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AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Implementation Plan for the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa

(STISA 2034)

Developed by the African Union Development Agency – New Partnerships for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and the African Union Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Africa's ability to compete globally and solve its development challenges hinges on how effectively the continent is able to harness science, technology, and innovation. The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2034) is Africa's strategic blueprint for transitioning into knowledge-driven economies. The average spending on research and development (R&D) in Africa is about 0.3% of the continental mean GDP. Only three countries in Africa have R&D expenditure (0.7%, and 0.8%) close to the continental 1% of GDP target. The global average is about 1.7% of GDP. To create economic prosperity in Africa, expenditure on R&D, especially science, technology and innovation (STI) based R&D, must be above the global average, given that spending on STI is an investment. A globally competitive Africa can be created by implementing an ambitious STI strategy.

This implementation plan outlines specific interventions to execute the STISA 2034 adopted by the African Union (AU) in November 2024. Aligned with the AU's Agenda 2063 and its Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP), STISA 2034 and its implementation plan articulate strategic ways of harnessing and governing science, technology and innovation (STI) for Africa's sustainable development. Their core mission is to enable AU Member States to ambitiously steer STI, to transform their economies to be prosperous, integrated and globally competitive, driven by knowledge and innovation.

Given the heterogeneity of STI systems across AU Member States, this plan emphasizes scalable, context-sensitive pathways. Implementation is designed to allow adaptation at the national and REC levels, fostering ownership while driving continental convergence.

The implementation plan is organized around two (2) clusters of priorities of STISA 2034, namely (1) sectoral and (2) strategic (cross-cutting) priority areas. The sectoral priorities are agriculture (food and nutritional security), health (health systems strengthening and health emergency preparedness), energy (promoting access to affordable clean energy), information and communications technologies (bridging the digital divide and building advanced digital skills), and the environment (addressing challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and water insecurity).

The strategic (cross-cutting) priorities are designed to promote STI for sustainable and inclusive industrialization, strengthening human capital and infrastructure for research and innovation. They seek to build critical capabilities in frontier and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum science, and space science. The cross-cutting priorities aim to harness modern biotechnology tools such as gene editing, whilst enhancing science diplomacy and partnerships in STI, promoting private sector engagement in research and innovation, and addressing youth and gender inequities in research and innovation. These strategic priorities offer pathways to the attainment of sectoral ones and the overall objectives of STISA 2034.

The implementation of this ten-year plan will be done in two (2) phases, namely: Phase one (the first 5 years) will involve socializing this plan through awareness raising and building ownership among AU Member States, launching new flagship programs and adjusting existing ones to align with STISA 2034, operationalizing the African Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (AESTIF) and mobilizing financial resources in a coordinated way. Emphasis will be placed on implementing interventions in strategic priorities that create enabling conditions for longer-term programs dedicated to the sectoral priorities. In 2029, a mid-term review of the plan and of STISA 2034 as a whole will be conducted.

In phase two (the last 5 years), a major rollout and implementation of STISA 2034 flagship programs will be carried out. It is expected that by then, Member States, partners and all other stakeholders will be actively engaged in programmatic initiatives implementing the plan at national, regional and continental levels.

Overall, the governance and management of this plan will be overseen by the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, and Technology (STC-EST), the AU Commission's Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AUC DESTI) and the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). Member States and implementing agencies of different flagship programs will submit progress reports on their activities aimed at implementing STISA 2034.

The plan is an investment framework that will yield significant socio-economic and technological outcomes for individual AU Member States and the continent as a whole. To effectively implement STISA 2034, it is estimated that investments to the tune of about $6.8 billion are required. Investments made by AU Member States (individually and collectively), development partners, private sector, research and innovation networks, and civil society groups to implement this plan will help address many of the social, economic and environmental challenges confronting the African continent. It is expected that increased investment in STI, improved research productivity and enhanced innovation capabilities will stimulate diversification, integration and competitiveness of African economies, create new jobs for the youth and eradicate poverty. It will also expand Africa's capabilities to contribute to the global pool of scientific and technical knowledge. Overall, STISA 2034 and this implementation plan are key aspects of Africa's expression of its investment frameworks, given the expected huge economic growth and sustainable development potential in the continent.

Key to the realization of social, economic and innovation outcomes of STISA 2034's implementation is a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework that ensures that progress is measured using clearly defined indicators such as gross expenditure on research and development (R&D), the number and quality of patents and publications, and the creation and growth of innovative enterprises. MEAL will help to keep STISA 2034 and the implementation plan aligned with the continent's evolving priorities and challenges.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAS	African Academy of Sciences
ACDC	Africa Centres for Disease Control
ADIF	African Diaspora Innovation Fund
AESTIF	African Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Fund
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
A-JET	African Just Energy Transition
AIF	African Innovation Fund
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIDA	Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa
AOSTI	African Observatory for Science, Technology, and Innovation
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
APET	African Union's High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies
ASTII	African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC DESTI	African Union Commission Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development
AUFIs	African Union Financial Institutions
AU-EU	African Union-European Union
ASRIC	African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CPA	Consolidated Plan of Action
CDC	Centres for Disease Control
CESA	Continental Education Strategy for Africa
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DESTI	Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EU	European Union
FMP	Free Movement of Persons
G20	Group of 20 countries
GERD	Gross Expenditure on Research and Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GVCs	Global Value Chains
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IEA	International Energy Agency
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IoTs	Internet of Things
IP	Intellectual Property
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISSM	Integrated soil–crop systems management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MTEFs	Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIS	National Innovation System
NSI	National System of Innovation
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAU	Pan African University
PPP	Public and Private Partnership
PRIDA	Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa
R&D	Research and Development
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGCI	Science Granting Councils Initiative
STC-EST	Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
STISA	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
STYIP	Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan
TA	Technology Assessment
TB	Tuberculosis
TF	Technology Foresight
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
TWAS	Academy of Science for Developing Countries
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. OVERVIEW OF STISA 2034

On 7 November 2024, the African Union's STC-EST adopted the STISA 2034 as the second iteration of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa. The strategy was endorsed by the AU Executive Council at the AU Summit of February 2025. It is a ten-year continental framework for promoting the application of STI for the attainment of Africa's aspirations under Agenda 2063 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). STISA 2034 is aligned with the STYIP of Agenda 2063 and other AU sectoral policy frameworks.

STISA 2034's vision is "An integrated, prosperous, peaceful Africa where science, technology, and innovation are the drivers of sustainable socio-economic development". Its mission is "To harness the transformative power of science, technology, and innovation in accelerating Africa's transition into a knowledge-based and innovation-driven continent". Specific objectives of the strategy are to:

1. *Promote social well-being and economic competitiveness through fostering innovation, knowledge sharing and scientific collaboration.*
2. *Add value to local and indigenous knowledge for industrial development, entrepreneurship, and job creation.*
3. *Develop human resources in STEM and TVET to enhance infrastructure, institutions and policies, and foster funding, investment and partnerships in STI.*
4. *Engage and empower African youths and women in STI-driven entrepreneurship, particularly in the creation of technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises.*
5. *Strengthen continental STI governance through mobilization and coordination of STI stakeholders.*
6. *Promote and advocate for increased public, private and people partnership (PPPP) and investment in STI.*
7. *Enhance science literacy and build a culture of science in Africa.*

Five sectoral priorities are outlined in the strategy. These are Agriculture (attainment of food and nutritional security), Health (strengthening health systems and health emergency preparedness) Information and Communications Technologies (ICT, expanding digital connectivity, reducing the digital divide and fostering advanced digital skills), Energy (promoting access to affordable clean energy); and Environment (tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity).

Six cross-cutting strategic priorities form a core part of STISA 2034. These are: (a) accelerating sustainable and inclusive industrialization through the application of STI, (b) strengthening human capital and infrastructure, (c) building capabilities for frontier and emerging technologies, (d) enhancing science diplomacy and international partnerships, (e) promoting private sector engagement in research and innovation, and (f) addressing youth and gender inequities in research and innovation. These strategic priorities are key to the attainment of the sectoral priorities and the overall objectives of STISA 2034.

STISA 2034's implementation will be spearheaded by the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD in close collaboration with AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), academia, research institutions, the private sector, African diaspora, international partners and other relevant stakeholders. Each of these stakeholders will play a pivotal role in the implementation of actions, including research and innovation, policy formulation, technological innovation, resource mobilization, and knowledge exchange.

A coherent well-sequenced plan of action (or interventions) is required to implement STISA 2034. The rest of the plan describes specific strategic interventions and investments that will be undertaken by AU member states, development partners and other stakeholders over the next decade. It outlines implementation modalities, governance and management, resource mobilization and costing, and communication and outreach, to realize STISA 2034's objectives. The interventions are clustered under each of the sectoral and cross-cutting strategic priorities. For each intervention, expected outcomes and responsible implementing institutions have been identified.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The overall objective of this implementation plan is to give practical expression to STISA 2034. Its specific objectives are to:

i. Translate the priorities of STISA 2034 into actionable, high-impact programs and projects that address Africa's key developmental challenges.
ii. Promote the mobilization of resources (human, financial and infrastructural) for the implementation of STISA 2034.
iii. Strengthen governance systems for effective coordination among AU Member States, regional bodies, AU entities and partners.
iv. Develop inclusive institutional and technical capacities for effective implementation of STISA 2034.
v. Develop and use agile tools to respond to emerging opportunities, risks, and technological advancements.
vi. Develop and implement rigorous monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) mechanisms to track progress, derive insights, and replicate proven models across the continent.

3. STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

This section outlines the strategic interventions and investments needed to achieve the objectives of STISA 2034. It highlights key actions, expected results, and indicators of progress. It also identifies the organizations responsible for implementing major projects and programs across the five sectoral priorities and six cross-cutting priorities.

3.1 SECTORAL PRIORITIES AND INTERVENTIONS

A. Sectoral Priority 1: Agriculture (Food and Nutritional Security)

The overall goal of this sectoral priority is to harness STI to increase Africa's agricultural productivity to attain food and nutritional security. The following indicative interventions (initiatives) will be made:

1. Strengthen networks and centres of excellence (such as the AUDA-NEPAD African biosciences networks and Centre of Excellence in STI) in agricultural research (R&D) and innovation to develop vaccines and diagnostic tools to combat livestock diseases and enhance crop protection against diseases, pests and weeds.
2. Promote the development and adoption of technologies (innovations) for tree breeding, crop protection and climate-smart agriculture to increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest food loss and build climate-resilient agri-food systems.
3. Conduct technology assessments and foresights to identify and promote the development and deployment of frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones and genomics in agriculture and food production systems.
4. Promote the use of precision farming technologies such as drones for optimization of farming processes.
5. Promote the development and use of geolocation and mapping services to monitor resource management, increase conservation agriculture and water management.
6. Promote the development and use of blockchain-based traceability to improve food safety and nutrition security.
7. Support capacity building of smallholder farmers to adopt new technologies such as drones, AI and genomics through on-farm trials and extension services.
8. Promote digital agriculture strategies to manage farm operations, assure food safety, and facilitate integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs).

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. World-class continental networks (and centres) of excellence in agricultural research and innovation established, and Africa's scientific capacity and innovation in agriculture and livestock vaccines and diagnostic tools enhanced.
2. Breeding, pest and disease management and climate-smart food production increased (or enhanced) and post-harvest food loss reduced.
3. Africa's capacities enhanced, to plan and deploy frontier technologies (and related scientific knowledge) in agriculture, fisheries and agroforestry.
4. Increased capacities of smallholder farmers to adopt and use frontier technologies such as drones and AI, including new varieties, hybrids, GMOs, irrigation as well as the application of a new brand of pesticides or herbicides.
5. Technologies developed (proof of concept) and/or applied (i.e. commercialized) for agro-processing as a means of increasing the value derived from local 'manufacturing'
6. Increased value from agricultural/food exports and therefore increased Agriculture as a component of GDP.
7. The Agricultural Insurance Framework of 2022 to provide affordable insurance to farmers concluded.

