLAN International, SIFA, STEM POWER, TVET JOURNAL, UNESCO Global Education Monitoring, UNESCO UNEVOC, UNICEF, WFP, WorldSkills Africa, World Skills Kenya,

World Skills Zambia, and Young Africa.

The Knowledge Marketplace hosted a number of eminent persons and dignitaries for a walkthrough and photoshoot at the exhibition venue. These dignitaries included Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (emeritus AUC Chairperson and incumbent South African Minister in the Presidency for Women Affairs, Youth, and People with Disabilities); Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, AUC ESTI Commissioner; H.E Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas CEO of AUDA NEPAD; and H.E Speciosa Kazibwe, the first female Vice President of Uganda.

Overall, the Knowledge Marketplace exhibitions attracted over 400 registered delegates who attended the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. These included delegates from CESA Cluster leads, development partners, Member States, and other key stakeholders, including delegates from AFREXIMBANK, NEPAD Nigeria, UNECA, and AUC liaison office in DRC, etc.

# AUDA-NEPAD's Pursuit of a Comprehensive Approach to Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

**With almost half of the 32 conflict-ridden countries situated in Africa, the Peace, Security, and Development (PSD) nexus acknowledges that emergencies often stem from broader inequalities and injustices, offering an opportunity to engage with root causes.**

Over \$20 billion is allocated annually to military interventions across the continent, contributing to Africa's cumulative GDP losses, which have reached a staggering \$788 billion over the past decade due to conflicts. These figures, when juxtaposed against the glaring developmental needs of the continent, underscore the urgency of addressing the conflict's root causes comprehensively.

Beyond the economic toll lies a priceless human cost. The conflict has profoundly impacted millions of lives, making Africa home to nearly one-third of the world's forcibly displaced population. The repercussions, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers, extend to shattered families, disrupted communities, and individuals left without homes and basic services. The collateral damage resonates through disrupted education and healthcare systems, putting dreams on hold and perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

Women and girls become victims of indescribable atrocities, leaving lasting physical and psychological scars on individuals and their communities. To quantify the impact is an impossible task. Urgent action is required, shifting from policies to a holistic approach that addresses the entire conflict cycle from prevention to post-conflict development and reconstruction.

Amidst various peacekeeping endeavors, there is a mounting acknowledgment that these efforts need to synchronize with security and developmental initiatives. A prolonged, home-grown engagement focusing on robust institutions, good governance, inclusive political processes, and active community participation is crucial.



Recognizing the importance of a holistic strategy, AUDA-NEPAD has crafted the *"Socio-Economic Development in Post-Conflict States: the triple nexus on peace, security, and development"* program. With almost half of the 32 conflict-ridden countries situated in Africa, the Peace, Security, and Development (PSD) nexus acknowledges that emergencies often stem from broader inequalities and injustices, offering an opportunity to engage with root causes.

The AUDA-NEPAD PSD triple nexus program intends to promote sustainable development and peace through regional integration anchored in peace, security, and development principles. This involves interventions in policy areas, linking with regional programs, and flexible programming in priority interventions for select post-conflict states (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and South Sudan). Establishing institutional frameworks for accountability, monitoring, and evaluation, the integrated program aims to foster sustainable development, peace, and regional integration over a five-year implementation period.



# COP28 UAE

UNITE. ACT. DELIVER.

## *Up Close and Personal with Mr Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Infrastructure and Energy, Industrialisation, Trade and Regional Integration*

AUDA-NEPAD organised a series of side events during the Conference of Parties 28 in Dubai, with a focus on the impact of climate change on Africa's energy potential. We had the opportunity to interview AUDA-NEPAD Directors who shared the following insights:

### **1. Can you elaborate on the Africa Water Investment Action Plan launched during COP28's sidelines? How does this plan facilitate financial mobilisation for implementing the Africa Water Investment Programme, and what does this program entail?**

To give some context to the discussion, I begin by sharing a brief background leading up to the launch of the Africa Water Investment Action Plan at COP 28. As you are aware, the Investment Action Plan is a project among others under the umbrella of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), a programme adopted by The Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

At present, only US\$10-US\$19 billion is invested each year in the sector against an annual requirement of US\$64 bn. And so, the AIP seeks to accelerate water investments on the continent to meet SDG 6 water-related targets by mobilizing US\$30 billion annually, thus narrowing the water infrastructure investment gap.

