



ATPS@25 Annual Forum and Conference 2019
(25 Years of Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Development in Africa: Our Story and Our Future)

CONCEPT NOTE AND CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 2019 ATPS ANNUAL FORUM, CONFERENCE AND SILVER JUBILEE

THEME: Using Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as a means for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa

Hosted by:

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and Partners

Partners so far:

- Government of Kenya
- Government of Nigeria
- AFREXIMBANK
- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
- African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
- Stockholm Environment Institute, Africa Centre (SEI-Africa)

30-31 October, 2019

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The development of and attention to science and technology in Africa took center stage in the 1980s with African governments making commitments through their Heads of States to allocate at least 1% of their gross domestic products (GDPs) to research and development (R&D) as well as scientific and technological capabilities in what is popularly known as the Lagos Plan of Action for the economic development of Africa 1980-2000. This was against the background that Africa at that time was unable to point to any significant growth rate or satisfactory index of general well-being for almost two decades. Faced with this situation, and determined to undertake measures for the basic restructuring of the economic base of the continent, the African leaders resolved to adopt a far-reaching regional approach based primarily on collective self-reliance which included putting science and technology in the service of development by reinforcing the autonomous capacity of our countries in this field.

They noted that the role of science and technology in integrated rural development requires among other things the generation of financial resources and political will and courage on the part of policy and decision-makers to induce a profound change with far-reaching effects on the use of science and technology as the basis of socio-economic development. A well-developed science and technology base and its appropriate application will lead to developments in other sectors such as agriculture; transport and communications; industry, including agro-allied industries; health and sanitation; energy; education and manpower development; housing, urban development and environment among others. Countries were urged to develop appropriate policies and programmes that will utilize the power of science and technology to sustain growth and development. Among the early adopters in the development of science and technology policies since the Lagos Plan of Action were Ethiopia (1992), Tanzania (1996), Zambia (1996), Botswana (1998), Nigeria (1998) and Ghana (2000). Other countries followed later.

One very remarkable outcome of the Plan of Action was the support and strengthening of regional and sub-regional science and technology organizations in Africa with a call to Member States and international agencies to provide resources to enable them attain full operational levels. It was during this period that two distinct networks emerged in Africa: the Eastern and Southern Africa Technology Policy Studies (EATPS) and the Western Africa Technology Policy Studies (WATPS). These networks promoted and advocated for the use of science and technology as a means for achieving socioeconomic development in the regions. They facilitated the development of most of the science and technology policies in most of the African countries earlier mentioned. However, in 1994, the EATPS and WATPS came together under one platform that led to the birth of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) with its secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya under the East and Southern Africa Regional Office of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The ATPS has since then grown in leaps and bounds. In 2001 ATPS became an autonomous international organization with diplomatic status in Kenya and working on transdisciplinary science, technology and innovation (STI) themes for African development. Whilst retaining the STI focus, ATPS has moved towards a “*knowledge for development*” network of researchers, policymakers, private sector and civil society actors that promote the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation for Africa’s development, environmental sustainability and global



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inclusion. We implement our programs through members in National Chapters established in 30 countries (27 in Africa and 3 Diaspora Chapters in Australia, United States of America and the United Kingdom) with partnerships across the entire 54 African countries. The ATPS is unique in many ways: It is not only the premier STI institution in Africa; it is unique in the composition of its membership, institutional structures and implementation activities. Today ATPS is made up of over 1500 members spread across 51 countries in 5 continents. As the premier STI institution in Africa, it has successfully mainstreamed STI in African development policy dialogues and assisted many African countries to formulate STI policies as well as develop strategies for its implementation.

Our work is guided by the needs and aspirations of our stakeholders across Africa which we usually put together in consultation with these stakeholders as a Strategic Plan over five year periods. During the current ATPS Phase VIII Strategic Plan (2017-2022), we have identified **four thematic and five programmatic priorities of action**. The four thematic priorities are: **Agriculture, food and nutrition; Energy; Climate change and environment; and Health innovations**, while the five programmatic priorities include: **STI policy research, policymaking and advocacy; Training, sensitization and capacity building; Youth and gender empowerment; Knowledge brokerage, management and commercialization; and Intra-Africa and global collaboration and partnerships**. Details of these themes and programmes are available online at: https://atpsnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ATPS-Phase-VIII-Strategic-Plan-2017-2022_Final.pdf. These strategic priorities (thematic and programmatic) align very well with most of the development agenda in Africa including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Africa's Agenda 2063, the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s Hi Five Priorities, and the national development agenda and visions in most of the African countries. We aim to seek for supports and collaborations from different institutions and organizations charged with the implementation of these development agenda especially in Africa. The ATPS has benefitted and continues to enjoy the support from many development partners, donors and governments at various levels in the achievement of our mandate.

