



NEPAD PLANNING AND COORDINATING AGENCY

NEPAD CEO Remarks

to the Side Event at the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda

ON “LAUNCHING THE TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION MECHANISM FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

26 September 2015, Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York

- The African Union welcomes the launch of the **Technology Facilitation Mechanism for achieving sustainable development goals**. As we move from the MDGs to the SDGs, the role of science, technology and innovation as key drivers of socio-economic development in Africa is well articulated at national, regional and continental levels. The **Common African Position (CAP) on Post 2015 Development Agenda** had Science, Technology and Innovation among the six pillars that were identified for Africa’s development priorities. Likewise the **Agenda 2063** has placed science, technology and innovation at the epicentre of Africa’s development agenda.
- The NEPAD Agency as a technical arm of the African Union has recognised and supported the development and application of science, technology and innovation in its delivery mechanism. This commitment and implementation mechanism has been spelt out in the **Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2014-2024 (STISA 2024)** which was adopted by the AU Summit of June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (succeeding to the AU Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action).
- It is recognised that several pre-requisites need to be addressed in order for Africa to reap the most from its application of science, technology and innovation. Some among them include, continued growth of the political will in this agenda and trust in the youth capacity; the need to revamp the scientific infrastructure in the African countries; enhancing technical competencies and building a strong science culture; strengthening intellectual property and regulatory systems; and providing an enabling environment including investment in research and innovation.
- In its delivery mechanism, the NEPAD has supported programmes that enhance regional networking through regional centres of excellence in various disciplines; production of evidence that has informed policy formulation for better conduct and

application of science; building of functional regulatory systems that support technology development in life sciences and engineering; and encouraging collaboration within and between Member States in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

- Industrialization is key to this overall exercise. The jobs we envision for the youth cannot be created without a solid industrialization process that goes hand in hand with STI development. It is not by chance that SDG9 addresses both industrialization and innovation: it is because they are closely intertwined (together with infrastructure). Further, multisectorality will have to be taken into account as well.
- Active collaboration in science, technology and innovation has been built among state-owned and private institutions and individuals and also with the UN Agencies that constitute the core UN task team on Science, Technology and Innovation, namely UNDESA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, ITU, and WIPO. We look forward to working with this particular UN task team on matters of science, technology and innovation, as the NEPAD Agency coordinates the implementation of STISA 2024 on behalf of the African Union.
- Matters of mapping science, technology and innovation on the continent are very important to us. As you may be aware, we continue to provide leadership in the publication of the **African Innovation Outlook** through the STI data that we collect together with member states in the **African Science, technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative (ASTII)**. This programme will be an important resource for the **online platform** that will be developed and managed by the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. I therefore call upon the UN Agencies whom we have collaborated with on the ASTII programme to work with us so that we continue to improve the quality of data that is being collected for science, technology and innovation in Africa.
- To conclude, I wish to congratulate the Governments of France and Brazil for co-organizing the launch of the **Technology Facilitation Mechanism for achieving sustainable development goals**, and I hereby pledge the full support of the continent in the implementation of the new mechanism.
- I thank you.