At the sidelines of the COP28, the African Union Commission, the High-Level Panel on Water Investments in Africa and partners, including AUDA-NEPAD, represented by our CEO Ms. Nardos Bekele Thomas, launched the Investment Action Plan

outlining clear actions to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources from various sources such as national banks, governments, MDBs, DFIs, institutional investors, climate funds, the private sector, including savings arising from sector efficiencies. The plan through a call for proposals for national projects also identifies 53 national projects complementing the PIDA transboundary water portfolio. The success of the Investment Action Plan hinges on countries embracing and incorporating its actions into their national strategies and all actors coming together to effectively mobilize the much-needed resources and bring about the desired change.

### **2. You hosted an event on the Continental Power System Masterplan aimed at low-carbon development for AfSEM. In simpler terms, explain how climate change affects energy generation and its projections for illuminating Africa.**

The Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP) is a plan to connect and integrate the electricity grids of different African regions and countries, in order to create a single African electricity market (AfSEM). The CMP aims to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal, which are cleaner than fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas. By doing so, the CMP hopes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase energy



access, security and affordability for all Africans. The CMP proposes diversifying the energy mix, increasing the share of renewables, improving the power systems' efficiency and resilience, and enhancing regional cooperation and integration.

The Continental Power Systems Master Plan (CMP) projects an increase in electricity generation from about 263 GW to 1,200 GW by 2040, informed by Africa's ambitions to fast-track universal access and accelerated industrial development. Of importance is the projected prominence of renewable energy technologies in Africa's future generation capacity mix. Renewable energy is projected to constitute about 760 GW of the 1,200 GW continental generation capacity, highlighting Africa's political will for a sustainable energy future.

### **3. With the emphasis on investing in renewable energy technologies, what implications does this hold for Africa, particularly in mitigating the effects of climate change on the continent?**

Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change and the least climate-resilient despite accounting for about 3% of the global GHG emissions. It is, therefore, in the best interest of Africa to join the global efforts to transition towards net-zero emissions to mitigate future impacts of climate change on the continent and reduce the costs of adaptation.

Investing in renewable energy technologies has many positive implications for Africa, especially in terms of mitigating the effects of climate change on the continent.

- Renewable energy can improve energy access and security for millions of Africans who lack reliable and affordable electricity and often rely on polluting and expensive fossil fuels for their energy needs.
- Renewable energy can create jobs and economic opportunities for local communities, especially in rural areas, where most of the renewable resources are located. Renewable energy can also support productive uses of energy, such as agriculture, industry, and services.
- Renewable energy can enhance regional cooperation and integration, by facilitating cross-border trade of electricity and sharing of best practices and technologies. Renewable energy can also foster peace and stability by reducing conflicts over scarce and depleting fossil fuel resources.

Therefore, investing in renewable energy technologies is not only a smart choice for the environment, but also for the development and prosperity of Africa and its people.

### **4. How do you suggest Africa incorporates future climate changes into its infrastructure planning?**

We should no longer wait to incorporate climate resilient infrastructure design considerations in our infrastructure planning and development across the continent. I make reference to the recent extreme climate and weather-related events that we experienced such as cyclones Kenneth and Idai that caused severe damage to critical transport infrastructure in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and South Africa. The starting point is to have forecasts of climate events that are as close as possible to the events that we might experience in future. This can be achieved by having robust and comprehensive climate risk assessments. The design considerations should extend beyond the utility requirements. Transport infrastructure for example, should play a role in minimizing the impacts on the surrounding communities such as retarding flash floods, facilitating water harvesting or replenishment of dams. Besides having infrastructure that is able to withstand climate impacts, we should also contribute to the global goals to minimize emissions of greenhouse gases and the ultimate rise in global temperatures. Our infrastructure development should have minimum impacts on the natural environment with less alteration on forests, wetlands and so on that serve as carbon sinks and produce less emissions by adopting renewable energy technologies to meet the continent's energy requirements.