2.0 ATPS ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

Since our establishment in 1994 as the premier STI policy research and policymaking network in Africa, the ATPS has continually impacted on Africa's STI development in many fronts.

- 1. Facilitated the development of STI policies of regional and national governments in Africa:** Through series of policy research and advocacy actions, the ATPS has facilitated the development of STI policies and strategies in many African countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Benin Republic, Lesotho, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Liberia, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe among many others. The ATPS made inputs to Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) of the African Union that metamorphosed into the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA 2024) for Africa. As an accredited institutional member of the African Union Commission (AUC) the ATPS provides inputs to the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST) of the AUC. The ATPS also developed the first ever *African Manifesto for Science, Technology and Innovation*¹ that

¹ Available online at: http://www.atpsnet.org/Files/the_african_manifesto_for_st&i.pdf



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provided a roadmap for attaining socio-economic development in African through investments in science, technology and innovation.

2. **STI Policy research, capacity building and outreach:** The ATPS has supported the conduct of policy research endeavours in over **30 countries** in Africa in the areas of agriculture, energy, climate change and environment, health, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship, etc. These research interventions have generated tremendous knowledge products for decision-making in Africa. The ATPS capacity building program has trained researchers, policymakers, private sector actors, the civil society, extension agents, farmers, the media and many more and enabled them to accomplish desired goals and objectives for sustainable development in Africa. We have commissioned and completed over **150** STI research projects; published over **500** research papers, policy briefs and reports including some global and regional reports; developed **4** training manuals on different areas of STI including STI policy manual, entrepreneurship training manual and Intellectual Property training manual; facilitated the development of STI policies in about **17** African countries; trained over **8000** different stakeholders of the ATPS; engaged over **5000** ATPS stakeholders in various events in Africa and beyond; conducted over **75** training workshops; signed over **30** MOUs; developed new project partnerships with other like-minded institutions across Africa and beyond; and launched **2** youth and gender programs - The Youth Innovation Challenge (Y I CAN) and Women Innovation Challenge (WE CAN) programs with **24** innovation challenge grants awarded among many others. Through one of our programmes, the University, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN), we and our partners have facilitated the commercialization of over **110** technologies, created over **12,000** jobs and working with over **50,000** farmers, established **350** SMEs, supported over **280** new businesses across Africa and created linkages with over 20 incubators and mini-incubators across Africa.
3. **Development of practical technologies to help the poor:** ATPS in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Research Service (USDA-ARS) among other global partners developed an is out-scaling an award winning ***LandPKS mobile app technology*** that enable users instantly access climatic and soil information at any point given location and use the information generated to make informed decisions on their farm enterprises including production, processing, marketing and utilization. ATPS has won two awards, **Wazo Prize** and **Tekeleza Prize** for promoting the adoption and out-scaling of the technology in Kenya and continues to receive supports from development partners, donors and governments to out-scale the technology across Africa.
4. **Ranked as the Best Think Tank in Africa:** For five consecutive years now, the ATPS has consistently been ranked by the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report as the best think tank in Africa (getting the highest number of rankings as well as ranking first in more categories). The 2018 Report released in February 2019 ranks the ATPS as the **1st Top Science and Technology Policy Think Tank in Africa and 10th globally**. The ATPS also ranked tops in many other categories that were used to assess Think Tanks across the world. Notable among these categories where the ATPS ranked tops are: Best Think Tank Network; Best Managed Think Tank; Think Tank with the Most Innovative Policy Ideas/Proposals; Think Tank with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy; Best Transdisciplinary Research Think Tank; Best Advocacy Campaign Think Tank; Think Tank with the Best Use of the Internet; and Think



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Tank with the Best institutional collaboration involving two or more Think Tanks among many others. Details of the ranking can be found in the report at: https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks

- 5. Positive Evaluation Assessments:** The latest external evaluation assessment of core funding support to the ATPS by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands scored the ATPS an “AAA Grade” on the average. The score was based on ATPS’s effectiveness, efficiency and value for money in all its activities and program implementation. Responses were received from ATPS stakeholders in Africa and globally. Our annual audits have shown positive financial responsibility and continuous ability of the ATPS to meet its financial obligations.

