

Energy and Water Innovations Call

Inventing a sustainable future for Africa now

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Background

The fifth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum will be held from 27 to 28 February 2023, in a hybrid format, in Niamey, Niger under the theme: “**Accelerating development and diffusion of emerging technologies for a green, inclusive and resilient Africa**” with a special focus on Sustainable Development Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation); 7 (affordable and clean energy); 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure); 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063. For this call, the focus is on SDG 6 and 7 given their importance to Africa in the face of climate change and their relevance in meeting all the other key SDGs in Africa.

About the Call for Innovations

Africa is facing multiple crises now that are likely to deepen both in their frequency and severity in the near future. These include, emerging health challenges (as highlighted by COVID-19 pandemic and other viral outbreaks), climate crisis, the soaring energy and food prices and the unemployment dilemma, among other, that collectively are fueling political, social and environmental instability. Innovations in energy and water are likely to have profound impact in creating employments, empowering communities to live healthier, address environmental challenges and reduce the prices of goods and services and improve security of communities.

Why You Should Be Involved:

Your innovation may just save a life or at least enhance the livelihood of many others. Sharing your innovation with the world may inspire a better world, could help you find and attract partners, and bring investment in your entity. In addition, ECA and its partners will support you to find knowledge and market partners that could help you improve your design, production and marketing processes. You will get the opportunity to work and learn from some of the smartest and brightest minds in Africa and beyond, providing you with valuable mentorship and guidance to turn your proposed solution into a viable one.

Eligibility criteria

This call is open to all people of all ages and gender, in public and private entities and in learning institutions as well as in the informal sector. Each entity or person may submit ONE innovation that addresses water and energy. For this call, only innovations in Renewable Energy with a special focus on design, production and manufacturing of batteries, solar and wind products and sustainable water solutions. As such, simple solutions that extract underground water (e.g. boreholes) may NOT be accepted.

Beyond these generalities, the following criteria need to be met:

1. The innovative solution must target a specific challenge that an identifiable entity (e.g. a firm, public institution, community) in your country is facing now, or an emerging challenge that threatens to derail sustainable development (e.g. in terms of health, education, technology) soon.
2. For this call, the entity submitting the innovation should either be the owner or senior partner in the entity submitting the innovation. DO NOT copy or submit innovations of others even with their express permission.
3. Evidence of utility from a current user or potential user will be welcome (e.g. a note or letter of support) and will be an advantage.

Your Application Template

A) Required information

1. Applicant Information

1.1. Full Names of all team members	
1.2. Affiliation/s (name of institution/ university; include details of division or department or schools)	
1.3. Year / level of study and major (for all team members)	
1.4. E-mail addresses (for all team members)	
1.5. Telephone/mobile numbers (for all team members)	
1.6. Project Title	

2. Summary of application

2.1 Provide a summary (200 words maximum) of the problem to be addressed and the proposed solution.

2.2 Project Status: Is this project (choose one):

- a concept?
- something you are working on / under development?
- something that you have completed?

3. Your innovation characterization

3.1 Is the product (goods or services)/ process of the project commercialisable? Yes / No

3.2 How and where is the solution used or intended to be used?

3.3 What role is/are the beneficiary/ies playing if any?

3.4 In what respects is your solution innovative (check whichever applicable)? It is...

- safer
- simpler to use than earlier solutions,
- more cost effective than previous technologies
- Others (specify)

3.5 How else is the product/process an improvement over existing ones?

3.6 What are the possible barriers for acceptance of the product/process, ~~if any?~~

4. References / Bibliography / Relevant documents and/or drawings (if applicable)

B) Supporting Documents Required

1. A cover letter of your team
2. A letter of support from your entity or partner

Send your applications to

Complete the application here and/or send it to:

1. Asfaw Yitna – yitna@un.org
2. Gedion Workneh – workneh@un.org