### **5. Regarding AUDA-NEPAD's partnership prospects for accelerated infrastructure development amid climate change concerns, what approach is being taken in current and future partnership opportunities?**

AUDA-NEPAD recognises that Africa must achieve its accelerated infrastructure development objectives while being mindful of climate change concerns. Through the CMP, AUDA-NEPAD has highlighted that a continentally integrated electricity infrastructure is a key enabler to large-scale penetration of renewable energy

technologies. In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD has partnered with various development partners in Africa's electricity sector to identify and prioritise infrastructure that promotes regional integration and access to renewable energy technologies. Through its involvement in developing Africa's large infrastructure projects, AUDA-NEPAD will ensure that the design of projects incorporates standards for climate resilience. AUDA-NEPAD aims to enhance the environmental and social responsibility of infrastructure projects and ensure their alignment with the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

More broadly, amid climate change impacts, climate related incremental costs are adding to our funding requirements for infrastructure development. AUDA-NEPAD is expanding its scope of partnerships to diversify funding sources to meet the growing funding gap and leverage on the capacities of our partners.

## **Up Close and Personal with Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability**

At the Conference of Parties 28 in Dubai, we had the chance to interview Ms Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Agriculture, Food Security, and Environmental Sustainability at the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD. Our conversation covered diverse topics related to Climate Change, including Soil Health, Carbon Markets, Africa's stance on financing resilience to climate change, and other COP28 deliberations.

### **1. AUDA-NEPAD organized a Ministerial Session focusing on integrating food systems into Africa's financial models. Do you believe the discussions achieved the necessary outcomes for political support and funding at the ministerial level?**

*The Ministerial session was preceded by a presidential round table on leveraging investment for climate adaptation through food systems transformation. This kind of dialogue are very informative. Countries get to share experiences and learn from one another, to improve on their programmes and processes. During the presidential round table, the Green Climate Fund announced the sum of \$100 Million for Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda and Ethiopia to support adaptation in food systems.*

### **2. Regarding Carbon Markets in Africa, who should fund them, and how will increased funding benefit the continent?**

*Before getting into funding of carbon markets in Africa, there are still outstanding issues that need to be clarified to get the continent well equipped for carbon markets. These include awareness on the dynamics on carbon market. Issues around carbon pricing need to be resolved. In view of these issues, AUDA-NEPAD is working with relevant partners to build the capacity of member states as part of readiness for carbon markets. The Agency launched a report at COP 28 on the status of carbon market in Africa. It will build on the report to strengthen the capacity of member states and the development of African Gold Standard for Carbon Trading.*

### **3. Despite Africa contributing the least to climate change emissions, the impact on the continent is substantial. What stance should Africa adopt regarding climate mitigation?**

*Africa's focus has been on adaptation. The continent needs about 250 Million US Dollars annually to adapt to climate change. The continent needs to first, adapt to the effects of climate change, before mitigation. Adaptation is another form of mitigation because when you build resilience in communities, it is a starting point towards mitigation. People will get more appreciative of the natural habitats and do more to protect the environment. Domestication of the various declaration made at COP 28, such as on agriculture, food systems and health will go a long way towards adaptation. In addition, easier access to global adaptation funds will support the continent's efforts on adaptation. While appreciating that every nation should be part of the energy transition to get to zero carbon, how Africa nations will contribute to the transition will have to ensure that no one in their country is left behind within their developmental aspirations. It is therefore that far more finance is mobilized for developing countries to help make the energy transition possible.*

### **4. Let's discuss Africa's Soil Health - how can we safeguard and enhance our soil to ensure it continues to sustain the masses amidst Climate Change?**



*Transformative agriculture and food systems in Africa is hinged on a healthy soil amongst other factors. In essence, a transformation to climate resilient food systems in Africa is possible when adequate attention and investment is focused on restoring soil health. In addition, indigenous approaches for land use and land management that are nature positive need to be revived and promoted as they can be the basis for soil health improvements. AUDA-NEPAD is well positioned to support investments in soil health on the continent, including to galvanize action by all key stakeholders including Governments, private sector, development stakeholders and farmers.*

### **5. Could you elaborate on the partnership discussions that took place on the sidelines of COP28?**

*One of AUDA-NEPAD's mandates is to act as the continent's technical interface on policy recommendation and implementation with partners and stakeholders. AUDA-NEPAD held several meetings with member states, development partners and non-governmental organisations. Discussions focused on how best to support adaptation efforts in the continent. Various partners recognised the unique position of the Agency in the continent. Part of the discussions was to build alignments to replicate results of projects implemented by AUDA-NEPAD. In addition, AUDA-NEPAD signed a partnership agreement with the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) to monitor implementation of agreements signed between Europe and Africa.*

