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AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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Up-close and Personal With Dr Manyewu



The implementation of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has seen an increase in Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), average incomes, agricultural output and productivity, agricultural trade and agricultural investments as well as a significant reduction in hunger and poverty. Progress has however been slower than anticipated due to immense challenges and shocks due to climate change, pandemics and global economic disruptions.

Recognising the need to develop a robust and comprehensive agenda for the next 10 years to deepen the CAADP process and redouble effort to sustain and accelerate the gains, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Partners and stakeholders from across the African continent gathered to discuss, review and finalise the reports of the Post Malabo Technical Working Groups.

During this workshop convened in Lusaka, Zambia, we had the privilege of sitting down with

Dr. Manyewu Mutamba, the AUDA-NEPAD Senior Programme Officer, Food Security and spoke to him on his thoughts on the workshop, the progress of CAADP implementation, and his vision for the future of agriculture development on the continent.

Below is what he had to say.

Briefly outline the main objectives of the recently concluded post-Malabo Technical Working Group Workshop in Lusaka.

The Objective Post Malabo Technical Working Group Workshop held in Lusaka was to finalise the technical reports by the 13 Thematic Technical Working Groups and validate those reports. These reports will outline the key elements and priority actions to be considered for the 10 year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2035) that is expected to be endorsed by AU member States in Kampala in January 2025.

Back to basics: How does this workshop translate into practical outcomes for ordinary Africans , farmers, women , youth etc . In essence, why should this workshop matter ?

Inputs from this workshop will shape the focus and priorities for the 10 year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. This Strategy will be the continental blueprint to guide our ambitions to transform our food systems to enhance their inclusivity

and resilience in the face of multiple shocks that include climate change, global market disruptions, conflict and health pandemics. As a continent we have to act to protect our food systems from such challenges as we have seen the impacts of these shocks on access to food particularly for those in the lower income bracket. Low income households face a disproportionate burden of any disruption to our food markets that cause shortages or price spikes because a large proportion of their income is spent on food. One of our ambitions as a continent is also to make our food systems more inclusive to create decent jobs, and meaningful business opportunities for youth, women, people with disabilities and other special groups that typically struggle to get such opportunities. One of the objectives of the Technical Working Groups in Lusaka was to propose how the next CAADP Strategy and Action Plan can better focus on creating opportunities for such groups.

If you had to pose a call to action for policymakers, what would be your call to action based on the outcomes of this post-Malabon Technical Working Group workshop? What would you like policymakers to do?

Africa's agrifood systems face severe pressures from multiple shocks and stressors that threaten production systems, livelihoods and ecosystems. Unless our policy makers lead in taking urgent action to address the



impacts on these shocks, the gains made so far on food security and poverty alleviation are at risk of being reversed, with severe consequences for 100s of millions of our people. We need urgent and substantial investments to improve our capacity to better prevent, predict and anticipate the risks from these hazards. Our food systems equally need investments at various levels to take both adaptive and transformative measures that will fundamentally drive a shift towards a more reliant and inclusivity architecture.

How does this workshop contribute to CAADP implementation leading up to the year 2063? How will it change the implementation of CAADP to reduce hunger and poverty on the continent?

The work of the Technical Work Groups will provide the main building blocks for the next 10 years CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2035). Informed by lessons from the last 20 years of CAADP implementation, these recommendations will fundamentally improve the conception, design and implementation approach the next phase of CAADP. An improved design and implementation

approach is vitally important in accelerating the delivery of CAADP commitments on ending hunger, eliminating poverty, increasing intra-Africa trade and strengthening resilience of our food systems to major shock and stressors that are getting more frequent and more severe.

What is the Africa that you would like to see in terms of agricultural development by 2063?

The ambition is for an agrifood system on the continent that is highly productive and nutrition-sensitive, yet nature positive and supportive of healthy ecosystems, a food system that is highly inclusive and rewarding, tapping into the massive potential of the continent's youth and women, creating millions of decent jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurship, well integrated with vibrant local, national and regional value chains, and lastly a highly resilient and transformed food system that is better able to withstand, absorb, recover and continue to flourish in the face of climate change, global market disruptions, conflict, and pandemics and other shocks.

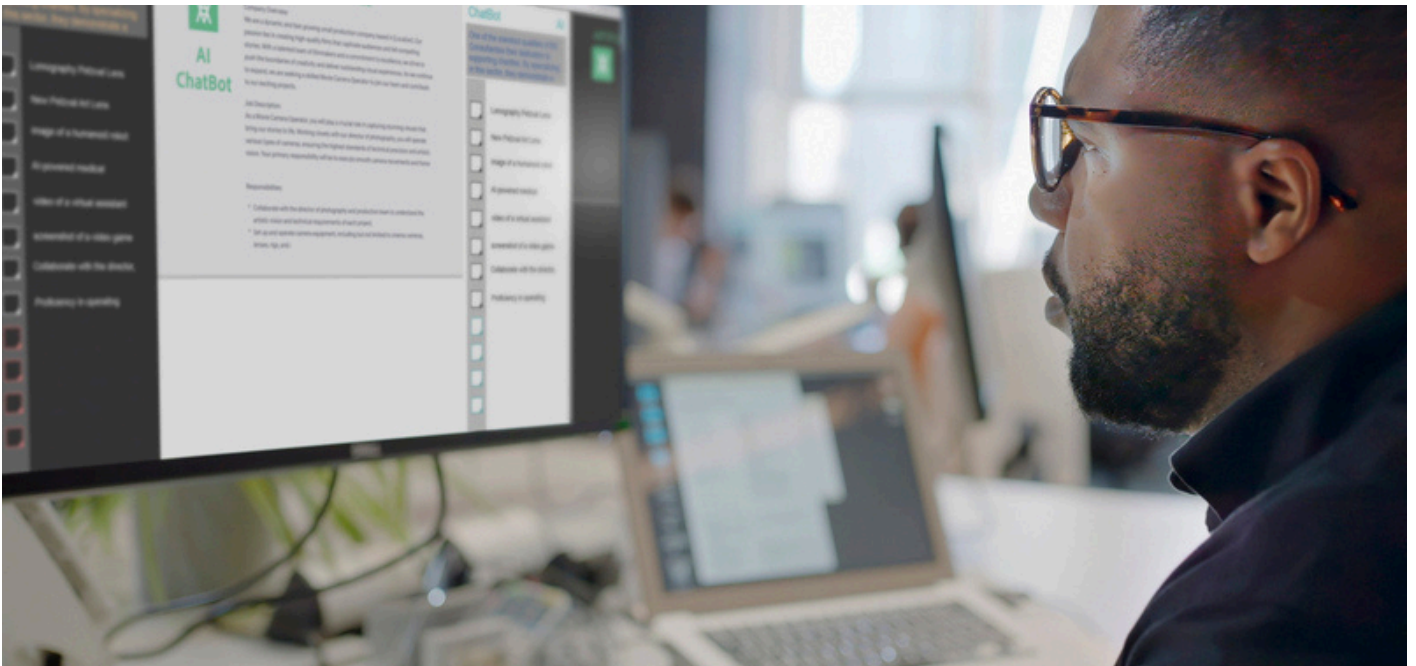
Post-Malabo Technical Working Groups Workshop concludes in Lusaka

Mrs. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, the Director of Agriculture, Food Security, and Environmental Sustainability at the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, has officially closed the Post-Malabo Technical Working Group Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia. The meeting, held from July 25-30, was convened to develop a robust and comprehensive agenda for the next 10 years, aiming to deepen the CAADP process and re-double efforts to sustain and accelerate its gains.

The African Union Commission (AUC) and AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), partners, and stakeholders from across the African continent, gathered to discuss, review, and finalize the reports of the Post-Malabo Technical Working Groups.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Lisinge-Fotabong expressed gratitude to the various partners collaborating with the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD in the Malabo process and the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). She acknowledged the significant contributions of development partners to the continent's agriculture transformation agenda and further emphasized that the future success of CAADP implementation depends on the collaboration of different stakeholders, including governance institutions, the private sector, and other key actors. She also stressed the importance of maintaining continuity in efforts to ensure that the CAADP Agenda continues to drive transformation across the continent.