3.0 ATPS @ 25: OUR MAIN GOAL

The main goal of the Annual Forum 2019 is to convene critical mass of STI stakeholders from Africa and beyond to further discuss how STI can be deployed more effectively to achieve most of the development agenda in Africa including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Africa’s Agenda 2063, the African Development Bank (AfDB) Hi Five Priorities, and the national development agenda and visions in African countries. We shall use the opportunity to tell ATPS’s story as the premier STI organization and how far we have fared in our mandate of using science, technology and innovation as a means for achieving sustainable development in Africa. Most specifically, we hope to achieve the following during the event:

1. Present and discuss relevant and topical issues on how STI can be further deployed to more effectively achieve sustainable development in Africa
2. Tell ATPS’s story in championing STI development in Africa for 25 years
3. Relaunch the ATPS Phase VIII Strategic Plan 2017-2022
4. Provide opportunity for networking among STI stakeholders across the continent and beyond.
5. Present papers that address the main theme and subthemes of the conference
6. Celebrate and honour ATPS Legends and Champions

4.0 CONFERENCE SUBTHEMES AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Five inter-related priority subthemes have been identified to buttress the main goal of the Annual Forum, Conference and ATPS Silver Jubilee. Papers are therefore being invited from experts under the subthemes.

Sub-themes:

- i. Science, technology and innovation priorities for Africa’s development-** This sub-theme focuses on how STI is driving Africa’s development Agenda in the context of STISA 2024 and in achieving the SDGs on the continent. As the African Union has developed a long-term agenda 2063 for the continent, science, technology and innovation is playing a major role. The strategy aims to address the challenges that hinder development in critical sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, health, infrastructure, mining, security and water using STI. What does Africa need to do to enhance the use of STI as a means for achieving the



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sustainable development goals? Has STI been mainstreamed enough in national development agendas in Africa in terms of investments, research and policy?

- ii. **The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Africa's Readiness-** The fourth industrial revolution is the current and developing environment in which disruptive technologies and trends such as the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) are changing the way we live and work. This year's (2019) World Economic Forum theme of *Globalisation 4.0* addressed the fourth industrial revolution which is taking place globally at an unpredictable rate. Is Africa ready? How effective is the infrastructure in Africa to support these disruptive technologies that will enhance the fourth industrial revolution? Do African countries have enough capacity to exploit these emerging technologies? What needs to be done to support the use of these disruptive technologies in Africa?
- iii. **Improving Africa's Intra-Africa Trade using science, technology and innovation-** There are many reasons for the low intra-African trade including: weakness of physical and human infrastructure, small size of individual African country markets, residual tariffs and onerous non-tariff measures (NTM) on processed and semi-processed African products by both developed and emerging markets, export constraints and other pre-border barriers, absence of trade finance, institutional constraints on enterprise growth and inability to achieve scale, currency risk, corruption and rent-seeking clientelism, and civil disruption among many others. The abundance of interest, capital, opportunities, and promises in technology such as artificial intelligence (AI) reminds one of mobile technology just 10 years ago. Mobile money transfer technology took the continent by storm but this has not really translated to significant increases in intra-Africa trade due to the different levels of adoption of the technology in Africa as well as challenges in the development of the required infrastructure. Will technology/automation and AI do to African nations over the next decade what mobile technology did to them in the last one, fueling a dramatic rise in connectivity and unlocking significant gains in economic development? Like mobile technology and communication capabilities, will technology/automation and AI permit African nations to dramatically increase their research, development, and production capabilities? Will technology/automation and AI give African nations even more power to leapfrog the need for old-fashioned infrastructure and outdated strategies of industrialization? In essence, how can intra-Africa trade be realized using STI?
- iv. **Funding science, technology and innovation priorities for Africa's development-** African leaders have always committed to increasing funding for national, regional and continental programmes for science and technology and support the establishment of national and regional centres of excellence in science and technology. So far only a handful of the countries have implemented that. Funding for research in Africa is still very low hence very low emergence of new technologies and innovations. This has severely limited growth and development in Africa. How can African governments increase funding to STI? Has the private sector sufficiently contributed to funding research in Africa? Are the African universities and research organizations contributing enough in funding research in Africa? How can development partners significantly contribute to STI development in Africa?



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- v. **Gender and inclusivity in science, technology and innovation-** The persistent gender inequalities and exclusivity in Africa can be explained by lack of relevant policies, inadequate and improper curriculum content and strategies, poor didactic materials and negative culture and attitudes which discourage women from training and/or working as scientists, technologists or engineers and the youth from assuming high positions of authority in the polity. This theme focusses on identifying successful international best practices that should be learned, adapted and wisely implemented in Africa to encourage inclusivity and gender mainstreaming in STI. The gender mainstreaming of science and technology policy formulation and review processes have not been sufficient enough to reflect the level of gender awareness that has been created and attitude changes made. What actions need to be taken to ensure there is gender and inclusivity in STI? What data are required to inform decision making on gender inclusivity in STI?