# Strengthening Africa's Development: Uniting Efforts through Collaboration

*"Egypt's vision in light of its current chairmanship of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, is focused on accelerating both economic integration and the implementation of the African Development Agenda 2063, as well as the objectives of the Continental Free Trade Agreement, while harnessing Egyptian expertise in the areas of infrastructure, energy, communications, industrial transformation, and food security, with the participation of the private sector, and in constant consultation with brothers in African countries. This is in addition to working to mobilise financial resources for priority areas for African countries by adopting the AUDA-NEPAD proposal to launch the Africa Team Resource Mobilisation Campaign initiative"* said H.E. Dr Mostafa Madbouly Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt during 2023 BRICS Summit.

The aspirations of its people, encapsulated within the visionary blueprint, Agenda 2063 – *"The Africa we want."* illuminate the journey towards Africa's development.

Guided by the African Union (AU), this ambitious undertaking shapes a future of integration, prosperity, and peace driven by its citizens. In alignment with this vision, Agenda 2063 unfolds through ten-year implementation plans, crafting a roadmap of development goals and targets.

In this spirit of collaboration, AUDA-NEPAD, the AU Commission, and AfCFTA embarked on a joint programming initiative with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). This multi-institutional collaboration aims to roll-out the

Agenda 2063 Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) to regional and national levels, as prerequisites for regional integration. The program, supported by evidence-based approaches and tools such as foresight planning, encompasses strong coordination, resource mobilization, knowledge sharing, and best practices dissemination.

*"As we reflect on the first decade of Agenda 2063, spanning 2014 to 2023, we find a tapestry of progress with varying shades. Across the spectrum of development, from coherence among Member States to collective action among regional and continental AU institutions, strides have been made. However, it's important to acknowledge that certain milestones remain unmet, such as reduction in child marriages, child trafficking*





*and coverage of sanitation services. This awareness is the guiding light for the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP), an audacious blueprint to accelerate progress while maintaining the right speed and scale."* said Simon Kisira, Programme Evaluation Head at AUDA-NEPAD.

The STYIP espouses seven "moonshot" and a set of ambitious but realistic targets that address Africa's complexities head-on. These goals demand substantial resources – financial investment, interdisciplinary expertise, and advanced technologies.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of RECs, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) employs the principle of regional integration to coordinate and execute priority projects across the continent. Herein lies the synergy between RECs and AUDA-NEPAD – a "hand and glove" collaboration that fuels socio-economic integration on a grand scale, promoting wealth creation, job opportunities, population health, and elevated living standards.

Yet, success hinges on systematic coordination and collaboration. By aligning the AU Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and member states through joint programming, planning, and execution, a robust ecosystem for development emerges. This coordinated approach enhances the scope of work, resource mobilization, measurement of progress, and dissemination of impactful results.

With Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implemented under a common framework, strong collaboration becomes paramount across socio-economic sectors and governmental levels. The integration of national development strategies with continental objectives, as articulated in the STYIP targets, calls for institutional coordination and cross-sectoral collaboration.

In this context, AUDA-NEPAD pioneers a joint programming initiative with RECs in collaboration with other AU institutions like the AU Commission and AfCFTA. This multi-institutional collaboration seeks to maximize the benefits of regional integration, bolstered by solid coordination between

RECs and continental AU institutions. By emphasizing collaborative planning, joint resource mobilization, and enhanced measurement of results, this initiative champions exchanging knowledge, utilizing best practices, and a continuous learning journey.

We have identified priority programs through meticulous applied research, consultations, and on-ground engagement. These programs, anchored in REC-based implementation strategies, encompass diverse sectors, including health systems, infrastructure, climate change, and innovation. The success of these endeavors rests upon the pillars of collaboration, coordination, joint planning, and resource mobilization.

The heartbeat of Team Africa – comprising the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs – synchronizes with member states and specialized continental institutions to ensure the effective execution of these priority programs. Through knowledge sharing and the propagation of best practices, Team Africa fosters development efforts across the continent. Under the stewardship of Team Africa and critical stakeholders, these coordinated continental and regional integration endeavours will undoubtedly steer Africa toward economic transformation, sustainable development, inclusive growth, poverty alleviation, and improved livelihoods for all.