Indicators (of performance/achievement)

1. Number and quality of African-produced (and/or co-published through international partnerships) research publications and patents.
2. Number of African-owned (and/or jointly owned through international partnerships) patents on agricultural (food) technologies (products and processes).
3. Number and quality of climate-smart crop varieties, fisheries, livestock breeds, and agroforestry varieties developed and commercialised by African institutions and companies.
4. Number of enterprises (or industries) and research institutes deploying (or specializing in) frontier technologies in food and agricultural production. (Number of agricultural businesses involved in adoption of advanced ICTs (Precision Agriculture, Air and Soil sensors, Smart Plant/animal breeding, Drones/Robotics, AI, Block chain technologies, other).
5. Percentage (population) of African smallholder farmers using frontier technologies such as drones and AI.
6. Number of agricultural businesses actively involved in innovation activities and those that did not engage in any innovation activity.
7. Innovation-active firms by Geographic Export Markets.
8. Percentage of GDP based on agricultural/food exports.

B. Sectoral Priority 2: Health (Strengthening Health Systems and Emergency Preparedness)

The overall objective of this sectoral priority is to strengthen Africa's health systems and their preparedness for emergencies, particularly epidemics and pandemics, through research and innovation. The following indicative interventions (initiatives) will be undertaken:

1. Establish a Pan-African network (platform) for health genomics and proteomics research and innovation (including capacity building for AI in health) for epidemic and pandemic preparedness under the auspices of the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC), as well as medicines regulation through African Medicines Agency (AMA).
2. Encourage AU member states to develop national digital health systems based on WHO (and Africa CDC) guidelines.
3. Strengthen Africa's participation in international programs for health emergency surveillance and preparedness, leveraging partnerships such as the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, and BRICS biotechnology and G20 STI platforms, as well as multilateral and bilateral STI collaborations around the world.
4. Conduct technology foresight and assessments to identify future promising technologies for public health security, with emphasis on promoting social protection to achieve universal access to health and social services in Africa.
5. Development of traditional knowledge in health products, cosmeceuticals and nutraceuticals, and mainstreaming of such into products that become more readily accessible via pharmacies and health shops.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. An accumulated rich body of scientific knowledge (information) and innovations for fighting viral (communicable) diseases and the emergence of pandemics and epidemics.
2. Strengthened national digital health systems.
3. Africa's participation in long-term international health research and innovation partnerships strengthened.
4. Africa's capacity to anticipate and plan for investment in frontier health technologies strengthened.
5. Increased level of public procurement of publicly funded locally developed technologies.

Indicators (of performance/achievement)

1. AU (ACDC) network for health genomics and proteomics research and innovation established and well-resourced.
2. Percentage change of scientific publications on patents for human genomes, diagnostics and other medical products. % increase in the number of local manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.
3. Number of countries with functioning (and well-funded) digital health systems based on WHO (and ACDC) criteria.
4. % of national health budgets dedicated to health research and innovation.
5. Number of PPP devoted to health RDI.
6. Number of health-related innovations developed (& adopted) such as vaccines and diagnostics.
7. Number of Member States with a policy on procurement for innovation - publicly funded technologies newly introduced into public health, public education, local government service delivery, and safety and security (police and defence).
8. % increase in the local manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.

C. Sectoral Priority 3: Information and Communication Technologies (Expanding Digital Connectivity, Reducing the Digital Divide and Fostering Digital Skills)

The overall objective of this sectoral priority is to bridge the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world and within the continent by building skills and infrastructure for easy access and use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). The following indicative interventions (initiatives) will be undertaken:

1. Create incentives (and provide technical support to) for AU Member States to invest (or increase investments) in research and innovation to develop locally embedded cybersecurity systems.
2. Promote digital transformation of African research and innovation ecosystems, including strengthening the use of frontier and emerging technologies such as AI and quantum science in scientific research.
3. Promote capacity building in Africa on governance, policy and regulation of the telecommunications industry.
4. Establish a comprehensive digital platform for the MSME ecosystem and promote widespread uptake of digital payment technologies among MSMEs.
5. Promote ethical and equitable access to digital tools, data, infrastructure and skills development, focusing on marginalized and underdeveloped regions.
6. Promote ICT entrepreneurship and innovation by supporting digital hubs for African youth and women as well as investing in digital identity and payments, expanding access to affordable broadband, and increasing training for young people in digital skills.
7. Support the integration of digital learning platforms and open educational resources into national STEM curricula, particularly in underserved areas.

To accelerate equitable digital transformation, Member States are encouraged to invest in open and interoperable digital public infrastructure (DPI). Such infrastructure includes foundational components like digital identity systems, secure data exchange layers and digital payments that enable trusted digital transactions and effective service delivery across sectors. In sectors like health and education, these DPI components underpin interoperable learning management systems, digital libraries, assessment platforms and data dashboards, while safeguarding privacy and promoting ethical data use.

Expected outputs and outcomes are:

1. AU member states have established strong or effective cybersecurity systems.
2. Strengthened (or enhanced) digitalization of research systems, and increased use of frontier and emerging technological solutions for scientific research and innovation activities.
3. Strengthened active participation of African researchers and innovators in Open Science activities.
4. Development of Digital Skills to respond to the demand and supply – key area of focus: AI, Cloud computing, and coding.
5. Reduced digital divide within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world, along with increased digital transformation on the entire continent.
6. Increased effort in producing strong components of science, technology, engineering, arts, innovation and entrepreneurship (STEAMIE) foundations for digital and future skills at the basic education and post-school education phases.

Indicators (of achievement or performance):

1. Number of African countries with advanced digital connectivity infrastructure such as 5G or 6G.
2. Number of Member States implementing the AU Protocol on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection.
3. Number of research centres (institutes) with functional frontier and emerging technology systems driven by AI and advanced computing technologies.
4. Percentage increase in internet penetration rate across African countries.
5. Improvement (percentage) in national, regional, or continental assessments of digital literacy among learners.

D. Sectoral Priority 4: Energy (Promoting Access to Affordable Clean Energy, steering an African Just Energy Transition)

The overall objective of this sectoral priority is to develop and promote innovations (and innovation pathways) for an African Just Energy Transition (A-JET), and fast-track the adoption of affordable renewable energy technologies. The following indicative interventions (initiatives) will be undertaken:

1. Conduct technology assessments (TAs) to determine social, economic and environmental benefits and risks of green hydrogen technologies (or green hydrogen production systems).
2. Establish a Pan-African network (of existing centres) of excellence in renewable energy research and innovation.
3. Conduct a continental foresight in energy research and innovation to map out and plan investments in frontier energy technologies for A-JET.
4. Encourage AU member states to establish national clean energy development hubs.
5. Strengthen Africa's participation in international energy research and innovation programs under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda (green transitions) and the G20 energy platforms.
6. Support the development of technical capacity, particularly skills and infrastructures, for manufacturing, installing, operating and maintaining energy systems.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. The African continent is energy secure – its citizens having access to affordable, clean energy.
2. Enhanced commercialization of and competitiveness in green hydrogen (and related production technologies).
3. Africa's energy research and innovation performance enhanced.

Indicators (of achievement or performance):

1. Percentage of the continent's population accessing clean, sustainable energy.
2. Number of African (and joint with non-African partners) energy patents.
3. Number of centres of excellence in energy.

E. Sectoral Priority 5: Environment (Tackling Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Water Scarcity)

The overall objective of this sectoral priority is to harness and steer STI for environmental sustainability, fast-tracking the development, diffusion and adoption of technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as the restoration of biodiversity and conservation of water resources. The following indicative interventions (initiatives) will be undertaken:

1. Establish a pan African network of excellence in research and innovation on climate mitigation and adaptation, and promote partnerships between the proposed network and climate research centres in EU and G20 countries.
2. Develop science-informed disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience strategies for priority sectors using AI, geospatial tools, and risk modelling for early warning and emergency preparedness.
3. Strengthen the AU/AUDA-NEPAD network of centres of excellence in water science and technologies and promote partnerships between the network and other centres for water research.
4. Establish a Pan African (AU) gene bank and/or a network of national and regional gene banks to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
5. Promote ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions through STI pilots in ecological hotspots.
6. Integrate indigenous and local knowledge systems in climate adaptation, biodiversity governance, and water conservation strategies.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. Africa's resilience to climate change enhanced, and its CO_2 emissions reduced.
2. Functional network in research and innovation on climate mitigation and adaptation secretariat established and operational.
3. Africa's capacities for early warning and emergency preparedness enhanced.
4. National, Regional, and Continental emergency preparedness guidelines updated with science-based inputs.
5. Increased deployment of frontier technologies such as nano-technologies and bioinformatics in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and water resources.
6. Standardised protocols for biodiversity conservation adopted across the network.
7. Community participation frameworks in adaptation projects established.

Indicators (of achievement or performance):

1. Percentage reduction in CO_2 emissions per capita compared to the baseline year.
2. Number of new research and innovation projects (on climate change, biodiversity and water resources) developed.
3. Number of operational early warning systems across member states.
4. Percentage of member states with updated DRR and preparedness guidelines aligned to latest scientific evidence.
5. Number of countries or institutions adopting harmonised biodiversity conservation protocols.
6. Percentage of national policies integrating indigenous knowledge for environmental governance.
7. Number of adaptation projects with documented community participation frameworks.

Table 1 below summarizes strategic interventions (initiatives) and expected outputs and outcomes as well as indicators of achievements for the sectoral priorities in STISA 2034.

Table 1: Interventions and Expected Outcomes of Sectorial Priorities

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines	Responsible
Agriculture (Food and Nutritional Security)	Harness STI to increase agricultural productivity and achieve food security.	Strengthen networks and centres of excellence (such as the AUDA-NEPAD African biosciences networks and Centre of Excellence in STI) in agricultural research (R&D) and innovation to develop vaccines and diagnostic tools to combat livestock diseases and enhance crop protection against diseases, pests and weeds.	World-class continental networks (and centres) of excellence in agricultural research and innovation established and Africa's scientific capacity and innovation in agriculture and livestock vaccines and diagnostic tools enhanced.	Short-Term Long-Term	Member States, AU Bodies, Development Partners and RECs, associations of agriculture industries, Academy of Sciences, Association of African Universities, Research Institutions
		Promote the development and adoption of technologies (innovations) for tree breeding, crop protection and climate-smart agriculture to increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest food loss and build climate resilient agri-food systems.	Breeding, pest and disease management and climate-smart food production increased (or enhanced) and post-harvest food loss reduced.		
		Conduct technology assessments and foresights to identify and promote the development and deployment of frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones and genomics in agriculture and food production systems.	Africa's capacities enhanced to plan and deploy frontier technologies (and related scientific knowledge) in agriculture, fisheries and agroforestry.		
		Promote the use of precision farming technologies such as drones for optimization of farming processes.	Increased capacities of smallholder farmers to adopt and use frontier technologies such as drones and AI, including new varieties, hybrids, GMOs being used, irrigation as well as the application of a new brand of pesticide or herbicide.		
		Promote the development and use of geolocation and mapping services to monitor resource management, increase conservation agriculture and water management.	Technologies developed (proof of concept) and/or applied (i.e. commercialized) for agro-processing as a means of increasing the value derived from local 'manufacturing'		
		Promote the development and use of blockchain-based traceability to improve food safety and nutrition security.	Increased value from agricultural/food exports and therefore increased Agriculture as a component of GDP		
		Support capacity building of smallholder farmers to adopt new technologies such as drones, AI and genomics through on-farm trials and extension services.	Technologies developed (proof of concept) and/or applied (i.e. commercialized) for agro-processing as a means of increasing the value derived from local 'manufacturing		
		Promote digital agriculture strategies to manage farm operations, assurance on food safety and facilitate integration into GVCs.	Conclude the Agricultural Insurance Framework of 2022 to provide affordable insurance to farmers.		