Shaping Africa's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategies



"Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to imagine an Africa where innovation and technology close the gaps of inequality, ensuring that the gender digital divide is bridged and every individual, regardless of their background and socio-economic status, can thrive and contribute meaningfully to society," AUDA-NEPAD CEO, H.E Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas

On August 20, 2024, a landmark meeting was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, focused on "Shaping Africa's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Future: Strategies for Inclusive and Collaborative National AI Policy Development." This pivotal gathering underscored the urgent need for unified AI policies and strategies across the continent, essential for unlocking AI's vast potential to drive Africa's socio-economic transformation.

Participants engaged in dynamic discussions, reinforcing that collaboration is crucial for realizing the benefits AI offers to Africa. The event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including representatives from African Union member states, academia, business leaders, and non-profit organizations. This diversity of voices highlighted AI's pivotal role in catalyzing economic and social progress. The consensus was clear: while AI has the power to revolutionize multiple sectors, it is imperative to craft policies that harness AI's potential while mitigating associated risks.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the acknowledgement of the Continental AI Strategy, a comprehensive framework designed to guide the ethical

and responsible development of AI technologies across Africa. Recently endorsed by the African Union Executive Council during its 45th Ordinary Session, this strategy provides guidelines prioritizing ethical AI practices, workforce development, and capacity building. By aligning national policies with this continent-wide vision, Africa can ensure equitable distribution of AI benefits and that these advances reflect African values and priorities.

The economic potential of AI in Africa is immense, with projections suggesting it could contribute up to \$1.5 trillion to the continent's GDP by 2030. However, realizing this potential requires frameworks that promote innovation and inclusivity. Meeting participants emphasized the importance of training and retaining local talent, enabling African countries to evolve from AI consumers to AI innovators. This transition is critical for empowering communities and fostering a sense of ownership over the technological advancements that will shape their future.

A key aspect of Africa's AI agenda is data sovereignty, which encompasses who owns, controls, and manages data within the continent. Africa's abundant resources and growing workforce necessitate proactive measures to ensure ethical data management. Addressing data

ownership and control is fundamental for building citizen trust, encouraging local innovation, and protecting individual rights. This focus on data sovereignty is not merely a technical consideration but a cornerstone of transparent and accountable AI application.

In her address, H.E. Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, emphasized the importance of a unified approach, stating, “For Africa to effectively harness the benefits of AI, we must ensure that our strategies are aligned, inclusive, and driven by our unique contexts and needs.” Her remarks underscored the need for regulatory frameworks that not only ensure ethical AI use but also enhance the quality of public and private services—a vital aspect closely linked to data sovereignty and service quality across sectors.

Throughout the discussions, several key questions emerged about the future of AI policy development in Africa. One critical consideration was whether Africa needs a strategic initiative similar to the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) to guide AI policy effectively. Such an initiative could help Africa navigate global trends and adapt to the rapidly evolving AI landscape. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for shaping a successful AI future, ensuring that Africa not only keeps pace with global developments but also asserts a unique role in the global AI economy. Additionally, the capacity of African nations to host and manage large-scale data remains a pressing concern. Given the continent's abundant renewable energy resources, Africa is well-positioned to lead in green data initiatives and sustainable growth, further emphasizing the need for a strong, continent-wide AI strategy.

AUDA-NEPAD's plan on AI governance going forward is ambitious and strategic, focusing on establishing a robust Continental Mechanism on AI Governance. This mechanism will serve as a comprehensive resource, providing policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders across Africa with the tools and guidelines needed to navigate the complexities of AI governance. It will cover critical areas such as data privacy, ethical AI practices, regulatory frameworks, and AI's role in sustainable development. Additionally, AUDA-NEPAD is developing a Digital Readiness Index to assess the preparedness of African countries for AI adoption, considering factors like digital infrastructure, regulatory environments, and human capital. These initiatives are designed to ensure that AI is adopted responsibly, inclusively, and effectively across

the continent, positioning Africa as a leader in the global AI landscape while safeguarding the interests of its people.

The meeting also highlighted a growing call for the African Union (AU) to play a more active role in promoting data sharing among member states.

As Africa charts its AI future, it is crucial to strike a balance between protective regulations and incentive-based measures that foster innovation. Incentives, such as tax breaks for AI startups, grants for research, and initiatives to encourage private-sector investment, can create a supportive environment for AI development. These measures will not only stimulate homegrown AI solutions but also attract international partnerships, driving growth aligned with Africa's unique needs.

Inclusivity and diversity are equally vital in AI discussions. To develop technology that truly serves all citizens, it is essential that voices from women, rural communities, and marginalized groups are heard. AI systems must be designed with a deep understanding of Africa's diverse social contexts to ensure they are appropriate and beneficial for everyone across the continent.

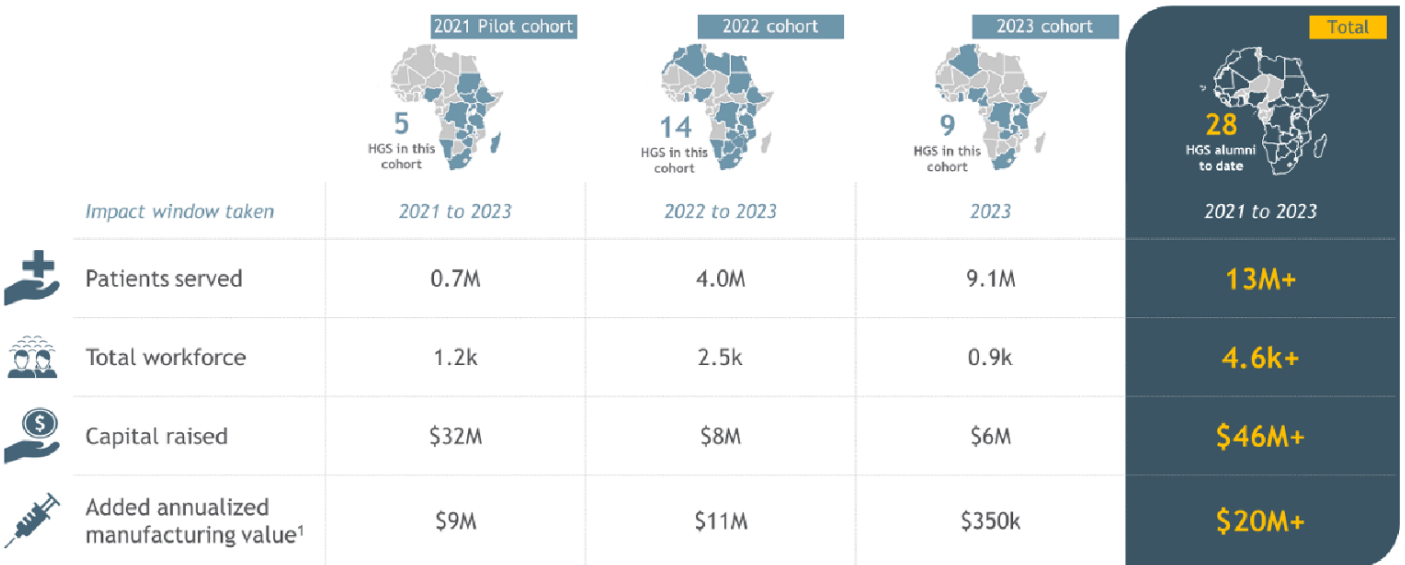
As the meeting concluded, a series of recommendations were put forward to guide African countries toward cohesive AI strategies. Establishing effective AI policies should involve broad public participation, ensuring local perspectives shape outcomes in each country. African nations should also engage actively in global AI conversations, positioning themselves strategically while advocating for their unique needs and interests. Clear policy guidelines on AI applications are essential, emphasizing capacity building and investment to ensure successful implementation across various sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, and education.