The collaborative spirit embraced within the AU's regional integration agenda is poised to become a powerful mechanism driving the realization of Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Plan, both at the regional and continental levels. This implementation arrangement promises to bolster the support extended to the AU Member States as they work towards their national development plans, thus contributing to the collective continental endeavour of bringing the aspirations of the African people, enshrined in Agenda 2063, to vibrant fruition.

# Call for MSME-led Digital Solutions Forge Valuable Connections with Investors and Partners

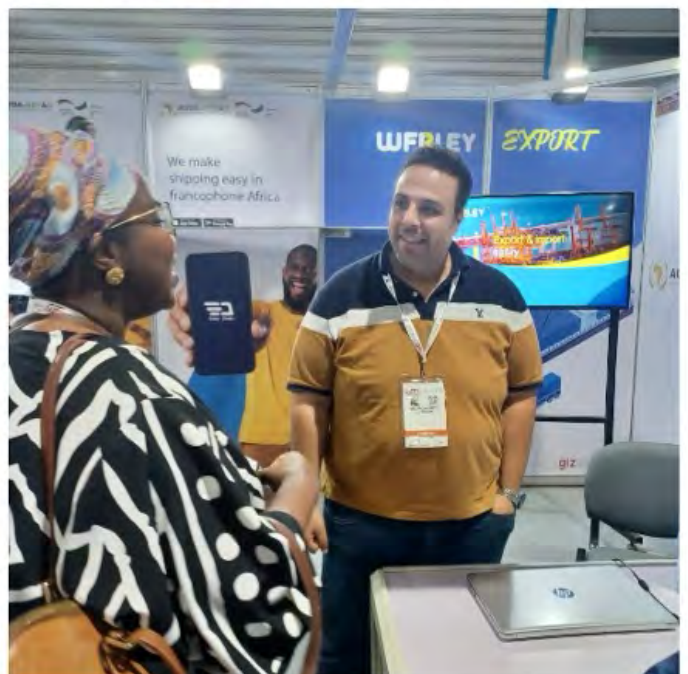
The 3rd Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) 2023 hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo, from 9-15 November 2023, served as a platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to highlight their potential and interact with investors from across the continent. The event proved to be a catalyst for fostering partnerships, encouraging trade, and promoting economic growth within Africa.

The Output 3 of GIZ Support to PIDA: Green Infrastructure Corridors for intra-African Trade, is a micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)-driven Digital Solutions to support green infrastructure and trade. Under the initiative, ten African MSMEs have been selected to receive technical advisory services and capacity building. These MSMEs from seven African Union (AU) Member States, that specialize in providing digital solutions for green infrastructure and intra-African trade, representing all five AU regions, have been chosen from a pool of over 50 applicants in response to AUDA-NEPAD's 2022 Call for MSME-led Digital Solutions which is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

Of the 10 MSMEs supported by AUDA-NEPAD and GIZ, five were selected to exhibit at the AUDA-NEPAD stand during IATF2023. The IATF offered MSMEs a unique opportunity to exhibit their products and services to a diverse and influential audience. With a wide range of sectors represented, including agriculture, manufacturing, technology, and more, MSMEs were able to showcase their innovation and entrepreneurship on a grand scale. The fair served as a launchpad for these businesses to gain exposure, build networks, and explore potential investment avenues.

The presence of investors and financial institutions at the AUDA-NEPAD stand, opened doors for MSMEs seeking capital infusion and strategic partnerships. Throughout the exhibition, MSMEs actively engaged with potential investors, presenting their business models, growth plans, and unique value propositions. These interactions allowed investors to gain insight into the MSMEs' potential for growth, while SMEs had the chance to pitch their ideas and secure the much-needed funding to drive their businesses forward.





In addition to one-on-one meetings with investors and potential clients/customers, the MSMEs also had an opportunity to engage the AUDA-NEPAD CEO, H.E. Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas. They discussed challenges, opportunities, and strategies for fostering sustainable growth in Africa's SME sector. The insights shared during these discussions proved invaluable for MSMEs, providing them with guidance on market trends, regulatory frameworks, and access to markets.

