RE-ADVERTISEMENT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: SENIOR ADVISER, SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION VA/AUDANEPAD/24/26

The African Union (AU) established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. Its Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a programme of the African Union adopted in 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, aimed primarily at poverty alleviation and promotion of economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. As a consequence of the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) has been established by the Decision of the 14th AU Assembly of February 2010 as the technical body of the African Union, in replacement of the NEPAD Secretariat.

NEPAD Agency transformed into the African Union Development Agency. The aim of the African Union reforms is to streamline and improve effectiveness and efficiency in delivering the implementation of AU decisions, policies and programmes across all AU organs and institutions. One the recommendations of the reforms is to transform the technical body of the AU, the NEPAD Agency into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). The decision was made during the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in Nouakchott, Mauritania, African Heads of State and Government, in July 2018.

AUDA-NEPAD is an African-owned and led continental agency, spearheading Agenda 2063. The decision on the African Union Development Agency is an affirmation by Member States of their commitment to own an instrument that will champion development support to countries and regional bodies in advancing their priorities through the implementation of Agenda 2063.

1. To coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063;
2. To strengthen capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies;
3. To advance knowledge-based advisory support;
4. To undertake the full range of resource mobilisation; and
5. To serve as the continent's technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders and development partners.

The offices of the AUDA-NEPAD Agency are located in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Based on the Host Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the African Union for AUDA-NEPAD to serve as the interim AU Office Operating outside the African Union Headquarters, AUDA-NEPAD invites applicants who are citizens of African Union Member States for the position of:

A. Post

Job Title:	**Senior Adviser, Science Technology and Innovation**
Position Level:	**P6**
Duty Station:	**Johannesburg, South Africa**
Supervisor:	**Chief Executive Officer**

B. Key Performance Areas

Under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer, the Senior Adviser, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) will be at the forefront of shaping and driving AUDA-NEPAD's strategic initiatives to significantly enhance Africa's capabilities in research, development, innovation, and STEM education. This pivotal role ensures that science, technology, and innovation are integral to AUDA-NEPAD's broader policy frameworks and programmatic activities. The incumbent will also lead efforts to build robust partnerships with key international and African institutions, supporting the sustainable development goals of the African Union and positioning Africa as a significant contributor to the global STI landscape.

Specifically, the incumbent will perform the following duties:

1- Strategic Leadership and Policy Development

The Senior Advisor will provide high-level strategic advice to the CEO on all matters related to science, innovation, and technology, ensuring that AUDA-NEPAD's policies and strategies are aligned with the latest global and African trends in STI. The incumbent will spearhead the development of policies that align with the organization's goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, ensuring that these policies are effectively integrated into AUDA-NEPAD's programs and initiatives.

- Lead the development and implementation of comprehensive STI policies and strategies for AUDA-NEPAD.
- Ensure that STI initiatives are aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and AUDA-NEPAD's overarching goals.
- Integrate STI policies across AUDA-NEPAD's key programs, including infrastructure, energy, industrialisation, agriculture, climate change, education, gender development, livestock, blue economy, transport, and green initiatives.
- Support member states in formulating and implementing their own STI policies, with a particular focus on enhancing STEM education and R&D capabilities.

2- AI Revolution and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

The Senior Advisor will play a crucial role in positioning Africa to actively participate in and benefit from the AI revolution and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This role involves developing continental-level policies, engaging with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member states to upgrade their national development plans, and building international partnerships that enhance Africa's capacity in AI and advanced technologies. The Senior Advisor will also act as a specialized think tank, providing knowledge, intellectual insights, and resources to move Africa beyond being merely a consumer of AI technologies to becoming a key contributor to global innovation and invention.

- Develop and advocate for AI and Fourth Industrial Revolution policies at the continental level.
- Engage with RECs and member states to support the integration of AI and advanced technologies into their national development plans.
- Foster international partnerships that enhance Africa's capacity in AI, robotics, and other advanced technologies.
- Lead efforts to establish Africa as a key player in the global AI ecosystem by promoting research, innovation, and the creation of intellectual property.
- Serve as a thought leader and think tank within AUDA-NEPAD, providing strategic insights and resources to promote Africa's leadership in the AI revolution.