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines	Responsible
Health (Strengthening Health Systems)	Strengthen health systems and emergency preparedness through R&D.	Establish a Pan-African health genomics/ proteomics network under Africa CDC.	Scientific knowledge for pandemic preparedness.	Short-Term Long-Term	Member States, AU Bodies, Development Partners and RECs, associations of agriculture industries, Academy of Sciences, Association of African Universities, Research Institutions
		Develop national digital health systems.	Functional national digital health systems.		
		Strengthen participation in AU-EU/G20 health partnerships.	Stronger international health partnerships.		
		Conduct foresight on future health technologies.	Increase the level of public procurement of publicly funded locally developed technologies.		
ICT (Frontier and Emerging Technologies, Digital Connectivity & Skills)	Bridge the digital divide through infrastructure and skills development.	Create incentives (and provide technical support to) for AU Member States to invest (or increase investments) in research and innovation to develop locally embedded cybersecurity systems.	AU member states have established strong or effective cybersecurity systems.	Short-Term Long-Term	Member States, AU Bodies, Development Partners and RECs, associations of agriculture industries, Academy of Sciences, Association of African Universities, Research Institutions
		Promote digital transformation of African research and innovation ecosystems, including strengthening the use of frontier and emerging technologies such as AI and quantum science in scientific research.	Strengthened (or enhanced) digitalization of research systems, and increased use of frontier and emerging technological solutions for scientific research and innovation activities.		
		Promote capacity building in Africa on governance, policy and regulation of the telecommunications industry.	Strengthened active participation of African researchers and innovators in Open Science activities.		
		Establish a comprehensive digital platform for the MSME ecosystem and promote widespread uptake of digital payment technologies among MSMEs.	Reduced digital divide within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world, along with increased digital transformation on the entire continent.		
		Promote ethical and equitable access to digital tools, data, infrastructure and skills development, focusing on marginalized and underdeveloped regions.			
		Promote ICT entrepreneurship and innovation by supporting digital hubs for African youth and women as well as investing in digital identity and payments, expanding access to affordable broadband, and increasing training for young people in digital skills.	Development of Digital Skills to respond to the demand and supply – key area of focus: AI, Cloud computing, and coding.		
		Support the integration of digital learning platforms and open educational resources into national STEM curricula, particularly in underserved areas.	Increased effort in producing strong components of arts, innovation and entrepreneurship (STEAMIE) foundations for digital and future skills at the basic education and post-school education phases.		

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines	Responsible
Energy (Affordable Clean Energy Transition)	Fast-track renewable energy adoption for a Just Energy Transition.	Assess green hydrogen technologies.	Energy security and green hydrogen commercialization.	Short-Term Long-Term	Member States, AU Bodies, Development Partners and RECs, associations of agriculture industries, Academy of Sciences, Association of African Universities, Research Institutions
		Establish a Pan-African renewable energy network.	Enhanced energy R&D performance.		
		Conduct foresight on frontier energy technologies.	Enhanced commercialization of and competitiveness in green hydrogen (and related production technologies).		
		Create national clean energy hubs.	The African continent is energy secure, as its citizens have access to affordable clean energy.		
		Establish a Centre of Excellence.	Africa's energy research and innovation performance enhanced.		
Environment (Climate, Biodiversity, Water)	Promote environmental sustainability through climate and biodiversity solutions.	Establish a pan African network of excellence in research and innovation on climate mitigation and adaptation and promote partnerships between the proposed network and climate research centres in EU and G20 countries.	Africa's resilience to climate change enhanced, and its CO2 emissions reduced.	Short-Term Long-Term	Member States, AU Bodies, Development Partners and RECs, associations of agriculture and climate, Academy of Sciences, Association of African Universities, Research Institutions
		Develop science-informed disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience strategies for priority sectors using AI, geospatial tools, and risk modelling for or early warning and emergence preparedness.	Functional network in research and innovation on climate mitigation and adaptation secretariat established and operational.		
		Strengthen the AU/AUDA-NEPAD network of centres of excellence in water science and technologies and promote partnerships between the network and other centres for water research.	Africa's capacities for early warning and emergency preparedness enhanced.		
		Establish a Pan African (AU) gene bank and/or a network of national and regional gene banks to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	National/Regional/Continental emergency preparedness guidelines updated with science-based inputs.		
		Promote ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions through STI pilots in ecological hotspots.	Increased deployment of frontier technologies such as nano-technologies and bioinformatics in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and water resources.		
		Integrate indigenous and local knowledge systems in climate adaptation, biodiversity governance, and water conservation strategies.	Standardised protocols for biodiversity conservation adopted across the network. Community participation frameworks in adaptation projects established.		

3.2 STRATEGIC (CROSS-CUTTING) PRIORITIES AND INTERVENTIONS

This section outlines indicative interventions (actions or activities) and expected outcomes, as well as key indicators for tracking the implementation of each of the six strategic (cross-cutting) priorities of STISA 2034. It also provides an indicative list of institutions responsible for the implementation of clustered activities (particularly flagship programs and projects).

The implementation of STISA-2034 will be strengthened by the adoption of integrated DPI governance frameworks. In line with recent G20 guidelines on DPI governance and the DPI public-value measurement framework, Member States are encouraged to develop national DPI policies that ensure interoperability, openness and inclusivity. These frameworks should guide digital investments in education, health, agriculture and other sectors, ensuring that digital systems contribute to national development objectives and uphold human rights principles.

A. Strategic (Cross-Cutting) Priority 1: STI for Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialization.

The following interventions (initiatives) will be implemented to promote sustainable and inclusive industrialization:

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of investments (financial flows to) in digitization, STI, industrial R&D, as well as open science and encourage AU Member States to establish funding mechanisms for research and innovation to advance STI and spur industrialization.
2. Develop guidelines and provide technical support to AU Member States to mainstream gender, youth, environmental and geographic considerations into their national strategies for STI and innovation-led industrialization.
3. AU Member States will promote private sector investment in R&D and innovation for industrialization.
4. Conduct technology foresight and assessments (focusing on frontier and emerging technologies) for innovation-led industrialization of Africa.
5. Harmonize technical and quality standards of industrial products (and processes) to enhance the continent's global competitiveness.
6. Promote agriculture-led industrialization initiatives such as agro-processing and value chain development.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. Percentage of GDP allocated to R&D.
2. Number of women and youth engaged in STI.
3. Share of high-tech products in exports.
4. Number of new jobs created (particularly in or by manufacturing SMEs).
5. Percentage change in the number of STI-based start-ups and enterprises (public vs private level).

Indicators (of achievement or performance):

1. Percentage of GDP allocated to R&D.
2. Number of women and youth engaged in STI.
3. Share of high-tech products in exports.
4. Number of new jobs created (particularly in or by manufacturing SMEs).
5. Percentage change in number of STI based start-ups and enterprises (public vs private level)

B. Strategic (Cross-Cutting) Priority 2: Building human capital (including skills) and infrastructure for research and innovation

The following interventions (initiatives) will be implemented to build human capital and infrastructure for research and innovation:

1. AU Member States will establish programs and allocate funding for training of personnel in R&D and innovation, including in basic sciences and engineering disciplines, with a focus on inclusive STEM education and transdisciplinary skills relevant to national and regional development, with emphasis on topical issues such as transdisciplinary research management, research and innovation impact assessment.
2. Conduct assessments of transnational and continental research infrastructures and develop plans for maintaining and upgrading such infrastructures.
3. Support regional collaboration and remote access to research infrastructure, especially for countries with limited scientific instrumentation.
4. Establish a continental network (or centre) of excellence in multi-disciplinary research on frontier and emerging technologies for sustainable development.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. Increased skilled personnel for research and innovation management.
2. Enhanced science literacy and a culture of innovation.
3. World-class infrastructure for research and innovation established on the continent.
4. Africa's capacities to use frontier and emerging technologies for research and innovation strengthened.

Indicators (of achievement or performance):

1. Percentage change in R&D funding for STI skills and education.
2. Number of personnel trained in research and innovation management.

3. Percentage of the population with basic innovation/ entrepreneurial skills.
4. Number of research institutes with laboratories (or infrastructure) meeting international standards.
5. Number of new research institutes.

C. Strategic (Cross-Cutting) Priority 3: Building Africa's Capabilities in Frontier and Emerging Technologies

The following interventions (initiatives) will be implemented to strengthen Africa's capacities for engagement with and governance of frontier and emerging technologies:

1. Develop a programme for capacity building in technology foresight (TF) and technology assessment (TA) to support the formulation and implementation of evidence-based STI policies and innovation strategies.
2. Establish a Pan African network for technology assessment and foresight to mobilize and use expertise for long-term STI planning and policymaking.
3. Encourage (by advocacy and awareness raising) AU Member States to institutionalize TA and TF in their STI policy processes, participate in the Global Technology Assessment Network as well as international TF programs.
4. Harmonize and institutionalize robust AU guidelines and regulatory frameworks to promote effective governance of frontier and emerging technologies.
5. AU Member States to increase investments in frontier technology start-ups and establish innovation hubs to nurture such enterprises.
6. Support the development of infrastructure for and increase investment in frontier and emerging technologies across Africa.
7. Institutionalize an Annual Presidential AI & Robotics Competition at continental level to stimulate innovation, skills development, and youth participation in frontier and emerging technologies, with a focus on artificial intelligence, robotics, data science, and related digital and deep-tech domains. The competition will serve as a flagship implementation mechanism for STISA-2034, linking talent development to real-world problem-solving aligned with Agenda 2063 priorities, and fostering collaboration between governments, academia, industry, and innovation hubs.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. Strengthened continental and national capacity to design and implement (conduct) TA and TF.
2. Increased participation in the Global Technology Assessment Network and international TA and TF programs.
3. Increased innovation performance and competitiveness of African tech start-ups, and increased number of new jobs created by and for the youth.
4. Increased infrastructure development, investment and innovations focused on frontier and emerging technologies.
5. Strengthened pipeline of African youth innovators and start-ups in AI, robotics, and related frontier technologies, linked to national and continental innovation ecosystems.
6. Enhanced visibility and political commitment to frontier and emerging technologies through high-level leadership and recognition mechanisms.

Indicators (of performance or achievement):

1. Number of countries with national strategies for emerging and frontier technologies.
2. Number of persons (institutions) trained in TA and TF.
3. Number of African institutions (members) in Global TA networks/programs.
4. Investments in frontier technology start-ups and the establishment of innovation hubs.
5. Number of infrastructure developments in frontier and emerging technologies.
6. Number of Presidential AI & Robotics competitions held and number of participating countries, institutions, and youth innovators.
7. Number of innovations, start-ups, or pilot solutions emerging from the competition integrated into national or regional innovation programmes.

D. Strategic (Cross-Cutting) Priority 4: Strengthening Science Diplomacy and Partnerships in STI

The following interventions (initiatives) will be implemented to strengthen Africa's capacities for science diplomacy and STI partnerships:

1. Develop guidelines and policy briefs that AU Member States may use to develop national, sub-regional and regional science diplomacy strategies, including the establishment of offices of science and innovation attaches.
2. Organize briefing sessions for members of parliament and national executives to provide rationales for investment in science diplomacy initiatives, including the S&I attaché offices.
3. Design curricula and offer short executive courses on science diplomacy for scientists and for government officials in STI and foreign affairs ministries or departments.
4. Develop awareness-raising materials and organize forums to popularize current enduring STI partnerships (e.g. AU-EU Innovation Agenda and G20 STI platforms).
5. Reinforce the African open science platform and policy framework to democratize scientific knowledge, promote data interoperability, and accelerate collaborative research in line with the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. National, regional and sub-regional science diplomacy strategies.
2. Enhanced African capacity for participation in international STI programs/forums.
3. Increased technology and knowledge flows into Africa.
4. Enhanced STI partnerships between Africa and other regions (e.g. EU, Asia, and Latin America).