In a rapidly evolving landscape of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, promoting innovation and research is critical for Africa's advancement. Investing in knowledge and research is essential for refining AI technologies, even in the face of financial and infrastructural challenges. Collaborations between universities, research institutions, and private companies can drive innovation, creating a vibrant ecosystem that nurtures AI advancements. Integrating AI education into school curricula from an early age will prepare future generations for the evolving technological landscape.

AUDA-NEPAD Home Grown Solutions Accelerator for Health System Resilience Announces 2024 Cohort

We continue our drive for impact ...

The three previous cohorts have had a real-world impact on health systems across the continent between 2021 and year-end 2023, as proof-point of the deployed Accelerator model



The Home-Grown-Solutions (HGS) Accelerator for Health Systems Resilience, now in its fourth year, is proud to introduce its 2024 Pan-African cohort. This initiative, aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations, aims to enhance the continent's health systems by accelerating the growth of African healthcare companies.

Launched in 2020 by AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the accelerator receives operational support from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Villgro Africa. It provides tailored support to both growing and mature stage healthcare businesses.

Over the past three years, the HGS Accelerator has supported 28 alumni who have collectively:

- Served over 13 million patients
- Employed over 4,600 workers
- Raised over \$46 million in capital
- Realised over \$20 million in annualised manufacturing value

These achievements underscore the program's commitment to fostering home-grown innovations that improve health outcomes across Africa.

For 2024, the accelerator will support 8 new healthcare ventures alongside 2 alumni companies, demonstrating its long-term commitment to nurturing local innovators. On June 28, 2024, the Steering Committee, led by AUDA-NEPAD CEO Ms. H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, selected this cohort of 10 companies from 7 countries, addressing a wide range of healthcare issues with end beneficiaries in over 15 countries.

A kick-off meeting held on July 10, 2024, marked the formal start of the 2024 cohort. The event was well attended by representatives of AUDA-NEPAD, JICA, the 2024 HGS companies, BCG, and Villgro Africa, and met with enthusiasm from participants who valued the program's opportunities and connections to the alumni network.

Acceleration support for the new companies began in mid-July and will continue through to the end of the year. The team has developed tailored acceleration plans based on context-specific advisory, investment readiness support, and strategic partner matching. Alumni support is scheduled to begin in September.



Jacaranda Maternity [\[website\]](#) is a Kenyan-based maternity-focused hospital that offers affordable quality maternal, child and general care across their 3 branches in densely populated peri urban settlements in Nairobi.



Pharmakina [\[website\]](#) is a DRC-based manufacturer using their vast lands of cinchona trees to produce quinine active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and contribute 10 million quinine cures annually to the 40 million cure deficit DRC market.



Vula Mobile [\[website\]](#) is a South African-based app that health workers use to refer their patients to specialists, ensuring better healthcare outcomes, especially for the rural populations who have lower access to the specialized care.



KPN Teleradiology [\[website\]](#) is a Kenyan-based solution addressing the shortage of radiologists and reducing turnaround times by offering a system of increasing access to radiologists for accurate interpretation of reports and integrating AI in their teleradiology system.



Talamus [\[website\]](#) is a Nigeria-based 3-in-1 telemedicine software that combats high medication costs and counterfeit drugs with POS & supplier application, patient application for ordering medication, & EMR solution for providers.



Sammanté [\[website\]](#) is a Senegalese microinsurance digital solution that enhances healthcare access among a majorly informally employed population through employer sponsorship.



Deepecho [\[website\]](#) is a Morocco-based technology that utilizes AI for real-time ultrasound video diagnosis, reducing newborn deaths and disabilities.



Syndicate Bio [\[website\]](#) is a Nigeria-based genomic lab aiming to build a library of genomic datasets from the African populations to advance precision medicine and drug discovery, easing the burden of non-communicable diseases and cancer.



Africa Healthcare Network [\[website\]](#) is a Tanzania-based renal care provider, setting up centers that offer quality dialysis at an affordable cost.



Access Afya [\[website\]](#) is a Kenya-based franchise clinic solution that offers low-cost, high-quality primary healthcare in informal settlements and remote areas.

For more information, please consult our internal microsite: [Home-Grown Solutions \(HGS\) Accelerator for Pandemic Resilience](#)

Home Grown Solutions Accelerator for Pandemic Resilience

The Home-Grown Solutions (HGS) Accelerator for Health System Resilience launched its 2024 cohort, supporting 8 new African healthcare companies in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063. Since the July kick-off, the HGS team has now visited each company, gaining deeper insights into their operations and specific needs. With acceleration plans now in place, the program is poised to provide targeted support to enhance these companies' contributions to strengthening health systems across Africa. Please see below the companies' support topics and detailed acceleration updates:



Jacaranda Maternity (Kenya): The accelerator is supporting Kenya-based maternity hospital Jacaranda Maternity in optimizing its customer journey and understanding the drivers of patient conversion from antenatal care to delivery. Additionally, the accelerator will assist Jacaranda Maternity in optimizing their costs, particularly focusing on sustainable growth and cost base optimization as they plan to expand from three to more than fifteen hospitals in the next four years.



Pharmakina (Democratic Republic of Congo): Pharmakina, a leading producer of quinine, is being supported by the accelerator in market intelligence, strategic planning, and investor readiness. The team visited Pharmakina's plantations and manufacturing facilities in Bukavu to assess the company's operations and explore opportunities for expanding into new markets, including the production of additional plant-based APIs such as artemisinin.

KPN Teleradiology (Kenya): The accelerator is aiding KPN Teleradiology, a Kenyan company providing teleradiology solutions, in integrating artificial intelligence into their Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) to enhance reporting. The team is also supporting KPN in scaling their operations across Kenya and into neighbouring countries like Rwanda and Uganda, as well as preparing for investor readiness through data room setup and company structuring.



Talamus (Nigeria): Talamus Health Inc., which leverages technology to improve healthcare access in Nigeria, has transitioned from a SaaS model to a transactional model. The accelerator is assisting Talamus in refining their financial model to reflect this change and ensuring their marketing strategy aligns with the new revenue approach. The team is closely engaged with the leadership to navigate these shifts effectively.





Syndicate Bio (Nigeria): The accelerator is working with Syndicate Bio, a pioneering genomics and precision medicine company in Nigeria, to enhance their fundraising efforts and strategic partnerships. Recently, Syndicate Bio has been engaged in due diligence with Roche, preparing to access 20,000 samples for a project in Botswana. The accelerator will support them in presenting this opportunity to investors and introducing potential partners for expansion.

Deepecho (Morocco): Deepecho, which uses AI to aid in ultrasound diagnosis, is being supported by the accelerator in developing their go-to-market strategy, identifying partners, and refining their financial model for fundraising. The accelerator team is conducting ongoing reviews of Deepecho’s market validation efforts to ensure successful scaling in Morocco and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Vula (South Africa): Vula Mobile, a platform that facilitates health worker referrals, is being supported by the accelerator in refining their SaaS model. Facing challenges due to limited traction, Vula plans to introduce tiered subscription models to enhance value and revenue. The accelerator team is also reviewing their financial model to justify their fundraising needs as they aim to raise \$1.5M to \$2M.

Sammanté (Senegal): The accelerator is supporting Sammanté, a Senegalese microinsurance platform, in refining their marketing strategy, business model, and SaaS partnership support. As they plan a site visit, the accelerator will assist Sammanté in refining their customer acquisition strategy and identifying more effective marketing channels to scale their operations within Senegal.



The initiative is excited to begin the support phase for the two selected alumni companies Africa Healthcare Network and Access Afya from 2 September 2024.

Please find a short profile of the 2021 Alumni receiving follow-on support below:

Africa Healthcare Network [[website](#)] is a East-Africa-based renal care provider, setting up centers that offer quality dialysis at an affordable cost.