3- Partnership Building and Collaboration

The role requires the cultivation of strong, strategic partnerships with a diverse range of international and African stakeholders. The Senior Advisor will work closely with entities such as the European Union, World Bank, multilateral organizations, and leading science and research foundations to foster collaborations that advance Africa's STI agenda. By leveraging global expertise and resources, the Senior Advisor will help position Africa as a key contributor to the global STI landscape.

- Establish and maintain strategic partnerships with international, bilateral, multilateral, and African institutions.
- Lead collaborations with universities, research centres, and innovation hubs to promote joint research and knowledge exchange.
- Facilitate access to global resources and expertise to enhance Africa's STI capabilities.

4- Capacity Building and Member State Support

A key responsibility of the Senior Advisor is to enhance the capacity of AUDA-NEPAD's member states in science, technology, and innovation. This includes developing and implementing initiatives to strengthen member states' STI capabilities, particularly in STEM education and research. The role also involves advocating for increased budgetary allocations to STI and supporting member states in developing policies that create robust innovation ecosystems.

- Design and lead capacity-building programs to enhance the STI capabilities of AUDA-NEPAD member states.
- Advocate for increased financial investment in science, research, and innovation across Africa.
- Support the development and implementation of national STI policies, with a focus on integrating STEM education and R&D.

5- Data-Driven Policy Development

The Senior Advisor will champion the use of data to inform and enhance STI policy development across Africa. The role involves developing frameworks and initiatives that promote data collection, analysis, and utilization to support evidence-based decision-making in STI. The Senior Advisor will ensure that data-driven approaches are integrated into AUDA-NEPAD's overall policy and programmatic strategies.

- Promote the use of data in the development and implementation of STI policies.
- Lead initiatives to improve data collection and analysis capabilities across Africa.
- Develop frameworks for using data to measure the impact of STI initiatives and support policy development.

6- Research and Innovation Promotion

This role involves identifying and promoting strategies to increase Africa's research and innovation outputs, focusing on enhancing the continent's contributions to global intellectual property through patents, trademarks, and other innovation indicators. The Senior Advisor will explore funding opportunities and partnerships to finance research and innovation while advocating for policies that support the commercialization of research outputs.

- Identify strategies to increase Africa's research and innovation output, including patents and trademarks.

- Explore and secure funding mechanisms for research, science, and innovation in Africa.
- Advocate for the commercialisation of research outputs to contribute to Africa's economic development.

7- Advocacy and Representation

As a key representative of AUDA-NEPAD, the Senior Advisor will advocate for Africa's interests in global and regional STI forums. The role involves articulating Africa's needs and priorities in science, technology, and innovation to the international community, ensuring that these are reflected in global policies and agreements. The Senior Advisor will also represent

AUDA-NEPAD in high-level discussions and negotiations with international partners and stakeholders.

- Represent AUDA-NEPAD at international and regional forums on STI issues.
- Advocate for Africa's STI priorities in global policy discussions.
- Engage in high-level negotiations with international partners to secure support for Africa's STI initiatives.

8- Monitoring and Evaluation To ensure the effectiveness of AUDA-NEPAD's STI initiatives, the Senior Advisor will oversee the monitoring and evaluation of all related activities. This involves setting up robust M&E frameworks to track progress, assess impact, and identify areas for improvement. The Senior Advisor will regularly report on the outcomes of STI initiatives and provide strategic recommendations for enhancing their effectiveness.

- Develop and implement M&E frameworks for AUDA-NEPAD's STI initiatives.
- Regularly report on the progress and impact of STI policies and programs.
- Provide strategic recommendations for continuous improvement of STI initiatives.

9- Perform any other duties as may be assigned.