5. Increased knowledge exchange within Africa and between the continent and other regions.

Indicators (of performance or achievement):

1. Number of African officials, scientists and attaches trained (or course participants) in science diplomacy.
2. Number of Member States with open science policies and platforms.
3. Number of Member States with science diplomacy strategies.
4. Percentage increase in researcher mobility linked to scientific agreements and participation in global STI forums.
5. Percentage change in the number of bilateral and multilateral STI agreements signed.

E. Strategic (Cross-cutting) Priority 5: Promoting Private Sector Engagement in Research and Innovation (or STI)

The following interventions (initiatives) will be implemented to promote private sector engagement in research and innovation (or STI):

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of policy and legal instruments (e.g. fiscal and legal incentives) to produce guidelines that AU Member States may use to strengthen the triple helix (academia, government and industry) in research and innovation.
2. Develop programs for commercialisation of outputs of research.
3. Establish national, regional and Pan-African platforms for private-public sector dialogues on STI.
4. Establish a network of existing public technology innovation agencies to effectively engage the private sector and mobilize funds for innovation.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. Improved policy and regulatory conditions for the private sector to actively participate in the funding and conduct of research and innovation.
2. Strengthened collaborations among academic, public, private sectors and citizens, in research and innovation activities in Africa.
3. Enhanced public and private sector interactions/networking in national systems of innovation.
4. Commercialisation of research output.

Indicators (of performance or achievement):

1. Number of AU Member States with policies for private sector involvement in R&D.
2. Share of the private sector's R&D funding (Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD)).
3. Government Budget for Scientific and Technological Activities total and by Socio-economic objectives (SEOs).
4. Number of incentives/instruments to increase BERD/GERD.
5. Number of STI partnerships and partnership-based projects developed.
6. Number of STI partnerships between AU Member States and the private sector, with a joint investment level of beyond $10M.
7. Number of public-private dialogues (national, regional, and pan-African) convened on R&D funding and financing.
8. Number of patents generated for joint private-public innovation activities. Number of joint intellectual property (IP), products, and technologies developed with the private sector.
9. Number of AU Member State-led strategic programmes aimed at catalysing venture capital investment to support innovation.

F. Strategic (Cross-Cutting) Priority 6: Addressing Youth Unemployment and Gender Inequalities

The following interventions (initiatives) will be implemented to harness STI in addressing challenges of youth unemployment and gender inequalities:

1. Promote research and technology development to address gender inequalities in the health, energy and agriculture sectors.
2. Develop methodologies and tools to help Member States design gender-transformative STI policies and programs, with mechanisms for monitoring impact.
3. AU Member States will establish and/or increase funding dedicated to the promotion of women and youth engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
4. Establish programs for mentorship of youth and championing women's roles in STEM.
5. Establish inclusive innovation hubs and incubators to support youth- and women-led start-ups and scale-ups in priority STI sectors, providing training, mentorship, and access to finance. E.g. *Youth Agripreneurship and Innovation Ecosystems*

Expected outputs and outcomes:

1. Increased number of African countries with national and institutional policies promoting gender equality in STI.
2. Increased participation of women in development sectors such as health, energy and agriculture.
3. Gender empowering technologies developed.
4. Increased youth and women's active engagement in STEM.
5. New jobs created for youth and women in TVET.

Indicators (of performance or achievement):

1. Percentage of women and youth population in STEM and TVET programs and projects.
2. Number of patents owned by youth and women.
3. Number of tech start-ups owned by youth and women.

Table 2 below summarizes interventions (initiatives) and expected outcomes, as well as indicators of achievements for the six cross-cutting strategic priorities of STISA 2034.

Table 2: Interventions and Expected Outcomes of Strategic (Cross-Cutting) Priorities

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines (Short-Medium & LongTerm)	Responsible
STI for Accelerating Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialization	Increase R&D and innovation expenditure.	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of investments (financial flows to) in digitization, STI, industrial R&D as well as open science, and encourage AU Member States to establish funding mechanisms for research and innovation to advance STI and spur industrialization. Develop guidelines and provide technical support to AU Member States to mainstream gender, youth, environmental and geographic considerations into their national strategies for STI and innovation-led industrialization. AU Member States will promote private sector investment in R&D and innovation for industrialization.	Increased national investments in R&D and innovation-led industrialization. Increased participation of African women and youth in R&D and innovation-led industrialization activities.	Medium-Long	Member States, AU Bodies (AUDA NEPAD, AUC & AfCFTA Secretariat), Development Partners and RECs, associations of industries, Academy of Sciences, Association of African Universities, Research Institutions.
	Enforce standards, quality assurance, and strengthen continental intellectual property governance to protect and facilitate innovation.	Conduct technology foresight and assessments (focusing on frontier and emerging technologies) for innovation-led industrialization of Africa. Harmonize technical and quality standards of industrial products (and processes) to enhance the continent's global competitiveness.	Enhanced capacity for strategic planning (including priority setting) of R&D and innovation targeting AU and national industrialization goals and targets.	Short-Medium	Member States, AU Organs, WIPO, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) and RECs, Regional and International Partners.
	Strengthen technical capabilities in emerging technologies and deep technologies and computational sciences for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and beyond, including AI, robotics, IoT, automation, and smart manufacturing, to optimize productivity.	Promote agriculture-led industrialization initiatives such as agro-processing and value chain development.	Africa's global competitiveness in industrial production, agro-processing and export of products enhanced.	Medium-Long	Member States, AU Organs, AfCFTA. Development Agencies, Specialised Offices and RECs, Regional and International Partners.

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines (Short-Medium & LongTerm)	Responsible
Building Human Capital, Infrastructure and Skills	Boost funding support for skills development in R&D and innovation.	AU Member States will establish programs and allocate funding for training of personnel in R&D and innovation, including in basic sciences and engineering disciplines, with a focus on inclusive STEM education and transdisciplinary skills relevant to national and regional development, with emphasis on topical issues such as transdisciplinary research management, research and innovation impact assessment. Conduct assessments of transnational and continental research infrastructures and develop plans for maintaining and upgrading such infrastructures.	More skilled R&D and innovation personnel New jobs and industries created through entrepreneurship	Short-Long	AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, Member States, Regional partners, International, bilateral and multilateral partners, African Tertiary education institutions.
	Modernize research infrastructure by upgrading outdated facilities and developing new ones in cutting-edge scientific fields and technologies.	Support regional collaboration and remote access to research infrastructure, especially for countries with limited scientific instrumentation.	Improved research infrastructure for increased scientific productivity and innovativeness.	Short-Long	Regional Innovation and Industrial Hubs; CoE and CoS.
	Enhance STEM education and science literacy across the continent.	Establish a continental network (or centre) of excellence in multi-disciplinary research on frontier and emerging technologies for sustainable development.	Increased skills in STEM	2026-2034	Association of Universities (including academies of science, Association of Industries.

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines (Short-Medium & LongTerm)	Responsible
Building African Capabilities in Frontier and Emerging Technologies	Build capabilities for data collection and conducting technology foresight and technology assessment to inform decision-making, including setting priorities on frontier and emerging technologies.	Establish and operationalize programs to enhance the capabilities of specialized centres for advanced research and training in scientific and technological fields.	Enhanced quality of advanced research and training centres, Transformed Africa's scientific and technological ecosystems.	Medium-Long	AU Member States (Lead), AU Agencies, Development Partners, Academia and Private Sector.
	Develop flagship programs and centres of excellence dedicated to priority frontier and emerging technologies.	Design and implement targeted capacity-building initiatives to upskill the workforce in emerging and frontier technologies.	Increased workforce competence in emerging and frontier technologies.	Short-Medium	Private Sector and Academia (Co-Lead), AU Member States, AU Agencies and Development Partners.
		Develop comprehensive curricula and deliver specialized training on technology foresight and assessments to support evidence-based decision-making and innovation strategies.	Strengthened African capacity for technology foresight and assessments.	Short-Medium	Private Sector and Academia (Co-Lead), AU Member States, AU Agencies and Development Partners.
		Invest in and scale entrepreneurship and innovation programs focused on emerging and frontier technologies to drive socio-economic technological transformation.	Increased contributions of entrepreneurial and innovative solutions driving socio-economic growth.	Short-Medium	AU Member States (Lead), Development Partners, AU Agencies, Academia and Private Sector.
		Formulate and institutionalize robust guidelines and regulatory regimes to enable effective governance of frontier and emerging technologies.	An enabling environment for effective governance of frontier and emerging technologies.	Medium-Long	AU Member States (Lead), Development Partners, AU Agencies, Academia and Private Sector.
		Mobilize resources and provide strategic support for flagship programs in frontier and emerging technologies to achieve high-impact outcomes.	Increased employment opportunities for advancements in frontier and emerging technologies.	Medium-Long	AU Member States (Lead), Development Partners, AU Agencies, Academia and Private Sector.
		Engage in strategic collaborations with international organizations and countries to exchange expertise, adopt best practices, and gain access to cutting-edge technologies.	Enhanced collaboration and partnerships.	Short	AU Member States and AU Agencies (Co-Lead), Development Partners, Academia and Private Sector.

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines (Short-Medium & LongTerm)	Responsible
Strengthening Science Diplomacy and Partnerships in STI	Strengthen Africa's voice and participation in international negotiations and policy development processes e.g., on the SDGs and security, by procuring and using science.	Develop guidelines and policy briefs that AU member states may use to develop national, sub-regional and regional science diplomacy strategies, including the establishment of offices of science and innovation attaches.	National, regional and sub-regional science diplomacy strategies.	Short to Medium	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AAS, and other.
	Enhance the continent's abilities to use its diplomatic capacities and partnerships to strengthen its STI ecosystem; and	Organize briefing sessions for members of parliament and the executive to provide rationales for investment in science diplomacy initiatives, including the S&I attaché offices. Design curricula and offer short executive courses on science diplomacy for scientists and for government officials in STI and foreign affairs ministries or departments.	Enhanced African capacity for participation in international STI programs/forums. Increased technology and knowledge flows into Africa.	Short to Medium	AAS, SD Capital, and designated universities.
	Increase and strengthen Research & Innovation partnerships involving African scientists and institutions in international STI programs.	Develop awareness-raising materials and organize forums to popularize current enduring STI partnerships (e.g. AU-EU Innovation Agenda and G20 STI platforms).	Enhanced STI partnerships between Africa and other regions (e.g. EU, Asia, and Latin America).	Short to Long	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AAS, SD Capital.
	Accelerate the transition to open science across the continent.	Reinforce the African open science platform and policy framework to democratize scientific knowledge, promote data interoperability, and accelerate collaborative research in line with the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.	Increased knowledge exchange within Africa and between the continent and other regions.	Short to Medium	

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines (Short-Medium & LongTerm)	Responsible
Private Sector Engagement	Strengthen collaboration between the private sector, government, academia and research institutions.	Conduct a comprehensive review of policy and legal instruments (e.g. fiscal and legal incentives) to produce guidelines that AU Member States may use to strengthen the triple helix (academia, government and industry) in research and innovation.	Enhanced private-public sector and academia collaboration. Commercialisation of research output.	Short to Medium	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and selected think tanks.
	Promote engagement of the private sector in the co-creation of R&D agenda for socioeconomic development.	Develop programs for commercialisation of outputs of research.	Improved policy and regulatory conditions for the private sector to actively participate in the funding and conduct of research and innovation.	Short to Medium	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and African business schools.
	Strengthen and promote innovative private entrepreneurship by facilitating access to financing, knowledge and technology for private companies.	Establish national, regional and pan-African platforms for private-public sector dialogues on STI.	Strengthened collaborations among academia, public and private sectors and citizens, in research and innovation activities in Africa.	Short to Medium	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and African business schools.
		Establish a network of existing public technology innovation agencies to effectively engage the private sector and mobilize funds for innovation.	Enhanced public and private sector interactions/networking in national systems of innovation.	Medium to Long	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and African business schools.
Addressing Youth and Gender Inequalities	Leverage African youth, including those in the diaspora, for scientific development and innovation and promote gender equality in STI.	Promote research and technology development to address gender inequalities in health, energy, agriculture and other sectors.	Improved women and youth empowerment in STEM and TVET. Enhanced African youth participation in innovation activities.	Short-Term Long-Term	AU Organs: AUC, AFRICAN OBSERVATORY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (AOSTI) African Academy of Sciences, AUDA-NEPAD. RECs and Member States: Ministries of Health and Science. Partners: Universities, WHO, UNESCO.
	Increase opportunities for youth, women and vulnerable groups to access STEM education, higher education and technology through scholarships, grants and vocational training programs.	Develop methodologies and tools to help Member States design gender-transformative STI policies and programs, with mechanisms for monitoring impact.	Number of African countries with national and institutional policies promoting gender equality in STI. Increased participation of women in development sectors such as health, energy and agriculture.	Short-Term Long-Term	AU Organs: African Union Commission (AUC), AOSTI, African Women in Science and Engineering, AUDA-NEPAD. RECs and Member States: National education ministries. Partners: NGOs, industry leaders.