In a meeting with the Head of Infrastructure, Dr Towela Nyirenda-Jere, MSMEs engaged in a productive discussion on the deployment of digital solutions in green infrastructure and intra-African trade. The meeting focused on exploring innovative ways to leverage technology for sustainable development and enhancing trade within the continent. There was a shared commitment to further explore the potential of digital solutions in green infrastructure development and

intra-African trade. The MSMEs expressed their readiness to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders to drive the adoption of digital technologies, promote sustainable practices, and enhance trade across the continent. By harnessing the power of digital solutions, MSMEs aim to contribute to the development of green infrastructure and the expansion of intra-African trade. They recognize that innovative technologies, combined with collaborative efforts, can create a more sustainable and prosperous future for Africa.

Furthermore, the MSMEs had an interaction with the AUDA-NEPAD Gender Expert, Jessica Annor, who among other things highlighted the importance of women inclusion in the development of digital technology. The conversation centred around recognizing the untapped potential of women in the tech industry and the need to create an enabling environment for their participation. On the other hand, the

MSMEs emphasized that women bring unique perspectives, skills, and creativity to the digital technology sector. They argued that by harnessing the talents of women, the industry can benefit from diverse insights and innovative solutions, leading to more inclusive and effective technologies.

**Post – IATF Success Stories:**

Several success stories emerged in the aftermath of the IATF, highlighting concrete results that can be achieved through interactions between SMEs and investors. For instance, Milimonline, a technology startup operating in the Malawian Agri-Food Marketplace, effectively established communication with a local commercial bank in Malawi, which resulted in a prospective partnership that could potentially involve direct investment. Discussions regarding a prospective partnership agreement with Absa Bank of Zambia are currently underway. These substantial investments from the banks will enable the organization to extend its operations and achieve a more extensive presence throughout the continent.

During IATF, Eazy Chain, a logistic startup from Togo, formed four strategic partnerships with major players in the logistics industry. These partnerships not only offered financial support but also shared their knowledge in market penetration and distribution networks, thereby contributing to the overall expansion of the logistics sector in Togo. Eazy Chain has formed a partnership with a well-known pet food manufacturer from France to manage their operations in Togo.

Since IATF, Eazy Chain experienced a significant 25% increase in website traffic. This rise is a clear indication of increased interest and involvement in their services, showcasing the beneficial influence of participating in international trade events.

These success stories demonstrate the power of the IATF in connecting SMEs with investors and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships. Among the numerous success stories that emerged from the fair, the interactions between the five MSMEs and potential investors and partners left a lasting impression.



# Dakar Financing Summit 2023: Paving the Way for Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Africa

From February 2nd to 3rd, 2023, the second Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure (DFS-2) unfolded at CICAD, showcasing a remarkable mobilisation of states and private sectors. With a focus on 22 projects spanning transport, ICT, energy, and water sectors, the summit played a pivotal role in galvanising efforts towards sustainable infrastructure development in Africa.

The high-level event, jointly hosted by the Government of Senegal and the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), brought together Heads of State, government officials, and decision-makers from over 18 countries.

The summit showcased 22 projects worth a staggering USD 160 billion under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), aiming to increase Africa's competitiveness and economic integration.

Reflecting on the summit's outcomes, there is a collective commitment to reach the objectives outlined in Agenda 2063, highlighting Africa's determination to achieve world-class infrastructure integration. Despite the positive momentum, reflections on the summit point out some challenges, including the need for increased financial commitment from governments and a stronger role for African sovereign wealth and pension funds in infrastructure financing.

In a noteworthy development following the summit, a total of five PIDA PAP 2 projects have successfully secured over USD 850 million in funding:

- Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II has obtained approximately \$168 million in funding from the New Development Bank (NDB).
- The Egypt - Navigation Line between Lake Victoria and Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) project has secured \$2 million



in funding for feasibility studies, thanks to the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF) grant.

- The Luapula Hydropower Project, aimed at supporting the preparation of a hydropower initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia, received a grant of \$4.2 million. This funding was approved by the Multilateral Cooperation Centre for Development Finance (MCDF) in September 2023.
- The Zizabona interconnector project has successfully secured \$1 million in funding through the African Development Bank from the Sustainable Energy Fund.
- The African Development Bank has also approved various financing structures totalling \$696.41 million for Burundi and Tanzania to embark on Phase II of the Joint Tanzania - Burundi - DR Congo Standard Gauge Railway Project.

