



Closing Remarks, Dr Msingathi Sipuka, Chief of Staff
Think Tanks Inception Conference, 11th January 2024

Esteemed participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

All due protocols observed,

Good afternoon,

Allow me to start by extending, on behalf of H.E the **CEO of AUDA-NEPAD**, our sincere appreciation to our esteemed co-partners and distinguished participants, for their invaluable and active engagement at this inception Conference.

Our discussion, for the last two days, gave deep insight to the pivotal role of the **economic analysis & foresight** as a powerful tool in underlining our current and potential development threats, including among others, climate change vulnerability, debt burden, limited R&D, high production cost, and the like.

Economic analysis & foresight are, therefore, proven crucial in designing the right policy actions to address these challenges and unfold the African quest toward the envisaged prosperity and development stipulated in the **African Agenda 2063** and the **UN Agenda 2030**.

In a nutshell, we agree that making the African aspirations a reality urgently necessitates laying strong foundations of a **robust ecosystem** for the African Think Tanks, whereby they can strongly engage with all relevant stakeholders at all levels. This is to promote **evidence-based** policy making, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating process across Africa, in away that could **bridge the gap** between policy and implementation in our Continent on one hand and leverage the value added of the **knowledge generated** in Africa on the other hand.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Building upon the successful organization of this Inception Conference, cognisant of its mandate as the Development Agency of the African Union, **AUDA-NEPAD** deliberately advocates for taking the envisaged partnership with the African Think

Tanks forward, through working on several tracks, with a particular focus on the following:

First, ensure the invaluable research output will feed in the policy making and implementing process in Africa at all levels: continentally, regionally, and nationally as well.

Second, position the African Think Tanks as a critical player in implementing the Second 10 Year implementation Plan of the Agenda 2063, to be officially endorsed during the upcoming AU General Assembly to be held in Addis Ababa next month. However, we take cognisance of the fact that our Continental thematic frameworks need to be aligned or revised as per the long-term A2063 strategic goals and aspirations.

Third, create a sustainable platform for an ecosystem for the African Think Tanks.

Four: develop stakeholders driven research agenda, building on the interactive discussion of the selected 8 thematic areas addressed by the Inception Conference. As highlighted during our discussion, this agenda should have clear cut evidence based and context specific policy implications, focusing on the critical priorities of the development process in Africa, including among others: gender parity, environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, research and technology and the like.

Last but not least, counting on the African Think Tanks to better design and implement the various programs and initiatives led by AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders and development partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our Agency's full commitment and readiness to work hand-in-hand with all of you toward the full realization of our envisaged partnership.

I thank you.