Access Afya [[website](#)] is a Kenya-based franchise clinic solution that offers low-cost, high-quality primary healthcare in informal settlements and remote areas.

For more information, please consult our internal microsite: [Home-Grown Solutions \(HGS\) Accelerator for Pandemic Resilience](#)

Celebrating Leadership Transitions and Advancing Africa's Development Agenda

On August 30th, the AUDA-NEPAD hosted a gala dinner at our offices in Johannesburg, South Africa to mark to welcome the newly appointed CEO of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), bid farewell to outgoing African Ambassadors based in South Africa, and extend a warm welcome to the incoming Ambassadors.

The CEO of the AUDA-NEPAD, H.E. Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, took the opportunity to warmly introduce and congratulate Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose-Quatre, the new CEO of the APRM. In her remarks, H.E. Ms. Bekele-Thomas highlighted Ambassador Quatre's appointment as a testament to her exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to promoting good governance across the African continent.

"We are thrilled to have you at the helm of the APRM and look forward to working closely together for a more prosperous Africa," said Ms. Bekele-Thomas, underscoring the importance of collaboration in achieving the shared goals of the African Union.

The gala also served as an emotional moment of transition as we bid farewell to the outgoing African Ambassadors who have played a pivotal role in strengthening diplomatic ties and advancing the objectives of both their respective countries and the African Union. In a heartfelt address, H.E. Ms. Bekele-Thomas expressed her deep appreciation for their contributions.

"Tonight, we bid a fond farewell to those Ambassadors who will soon be



leaving. Your contributions have been crucial in enhancing our collaboration and advancing the goals of both your countries and the African Union. While we will miss you, we are excited for the new opportunities that await you and wish you every success in your future endeavors. As we navigate these transitions, let us renew our commitment to the shared values and aspirations that unite us," she said.

The evening was not just about farewells and welcomes; it was also a platform for reflection and forward-looking discussions. Our Director of Strategy, Mohamed Abdisalam, briefed the assembled African Ambassadors and partners on the agency's significant strides over the years. From the operationalization of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy to the deployment of climate-smart agriculture and the enhancement of health systems across the continent, these efforts represent crucial steps toward realizing the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

The briefing underscored AUDA-NEPAD's unwavering commitment to resilient urban green infrastructure, transboundary water cooperation, sustainable agriculture, infrastructure development, and more. These initiatives are not only aligned with Africa's vision for a prosperous future but also reflect our dedication to creating a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive continent.

The gala dinner was a testament to the enduring spirit of cooperation and shared vision that drives AUDA-NEPAD and its partners. As we welcome new leadership and bid farewell to esteemed colleagues, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the development agenda for a united and prosperous Africa.



AUDA-NEPAD Participates in the First International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISOP) Africa Chapter Conference

Uganda, the pearl of Africa through the National Drug Authority (Uganda NDA) hosted the first International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISOP) Africa Chapter conference on the theme “Advancing Pharmacovigilance Practice in Africa: Moving from Data Collection to Data-Driven Decision Making from 22-24 July 2024.” The overall objective is to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange to enhance pharmacovigilance practices within the continent. With the support of AUDA-NEPAD as a sponsor and other partners, this event brought together experts, regulators, and industry professionals to discuss key challenges and opportunities in safety of medical products. This forum facilitated collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in pharmacovigilance in Africa towards advancing pharmacovigilance practice and patient safety on the continent.

Medical products have transformed the prevention and treatment of diseases. In addition to their benefits, medicinal products may also have side effects, some of which may be undesirable and/or unexpected. Pharmacovigilance is the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other medicine/vaccine related problem. Pharmacovigilance ensures measures are in place to minimize risks, provide appropriate and timely information to relevant stakeholders to ensure safe and rational use of



Director Symerre Grey-Johnson delivering remarks on behalf of the CEO, AUDA-NEPAD at the opening ceremony of ISOP Africa chapter conference

medicines in the healthcare system. It also promotes understanding of adverse drug reactions, side effects, unexpected adverse reaction. Pharmacovigilance aims at improving patient care and safety as well as contribute towards improving the benefit/risk ratio of medicines.

The AUDA-NEPAD team led by the Director of Human Capital and Institutional Development, Symerre Grey-Johnson, highlighted the Agency’s mandate of coordinating and executing priority regional and continental projects to promote integration towards the accelerated of Agenda 2063 and strengthen capacity of African Union member states and regional bodies. During the conference, AUDA-NEPAD committed to ensuring the strengthening of vigilance (VL) as a core regulatory function for National Regulatory Authorities through the AU-3S programme promoting end-to-end

strengthening of safety surveillance systems and the AMRH programme on Pharmacovigilance regulatory harmonization. These two (2) initiatives contribute to health indicators towards actualization of the continental agenda – Agenda 2063. Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 calls for “an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children” and pillar 3 which prescribes for “healthy and well-nourished citizens”. He further stressed the importance of Pharmacovigilance as a key enabler to actualizing both pillars 3 and aspiration 6 of agenda 2063. The importance of PV in ensuring the safety of medical products cannot be overemphasized.

He further reiterated that AUDA-NEPAD is open to working with ISOP Africa Chapter and other stakeholders (NRAs, pharmaceutical industries,

academia, WHO and other development partners) towards enhancing pharmacovigilance practices across the continent especially around the use of data to inform safety regulatory decisions

Furthermore, the AU-3S programme delivered a presentation on the topic “Data Collection to Data Driven Decision Making: A case of the AU-3S Pilot during the Covid-19 Pandemic to Promote Patient Safety” This presentation showcased the solutions rolled out by the programme in ensuring end to end safety surveillance strengthening in Member states from data collection, storage, analysis and safety communication leveraging on technology, resource sharing and in-country capacity strengthening. The lessons and experience learnt is now leveraged upon as the programme expands towards continental coverage.



Mrs. Victoria Prudence Nambasa, Senior Programme Officer, Health Products AU-3S programme moderating one of the panel sessions on regulatory harmonization for pharmacovigilance in Africa



Mr. Kenneth Onu, Principal Programme Officer, Therapeutics presenting on the AU-3S programme impact and achievements during the Covid-19 pilot in enhancing data collection on adverse events for improved patient safety in Africa



Dr. Kudakwashe Dandajena, Principal Programme Officer, Technology Strategy for the AU-3S programme delivering a presentation on digital transformation approach for African medical products safety surveillance

AUDA-NEPAD Celebrates International Mandela Day with Art Therapy at Zakithi Nkosi Haematology and Oncology Clinic



In honor of International Mandela Day, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) dedicated 67 minutes to bringing joy and creativity to the children at the Zakithi Nkosi Haematology and Oncology Clinic in Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto. This meaningful initiative embodied the spirit of Nelson Mandela's legacy, focusing on community service, compassion, and upliftment.

The AUDA-NEPAD team spent a memorable afternoon engaging in art therapy with the young patients at the clinic. Art therapy has long been recognized as a powerful tool for emotional healing and expression, particularly for children facing serious illnesses like cancer. The therapeutic painting session provided a creative outlet for the children, allowing them

to express their feelings, explore their imaginations, and enjoy the moment.

In addition to the art therapy session, the AUDA-NEPAD team generously donated books to the clinic. These books, carefully selected to cater to various age groups and interests, will serve as a source of knowledge, inspiration, and escapism for the children. Reading not only provides educational benefits but also offers comfort and a way to explore new worlds, which is especially important for children undergoing medical treatment.

The visit from the AUDA-NEPAD team left a lasting impression on both the children and the staff at the clinic. The art therapy session brought smiles and laughter, offering a welcome distraction from the daily challenges of battling cancer.

The donated books will continue to benefit the children long after the visit, providing a steady source of enjoyment and education. The staff at the clinic expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the AUDA-NEPAD team for their kindness and generosity. The collaborative spirit of the event exemplifies how organizations and communities can come together to support and uplift those in need.