Sectoral Priorities	Objectives	Interventions	Expected Outcomes	Timelines (Short-Medium & LongTerm)	Responsible
Addressing Youth and Gender Inequalities	Promote collaboration through youth networks and industry partnerships, supporting research opportunities, and recognizing young researchers.	AU Member States establish and/ or increase funding dedicated to the promotion of women and youth engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).	Gender empowering technologies developed.	Short-Term Long-Term	AU Organs: AUC, African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, AOSTI. RECs and Member States: National research councils. Partners: International award bodies (e.g., L'Oréal-UNESCO).
		Establish programs for mentorship of youth and championing women's roles in STEM.	Increased youth and women active engagement in STEM.	Short-Term Long-Term	AU Organs: AUDA-NEPAD, AUC RECs and Member States: Ministries of Culture, Education, and Science. Partners: Universities, indigenous communities, UNESCO.
		Establish inclusive innovation hubs and incubators to support youth- and women-led start-ups and scale-ups in priority STI sectors, providing training, mentorship, and access to finance. E.g. Youth Agripreneurship and Innovation Ecosystems.	New jobs created for youth and women in TVET.	Short-Term Long-Term	AU Organs: AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, African Women's Decade Secretariat, AU Youth Division. RECs and Member States: Education and technology ministries. Partners: NGOs, international organizations.

4. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

This section outlines modalities, including principles and phases of the implementation of this plan. Differentiated responsibilities of various organizations (stakeholders) in the implementation of the plan are also described.

4.1 PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION

The guiding principles articulated in STISA 2034 will apply to the execution of this plan. First and foremost, emphasis will be placed on building upon progress made and lessons learned in the implementation of STISA2024 as articulated in its Implementation Review report released in 2024. In this regard, the AUC and AUDA NEPAD will undertake a comprehensive inventory (assessment) of all ongoing continental or multi-country STI programs (and projects) that have been developed and implemented under STISA-2024 and the CPA. This helps to identify ways and means of adjusting and strengthening their execution to attain STISA 2034 goals.

AU Member States' collective ownership of the implementation processes and activities for STISA 2034 is of significance. Consequently, relevant bodies of the AU will ensure that this implementation plan is owned by the Member States at various levels of governance. Platforms for active engagement or participation of Member States in the design and execution of projects and programs for interventions outlined in section 3 of this plan will be established at AU, REC and country levels.

In the implementation process, emphasis will be placed on collective actions to generate common and shared public goods for the AU and its people. Member States of the AU will collectively design, invest in and execute programs and projects in the priority areas outlined in this plan. To exploit economies of scale and harness differentiated scientific and technological capabilities across the continent, multi-country programs and projects (initiatives) will be encouraged. Peer mutual learning and STI capacity exchange platforms will enable AU Member States to contribute to building a dynamic African research and innovation ecosystem while at the same time strengthening their national systems of innovation (NSI).

Social inclusion is key to the realization of the objectives of this implementation plan and as such, addressing inequalities in gender and youth is identified among the strategic priorities of STISA 2034. Hence, African women and youth will play a major role in the execution of this plan. Each of the programs and projects to be designed and implemented will meet social inclusion criteria for at least one-third of women and youth involvement. Such criteria will be elaborated and deployed through the MEAL framework described below.

Leveraging partnerships to mobilize knowledge, technology and finances will be strategic to the implementation of this plan. Indeed, enduring partnerships are both a means for and an outcome of implementation. The AUC and AUDA NEPAD as well as Member States will therefore devote resources to strengthen existing and create new partnerships between Africa and other regions (continents) of the world. Bi-regional (e.g. AU-EU Innovation Agenda), multilateral (e.g. AU-G20 STI platforms) and bilateral (e.g. Africa-China, Africa-Japan, and Africa-India) STI partnerships will be leveraged to support the design and execution of interventions outlined in the plan.

Lastly, this plan is a living document and will be adjusted or revised in the context of the changing needs of Member States and generic developments in STI. The successful implementation of STISA 2034 is dependent on the active engagement and collaborative efforts of Member States. Therefore, from the onset, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD will prioritize the involvement of Member States in visibility and domestication initiatives during the various phases of implementation.

4.2 IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

STISA 2034 (through this plan) will be implemented at national, regional, and continental levels in 2 phases of five years each.

4.2.1 PHASE 1 (2025-2029)

Phase 1, beginning in 2025, will focus on the following actions and activities:

1. Raising public awareness of STISA 2034 and building multi-stakeholder ownership of this implementation plan using communication tools described in sections below.
2. Mapping and developing a dashboard of continental, regional and international STI programs (and projects) that contribute to the realization of the goals of STISA 2034.
3. Aligning all existing STI flagship programs of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA: 2005-2014) and STISA-2024 (2015-2024) to STISA 2034 priorities and related STYIP Moonshots.
4. Developing new flagship programs (such as a continental Synchrotron light source) of STISA 2034 guided by the principles outlined above.
5. Operationalization of the African Education, Science and Technology and Innovation Fund (AESTIF) and coordinated resource mobilization as described in the section on resourcing and costing of the plan.

6. Regional and national dissemination, advocacy, domestication and awareness creation with all actors of national and regional innovation ecosystems.
7. Development of detailed and costed programs and/or projects (AU Organs, specialized offices, development agencies, and Regional Economic Communities).

The actions outlined above will be complemented with focus on:

i. Strengthening of all existing STI flagship programs.
ii. Implementation of the flagship programs.
iii. Mid-term review of STISA 2034.

4.2.2 PHASE 2 (2030-2034)

The second phase will begin in 2030 to focus on:

i. Adjustment of the STI flagship programs based on mid-term review report and ending of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
ii. Implementation of new flagship programs.
iii. Final review of STISA 2034.
iv. Preparation of STISA-2044.

The continental-level actions related to the strategic priorities require the development of STI networks and promotion of regional and international cooperation, among others, as specified in the implementation framework outlined in the table that follows.

4.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

ACTIONS	Institutional Level			PHASE ONE (2025-2029)																	
				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	CONT	REG	NAT	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Post "African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation - (AU STC-ESTI)" awareness through the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government championing Education and STI (C10) for endorsement at the AU Assembly (February 2025)	√	√	√																				
2. Regional and National Dissemination, Advocacy, domestication and Awareness Creation with all actors of the national and regional innovation ecosystems		√	√																				
3. Development of a detailed Implementation plan	√	√																					
4. Alignment and synchronisation of all existing STI flagship programmes	√	√	√																				
5. Accelerated Domestication and Regular Stakeholder Consultation in addition to the counting down of the 2030 Agenda		√	√																				
6. Mapping of National Development Plan Priorities and main STI policy pillors and accelerating the development of missing national STI policies			√																				
7. Resource Mobilisation	√	√	√																				

Plan Duration Actual Start % Completed

Actual (beyond plan) % Completed (beyond plan)

	PHASE TWO (2030-2034)																				PLAYERS
	2030				2031				2032				2033				2034				Institutions
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included(, STI stakeholders (UN) and Partners
																					AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs & MS, UNECA
																					AU Organs, specialised offices, development agencies, RECs/MS
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) and STI stakeholders (UN included)
																					AUDA-NEPAD jointly with AUC and development Partners, AfDB and RECs/MS
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) and STI stakeholders (UN included)
																					AUDA-NEPAD jointly with AUC and development Partners, AfDB and RECs/MS

ACTIONS	Institutional Level			PHASE ONE (2025-2029)																			
				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	CONT	REG	NAT	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
8. Development of flagship programmes and alignment with international STI programmes, inclusive of the AU-EU Innovation (2023-2032) priorities and beyong	√	√	√																				
9. Strengthening of all existing STI flagship programmes	√	√	√																				
10. Implementation of new flagship programmes		√	√																				
11. Alignment of International instruments: e.g. Decade of Sciences for Sustainable development, Counting down of STI programmes under SDG (2030 Agenda(, the AU Decade of Education (2024-2033), etc.	√	√	√																				
12. Mid-term review of STISA-2034	√	√	√																				
13. Adjustment of the STI flagship programmes based on mid-term review report and ending of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development	√	√	√																				
14. Implementation of new flagship programmes		√	√																				
15. Final review of STISA-2034	√	√	√																				
16. Preparation of STISA-2044	√	√	√																				
17. Overal Coordination of STISA-2034	√	√	√																				

Plan Duration

Actual Start

% Completed

Actual (beyond plan)

% Completed (beyond plan)

	PHASE TWO (2030-2034)																				PLAYERS
	2030				2031				2032				2033				2034				Institutions
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
																					AUC & AUDA-NEPAD & STI stakeholders, RECs and MS
																					AUC & AUDA-NEPAD & STI stakeholders, RECs and MS
																					AUC & AUDA-NEPAD & STI stakeholders, RECs and MS
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) STI stakeholders (UN) and Partners
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) & Stakeholders
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) & Stakeholders
																					AUC & AUDA-NEPAD & STI stakeholders (UN included), RECs and MS
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) & Stakeholders
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) & Stakeholders
																					AU entities (RECs/MS included) & Stakeholders

4.4 DOMESTICATION

Member States of the AU will domesticate STISA 2034 through multi-country and individual national initiatives dedicated to generating specific outputs and outcomes defined in section three of this plan. They will be encouraged to design programs and projects that suit their own contexts without compromising opportunities of regionalism and Pan-African collective actions.

Each Member State will commit to:

1. Designating a national focal point for STISA 2034.
2. Devoting resources for socializing STISA 2034 and its implementation plan through national workshops and other forms of public outreach.
3. Participating in regional and continental initiatives based on its differentiated capacities and STI priorities.
4. Reporting on national activities and actions that contribute to the implementation of STISA 2034 at relevant fora, including the STC-EST.

5. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Effective implementation of this plan will require well-configured governance structures and mechanisms for coordination and nurturing of synergies within and across research and innovation ecosystems on the continent. The following governance structures will be established or strengthened by the AU.

The Specialised Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST will be the AU Policy Organ to oversee the execution of STISA 2034 and this implementation plan. It will receive and consider progress reports prepared by Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and other institutions responsible for the implementation of activities (initiatives) in this plan. The STC-EST meets once every two years for its ordinary session.

