



Launch of AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation

*Partnering to link innovation
and practice accelerated
Agenda 2063 implementation*

22 June 2021

10:00 - 12:30 (South African Time)

08:00 - 10:30 (GMT)

Zoom Registration - Click here

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3q6wHxWXSZ-8onSSZpviMA

Concept Note

Context and Background

1. The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is Africa's prime technical implementation support Agency in the pursuit of the continent's economic growth and development ambitions as outlined in Agenda 2063. With a high premium on knowledge, as one of Africa's development resource, the AUDA-NEPAD has built into the delivery structure and instrument five regionally located Centres of Excellence (CoE). The five AUDA-NEPAD CoEs are prime AU instruments for leveraging knowledge and science-backed innovations to augment accelerated implementation of Agenda 2063.
2. Technological and management innovations are critical in catalysing globally competitive economic growth and optimal public service delivery. The AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation (AUDA-NEPAD CoE-STI) as one of the five Centres of Excellence, has been set-up in South Africa, in partnership with the South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Stellenbosch University (SU). In the AUDA-NEPAD CoE-STI's unique value proposition is stimulating and brokering mutual linkages and collaborations across policy-science-practices stimulating blended public-private initiatives for change and impact on the continent's development trajectories.

Launching the AUDA-NEPAD CoE-STI: Purpose

3. Through the AUDA-NEPAD CoE-STI, the three partners have jointly developed (a) implementable Business Plan and (b) an already identified initial set of Home-Grown innovations from within Africa's own Research and Development ecosystems which are ready for widespread commercialisation and scaling up as solutions to development challenges and opportunities in different countries across the continent.
4. The launch is organised as a public event to specifically (a) expose both the tripartite partnership and the AUDA-NEPAD CoE in STI as a unique instrument to rally and bring technological and management innovations into development policy and investment choices, while at the same time (b) exposing Africa's own research and development capabilities. Through a synthesis, the close to 40 identified innovations will be shared at the event; and (c) to provide an open platform to share experiences especially as concerns catalysing accelerated critical mass adoption of the innovations.
5. In this regard, it is also expected that the Launch will catalyse expanded technical and financing partnerships from across the continent as well as international bilateral-multilateral and private sector.

6. Under the theme 'Partnering to link innovation and practice for accelerated Agenda 2063 implementation' the launch is organised as an high-profile public (i.e. open to the public) virtual seminar, scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd June 2021 for 10am to 12.30pm (South Africa time). The registration link is provided at the top of this document.

The launch seminar structure, methodology and programme

7. The seminar is organised along three interrelated sessions, namely (i) an opening and formal launch session; (ii) two panel discussions which will afford the seminar open discussions triggered priming interventions by an able team of panellists drawn from Government, inter-governmental organisations; research and development as well as the private sector; and (iii) the closing session outlining the next steps.