The celebration of International Mandela Day at the Zakithi Nkosi Haematology and Oncology Clinic by AUDA-NEPAD staff serves as a reminder of the power of small acts of kindness and the significant impact they can have. As the clinic continues its mission to provide comprehensive care and support to children with cancer, such initiatives bring hope and joy, reinforcing the belief that together, we can create a brighter future.

Nourishing Minds and Communities: AUDA-NEPAD's Impact of Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes in the SADC Region

The Southern Africa Regional Workshop on Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programmes, spearheaded by AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with SADC, World Food Programme (WFP), and UNICEF, marks a significant milestone in our journey towards enhancing the nutritional and educational outcomes for children across the region. This three-day event, attended by 60+ participants from 15 out of 16 SADC member states, aims to build resilient communities by fostering sustainable school feeding programmes that support local agriculture and economies. The participating countries include Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, with DRC and Madagascar joining virtually.

Imagine a rural school in Mozambique where children eagerly await their daily meal. This meal, sourced from local farmers, not only fills their stomachs but fuels their minds, enabling them to concentrate better and learn more effectively. For smallholder farmers, the HGSF programme provides a reliable market for their produce, boosting their income and economic stability. The entire community benefits as local economies thrive, creating a positive ripple effect. This is the transformative power of HGSF programmes, which provide a lifeline to children and local communities, ensuring a holistic approach to development.

The workshop commenced with remarks from several high-level speakers, underscoring the importance of HGSF programmes. Dr Clement Adjorlolo, Principal Programme Officer, Agriculture and Rural Transformation at AUDA-NEPAD, shared his personal connection to the initiative, emphasising that as a beneficiary of school feeding programmes in Ghana, he is a testament to their impact. He highlighted the necessity of deliberate implementation to empower smallholder farmers, women, and youth, stressing, *"Together, we can ensure our children receive the nutrition they need to thrive and be successful while also empowering our communities."*

Ms Simone Geyer, Deputy Director General at South Africa's Ministry of Education, echoed these sentiments, noting that *"A hungry child is a missed educational opportunity. HGSF programmes are essential as they enable children to learn and realise their full potential."* Mr Lamboly Kumboneki, Senior Programme Officer at the SADC Secretariat, highlighted the demographic dividend in the region and the urgent need to address malnutrition and stunting, particularly in the face of challenges like El Niño and regional conflicts.

Other speakers from partner organisations such as WFP, UNICEF ESARO, and others echoed the sentiments that better learning from more children is linked to HGSF.

Several countries presented their progress, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing HGSF programmes. Here are some highlights:

- **Botswana:** The school feeding programme started in 1928 and is currently a universal school feeding programme covering all 242 secondary and 768 primary schools, benefiting over 558,093 learners. The programme is fully funded by the government and emphasises the involvement of smallholder farmers, with a significant portion being women.
- **Lesotho:** Emphasises the importance of community engagement and capacity building, ensuring that school meals are nutritious and culturally appropriate.
- **South Africa:** The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) provides cooked meals to approximately 9.47 million learners across 21,201 public schools. This programme not only promotes educational access but also supports 2,400 small and medium enterprises.
- **Zambia:** Zambia's HGSF programme reaches over 1 million students in 2,800 schools, strongly focusing on local procurement and capacity building among farmers.



- **Zimbabwe:** Efforts in Zimbabwe focus on integrating nutrition education and leveraging community involvement to ensure sustainable school feeding practices.

The overview of the Home-Grown School Feeding programme, presented by Ms Kefilwe Moalosi, showcased the progress, opportunities and challenges experienced by countries. She highlighted that in 2022, 89 percent of African countries had adopted a school meals policy, compared to 68 percent in 2020.

For a deeper understanding of the multi-tiered approach to nutrition and food systems, download AUDA-NEPAD's [Home Grown School Feeding Handbook](#). This comprehensive guide offers insights into country-level interventions and best practices for effective delivery.

Additionally, the [AUDA-NEPAD Guidelines to Design and Implement Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes](#) is a quick reference guide for countries in Africa wishing to establish or review to strengthen existing National HGSF programmes.

As we embark on this transformative journey, it's clear that our shared commitment to improving HGSF programmes is stronger than ever. The insights and strategies discussed will undoubtedly pave the way for significant advancements in nutrition and education across SADC and the rest of the continent.

Driving Efficiency and Growth: Handover of ICT Infrastructure to Enhance Coordinated Border Management at Chirundu One-Stop Border Post



Traders and passengers at the Chirundu OSBP have long envisioned the seamless movement of goods and people across the region. Thanks to the efforts of AUDA-NEPAD and its partners, that vision is now a step closer to reality.

This August, the AUDA-NEPAD Trade Facilitation and Logistics Program team officially handed over advanced ICT infrastructure to The Government of Zambia, through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry to support the implementation of Coordinated Border Management (CBM) at the Chirundu One Stop Border Post on the Zambia side. This has started off with Chirundu and Kazungula OSBPs. Implementing CBM aims to intensify interagency coordination with the aim of reducing the number of agencies and multiplicity of transactions at a border

crossing. In the case of Zambia this has seen a reduced the number of border agencies from 19 border agencies to just 6 at the mentioned border crossings. The remaining 6 agencies have been tasked to take over the roles of the agencies that have been transferred to their provincial or national headquarters.

The partnership with the Zambian government together with COMESA and SADC, have been key to AUDA-NEPAD in developing the trade facilitation and logistics program, which started off as MoveAfrica initiative in 2016. The aim of the initiative was to improve cross-border trade logistics by identifying bottlenecks and proposing solutions. As part of this effort, the Traffic Light System (TLS) was developed to evaluate the performance of border crossings. Using green, amber, and

red indicators, TLS ranks borders based on various categories and performance indicators. Green signals excellent performance, amber denotes acceptable but improvable conditions, and red highlights areas needing significant attention.

The TLS aligns with trade regulations from COMESA, SADC, EAC, ECOWAS, and protocols from the AfCFTA and WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). These protocols aim to streamline trade across Africa, and to date, 150 countries, including African states, are signatories to the WTO TFA.

The pilot phase revealed the importance of ICT in enhancing inter-agency coordination, simplifying documentation, and modernizing customs and immigration services. Therefore the programme has been upscaled to work with RECs and

Member States in deploying instruments that can support the use of ICT systems, for border agencies and corridor management institutions in order to enhance corridor trade logistics. These instruments look at border performance, capacity enhancement and simplified processes for informal small-scale cross-border traders.

The work at Chirundu is a proof of concept that aims to underscore the fact that internet connectivity plays a critical role when it comes to applying trade facilitation measures.

During the handover ceremony, Mr. Namabanda Mubukwanu, Principal Economist at the Zambia Ministry of Commerce, highlighted that the upgraded ICT infrastructure will enhance the integration of border agencies. “This integration is critical for streamlining border operations, reducing delays, and improving the efficiency of trade logistics,” he stated.

Cross-border road freight transport is crucial for facilitating intra-African trade, playing a key role in regional economic integration. This sector moves essential goods such as agricultural products, minerals, and consumer items across borders, boosting trade volumes and market expansion. Key initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) drive market growth by reducing trade barriers and creating a single market across 54 countries.

Infrastructure development, with the backing of international organizations, has been pivotal in connecting major trade corridors, enabling smoother transportation of goods. Additionally, technology-driven innovations like logistics apps and digital tracking have transformed the sector, optimizing routes, reducing costs, and increasing transparency.

As African nations emphasize sustainable transport, there's a growing push for efficient and eco-friendly logistics solutions. Coupled with the rise of e-commerce across the continent, demand for reliable cross-border freight services continues to grow, ensuring the timely delivery of goods and contributing to the sector's ongoing expansion.

The compendium of instruments that are being offered under this programme when deployed to member states in collaboration with the RECs will enable member states to sustain the efforts made by development partners post the support window” says, Ms. Kisa Nkhoma, Program Officer of the Trade Facilitation and Logistics Programme.