C. Job Requirements

Required Skills and Competencies

I. In-depth knowledge of global and African STI trends and challenges, including AI and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
II. Proven expertise in policy development and implementation in science, technology, and innovation.
III. Strong partnership-building skills, with a successful track record of working with international organizations, research institutions, and governments.
IV. Advanced analytical skills, with a focus on using data to drive policy decisions.
V. Excellent communication and advocacy abilities, with experience representing organizations at high-level forums.
VI. Significant experience in capacity building and supporting member states in STI policy development.
VII. Visionary thinker with a deep commitment to advancing Africa's development through science, technology, and innovation.
VIII. Collaborative leader who can work across diverse sectors and engage effectively with various stakeholders.
IX. Results-driven with a strong focus on achieving measurable outcomes that contribute to Africa's sustainable development.
X. Demonstrated strong management, coordination, teamwork and planning skills.
XI. Excellent diplomacy skills and a proven ability to establish and maintain interpersonal and professional relationships with AUDA-NEPAD, Member States and other stakeholders.
XII. Experience in managing organisational resources and deployment in pursuit of innovative approaches and initiatives.
XIII. Experience in leading and supervising a diverse team and the ability to leverage limited resources and staff for maximum impact.
XIV. Expertise in identifying and adapting best practices to specific project contexts.
XV. Ability to always maintain confidentiality at the highest level.
XVI. High level of accuracy, attention to detail and thoroughness.
XVII. High level of integrity and accountability, flexible approaches to work coupled with enthusiasm, commitment and energy.
XVIII. Ability to perform multiple tasks and work under pressure with a wide range of individuals and institutions.

XIX. Excellent computer skills (e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, SAP ERP) essential.

XX. Proficiency in one of the AU working languages and fluency in another AU language is an added advantage.

D. Qualifications And Experience

Candidates must have a minimum qualification of a Master's Degree in ICT, Economics, Engineering, Science, Innovation and Emerging Technology or a related field. Additionally, candidates must have twelve (12) years of progressively professional experience at a senior management level in managing STI-driven capacity-building and technical assistance, including expertise in managing inter-agency STI-driven strategy and policies within public sector institutions and similar organisations nationally, regionally and/or internationally.

Candidates must have at least twelve (12) years post-qualification experience in:

- Design and development of STI strategies, policies and related programs.
- Intensive engagement and expertise in technology development, demonstration, and deployment, and strong familiarity with working with national innovation systems and academia.
- Design, monitoring, and evaluation of the projects/programmes or related areas.
- Preparation, management and conducting impact evaluations, including the use of various research methods, methodologies, and evaluation technology.
- At least five (5) years at a management/leadership level.

E. Languages: Proficiency in one of the following (English, French, Portuguese, Arabic and Spanish) African Union working languages is a requirement. Knowledge of one or more of the other AU working languages would be an added advantage.

F. Tenure Of Appointment: The appointment will be made on an AU fixed-term contract for two (2) years, of which the first three (3) months will be considered a probationary period. This contract will be renewable subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funds.

G. Gender Mainstreaming: AUDA-NEPAD is an equal opportunity employer and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

H. Applications: should be forwarded utilizing ''Arial'' font 11.5**:** To apply, please submit the following:

a. A motivation letter stating reasons for seeking employment with the African Union Development Agency.
b. A detailed and updated curriculum vitae (CV), not exceeding five (5) pages and indicating your nationality, age and gender.
c. Three (3) referees with good knowledge of the candidate's work, furnishing full contact details, telephone, fax and e-mail addresses.
d. Certified copies of degrees and diplomas.
e. A recent performance evaluation report (for internal candidates only).

I. Remuneration: Indicative basic salary of US$67,966.60 per annum plus other entitlements e.g., Post Adjustment (57% of basic salary), Housing allowance ($27,290.88 per annum), gratuity (5% of basic salary), medical aid, life and accident insurance in conformity with the rules and procedures applicable to internationally recruited staff of the African Union.

J. Applications must be received not later than **Monday, 09 September 2024**. Click the link to apply:

https://e-recruitment.nepad.org:44310/sap/bc/webdynpro/sap/hrrcf_a_startpage_ext_cand

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

If you face challenges during profile creation or application, log your problem to audahiring@nepad.org

AUDA-NEPAD is a vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal that is based on a shared understanding that it is imperative to eradicate poverty and position African countries on the road to sustained economic growth and development. AUDA- NEPAD works closely with the African Union Commission (AUC), regional economic communities, national governments, research institutions and civil society organizations in its attempts to eradicate poverty in Africa whilst also voicing Africa´s concerns at the global level. For more information go to: **www.nepad.org**