



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

## **Seventh African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum Kampala (hybrid), 7 and 8 April 2025**

**Theme: Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable and inclusive science, technology and innovation solutions to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union**

### **Key Messages**



**11 April 2025**

**Digital Divide:** it is crucial to tailor global strategies to local needs that are secure, safe, inclusive and aligned with the SDGs and the Global Digital Compact.

**Leveraging Artificial Intelligence:** Responsible AI governance backed by investments in infrastructure, skills development, and ethical policies, Africa can lead in AI-driven progress, improving access to high-quality healthcare, accelerating its achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063..



**Digital Public Infrastructure:** Investing in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and affordable rural internet access will empower communities and drive equitable transformation.

**Healthcare:** To reduce dependence on external partners and achieve universal healthcare access, it is imperative to prioritize domestic investment in research, innovation, and capacity-building

**Leveraging Digital Solutions and Artificial Intelligence to Improve Transport:** Member states should invest in national digital infrastructure and policy frameworks that accommodate emerging technologies like AI and autonomous transport systems

**Partnership.** To boost innovation, Governments should strengthen PPPs by offering incentives like tax breaks and financial support to attract private investment in STI..

**National Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy:** Member states should develop robust STI frameworks that align with industrial growth objectives and actively engage in science diplomacy to forge strategic partnerships.

**STSA-2034:** Coordination, collaboration, and shared responsibility are crucial to achieving the vision set forth in STISA-2034

**STEM/Women participation:**  
Promoting STEM education and empowering underrepresented groups is vital for driving innovation and achieving equitable development in Africa

**Life underwater:** Member states are invited to allocate 5–10% of the national maritime or fisheries budget to upgrade and maintain STI infrastructure.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Recommendation 1:** Adopt a Business-Oriented Approach to STI for Sustainable Development, by shifting from viewing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) as purely academic or research-driven endeavors

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**Recommendation 2:** Harmonize Agendas with National Priorities Driving Regional and Continental Plans to ensure effective implementation and ownership, regional and continental STI agendas

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**Recommendation 3:** Establish a Dedicated STI Think Tank for In-Depth Analysis and Innovation

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**Recommendation 4:** Implement Workplans and Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation all STI initiatives, strategies, and forum



Ideas  
to  
Action