AUDA-NEPAD Supports a GMO Regulations Capacity Strengthening Workshop in Zimbabwe

Crop production in Zimbabwe is constrained by a host of biological and physical stresses including droughts exacerbated by climate change. Biotech crops also called genetically modified (GM) crops can alleviate some of these stresses if harnessed appropriately. The adoption of biotech crops comes with a set of rules and regulations to protect safety of the environment, and human and animal health.

AUDA-NEPAD's ABNE programme has been providing technical support to Zimbabwe in the past few years for the development of functional biosafety regulatory systems in the country. From 24 to 27 June 2024, a technical team from ABNE was in Harare for a workshop to support the development of regulations for GMO containment, confinement, and general release, and the development of guidelines for genome editing.

Prof. Fanuel Tagwira, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development officially opened the workshop. In attendance were 33 in-country regulators and stakeholders from the National Biosafety Authority and relevant government institutions.

The workshop started with introductory presentations on the science of genetic modification and other genomic technologies and on GMO regulation in Zimbabwe. Then followed a drafting session devoted to developing consensus documents for regulating the containment, confinement, and environmental release of GMOs.



The workshop was wrapped up on 27 June 2024 with the regulation ready for submission to the appropriate body for adoption and publication. It was agreed that subsequent meetings will be convened to specifically develop the genome editing component of the regulation which could not be addressed during this workshop.

Zimbabwe has made headways in recent years by commencing multi-location confined field trials of GM cotton. The National Biotechnology Authority Act has been in force since 2006 and the country adopted guidelines for regulation of agricultural biotechnology, and for the production of biofertilizers in 2018.

Once adopted, the newly developed guidelines on containment, confinement, and general release will complement the biosafety regulatory toolbox to allow the country to safely harness opportunities in biotechnology for agricultural development. Such a move aligns with the Aspirations of the African continent as stipulated under Agenda 2063, specifically in Aspiration 1- A prosperous Africa, based on

inclusive growth and sustainable development and Goal 3- Healthy and well-nourished citizens.

Charting Africa's Economic Transformation Future: Unveiling the AIDA/AfCFTA Standard Impact Assessments Guide

"As we announce the official launch of the AIDA/AfCFTA Standard Assessment Guide, we stand at a pivotal moment. This occasion allows us to not only highlight our significant strides but also reflect on how to capitalise on this advancement to foster economic integration, enhance trade, and promote sustainable development. This effort seeks to unleash the immense potential of AfCFTA and AIDA, propelling sustainable development, GDP growth, job opportunities, and improving Africa's resilience against future crises and shocks, as stipulated by Agenda 2063." H.E. Mrs Nardos Bekele-Thomas

In a significant step towards driving economic growth and transformation across Africa, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) has partnered with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, the African Union Commission, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to launch the "Standard Assessment Guide for Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) & the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This landmark achievement took place during the AU Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Accra, Ghana, on the 17th of July 2024, following the directives of the 17th Extraordinary Assembly of the AU Heads of State & Government on Industrialization and Economic Diversification, held on the 25th of November 2022 in Niamey, Niger. The mandate came in response to the slow progress in implementing programs relevant to industrialization, structural economic transformation, and development towards the AU aspirations in Agenda 2063.

The successful launch event builds upon the foundational Kick-off Workshop held in Kigali in September 2023, where key stakeholders gathered to set the strategic direction and objectives. Additionally, the various meetings of the Interorganizational Steering



Committee have played a crucial role in coordinating efforts, sharing insights, and aligning our collective vision.

The guide, designed with four key principles, is a practical, user-friendly tool that delivers actionable insights for policymakers. It continuously engages with stakeholders, builds on AU initiatives and global benchmarks, and ensures seamless linkages between AfCFTA, AIDA, and other continental frameworks. This indispensable tool leverages best practices to revolutionize Africa's industrial and trade policy integration.

The overarching goal of this initiative is to unlock the immense potential of AfCFTA and AIDA, propelling sustainable development, GDP growth, job opportunities (especially for youth and women), and improving Africa's resilience against future crises and shocks, as stipulated by Agenda 2063. Accelerating the

progress of this project is undeniably imperative, not only to honor our commitment to our heads of state and government but also to navigate the current and incumbent challenges confronting Africa's economic transformation and integration agendas.

In conclusion, the official launch of the AUDA-NEPAD-led AIDA/AfCFTA Standard Assessment Guide marks the beginning of an exciting journey towards the accelerated implementation of AIDA and AfCFTA. While this achievement is significant, fully realizing the potential of AfCFTA and AIDA is a monumental endeavor that demands unwavering commitment and collaboration. Together, let's advance Africa's future and transform its economic landscape.

[**DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE**](#)

AUDA-NEPAD Advances Strategic Partnerships with AfCFTA, Regional Economic Communities and partners



In the spirit of mobilising the full range of resources for the execution of flagship programmes and projects for the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) signed historic agreements on the sidelines of the 6th Mid-Year Coordination Summit in Accra, Ghana.

The AUDA-NEPAD and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat signed an agreement to bolster their collaboration in implementation of the AfCFTA. This collaboration stems from consultations held in June 2023 in Durban, South Africa, aimed at developing a Joint Work Plan inspired by the 2023 African Union Theme of the Year, “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation,” and aligned with the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. This strategic partnership underscores the commitment of both organisations to drive regional economic integration and growth across the continent. [READ MORE](#)



Subcomponent One of the Energize Africa aims to position Africa’s Human Capital as a key resource to enhance implementation capacities for the accelerated realization of hashtag#Agenda2063. This initiative focuses on harnessing and effectively utilising the immense skills and intellectual capabilities within our continent, making our institutions agile and globally competitive.

The agreements with COMESA Secretariat, SADC Secretariat and UMA will allow for the deployment of Energize Africa Fellows into the RECs. This strategic move aims to strengthen implementation capabilities, increase technical resources and create enabling conditions for achieving the targets of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

[READ MORE](#)



The AUDA-NEPD also signed a historic agreement with Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases to eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) across the Continent. Africa accounts for about 40% of the global burden of NTDs, with about 600 million individuals requiring treatment, this partnership will leverage AUDA-NEPAD's health financing and systems strengthening efforts, mobilising resources to eradicate NTDs and enhance political will across Africa.



Toward sustainable peace and development solutions that protect and grow Africa's economies and human well-being

The African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA) are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at strengthening their collaborative efforts towards achieving shared objectives in peace and development solutions that protect and grow Africa's economies and human well-being. The three-year MoU was signed on the margins of the fourth Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development by Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, and Ambassador Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Director-General of CCCPA. This partnership underscores AUDA-NEPAD and CCCPA commitment to fostering cooperation and synergy in addressing critical continental challenges.

"The AUDA-NEPAD's commitment to the Nexus is deeply rooted in the comprehensive framework of Agenda 2063, guiding our initiatives towards a peaceful, integrated, and prosperous Africa," said Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD.

Both AUDA-NEPAD and CCCPA intend to forge a close and continuous working relationship to advance their common goals and execute the activities of the MoU in strict adherence to the rules, regulations, and procedures of each respective institution. The activities include the following thematic areas:

- Conflict Prevention, Peacemaking, and Peacebuilding
- Peacekeeping



- Women, Peace and Security
- Transnational threats
- Preventing Radicalization and Extremism Leading to Terrorism (PRELT)
- Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
- Climate, Peace, and Development
- Youth, Peace, and Security

Additionally, AUDA-NEPAD and CCCPA will collaborate in convening the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Development, with CCCPA serving as its Secretariat and AUDA-NEPAD as an invited partner, operating under the modalities of partnership developed by CCCPA.

The MOU represents a significant step towards deeper collaboration between AUDA-NEPAD and CCCPA, leveraging their strengths to contribute meaningfully to global peace and sustainable development.

