



# 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the ECA Committee on Sustainable Development

## innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources

New Technologies and Innovation  
Section [NTIS]

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Kasirim Nwuke





# Outline

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# Introduction

- **New Technologies And Innovation Section (NTIS):**
  - Established In 2013 As One Of The Two Sections Of The Special Initiatives Division (SID)
  - Inherited The Full Work Programme Of The Former ICT, Science & Technology Division (ISTD)
  - Has Two Main Activity Clusters:
    - Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including WSIS and
    - Science, Technology and Innovation (policies, institutions, management and governance)



# The new global and regional context for STI

- Technology as a means of implementation of the outcomes of major Summits:
  - Rio+20
  - Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (23 STI commitments);
  - Agenda 2030-Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 2, 7, 8, 9 and 17);
  - Paris Declaration (COP-21);
  - The African Union's Agenda 2063-The Africa we Want
- The African Union's Agenda 2063-The Africa we want;
- Continuing rapid pace of technological change



## Goal

Assisting member States to deliberately and systematically deploy science, technology and innovation to implement the SDGs, the AU's Agenda 2063 to achieve an enduring structural transformation of their economies; Build a strong constituency for STI in member States.



## Objective

Facilitate the analysis of science, technology and innovation policies, including ICT policies, in order to strengthen the capacity of member states to design, implement, and monitor STI & ICT policies for economic growth and structural transformation



## Strategies

- Strengthening STI policies, including ICT/IS policies through research;
- Tracking and monitoring regional and country STI and ICT performance;
- Strengthening STI/ICT statistics;
- Mobilizing resources for STI;
- Building partnerships/constituencies for STI.



# Outputs

- Parliamentary documents;
- Analytical Reports;
- Methodological guidelines and frameworks;
- Policy briefs;
- Meetings, special reports, and position papers;
- STI database;
- Advisory services; and
- Training/capacity building.





## Special Projects

- Senior Experts Dialogue (SED) on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)
- Biomedical engineering innovation summer school & entrepreneurship
- Annual Review of Progress in Africa in the Implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS
- Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)



# Activities in the broad area of ICT / Information Society

- Research

- Analytical policy study on “Improving Broadband access in Africa”;
- Report of Annual WSIS Regional Review Meeting
- Policy Report “Emerging issues in ICT in Africa”

- Advocacy/Consensus Building

- Ad Hoc Expert Group Meetings on Emerging issues in ICT in Africa
- Africa Regional WSIS Follow-up and Annual Review Meeting
- Advisory Services



# Activities in the Area of STI

- Research
  - Innovation hubs, clusters and parks and Africa's Transformation
  - Cities as hubs of Innovation for Africa's transformation
  - R&D Financing/Expenditure
  - Innovation Hubs, Clusters And Parks And The Industrialization
  - Innovating for Better Health in Africa: Biomedical Engineering...
  - Governing STI to meet SDGs and Agenda 2063



# Activities in the Area of STI

## Advocacy/outreach

- EGM on Innovating for better health: Building biomedical devices innovation capacity in Africa
- Senior Experts Dialogue (SED-2015 and 2016) on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) and the African Transformation Agenda on the themes “Innovation hubs, clusters and parks and Africa’s Transformation” and “Cities as Innovation hubs for Africa’s Transformation”
- Improved tools for assessing innovation performance and innovation policies (NEPAD)
- Meeting of Bio-Medical Engineering Innovators Summer School programme



# Intersections/Opportunities

- Arise From ECA'S Mandate
- Economic Growth
- New international and regional mandates
  - Financing For Development
  - SDGs, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)
- AU'S Programmes And Initiatives
  - Agenda 2063
  - Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA) 2024
  - African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII)
- Member States' structural transformation programmes



# Some Emerging Issues in ICT

- ICT/Information Society
  - Social media
  - Terrestrial broadband provision;
  - International Gateways
  - E-WASTE
  - Pricing, competition, regulation
  - Digital switchover (DSO)
  - Cybercrime and cybersecurity
  - SDGs-consistent ICT indicators framework
  - Post UNGA WSIS review issues



# Some Emerging Issues in STI

- STI
  - STI policy, national system of innovation
  - STI Governance
  - Research Infrastructure, Including Laboratories
  - Advances In Health Technologies
  - IPR (Geographical Names And Geographical Indicators, Patent Trolls, Not Invented Here, Clinical Data Protection)
  - Climate-change Appropriate (Clean) Technologies
  - Green Biotechnology
  - Red Biotechnology
  - Social consequences of new technologies



# Opportunities and Challenges

- Leapfrog opportunities through innovation;
- Rapid pace of technological change and rapid technological obsolescence;
- International governance of technology (WTO, WIPO, UPOV, Standards etc)
- International mandates
- Technological convergence
- Limited research infrastructures
- Migration and global labor market in skills
- Capacity/resources





# For Further Information on NTIS

## Contact:

Kasirim Nwuke

Chief,

New Technologies and Innovation Section

Special Initiatives Division

Tel: +251.11.544.3375

E-mail: [nwuke@un.org](mailto:nwuke@un.org)



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# THANK YOU!

more info: [nwuke@un.org](mailto:nwuke@un.org)

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