The AUC Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AUC DESTI) will establish a mechanism or platforms for effective coordination of the various STI programs, projects and activities of AU agencies (e.g. AOSTI, AUDA-NEPAD, ACDC, ARSIC) and other international institutions and organizations , development partners and others implementing flagship programs of STISA 2034. An annual STISA 2034 conference or forum will be organized by AUC, AUDA- NEPAD and Member States to share experiences, build synergies and help achieve a coordinated approach to the execution of programs. The conference or forum will bring together Member States, academia, private sector, civil society and development partners to showcase programs and outputs of STISA 2034, assess progress and devise ways and means of fast-tracking implementation.

5.1 COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION OF STISA 2034

The AUC and AUDA-NEPAD will undertake advocacy with other interested parties for awareness and domestication of STISA 2034 in regional and national policies and strategies. In addition, the following coordination activities will be implemented:

1. Mapping and regular update of STI actors for coordinating the implementation of STISA 2034.
2. Conducting evidence-based studies for the implementation of STISA 2034.
3. Organizing annual STISA 2034 conferences to review progress, share best practices, and identify challenges in implementing STISA 2034.
4. Capacity-building workshops will be delivered through structured training sessions focused on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) measurement, including research and development (R&D) and innovation data production, emerging technologies, research methodologies, and innovation management.
5. Develop and utilize a MEAL tool for tracking STISA 2034 implementation and present findings and adjust the Strategy based on data collected from Member States and STI stakeholders.

6. Develop collaborative research programs (such as the AU Research Grant Program) by initiating cross-border research projects that address common challenges faced by African countries in the priority sectors of STISA 2034. The programs will encourage partnerships among universities and research institutions from different member states.
7. Production of an annual reporting mechanism detailing achievements, challenges, and case studies related to STISA 2034 implementation. This reporting mechanism may also be used to report biennially to the STC-EST. It will involve the wide distribution of findings to Member States, stakeholders, and policymakers to advocate for sustained investment in science and technology.
8. Partnerships and collaborations through facilitating partnerships with international and intra-African science and technology organizations, promoting knowledge transfer and collaborative research.
9. Strengthening linkages with the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) by leveraging its experience in funding research and innovation across Africa. This will enhance national-level research funding systems, foster evidence-informed STI policies, and build the capacity of granting councils to support the effective domestication and implementation of STISA 2034.

6. COMMUNICATION FOR ACTION

Effective communication and outreach are critical to implementing STISA 2034. They will help to build broad-based ownership of and participation in STISA 2034 implementation. This section outlines a strategic communication framework for mobilizing action, fostering partnerships, and enhancing awareness and engagement for the successful implementation of STISA 2034.

The communication strategy for STISA 2034 aims to ensure that the strategy is widely understood, supported, and implemented across African countries. Its specific objectives are to:

a) Enhance understanding of the goals, priorities, and vision of STISA 2034.
b) Engage policymakers, researchers, the corporate sector, civil society, youth, and development partners to promote their ownership of STISA 2034 implementation and build multi-stakeholder partnerships.
c) Encourage AU Member States to integrate STISA 2034's vision, mission and objectives into their national STI policies and strategies.
d) Showcase African-led solutions, success stories, and case studies on how STI is accelerating the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063.
e) Promote STI literacy among policymakers, citizens, and youth to build a culture of science.
f) Promote a science-literate society through inclusive public engagement campaigns, youth dialogues, and storytelling around successful STEM education and research capacity-building initiatives.
g) Develop multilingual science communication tools and digital storytelling platforms to raise awareness about the role of basic science and engineering in solving development challenges.

6.1 TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for STISA 2034 implementation comprises a broad range of stakeholders critical to the successful implementation of the strategy. The primary target audience for communication is summarised in the table below.

Table 3: The Target Audience of the STISA 2034

Target Audience	Titles	Role
AU employees	Officials and staff of AU institutions, organs and agencies	Convene and coordinate STI policymaking. Drive and promote continental integration and development.
Policymakers	Government officials, ministries, and agencies responsible for STI policies.	Develop and implement policies supporting science, technology, and innovation. Allocate funding and resources.
Youth and Innovators	Students, young entrepreneurs, start-ups, and tech enthusiasts.	Drive innovation and adopt emerging and frontier technologies. Contribute fresh ideas and creativity.
Researchers and Scientists	Academic institutions, research centres, and scientific communities.	Conduct research and generate new knowledge. Collaborate with industry and policymakers.
Private Sector	Businesses, industry leaders, venture capitalists, and investors.	Invest in STI projects and commercialize innovations.
Communities and Civil Society	Local communities, NGOs, and grassroots organizations.	Adopt STI-driven solutions for societal challenges. Promote inclusive and sustainable development.
International Partners	Global organizations, development agencies, and regional bodies.	Support capacity building and funding. Facilitate knowledge transfer and collaborations.
Media outlets and practitioners	Journalists, communicators, advocates and influencers.	Disseminate information on STI activities and developments. Facilitate advocacy and engagement, and promote STIs on the continent.

6.2 KEY MESSAGES

The following key messages provide the global context for the generation of specific messages about STISA 2034. They will underpin meaning in branding, content and corporate products.

1. STISA 2034 as a Catalyst for Africa's Development
2. Building a Resilient and Adaptive STI Ecosystem for Africa
3. Empowering Youth, Women and Communities through STI
4. Strengthening Collaboration and Sustainable Investment in STI.

6.3 COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND TOOLS

The deployment of conventional and contemporary communication techniques is necessary for STISA 2034 to be successful. These include awareness raising, encouraging cooperation, and ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and dedicated to the strategy's objectives. Communication media summarised in the table below will be deployed:

Table 4: Communication Channels Matrix for STISA 2034

Communication Tool	Description	Target Audience	Purpose/Goal
Digital Platforms	Websites, social media, Webinars and online conferences, KMP (Knowledge Monitoring Platform) and online forums to facilitate engagement and information sharing.	Policymakers, researchers, innovators, and the general public.	Foster collaboration, share knowledge and gather feedback.
Public Awareness Campaigns	Mass media campaigns (TV, radio, print media) to raise awareness on STI issues and policies.	The general public, policymakers, and local communities.	Promote STI goals and increase public participation.
Policy Briefs and Reports and Blogs	Printed or digital documents summarizing STI policies and their impacts.	Government officials, diplomats, and researchers.	Inform decision-makers and influence policy changes.
Workshops and Training Programs	In-person and virtual workshops to enhance STI literacy and build capacities.	Government officials, academics, and industry leaders.	Enhance understanding of STI policies and innovations.
Stakeholder Forums/ Conferences	Regional and international gatherings for dialogue and collaboration on STI issues.	Governments, research institutions, the private sector, and civil society.	Share best practices, align strategies, and discuss challenges.
Newsletters	Periodic publications featuring updates, case studies, and developments in STI.	Academics, policymakers, and general public.	Keep stakeholders informed and engaged.
Interactive Platforms	Platforms allowing for live feedback and Q&A (e.g., online surveys, polls, feedback forums).	The general public, researchers, and policymakers.	Gather public and stakeholder opinions to refine STI strategies.
Knowledge Networks	Networks for collaboration among research institutions, innovators, and government agencies.	Academia, researchers, policymakers, and innovators.	Facilitate knowledge exchange and collaborative research.
Mobile Applications	Mobile apps to provide information, updates, and access to STI resources.	The general public, students, and entrepreneurs.	Increase accessibility to STI information and resources.
Multilingual Resources	Providing STI content in various African languages to ensure inclusivity.	Rural populations and vernacular-speaking groups.	Enhance understanding and participation across diverse linguistic groups.

6.4 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ACTIONS FOR ADVANCING STISA

STISA 2034 initiatives will be driven through strategic actions, broader awareness, engagement, and investment, ultimately contributing to sustainable development in the continent.

Table 5: STISA 2034 Strategic Actions

Audience-Focused Communication	Digital & Media Engagement	Public Participation & Advocacy	Education & Skills Development	Monitoring & Evaluating Impact
Identifying and Engaging Stakeholders: Map out key audiences to tailor communication strategies effectively at the continental, national and regional levels through Member State and REC engagement.	**Maximizing Social Media Reach:** Utilize platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and YouTube to disseminate STI success stories, research breakthroughs, and policy advancements.	**Encouraging Citizen Science:** Foster public involvement in STI-related research projects and innovation initiatives.	**Promoting STEM & TVET Education:** Strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning in schools and vocational training centres.	**Measuring Awareness & Engagement:** Leverage digital analytics tools to assess website traffic, social media interactions, and content engagement.
Context-Sensitive Messaging: Customize communication materials to align with diverse linguistic, cultural, and regional contexts.	**Engaging Multimedia Content:** Produce videos, podcasts, and infographics to simplify complex STI topics and captivate diverse audiences.	**Hosting Science Fairs & Lectures:** Organize continent-wide science events, hackathons, and interactive sessions to cultivate a culture of innovation.	**Training Scientists & Innovators:** Offer workshops to enhance researchers' and innovators' communication skills for public engagement.	**Tracking Behavioural Shifts:** Evaluate changes in public perceptions, policy adoption, and private sector investment in STI.
Interactive Communication Channels: Establish mechanisms such as surveys, focus groups, and online platforms to facilitate audience feedback and refine messaging.	**Science Blogs & Newsletters:** Maintain a dedicated blog and monthly newsletter to keep stakeholders informed about key STI developments.	**Providing Policy Briefs & Advocacy:** Deliver concise, evidence-based policy briefs to decision-makers to support informed STI governance.	**Facilitating Mentorship & Knowledge Sharing:** Create mentorship programs that connect experienced scientists with emerging innovators and students.	**Adapting Strategies for Improvement:** Continuously refine communication approaches based on data insights, audience feedback, and evolving STI trends.
Strategic Partnerships with Tech Companies: Forge active collaborations with global tech giants to leverage their gravitas in society and in Member States.	**Collaborating with Influencers & Media:** Partner with science communicators, influencers and journalists to enhance the visibility of STI messages.			

6.5 COMMUNICATIONS MILESTONES

The table below highlights targeted milestones attainable through strategic actions and focused communication interventions at the continental and national levels.

Table 6: Action and output matrix for STISA 2034

Milestone	Frequency/Timeline	Responsible entity
Functional communications team for the coordination of STISA 2034 implementation.	2025	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
STISA 2034 communication and advocacy channels (website/page, social media platforms, biannual newsletter).	2025	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
STISA 2034 internal communication matrix.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Social media information and engagement plan.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Brand visibility and promotional products – digital banners & flyers, memorabilia, stationery, etc.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Awareness and sensitization engagements/workshops/dialogue with AU system stakeholders.	Quarterly	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Africa-wide popularization campaigns (regional and thematic information sessions).	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Integration of STISA into national STI advocacy & communications strategies.	2026	Member States
International outreach campaigns (publication, media appearances, op-eds, public speaking engagements & exhibitions).	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Africa STI Day – dedicated to promoting and celebrating STIs on the continent.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD Member States
STI attaches at African diplomatic missions.	2026	Member States
STI confab with African diaspora: scientists, businesses, academia, NGOs/civil society.	Biennial	AUC/AUDA NEPAD Diaspora groups
Business forum and award to recognize and promote African STI start-ups & businesses, women and young innovators.	Biennial	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Network of African STI Communicators.	2025	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Call for the nomination and appointment of African STI Ambassadors, Champions and Influencers.	Triennial	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
STISA side events (symposia, exhibitions, presentations, etc.) during AU & REC meetings and summits.	Annual	RECs AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Calendar of exhibitions to showcase and promote STISA during major international events.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Thought leadership podcasts featuring African leaders and influencers.	Quarterly	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Call for STISA 2034 corporate sponsors in Africa and the diaspora.	Biennial	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Audio-visual clip pitching major STI milestones and activities on the continent.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD
Continental STI implementation and activities report.	Annual	AUC/AUDA NEPAD

6.6 FEEDBACK AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT

The impact of communications will be measured in the context of the wider monitoring and evaluation process of the STISA 2034 Implementation Plan. Digital tools for monitoring, measurement and feedback will be utilized to gauge impact online. This will form the basis for the continuous tracking of performance and refining of communications tactics.