Infrastructure Africa Forum Highlights: AUDA-NEPAD Hosts Pivotal Infrastructure Project Deal Rooms



The Cape Town International Conference Center hosted on 16-17 July 2024, the Infrastructure Africa Forum. The Forum saw attendance from a diverse group, including government officials and policymakers, international and regional development partners, private sector investors and financiers, infrastructure development experts and practitioners, as well as civil society organizations and advocacy groups.

Africa's infrastructure development is critical to its economic growth and sustainable development.

Infrastructure Africa Forum 2024 is therefore dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities in Africa's infrastructure sector. Through plenary sessions, project pitch sessions, breakout sessions, exhibitions, and networking events, participants engage in discussions

and share insights on best practices, innovative solutions, and successful case studies.

During the opening of the forum, the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure of South Africa, Mr Dean MacPherson highlighted that infrastructure plays a central role in improving competitiveness, facilitating domestic and international trade, and enhancing the continent's integration into the global economy.

"Most importantly, it can bring dignity to people who live very difficult lives in very difficult circumstances" said the Minister.

He further re-iterated that it is now time to re-imagine infrastructure development in our country and contemplate how we can better forge regional infrastructure integration that will unlock new economic opportunities between South Africa and our neighbors.

The Forum facilitated critical discussions and pitches for the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan 2 projects. It featured dedicated deal rooms, providing project owners the opportunity to present their infrastructure initiatives to stakeholders, including potential investors.

Showcasing Achievements and Building Partnerships

The event provided a platform for AUDA-NEPAD to showcase and highlight the achievements and milestones of selected PIDA Priority Action Plan 2 projects. It also fostered partnerships with investors, development partners, and stakeholders to secure financing and technical support for ongoing and future projects.

AUDA-NEPAD also featured a PIDA exhibition booth to display project information, reports, and multimedia presentations.

Dr. Towela Nyirenda-Jere, AUDA-NEPAD Head of Infrastructure, Digitalisation and Energy, participated in panel discussions on cross-border infrastructure development, focusing on the role of regional cooperation and economic integration. Dr Nyirenda-Jere spoke on the critical role for the private sector in cross-border infrastructure development. She noted that private sector participation in these projects amounts to less than 5% of total investments.

“We need to address the challenge of financing for early-stage project preparation that would help to unlock and catalyse further investments upstream, especially from private sector. Working with member states, AUDA-NEPAD aims to contribute to the enabling environment that private sector often quotes as a pre-requisite for their investment”, she said.

Highlighted Projects

AUDA-NEPAD hosted deal rooms where three substantial projects were presented by project owners, emphasizing sustainable infrastructure and regional development:

- **Angololo Multi-purpose Water Resources Development Project:** Valued at \$150 million, this ambitious project aims to construct a regional dam and electric generation facility, enhancing water resource management and availability while also offering the potential for energy production through its solar component. It spans across two countries, Kenya and Uganda, showcasing a

collaborative effort in addressing regional water needs.

- **Douala-N’Djamena Rail Project:** This 330 km rail project, estimated to cost \$8.8 billion, is a significant venture between Chad and Cameroon. It aims to transform the agriculture and mining sectors of both countries by improving transportation infrastructure. The rail line will enhance the efficiency and capacity of transporting goods, thereby boosting economic activities and regional trade.
- **IGAD-Transborder Submarine Fiber, Regional Smart Hub and Data Centre:** This project includes interconnectivity between Kenya and eight neighbouring countries, relaying the Kenyan terrestrial fiber network connecting the submarine cable landing at Mombasa to their borders. It also includes a regional smart hub and a data center.

These deal rooms served as a dynamic platform for project owners to engage directly with investors and other stakeholders. This interaction is crucial for advancing these infrastructure projects from the planning stages to tangible developments. The support from AUDA-NEPAD through PIDA highlights a concerted effort to mobilize resources and expertise for sustainable infrastructure growth across the continent.

The Infrastructure Africa Forum, through these deal rooms, exemplified the importance of collaboration, investment, and strategic planning in addressing Africa's infrastructure challenges. As these projects move forward, they promise to bring significant benefits to the regions involved, fostering economic growth and improved quality of life.

AUDA-NEPAD’s participation in Infrastructure Africa 2024 was a valuable opportunity to advance PIDA as the continent’s infrastructure agenda. By showcasing achievements, fostering partnerships, and advocating for inclusive development, PIDA can significantly contribute to Africa’s sustainable growth and integration.

For further details and updates on these projects and future initiatives by AUDA-NEPAD’s PIDA, visit our websites at <http://www.nepad.org> and <http://www.AU-PIDA.org>.

Strengthening Africa-European Union Partnerships for Innovation, Technology, and Education under the AU Theme of the Year



T African Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Programme consortium, comprising AUDA-NEPAD, Lund University (Sweden), and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) through its UNESCO Chair in African Integration and Innovation at the Institute of Economic Research on Innovation (IERI), in collaboration with the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA), organized the Africa-European Union Tertiary Education International Partnerships for Innovation and Technology Forum on the margin of the celebration of the African Union Theme of the Year. The event held at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 21-22 August brought together key stakeholders in innovation and emerging technologies, such as Nina Jojer Ltd, the European Union (EU) representation to the AU, and the Swedish Embassy in Addis Ababa, marked a significant milestone in fostering collaboration between Africa and Europe in education and technological innovation.

The forum highlighted the Energize Africa Programme's second pillar on youth and entrepreneurship, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, international organizations, academics, and private sector leaders from both continents. These participants were united in exploring the critical role of education and research in driving technological advancements and supporting sustainable development in Africa.

At the core of the discussions was the recognition that skills development and the creation of employment opportunities are essential to achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063, which aims to foster economic growth and development across the continent. The AU Commission (AUC), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the European Union (EU) have partnered in the education and employment sectors through the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA). This initiative

underscores the importance of Africa's youth, the continent's most valuable resource, in driving economic transformation.

One of the forum's key highlights was the announcement of a EUR 12.5 million grant awarded to 20 African innovators under SIFA. This initiative is part of a broader effort by the AU, BMZ, EU, AUDA-NEPAD, and KfW to establish a financing facility that supports innovative Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) approaches across the continent. The German government has committed EUR 88 million to this facility, with an additional EUR 12.9 million from the European Union, to support three funding windows aimed at stimulating innovation in skills development, which is foundational for higher productivity and job creation in eight African countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, and Tunisia. The forum emphasized the importance of aligning vocational education and training with market needs to enhance

the employability of Africa's youth. SIFA aims to improve the economic and social prospects of young African women and men by providing high-quality vocational training that meets market demands. This approach not only boosts employability but also supports broader economic development by ensuring that the skills being taught are relevant to the economy's needs.

Participants also stressed the critical role of public-private sector collaboration in achieving SIFA's goals. The public sector sets the strategic framework through national policies to transform and enhance the African TVET ecosystem, while the private sector contributes by offering employment-oriented training and investing in vocational training.

A significant aspect of the forum was the discussion on the challenges and opportunities in advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) in Africa, including the importance of measurement. Participants identified key challenges, such as the lack of accessible and reliable data for effective policy formulation, as Africa prepares to move forward with Phase 5 of the African Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators (ASTII). This phase is expected to roll out from late 2025 or early 2026 and will align with the next iteration of the STI strategy for Africa (STISA-2034), the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063. After 17 years of ASTII implementation in 43 AU Member States, a principal challenge remains the insufficient response to surveys from the business sector, resulting in incomplete data on Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

To address these challenges, the forum highlighted the need for effective advocacy, promotion of bankable STI investment opportunities, and commercialization of inventions as key strategies for fostering long-term sustainable STI environments in Africa.

The forum also explored the role of education, skills development, and partnerships in institutional development for STI. Key stakeholders—academia, the private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—were identified as critical players in supporting STI within national innovation systems. By investing in both technological and educational infrastructure, the business sector can significantly contribute to building the capacity needed to support innovation and accelerate industrialization and growth in Africa.

