

# **COMMUNIQUÉ ON STRENGTHENING LINKAGES BETWEEN POLICY RESEARCH AND POLICYMAKING FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT**

**By**

**The Delegates of the 2011 African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS)  
International Conference and Workshops, 8TH – 9TH  
November 2011, MOMBASA, KENYA**

## **Preamble:**

We, the delegates comprising policy researchers, policymakers, private sector actors (business and industry), civil society, and the media drawn from 29 countries in Africa, Europe, North America, the Caribbean, and Asia, met in Mombasa, Kenya 8 – 9 November 2011; for an International conference on “Strengthening Linkages between Policy Research and Policymaking for African Development”

The conference was organised by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) as an implementation activity in response to the recommendations of the African Manifesto for Science, Technology and Innovation launched in Cairo, Egypt in 2010, and the UNESCO Science Report, 2010. Both publications demonstrated the role of STI as the engine of development globally and the fact that Africa still lags behind in the various indicators of progress in STI development. The need for strengthening linkages between Policy Research, Policymaking and Policy Implementation were identified as a key challenge to the growth of STI in Africa by both reports.

This international conference organized by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners including the African Population and Health Research Consortium (APHRC); the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FARNPAN) sought to address the weak linkages between policy research and policymaking for African development, recognising that:

- “Only the mastery and unremitting application of science and technology can guarantee human welfare and human happiness” (President Kwame Nkrumah, 1993).
- This important role for science, technology and innovation in fostering socio-economic development has been recognized by African Heads of States in their various declarations including the Lagos Plan of Action, the AU/NEPAD Consolidated Plan of Action and other regional economic communities;
- Whereas there are pockets of success in application of science, technology and innovation including the mobile telephony and telecommunications, the continent generally lags behind and has not fully reaped the benefits afforded by science, technology and innovation for its development endeavours;
- While this failure to harness science, technology and innovation can be attributed to many factors, key amongst these is the lack of appropriate policies to guide and foster an African science, technology and innovation agenda.

In our deliberations, we have further noted the need to:

- Strengthen capacities of African Researchers to address African policy needs and Policymakers to use research evidence in policymaking;
- Encourage multi-stakeholder involvement in Science, Technology and Innovation policy research, policy making, and policy implementation processes;
- Foster high moral and ethical standards in research and policymaking, learning from existing norms in African society;
- Support appropriate capacity building and Mentorship programs for African Youths and Women to participate in STI policy research, policymaking and policy implementation.
- Link research to economic productivity in Africa

**We recommend that the African Union and its member States should:**

- Adopt and proactively support leading African institutions engaged in policy research such as ATPS, FARNPAN, ACET, APHRC and facilitate their inputs into policy processes.

Recognizing that these institutions are already leading in the various key areas of need including STI capacity building for African Development, agricultural policy research for attaining the food security, in the economics of transformations, and population and health research for African development respectively;

- Create a consolidated fund for African Policy Research and Development at continental and national levels, recognising that “*he who pays the Piper dictates the tune*”;
- Honour their commitment to increase their budgetary support to research and development to the recommended one percent (1%) of the GDP;
- Create favourable policy environment to promote private sector engagement in science, technology and innovation for African development; and
- Support existing initiatives that encourage Mentorship for active engagement of youth and women in STI policy research, policy research and policy implementation.
- Encourage the promotion and propagation of STI in the mass media
- Encourage the appointment of STI policy advisors for national governments

On behalf of all the delegates and other partners, we mandate the African Technology Policy Studies Network to send a delegation to the African Union Commission for further discussions and consideration of these recommendations.

**Signed on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2011**

**[Delegates List \(Click to Download\)](#)**