Table 7: Communications Performance Metrics

Index	Indicators
Website traffic	Number of users by geographic location and age group.
Social media insights	Performance metrics from social platforms.
Event participation	Total number of attendees, segmented by gender and age based on registration data; percentage of key stakeholders among total viewers.
Newsletter readership	Number of recipients who opened the email.
Media coverage	Number of published articles in top-tier media per communication issue or campaign.
Message penetration	Number of products and articles incorporating key messages per communication issue or campaign.
Social media interactions	Engagement metrics (shares, retweets, comments, etc.), categorized according to platform and topic.
Campaign hashtag usage	Frequency of hashtag mentions
Website performance	Percentage increase in page views, time spent on content, and other key metrics
STISA 2034 public access and online visibility	Number of times the document is opened or downloaded, online conversations about the document, and the number of times the document is cited in reports, studies, or policy papers.

7. MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

This section lays out approaches and tools for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) for STISA 2034. It provides a framework for monitoring progress in the attainment of outputs and outcomes listed in section 3.

7.1 RESULTS MATRIX

(See annex)

7.2 REPORTING

The reporting for STISA 2034 uses the best practices through standardization (template and metrics), and transparency (data sources, assumptions, methodologies).

7.2.1 REPORTING TOOLS

To support the successful implementation of STISA 2034, various reporting tools will be deployed to facilitate data analysis, collaboration, and information dissemination. The reporting system architecture will ensure comprehensive data management and accessibility, aligning with the phased implementation of STISA 2034. This architecture will include tools and methods for data collection and secure storage. It will also incorporate data warehouses and repositories, such as continental repositories, AOSTI, and AUDA-NEPAD databases, serving as centralized hubs for data storage, retrieval, and analysis.

7.2.2 TIMELINE

The implementation timeline will follow a structured reporting schedule. Quarterly reports will provide regular updates on progress and address any emerging challenges. In addition, mid-term and end-of-term reports will deliver comprehensive evaluations of outcomes and inform adjustments to strategies, ensuring the achievement of STISA 2034 objectives.

7.2.2.1 PLATFORM FOR LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

To promote knowledge creation, sharing, and retention, the implementation plan will utilize multiple platforms. Data repositories at continental, regional, and national levels will act as hubs for capturing and disseminating knowledge. Social media and networks will enhance stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing. Formal training programs, e-learning platforms, e-catalogues, and e-libraries will support continuous capacity building and knowledge retention, ensuring that stakeholders are equipped with the necessary tools and insights to drive the successful execution of STISA 2034. This comprehensive framework of reporting tools and systems is designed to enhance efficiency, collaboration, and informed decision-making throughout the implementation of the STISA 2034.

7.2.2.2 RISKS MANAGEMENT

The key risks identified as having an impact on STISA 2034 include: politics and governance, economic and financial, technological, social, cultural and environmental risks.

7.2.3 RISK ASSESSMENT

Effective risk management begins with the systematic assessment of identified risks. The process has the following steps:

a. **Likelihood Assessment:** Determining the probability of each risk occurring.
b. **Impact Analysis:** Evaluating the potential consequences of each risk on the implementation of STISA 2034.
c. **Prioritization:** Ranking risks based on their likelihood and impact to focus resources on addressing the most critical threats.

Once these steps are completed STISA stakeholders will develop a risk register depending on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

7.3 RISK REGISTER

This Risk Register outlines potential risks associated with the implementation of STISA 2034. It is intended to help manage, mitigate, and monitor risks effectively to ensure the success of the strategy.

Table 8: Identified Risk for STISA 2034

Risk ID	Risk Description	Category	Likelihood (L/M/H)	Impact (L/M/H)	Risk Rating	Mitigation Strategies	Owner
R1	Insufficient funding for STI projects	Financial	High	High	Critical	Secure alternative funding sources; engage donors.	Finance Department
R2	Policy misalignment between countries	Policy	Medium	High	High	Harmonize policies through regional frameworks.	Policy Team
R3	Limited capacity in AI and emerging tech	Technological	High	Medium	High	Develop capacity building Plan.	Training Unit

8. RESOURCING

To effectively implement STISA 2034, it is estimated that investments to the tune of about $6.8 billion are required. The investment estimate is based on the following:

1. Sectoral investment needs based on historical STI project costs and expected growth in Africa's science and innovation sectors.
2. Capital and operational cost benchmarks aligned with African Development Bank (AfDB) infrastructure projects, continental frameworks, AU Member States' national budgets, and international STI financing models.
3. Phased investment planning, structured over the 10-year implementation period (2025–2034), ensuring a gradual scale-up of financial commitments.

The investment estimates incorporate a balance between Capital Expenditures (CapEx) and Operational Expenditures (OpEx) to ensure efficient allocation of resources over time. CapEx investments, such as infrastructure, technology acquisition, and research facilities, are frontloaded in the early phases to establish a strong foundation for STI. In contrast, OpEx commitments, including workforce development, maintenance, and program implementation, increase progressively to sustain long-term operations. This strategic approach ensures that sectors with high initial infrastructure needs receive early investments while recurrent expenditure-driven sectors scale up gradually.

8.1 PHASED FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS PER SECTOR (2025-2034)

Following the financial model, projected investments have been distributed across two implementation phases to align with funding absorption capacity and sectoral priorities. This phased approach ensures a structured rollout of STI investments, balancing early infrastructure needs with long-term sustainability.

The first phase (2025-2029) allocates $2.6 billion to establish key infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and capacity-building initiatives, setting the foundation for STI programs. In the second phase (2030-2034), funding increases to $4.2 billion, scaling up research, innovation hubs, and commercialisation efforts. Phase 1 does not necessarily imply building entirely new large-scale infrastructure, but rather leveraging, upgrading, and expanding existing infrastructure within established institutions. Of the allocation in Phase 1, the sum of $1,2 billion is for investments in modernizing current facilities, enabling digital platforms and strengthening institutional systems across member states. This approach ensures cost-efficiency, accelerates implementation timelines, and promotes sustainability by building on what already exists. Where gaps are identified—particularly in underserved regions—targeted investments may support the establishment of new infrastructure only when necessary.

This phased investment model ensures financial sustainability and effective STI implementation. Key considerations include:

- Infrastructure-intensive sectors, such as Energy, Industrialization, and Climate Change, receive significant early-phase funding to build essential systems.
- Sectors with ongoing operational costs, including ICT, Health, and Capacity Building, experience a gradual funding increase across phases to support workforce development and research activities.
- Policy and partnership initiatives, such as science diplomacy and private sector engagement, see incremental funding growth to strengthen governance and collaboration.
- Equitable inclusion measures, including Youth & Gender programs, are consistently funded across all phases to promote broad participation in STI initiatives.

9. FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The realization of the objectives of STISA 2034 and this implementation plan will largely depend on the availability and allocation of adequate financial resources on a predictable and sustainable basis. In this regard, the first phase of implementation will, inter alia, be dedicated to a coordinated process of establishing (or strengthening) and operationalizing financing mechanisms and instruments for STISA 2034. At the continental level, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Committee of Ten (C10) Presidents will coordinate and spearhead the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of this plan. Specific actions will include:

i. AUC, AfDB and AUDA NEPAD will finalize and submit to the STC-EST and later to the Committee of Ten (C10) Presidents all necessary documentation for the operationalization of the AESTIF.
ii. The Committee of Ten Presidents championing STI will (on annual basis) convene a resource mobilization roundtable of Member States, the private sector and development partners to mobilize funds for the AESTIF.

AUDA NEPAD and AUC will work with competent continental, regional and international STI organizations to develop fully costed program and project proposals for each of the sectoral and cross-cutting strategic priorities and interventions outlined in this plan. The proposals will focus on multi-country initiatives that generate common or shared African public goods. AUDA NEPAD, AUC and selected organizations will be mandated to 'market' the proposals to development partners and private foundations for funding. Specific actions will include:

i. AUDA NEPAD and AUC will develop a strategic framework for international resource mobilization and partnerships for STISA 2034.
ii. AUDA NEPAD and AUC organizing (or co-hosting with selected organizations) technical workshops to develop programme (or project) proposals.
iii. AUDA NEPAD, AUC and selected implementing agencies raising funds for the multicounty programs (and/or projects).

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will align their STI strategies and plans with STISA 2034. They will leverage domestic and international funding to:

i. Strengthen their STI offices and/or commissions.
ii. Develop and implement regional programs for the implementation of STISA 2034.

AU Member States will be responsible for championing resource mobilization for STISA 2034 by:

i. Committing (and honouring their commitments) to contribute to the AESTIF.
ii. Hosting and providing facilities for STISA 2034 implementation programs.
iii. Offering and financing technical support (e.g. seconding competent technical personnel) to the implementation of STISA 2034 programs.

9.1 RISK MANAGEMENT & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

To ensure the sustainability of investments in STISA 2034, the following risk mitigation strategies will be applied:

Table 11: Risk Management and Mitigation Strategies

Risk Area	Challenges	Mitigation Strategy
Inconsistent Government STI Funding	STI budgets vulnerable to political changes	Institutionalise legally binding STI financing commitments
Limited Private Sector Investment	Investors view STI as high-risk	Implement co-financing guarantees & risk-sharing models
Uncoordinated Funding Flows	Multiple donors funding similar initiatives	Establish a Continental STI Financing Coordination Unit
Weak Regulatory & Policy Environments	Fragmented STI regulations	Promote regional STI policy harmonisation
Financial Risk Mitigation & Adaptive Budgeting		
To enhance financial sustainability, the following strategies are to be adopted: a) Annual Budget Adjustments & Adaptive Funding: ▪ Funding allocations are realigned annually based on economic performance and project progress. ▪ Performance-based financing models ensure funds are directed to high-impact STI initiatives. b) Diversified Multi-Source Financing: ▪ Public funds and blended finance models ensure resilience against funding shortfalls. ▪ Private capital mobilisation incentives (tax breaks, investment matching) attract long-term investors. c) AU-Wide STI Investment Monitoring & Compliance: ▪ Real-time STI financing dashboards track fund disbursements and impact. ▪ Government STI Scorecard ensures AU Member States meet financing commitments. ▪ Emergency response financing mechanisms safeguard STI projects from economic downturns.		

9.2 PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

While securing financial resources through structured financing mechanisms is essential, sustainable investments in the implementation of STISA 2034 require collaborative partnerships that go beyond direct funding. Partnerships play a crucial role in mobilising expertise, technology transfer, capacity building, and policy alignment, ensuring that STI initiatives are not only well-financed but also effectively implemented and governed.

This section explores two key dimensions of partnership-driven resource mobilisation:

- Intra-African partnerships – fostering collaboration between AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), research institutions, and private sector players within Africa to create regional STI investment ecosystems.
- International partnerships – leveraging strategic alliances with global stakeholders such as the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, UN, G20, South-South Cooperation, and multilateral development agencies to expand Africa's access to global STI funding and knowledge networks.

9.2.1 INTRA-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIPS

This includes AU Member States, RECs, Research Networks, Diaspora and many other stakeholders.

Action Steps:

- Strengthen continental STI policy harmonisation through the AU and RECs.
- Develop cross-border STI funding initiatives to scale regional research collaborations.
- Expand African research & innovation networks through joint funding mechanisms.
- The AU to assess some of its flagship projects to reorient them for profit-making through partnerships with the private sector. This will require creating regulations to dissociate itself from profit generation while using collaborations such as SANBio to make profits for re-investments into STI.

9.2.2 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

This includes AU-EU Innovation Agenda, UN, G20, South-South Cooperation, etc.