Further discussions emphasized the importance of fostering partnerships and developing sustainable STI policies at the international level in alignment with the AU-EU Innovation Agenda and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Sustainable Development), linked to SDG 9 on infrastructure, innovation, and industrialization. Participants recognized challenges, such as the lack of awareness of STI's role in development, leading to poor funding, low inclusion, and limited understanding of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) among policymakers and stakeholders. The gap between data, policy, and practice, along with weak linkages between government, industry, and academia, were also highlighted as significant barriers to advancing STI in Africa.

To overcome these challenges, the forum recommended continuous capacity building for policymakers to ensure effective STI policy formulation and implementation, including the introduction of an executive module in ASTII Phase 5 for Prime Ministers, Ministers, Ambassadors in Addis Ababa, and Members of Parliament responsible for STI portfolios. Regular meetings of the AU Specialised Technical Group on Education-STI Statistics, involving AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and the Association for the Development of Education (ADEA), were proposed to strengthen collaboration and policy continuity.

The forum also touched on the importance of integrating innovation and development into the science curriculum from an early age, starting at the primary school level, to prepare Africans for the 21st century, where emerging technologies are key to boosting national economies.

In conclusion, the Africa-European Union Tertiary Education International Partnerships for Innovation and Technology Forum celebrated the AU's focus on education and provided a valuable platform for stakeholders from Africa and Europe to exchange ideas, share best practices, and forge partnerships aimed at accelerating technological innovation through education and research. The forum's outcomes are expected to have a lasting impact, setting the stage for continued progress in STI and education across Africa and ensuring that the continent's youth are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the 21st century.

AUDA-NEPAD Launches "The Africa Skills Revolution" Initiative on World Youth Skills Day



Africa's young population is expected to double to over 830 million by 2050, creating significant opportunities for economic growth and innovation. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has the potential to unlock this opportunity by equipping African youth with the essential skills needed to drive the continent forward. To raise awareness about the incredible opportunities offered by TVET and to encourage young people to engage, AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with Humana People to People, announced the launch of the "Africa Skills Revolution" initiative today through a webinar.

Inspired by the AU's Year for Education 2024, the "Africa Skills Revolution" is a collective initiative consisting of an advocacy campaign aimed at challenging stereotypes around TVET and demonstrating the numerous opportunities it offers for interesting and fulfilling careers for Africa's youth. Additionally, it includes a competition aimed at amplifying and celebrating the achievements and successes of young Africans in and through TVET.

The campaign aims to ignite a movement, rallying the voices and energy of youth across the continent. By partnering with dynamic youth network forums like the ATUPA Youth Forum and Trust Africa, the campaign

aims to empower young people to take charge of their futures. We call on more organizations to join forces with us and amplify this mission.

During the launch event, stakeholders from industry, the public sector, TVET providers, and youth came together to engage in forward-thinking dialogue. The discussion focused on exploring current challenges and opportunities specific to TVET in Africa, with an emphasis on promoting sustainable development. Key topics included the future of TVET-related public policies, skills development, strategies for making TVET programs accessible to underprivileged youth in remote communities, and enhancing collaboration among all involved actors to address the most pressing challenges.

"As we launch 'The Africa Skills Revolution' initiative, we are dedicated to unlocking the potential of Africa's youth through TVET. This initiative, closely aligned with the AU's 2024 theme and our ten-year implementation plan, which aims to challenge stereotypes and celebrate the achievements of young Africans. Let's empower our youth with the skills they need to drive sustainable development across our continent," stated Mr. Nicholas Ouma, Senior Youth Advisor at the African Union.

The initiative's goals call upon governments, private sector entities, educational institutions, industry partners, NGOs, and international bodies to unite in this transformative journey. Your support and collaboration are crucial in creating an enabling environment where young Africans can thrive.

"The 'Africa Skills Revolution' initiative represents a significant step toward empowering young Africans. By providing access to quality TVET, we are enabling the youth to become key drivers of prosperity and innovation in their communities," said Ms. Bolette Strandbygaard, Chairperson of Humana People to People Educational and Training Foundation.

Together, by joining forces, we can build a robust network that fosters skill development, drives innovation, and catalyzes sustainable economic growth.

For more detailed information on how you can engage and support the Africa Skills Revolution, please visit the official [landing page](#). Join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #AfricaSkillsRevolution and follow updates through AUDA-NEPAD's social media channels:

- Twitter: @NEPAD_Agency
- LinkedIn: @AUDA NEPAD
- Instagram: @auda_nepad



The banner features a central photograph of three young African professionals: a man in a white jacket looking at a smartphone, a woman in a yellow safety vest and hard hat, and a woman in a grey hijab and glasses. The background is a mix of white and orange geometric shapes. At the top left, it says 'In Partnership with' followed by the logos for AUDA-NEPAD (African Union Development Agency) and HUMANA (People to People). At the top right, it displays the hashtags #TheAfricaWeWant and #AfricaSkillsRevolution. The main title 'AFRICA SKILLS REVOLUTION' is in large, bold, black letters, with 'Competition' written in a smaller, orange, cursive font below it. Below the title, the text reads 'Showcase Your Skills and Achievements in TVET: Inspire others and shine bright!'. At the bottom, a black bar contains the text 'DEADLINE: 26 September 2024 | ENTER: <https://www.nepad.org/form/africa-skills-revolution-competition>'.

Are you a young African with an inspiring career journey or story to share? We're calling on all talented and skilled African youth to showcase their achievements and skills in TVET.

By sharing your journey and achievements, you can inspire other young Africans to explore the vast opportunities within TVET and contribute to the continent's economic growth and development. Join us in this exciting venture to showcase the impact of TVET and highlight the potential of Africa's youth as the driving force behind a prosperous and vibrant future.

Entry form: <https://www.nepad.org/form/africa-skills-revolution-competition>



SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY

Message by CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, H.E. Mrs Nardos Bekele Thomas

In August, we celebrate the remarkable women of South Africa who have been the pillars of strength, resilience, and courage throughout history. From the bold defiance of Charlotte Maxeke, the pioneering efforts of Albertina Sisulu, the unwavering leadership of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, to the inspiring activism of Mama Tambo—women have consistently shaped South Africa's narrative.

This day holds immense significance not just for South African women, but for women across the African continent. It is a day to honor the collective struggles, achievements, and ongoing efforts of African women in breaking barriers, challenging norms, and leading transformative change. Across Africa, women are the

backbone of their communities and economies, and this day reminds us of the shared strength and resilience that unites us all in the pursuit of equality and empowerment.

These iconic figures, along with countless unsung heroines, have challenged oppression, driven progress, and built the foundation of our thriving society. Their legacy lives on in the women of today, who lead with innovation, compassion, and resilience across all sectors.

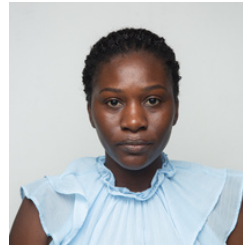
As we commemorate this significant day, let us reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and continue to uplift and empower the women of today.

New staff announcement - August 2024



Mr. Ntokozo Praise-God Linton Mchunu, a national of South Africa has been appointed as Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer on the Africa Demographic Dividend and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Program (A2DSRH), within the Office of CEO with effect from 01 August 2024. Mr Mchunu holds a Bachelor of Social Science Honours Degree in Policy and Development and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy, Political Science and Law (2008 & 2006 respectively), from the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN), International Diploma in French Language Studies from Alliance Francaise (2010) and a National Diploma in Diplomacy from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) (2010).



Ms. Bridget Kwesigabo, a national of Uganda has been appointed as Procurement Officer SIFA, within Operations Directorate , with effect from 15 August 2024. Ms. Kwesigabo holds a Master's degree in

Business Administration and Management from the University of Nicosia in Cyprus (2020) and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration & Management (Majoring in Procurement) from Uganda Martyrs University in Uganda (2010).

Prior to her appointment as Procurement Officer SIFA, Ms. Kwesigabo was Procurement Assistant in the African Union – Economic Social and Cultural Council in Zambia.

HABARI