5.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- i) Published annual forum and conference proceedings;
- ii) A communiqué summarising key recommendations for African policymakers and development partners.
- iii) Two Policy Briefs

6.0 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- i) Increased and renewed recognition and deployment of STI as a means for achieving sustainable development in Africa by policymakers, science experts, private sector actors and civil society actors; and
- ii) Strengthened networks amongst STI actors in Africa.

7.0 CONFERENCE METHODOLOGY

The ATPS@25 Annual Forum will be a two-day event that will bring together stakeholders including network members, donors and financiers, beneficiaries and government officials from across Africa. The event will adopt participatory approaches to engage stakeholders in relevant discussions. For the main theme and sub-themes, there will be high level presentations by experts in the field and panel discussions on some of the sub-themes. In all, there will be enough time for stakeholder discussions and dialogue on the different subthemes. About 200 delegates are expected from across the 54 African countries and beyond during the Annual Forum, Conference and ATPS Silver Jubilee celebration. Delegates will be drawn from the academia and research institutions, policymakers and high-level government officials, organized private sector actors, informal sector, civil society actors, development partners, donors and financiers, and the Fourth estate among many others. Detailed programme of event will be published as we approach the dates of the event.



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Key programme of events:

- Opening ceremony and key messages from donors, sponsors and partners
- A Masterclass on the theme: *Using Science, Technology and Innovation as a means for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa*
- Plenary presentations on the selected sub-themes
- Relaunch of the ATPS Phase VIII Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- Celebration of ATPS champions and legends. All Foundation Members of the ATPS, past Executive Directors and Directors, Chairs of ATPS Board of Directors, Core Donors, etc. will receive honours awards.
- Exhibition of science, technology and innovation products and services from around Africa
- Press conference

7.1 CONFERENCE EXHIBITIONS AND SIDE EVENTS

An exhibition area will be organized during the conference at the same venue. To showcase technologies and innovations, or institutions working in the subject area, exhibitors are requested to apply in advance to atpsconference2019@atpsnet.org. Spaces for the exhibition will be very limited and will be allocated on first-come first-served. Target Exhibitors will be on innovative science, technology and innovation products, prototypes, etc. produced as a result of research, good policies and practical applications of innovations and the institutions promoting such.

8.0 CONFERENCE VENUE AND DATE:

Dates: 30 – 31 October 2019

Venue: The venue will be Nairobi, Kenya. Specific venue will be communicated to stakeholders and partners at a later date.

7.0 CONFERENCE DELEGATES:

Delegates from all STI policy stakeholders (policymakers, researchers, private sector actors, and civil society) in the developing, emerging and developed countries with interest in STI capacity strengthening for sustainable development in Africa are welcome to attend the conference and workshops. Key policy making and policy implementation arms of Africa including the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs); the United Nations Organizations/Agencies (UN); African national governments; researchers; private sector actors; civil society actors; and key development partners, philanthropies and donor agencies from developed, emerging and developing countries are particularly encouraged to attend.

8.0 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

All conference participants are required to register and at least one author per paper must attend. Online registration is open until 20 October 2019 at:

<http://atpsnet.org/2019atpsconferences/>

Conference registration conditions vary depending on the country of origin and the package selected.



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The registration rates are as follows:

ATPS Registered members	\$50
Delegates from Africa and other developing countries	\$100
Delegates from developed countries	\$150
Post graduate students above 35 year old	\$50
Students/Youth Entrepreneurs between 18 – 35 years	Free
Institutional Exhibition fee	\$1000
Innovation/Technology Exhibitions	\$1000

ATPS and its partners plan to support the participation of pre-selected delegates including keynote and invited speakers and key policy stakeholders, ATPS Board members, Regional Council members; International Responsible STI Council members; National Chapter Coordinators/Focal points; Secretariat Staff; Program Regional and National Steering Committees members; AWFST Executives; AYFST Executives; Program Coordinators; Travel grant letters will be issued to qualifying delegates in advance.

All other delegates will be fully responsible for their participation including registration, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs during the conference period, etc. The ATPS and its partners are under no obligations to bear any responsibilities for unsupported delegates.