Action Steps:

- Align STI financing strategies with global science research & innovation agendas (e.g., OECD, UNESCO).
- Secure funding from multilateral institutions (World Bank, African Development Bank, G20 STI funds).
- Expand South-South STI collaboration to leverage funding from China, India, and Brazil.

10. CONCLUSION

Investing in the implementation of STISA 2034 is critical to the attainment of aspirations of Agenda 2063, the STYIP and the SDGs. It is a perquisite for the transformation of Africa into a knowledge-based, innovation-driven, prosperous and integrated economy. Indeed, there are enormous social, economic and sustainability benefits from investing in giving practical expression to STISA 2034 through this plan.

The implementation plan for STISA 2034 prioritizes interventions across five sectors: agriculture, health, energy, ICT and environmental sustainability. The sectoral priorities are reinforced by six cross-cutting enablers: accelerating sustainable and inclusive industrialization, building human capital and infrastructure, building African capabilities in frontier and emerging technologies, strengthening science diplomacy and partnerships, private sector engagement, and addressing youth and gender inequalities.

The execution of the implementation plan is sequenced into two phases. Phase one (2025–2029) focuses on strengthening existing AU STI flagship programs and institutional capacities, fostering strategic partnerships and mobilizing financial resources, including the operationalization of the African Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (AESTIF). Phase two (2030–2034), will focus on scaling up programmatic initiatives (such as a Synchrotron light source) developed during phase one and launching new flagship programs. A mid-term review to be conducted 2029/2030 will serve as a key decision point for recalibrating priorities in response to emerging trends and technological advancements.

Effective governance and coordination will be driven by AUDA-NEPAD, AUC DESTI and the STC ESTI. These institutions will collaborate with Member States, RECs, the private sector, academia, and international development partners to ensure a harmonized and multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of programmatic initiatives in this plan. A robust MEAL framework will be deployed to track progress of the implementation of STISA 2034 through this plan.

By 2034, the success of STISA 2034 will not only be measured by technological breakthroughs and scientific advancements, but first and foremost by its impact on human development, inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability. It will be dependent on how well and how much AU Member States collectively and individually invest in its implementation. As a dynamic and adaptive framework, STISA 2034 remains responsive to global geopolitical shifts and technological developments, ensuring that Africa actively engages in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The time for action is now. With unwavering commitment, strategic investments and a shared vision, Africa can unlock its full potential—transforming challenges into opportunities and aspirations into reality. STISA 2034 is more than a strategy; it is a catalyst for a future where STI drive Africa's prosperity, it is a central pillar within Africa's investment agenda and commitment towards Agenda 2063.

ANNEXURE 1: MEAL PLAN

The STISA 2034 is anchored in five sectors of primary focus that contribute towards the AU vision; It includes six cross-cutting strategic priorities to be undertaken, and aims to enhance the implementation of STI programs across Africa through increased technical skills and institutional capacity, promotion of economic competitiveness by fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, stronger protection for intellectual property, and improvements to research and innovation infrastructure. The successful implementation of such a multi-layered strategy (continental, regional and country levels) requires an adequate framework designed to track progress, outputs, impact and the effectiveness of projects and programs across the Member States.

This section proposes approaches and tools for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) for STISA 2034.

	Indicator	Baseline Data (2024)	Target Value
Impact level Result: An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by competitive science, technology and innovation			
Improved Living Standards	Percentage change in Human Development Index (HDI)		
	Percentage change in Gini Coefficient		
Economic Development and Competitiveness	Knowledge Economic Index (KEI);		
	Global innovation Index (GII);		
	Competitiveness index for African countries.		
Outcome Level Result: Enhanced knowledge-based and innovation-led socio-economic development among AU Member States			
Outcome 1: Increased Economic and Inclusive Development	Percentage change in the contribution of STI to GDP		
	Percentage change in Manufacturing Value Added		
	Percentage change in GDP per capita		
Outcome 2: Enhanced science diplomacy and open science	Percentage change in the number of bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements facilitating scientific exchange and collaboration		
	Percentage change in the number of African-owned knowledge products in global open access publications		
	Percentage change in the share of African research publications in global research publications (disaggregated by sector)		
Outcome 3: Enhanced human resource and institutional capacities	Percentage change in the number of STEM graduates with advanced degrees (Master's, PhDs) in STI and emerging technologies.		
	Percentage change in the number of IPs, including patents, (co)-owned by Africans (disaggregated by sector)		
	Level (Percentage) of resource mobilization achieved through funds leveraged and partnerships formed.		
Outcome 4: Empowered women and youth and jobs created	Percentage change in the number of women and/or youth-led tech start-ups and incubators		
	Percentage change in the number of new jobs in manufacturing SMEs		
Outcome 5: Increased public and private sector investment in R&D	Percentage change in volume of public and private sector investments in R&D		
	Percentage of GDP allocated to R&D		
	Percentage of R&D investments allocated to local innovation initiatives		

	Indicator	Baseline Data (2024)	Target Value
SECTORIAL PRIORITIES			
Agriculture (Food and Nutritional Security)	Number of enterprises (or industries) and research institutes deploying (or specializing in) frontier technologies in food and agricultural production. Number of agricultural businesses involved in the adoption of advanced ICTs (Precision Agriculture, Air and Soil sensors, Smart Plant/animal breeding, Drones/Robotics, AI, Block chain technologies, other).		
	Percentage (population) of African smallholder farmers using frontier technologies such as drones and AI.		
	Number of agricultural businesses actively involved in innovation activities against those that did not engage in any innovation activity.		
	Innovation-active firms by Geographic Export Market.		
	Percentage of GDP based on agricultural/food exports.		
	Number of agricultural businesses actively involved in innovation activities and those that did not engage in any innovation activity.		
	Innovation-active firms by Geographic Export Markets.		
	Percentage of GDP based on agricultural/food exports.		
Health (Strengthening Health Systems and Emergence Preparedness)	AU (ACDC) network for health genomics and proteomics research and innovation established and well-resourced.		
	Percentage change of scientific publications on patents for human genomes, diagnostics and other medical products. % increase in the local manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.		
	Number of countries with functioning (and well-funded) digital health systems based on WHO (and ACDC) criteria.		
	% of national health budgets dedicated to health research and innovation.		
	Number of PPP devoted to health RDI.		
	Number of health-related innovations developed (and adopted) such as vaccines and diagnostics.		
	Number of Member States with a policy on procurement for innovation - publicly funded technologies newly introduced into public health, public education, local government service delivery, and safety and security (police and defence).		
	% increase in the local manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.		
Information and Communication Technologies (Expanding Digital Connectivity, Reducing the Digital Divide and Fostering Digital Skills)	Number of African countries with advanced digital connectivity infrastructure such as 5G or 6G.		
	Number of Member States implementing the AU Protocol on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection.		
	Number of research centres (institutes) with functional frontier and emerging technology systems driven by AI and advanced computing technologies.		
	Percentage increase in internet penetration rate across African countries.		
	Improvement (Percentage) in national/regional/continental assessments of digital literacy among learners.		

	Indicator	Baseline Data (2024)	Target Value
Energy (Promoting Access to Affordable Clean Energy, An African Just Energy Transition)	Percentage of the continent's population accessing clean, sustainable energy.		
	Number of African (and jointly with non-African partners) energy patents.		
	Number of centres of excellence in energy.		
Environment (Tackling Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Water Scarcity)	Percentage reduction in CO_2 emissions per capita compared to the baseline year.		
	Number of new research and innovation projects (on climate change, biodiversity and water resources) developed.		
	Number of operational early warning systems across member states.		
	Percentage of member states with updated DRR and preparedness guidelines aligned to latest scientific evidence.		
	Number of countries or institutions adopting harmonised biodiversity conservation protocols.		
	Percentage of national policies integrating indigenous knowledge for environmental governance.		
	Number of adaptation projects with documented community participation frameworks.		
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			
Strategic Priority 1: STI for Accelerating Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialization	Percentage of GDP allocated to R&D.		
	Number of women and youth engaged in STI.		
	Share of high-tech products in exports.		
	Number of new jobs created (particularly in or by manufacturing SMEs).		
	Percentage change in number of STI based start-ups and enterprises (public vs private level)		
Strategic Priority 2: Building Human Capital and Infrastructure for Research and Innovation	Percentage change in R&D funding for STI skills and education.		
	Number of personnel trained in research and innovation management.		
	Percentage of the population with basic innovation/entrepreneurial skills.		
	Number of research institutes with laboratories (or infrastructures) meeting international standards.		
	Number of new Research institutes.		
Strategic Priority 3: Building African Capabilities in Frontier and Emerging Technologies	Number of national-level institutions offering training in Technology Assessment (TA) and Technology Foresight (TF).		
	Percentage change in the value of investments in frontier technology start-ups, innovation hubs and emerging technologies.		
	Percentage change in the value of investments in frontier technology startups, innovation hubs and emerging technologies.		
Strategic Priority 4: Strengthening Science Diplomacy and Partnerships in STI	Number of African officials and scientists/attaches trained (or course participants) in science diplomacy.		
	Number of member States with open science policies and platforms.		
	Number of member States with science diplomacy strategies.		
	Percentage increase in researcher mobility linked to scientific agreements and participation in global STI forums.		
	Percentage change in the number of bilateral and multilateral STI agreements signed.		

	Indicator	Baseline Data (2024)	Target Value
Strategic Priority 5: Promoting Private Sector Engagement in Research and Innovation (or STI)	Number of AU Member States with policies for private sector involvement in R&D.		
	Share of the private sector's R&D funding (Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD)).		
	Government Budget for Scientific and Technological Activities total and by Socio-economic objectives (SEOs).		
	No of incentives/instruments to increase BERD/GERD.		
	Number of STI partnerships and partnership-based projects developed.		
	Number of STI partnerships between AU Member States and the private sector, with a joint investment level of beyond $10M.		
	Number of public-private dialogues (national, regional, and pan-African) convened on R&D funding and financing.		
	Number of patents generated for joint private-public innovation activities. Number of joint intellectual property (IP), products, and technologies developed with the private sector.		
	Number of AU Member State-led strategic programmes aimed at catalysing venture capital investment to support innovation.		
Strategic Priority 6: Addressing Youth Unemployment and Gender Inequalities	Percentage of women and youth population in STEM and TVET programs and projects.		
	Number of patents owned by youth and women.		
	Number of tech start-ups owned by youth and women.		

ANNEX 2: MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING TEAM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF THE STISA 2034

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25	Mr Christopher Okonji Programme Officer-Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Programme AUDA-NEPAD
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28	Mrs Christelle Onana Senior Policy Analyst AUDA-NEPAD
29	Mr Binas Zeufalbo Programme Officer-A2DSRH AUDA-NEPAD
30	Mrs Zipporah Maubane, Head of Communication and Advocacy AUDA-NEPAD
31	Dr Nico Elema Director: Centre for Collaboration in Africa Stellenbosch University International
32	Laurent Bochereau, PhD Minister-Counsellor Science, Technology and Innovation Delegation of the European Union to the African Union
33	Ereck Chakauya, PhD Manager AUDA-NEPAD SANBio

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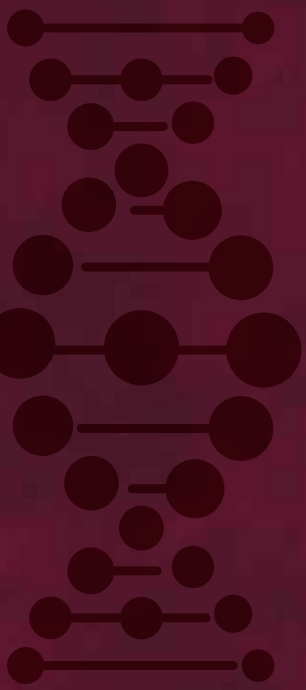

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