

# **COMMUNIQUE ON STRENGTHENING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

**By**

**The Delegates of the Expert Consultative Workshop hosted by the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS)  
29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Naivasha, Kenya**

## **Preamble**

We, the delegates of the ATPS Phase VII Strategic Planning Expert Consultative workshop, comprising selected policy researchers and policymakers drawn from African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Agencies (UN), National Government Offices, and international partners from Africa, North America, Europe, India, Australia, New Zealand, and the Caribbean, convened in Naivasha, Kenya 29 – 30, May 2012 to review the state of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy research, policymaking, and implementation in Africa and identify priorities for sustainable development in Africa in the coming decade, 2013 - 2022.

The expert consultation workshop was organised by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) as part of its Phase VII Strategic planning process in response to the recommendations of the first Africa Forum on STI hosted by the Republic of Kenya and co-organized by African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), 1-3 April 2012. The conference called for African countries to among other things, design policies and programs to implement strategies to support inclusive growth, employment opportunities, and sustainable development in Africa.

As the leading African Centre of Excellence in STI capacity strengthening since its inception in 1994, the ATPS convened the experts to prioritise the key thematic and non-thematic areas for capacity strengthening in STI policy research, policymaking and implementation within the next decade. The priorities are to guide the strategic priorities of the ATPS in its Phase VII activities, 2013 - 2022 and guide ATPS in forging partnerships to effectively strengthen STI capacity for sustainable development in Africa.

The expert workshop noted that:

- The 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 African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) Consolidated Plan of Action and policies of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States;
- Whereas there are pockets of success in application of science, technology and innovation including the mobile telephony and telecommunications, among other factors, which contributed to the sustained economic growth in the continent during the past decade, the continent generally lags behind in skills and competencies required to fully reap the benefits afforded by science, technology and innovation for its development;
- While this failure to harness science, technology and innovation can be attributed to many factors, key amongst these is the lack of skills and capacities in the area of STI to guide and foster an African development agenda, inadequate implementation of STI policies and programmes, and limited political commitment.

And recognising that the ATPS has;

- Continued to play key roles in strengthening capacities of African Researchers, Policymakers, Private Sector Actors and the Civil Society to address African policy research needs since its inception;
- Significantly contributed to shaping and mainstreaming the African STI agenda in policy dialogues both within the continent and globally;
- Provides a diverse and effective network of Institutions, Scholars, Policymakers, Private Sector Actors and Civil Society within and outside Africa actively working on STI capacity strengthening for sustainable development in Africa;

Therefore hereby:

- Requests the African Union Commission (AUC) and its member States to consider adopting the ATPS as its implementing institution in the relevant areas of Science, Technology and Innovation capacity strengthening for sustainable development in Africa;

- Encourages the European Commission (EC) and its member States to consider adopting the ATPS as its implementing institution in the relevant areas of Science, Technology and Innovation capacity strengthening for sustainable development in Africa;
- Encourages African Member States and other Development Partners to support and partner with the ATPS in the implementation of its strategic priorities. We are unanimously convinced and attest to the fact that the ATPS provides a formidable independent network within the African continent that has been driving this agenda successfully and efficiently. Proactive support to strengthen this function will go a long way in addressing the STI capacity gaps on the continent;
- Urges ATPS to develop greater cooperation with United Nations agencies that have hitherto worked with ATPS on *ad hoc* consultancy basis and to explore avenues for formalizing relations with these agencies in implementing their Science, Technology and Innovation capacity strengthening programs for sustainable development in Africa;
- Encourages the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Association of African Universities (AAU), Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (ASDW), and their counterparts in the developed and emerging countries to strengthen cooperation and partnerships with the ATPS in mainstreaming STI capacity strengthening in their program implementation;
- Encourages the multiple STI stakeholders in Africa and beyond to support and engage with the ATPS in their Science, Technology and Innovation policy research, policy making, and policy implementation processes on the continent to leverage the vast expertise and experiences within the Network; and
- Applauds the new initiatives to establish ATPS Diaspora chapters in North America and the United Kingdom to provide platforms for Africans and friends of Africa living outside the continent to effectively participate in the STI capacity strengthening agenda for sustainable development in Africa. We encourage the establishment of Diaspora chapters in other developed and emerging countries including Australasia, the Caribbean and Small Island States, India, China, South America, and other European countries.

On behalf of all the delegates, ATPS members and stakeholders, we mandate the African Technology Policy Studies Network Management to pursue the

formal strengthening of cooperation with the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Agencies, and other key players listed above, for further discussions and consideration of these recommendations.

**Signed on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2012**

**[Enclosed: Delegate List \(Click to Download\)](#)**