



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**Call for research policy papers
for
the Expert Group Meeting**

to be held on 2 and 3 August 2017

on

***“Governing science, technology and innovation to achieve the targets
of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of the
African Union’s Agenda 2063”***



The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on the theme “Governing science, technology and innovation in Africa to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of the African Union’s Agenda 2063”. The meeting will be held on 2 and 3 August 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa.

Background

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union adopted Agenda 2063. The implementation of those agendas is critically dependant on science, technology and innovation (STI). Notable among the achievements are:

(a) The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which lists 16 initiatives relating to science, technology and innovation (5 relating to scientific research, 5 relating to industry and innovation, and 6 relating to specific development outcome);

(b) Aspiring to an Africa that is well educated and skilled, and is underpinned by science, technology and innovation by 2063 – as part of the commitment to Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want;

(c) Committing to 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, many of which specifically focus on science, technology and innovation, as part of the 2030 Agenda.

The extent to which science, technology and innovation can serve as an effective means of implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 depends on how this sector is governed, on the efficiency and effectiveness of the governance structures, and policymaking institutions – both nationally and internationally. The question for the continent is which science, technology and innovation governance arrangements are likely to facilitate the development of the necessary innovation systems which, in turn, are likely to contribute efficiently to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is here that there is limited consensus on the optimal science, technology and innovation governance arrangements in Africa. Research is, therefore, needed to ensure a clear understanding of this sector’s governance structures and policymaking institutions in order to leverage science, technology and innovation in an efficient manner to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Areas of focus

ECA invites research papers that can shed light on the following areas:

- The science, technology and innovation governance structure and policymaking institutions in Africa, and their influence on the productivity of the sector.
- Science, technology and innovation governance and its impact on the sector’s efficient deployment to achieve the set targets at national and international levels.
- Theoretical approaches to the governing of science, technology and innovation, including optimal governance models (e.g. preferred national and sectoral), taking into consideration the countries at different levels of development.
- Sectoral science, technology and innovation governance structures, focusing on agricultural, mining and extractives, health, environment and manufacturing sectors.

- Case studies of good practices in science, technology and innovation governance and their advantages and disadvantages.
- Science, technology and innovation governance – capacity, competencies and resources.
- Relationship among national, subregional and continental science, technology and innovation governance structures and policymaking institutions, including tensions, flexibility and opportunities.

Papers will be chosen for their originality, innovativeness, scientific rigour and relevance. Limited travel scholarships and per diem at the United Nations, Addis Ababa rate are available to authors from Africa whose papers are accepted. Papers by African researchers living and working in Africa are especially encouraged.

Submission procedure and deadlines: Interested researchers and policy analysts should submit a full working paper by 25 June 2017 in MS Word or PDF format (or both). The paper should clearly identify the main author who will present the paper as well as the full contact information for all authors and co-authors of the paper.

Only unpublished papers and papers not already submitted for publication at a peer-reviewed journal will be accepted. Individuals whose papers are accepted for the meeting will be notified by 25 June 2017. The papers may be put together as a book.

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