This initiative aims to construct 650 kilometres of rail infrastructure, contributing to the development of the Central Corridor network.

- These successful funding endeavours underscore a positive momentum post-summit, further bolstering the realisation of crucial infrastructure projects outlined in PIDA PAP 2. The diverse range of projects, from water management to energy and rail infrastructure, reflects a collective commitment to addressing Africa's developmental needs and fostering sustainable growth across the continent.

In conclusion, the Dakar Financing Summit has set the stage for a new era in African infrastructure, with concrete commitments, partnerships, and funding paving the way for sustainable development. As Africa navigates its infrastructure challenges, collaborative efforts and strategic financing will be crucial to achieving the ambitious goals outlined in PIDA and Agenda 2063.

## A Decade of Transformation: PIDA's Impact on Africa's Infrastructure Development



In September 2023, the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, and PIDA partners unveiled the First 10-year PIDA Implementation Report, showcasing a decade of transformative impact on Africa's infrastructure development. Since its initiation in 2012, PIDA's Priority Action Plans (PAPs) have been instrumental in advancing regional projects, resulting in the development of thousands of kilometres of roads and railways, establishment of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), and progress in energy generation and transmission. The report highlights key achievements, including:

- **Electricity Access:** Nearly 30 million people have gained access to electricity, opening doors to countless opportunities for progress and prosperity.
- **Intra-Africa Trade:** Investments in road and rail infrastructure have propelled Intra-Africa exports to 16%, fostering regional integration and economic development.
- **Clean Water Access:** A water transfer project is providing clean water access to communities in need, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future.
- **ICT Broadband Penetration:** With broadband penetration exceeding 15% of the target, Africa thrives with e-commerce, mobile banking, e-education, and enhanced business efficiency.
- **Jobs Creation:** PIDA projects have generated 112,900 direct and 49,400 indirect jobs, empowering communities and driving economic growth.

Looking ahead, the PIDA report outlines a robust strategy for the next phase of development, focusing on innovation acceleration, scaling past successes, addressing capacity and funding challenges, ensuring sustainable impact, and fostering inter-institutional collaboration. These strategic initiatives aim to expedite project implementation, maximise past achievements, and tackle challenges related to capacity and funding, emphasising the long-term positive impact of infrastructure development on Africa's environment and communities. PIDA's commitment to fostering partnerships and collaboration underscores its dedication to strengthening collective efforts and promoting inclusive growth across the continent.

## Dr Koussao Some - New Director General of the National Biosafety Agency in Burkina Faso

**D**r. Koussao Somé recently assumed the leadership of the Agence Nationale de Biosecurity in Burkina Faso, succeeding Dr. Oumar Traoré, who had held the position since 2021.

On February 9, 2024, Dr. Somé was sworn in by Prof. Samuel Pare, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, during a handover ceremony in Ouagadougou.

Dr. Oumar Traoré served nearly two years as the Director General of the agency. During his tenure, he successfully facilitated the contribution of Burkinabè expertise to the development of standards and the establishment of regional and community regulatory systems for modern biotechnologies. He also played a pivotal role in expediting the accreditation process of the National Biosafety Laboratory. Dr. Traoré expressed his willingness to continue supporting the incoming Director General for the success of his mission.

In his congratulatory message to Dr. Traoré, Dr. Somé commended his predecessor for the significant accomplishments. He expressed his dedication to addressing the current challenges with the support of the agency's staff.



Similarly, AUDA-NEPAD collaborates closely with National Biosafety Authorities across Africa to bolster their efforts on the ground. These government regulatory bodies are responsible for ensuring that the use of modern biotechnologies aligns with national regulations and international standards, particularly concerning products derived from genetic engineering and new gene technologies. Through its flagship biosafety program, the African Biosafety Network of Expertise, AUDA-NEPAD offers technical support to African countries to establish functional biosafety regulatory frameworks and effectively leverage biotechnology opportunities. Such assistance aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063 Aspiration 1, aiming for *"a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development,"* and Goal Number 5, targeting *"Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production."*

# HABARI

African Union Development Agency - NEPAD  
230 15<sup>th</sup> Road, Randjespark, Midrand - South Africa  
+27 11 256 3600 | [comms@nepad.org](mailto:comms@nepad.org) | [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

