



Economic Commission for Africa
Sixth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 21 and 22 April 2024

**Effective delivery of innovative science
and technology solutions to reinforce
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063:
The Africa We Want, of the African Union
and eradicate poverty in Africa**

Draft programme of work

Sunday, 21 April

8.30–9 a.m.

Registration

9–10 a.m.

Opening session

Moderator: Acting Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Nassim Oulmane

Welcoming remarks:

- Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Lidia Arthur Brito
- African Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mohamed Belhocine
- Executive Secretary, ECA, Claver Gatete

Keynote addresses:

- Outgoing Chair: Minister for Secondary and Higher Education, Research and Technology, Niger, Habi Mahamadou Salissou
- Incoming Chair: Minister of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia, Belete Molla (to be confirmed)

10–10.15 a.m.

Coffee break

10.15–11.30 a.m.

High-level panel on advancing science, technology and innovation strategies and policies for sustainable development: the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024

Moderator: Director, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane



Panellists:

- African Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
- Minister of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia (to be confirmed)
- Minister of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, Seychelles, Devika Sumitra Kathrina Vidot
- Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme Support), ECA, Antonio Pedro
- Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO
- Representative, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
- Youth representative
- Regional senior expert, Ghana

General discussion

11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

High-level panel on scaling up innovative solutions for big data and artificial intelligence for shared prosperity

Moderator: Officer-in-Charge, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, ECA, Robert Lisinge

Panellists:

- State Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Digital Economy, Ethiopia, Huria Ali Mahdi
- Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius, Deepak Balgobin
- Representative, SmartBots, Botswana
- Vice-President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google, Leslie Miller
- Absa Chair of Data Science, and Associate Professor of Computer Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa, Vukosi Marivate

General discussion

1–2 p.m.

Lunch break

2–4 p.m.

High-level panel on platforms and solutions for harnessing global knowledge to fast-track the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

Moderator: Director, Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division, ECA, Said Adejumobi

Panellists:

- Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, and Chair, Coalition on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Africa’s Development, Mathu Joyini

- Founder and Chief Executive Officer, African Diaspora Network, United States of America, Almaz Negash
- Acting Head, Research, Innovation Ecosystems and Entrepreneurship Education Office, and Focal Point, Origin Research and Innovation Lab Physical Hub of East Africa, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya, Ndirangu Kioni
- Professor of Science, Technology and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States, Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga
- Researcher, Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development, China, Li Ruijie

General discussion

4–4.15 p.m.

Coffee break

4.15–6 p.m.

Parallel sessions

(a) High-level policy dialogue on building capacity in science, technology and innovation to eradicate poverty (Goal 1) and hunger (Goal 2)

Moderator: Coordinator, African Materials Research Society, Samuel Chigome

Panellists:

- Minister of Agriculture, Ethiopia, Ato Oumer Hussien Oba
- Minister of Planning and Development, Ethiopia, Fitsum Assefa Adela
- Representative, International Livestock Research Institute, Ethiopia
- Representative, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- African Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (to be confirmed)
- Representative, African Development Bank
- Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Google, Pren-Tsilya Boa-Guehe
- Director, Multilateral Cooperation and Africa, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa, Mandry Ntshani
- Country Director, Mozambique, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Jaana Keitaanranta
- Country Representative, South Sudan, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Meshack Oguna Malo
- Senior Adviser, World Bank, Khaled Fouad Sherif
- President, State University of New York Polytechnic Institute, United States, and Founder, African Materials Research Society, Winston Oluwole Soboyejo

General discussion

- (b) Policy dialogue on building inclusive, effective and accountable institutions in the fields of science, technology and innovation (Goal 16) for integrated climate action (Goal 13) in Africa**

Moderator: Representative, ECA

Panellists:

- Expert on gender and youth inclusivity
- Expert on ethics and accountability in science
- Expert on scientific excellence for climate action
- Expert on innovative solutions for climate crisis

General discussion

Monday, 22 April

9–11 a.m.

Parallel sessions

- (a) Policy dialogue on using the African Continental Free Trade Area as a springboard for the development of science, technology and innovation**

Moderator: To be determined

Panellists:

- South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, Fiona Tregenna
- Executive Vice-President, Intra-African Trade Bank, African Export-Import Bank, Kanayo Awani
- Chief Director, Multilateral Cooperation and Africa, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa, Mmampei Chaba
- Representative, African Continental Free Trade Area secretariat
- Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Semiconductor Technologies Limited, Kenya, Anthony Githinji
- Head, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Partnerships, African Academy of Sciences, Kenya, Nkem Khumbah
- Representative, Alliance for Entrepreneurial Universities in Africa
- Youth representative
- Representative, Ethiopia

General discussion

(b) Leveraging the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development to promote science, technology and innovation in Africa

Moderator: Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, Gabriela Ramos

Panellists:

- Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, Congo, Delphine Édith Emmanuel
- Member of Parliament, Ghana, Ophelia Mensah Hayford
- Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone, Haja Ramatulai Wurie
- African Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
- Interim Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Batmanathan Dayanand Reddy

General discussion

11–11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.

Plenary session on the Year of Education of the African Union: making education the great equalizer

Moderator: To be determined

Panellists:

- Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe, Amon Murwira
- Minister of Education, Ethiopia, Birhanu Nega
- Representative, Ethiopian Academy of Sciences
- Chief Executive Officer, Universities Fund, Kenya, and Chair, Alliance for Entrepreneurial Universities in Africa, Geoffrey Monari
- Associate Researcher, Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development, China, Zhou Yan
- Youth representative
- Private sector representative

General discussion

1–2 p.m.

Lunch break

2–4.30 p.m.

Partnership in action: closing the research, development and innovation funding gaps to accelerate sustainable development: the case of the African Union-European Union Innovation Agenda

Chairs:

- Representative, African Union Development Agency
- Representative, European Union

Presentations:

- Representative, African Union Commission
- Representative, African Union Development Agency
- Representative, European Union
- Representative, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Representative, ECA

General discussion

4.30–4.45 p.m.

Coffee break

4.45–6 p.m.

Closing of the session

Statements:

- Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO
- Acting Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, ECA
- Minister of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia (to be confirmed)