9.0 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

We particularly invite contributions to the conference that address the above theme and sub-themes from an interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approach.

i. Abstracts:

Abstracts of 350-500 words are invited from prospective conference participants. The abstracts should contain the title of the paper, name(s) of the author(s), contact information, 5 keywords and biographical notes about the author(s). Authors are also invited to indicate the conference sub-theme pertaining to their papers. All abstracts will be anonymously evaluated by the Conference Technical Committee on the basis of the following criteria: originality and creativity; clarity of content; contribution to the knowledge base/ evidence base; linkages with research, policy and practice; relevance and timeliness in terms of findings and conclusion. Abstracts will also be selected based on their relevance to one or more of the conference theme/subthemes. A book of selected abstracts will be published and made available during the conference. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **12 September 2019**. All submissions should be made to: atpsconference2019@atpsnet.org

ii. Full Paper submission:

Candidates whose abstracts are selected are expected to submit their full papers by **20 October 2019**. The papers shall be evidence-based and can be theoretical, empirical or policy oriented, and can approach the issues from a range of disciplinary, but preferably trans-disciplinary perspectives. Papers submitted will be peer-reviewed for originality, technical and research contents, depth correctness, relevance to the conference themes, contribution to knowledge, readability, etc.

The full paper should be between 4000-6000 words, A4 word format, one column, font size: 12pt, Times New Roman, 1.5 spaces, margin width (2cm). Papers shall include the following: Title of the



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paper, Full name(s) of the author(s), contact details, Abstract (250words), 5 keywords. References shall be in APA format. All submissions should be made to: atpsconference2019@atpsnet.org

10.0 CONFERENCE LANGUAGE:

The official languages of the conference are English and French. However, the submission of abstract and full papers must be in English. Simultaneous interpretation in the official languages during the Annual Forum and conference will be ensured.

11.0 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FORUM AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Dates	Activities
12 August 2019	Announcement of the call for papers
12 September 2019	Deadline for submission of abstract
20 September 2019	Notification of Abstract Acceptance
20 October 2019	Deadline for the submission of full papers to be considered for publication
23 October 2019	Deadline for the submission of PowerPoint Presentation
30-31 October 2019	Annual Forum, Conference and Silver Jubilee Celebration

12.0 OUR BUDGET FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL FORUM/ CONFERENCE/ SILVER JUBILEE:

In order to effectively organize the ATPS@25 Annual Forum the organizing committee has drawn up a budget of about US\$500,000 to take care of the costs of participation of some of the stakeholders to the event. Self-sponsored delegates are highly encouraged. The cost of the event is made up of travel costs, accommodation costs, subsistence costs, conference costs, and cost of plaques and Silver Jubilee items among others. To enable us meet these costs, we kindly request for supports and sponsorships from our multiple donors, partners and governments. As part of appreciating the supports that will be given, we will offer series of benefits in accordance to the level of supports or sponsorships received as enumerated in the table below:

Table 1: Categories of Sponsorship for the ATPS Silver Jubilee Celebration

S/n	Types of Sponsorship	Amount (US\$)	Benefits
1.	Platinum Sponsor	US\$ 100,000 and above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a Platinum award for supporting STI development in Africa • Make a pitch during the event • Have Logo in all ATPS@25 promotional materials for the event • Promote Organization in the widely read ATPS <i>Technopolicy</i> Newsletter for one year
2.	Gold Sponsor	< US\$ 100,000- US\$ 50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a Gold award for supporting STI development in Africa • Make a pitch during the event • Have Logo in all ATPS@25 publication materials for the event • Promote Organization in the widely read ATPS <i>Technopolicy</i> Newsletter for six months
3.	Silver Sponsor	< US\$ 50,000- US\$ 20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a Silver award for supporting STI development in Africa • Make a pitch during the event • Have Logo in all ATPS@25 promotional materials for the event



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Organization in the widely read ATPS <i>Technopolicy</i> Newsletter for three months
4.	Bronze Sponsor	< US\$20,000- US\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive a Bronze award for supporting STI development in Africa Make a pitch during the event Have Logo in all ATPS@25 promotional materials for the event Promote Organization in the widely read ATPS <i>Technopolicy</i> Newsletter for one months
5.	Exhibition Space	US\$1000- US\$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of an exhibition space during the event Have Logo in all ATPS@25 promotional materials for the event

ATPS Accounts for the Silver Jubilee

Name & Address of Bank: Commercial Bank of Africa
Upper Hill Branch, Mara/Ragati Road, P.O. Box 30437-00100,
Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 254-20-2884000

Bank Branch Code: 07000

Account Name: African Technology Policy Studies Network

Account Number: 6572770025

BIC/Sort/SWIFT Code: CBAFKENX

Currency of Account: US DOLLARS

For further information on sponsorship, please contact:

Executive Director,

African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)

8th Floor, Chancery Building, Valley Road;

P.O. Box 10081-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.

Email: executivedirector@atpsnet.org

Telephone: +254 (0) 20 2714092 (Landline); +254 (0) 713161928 (Mobile);

Website: <https://atpsnet.org/>