

Call for Expression of Interest

Review of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024)

Duration: 4 months

Background

The African Union adopted a people-centered and long-term Agenda 2063 in January 2015; “The Africa We Want” to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development at the national, regional and continental levels. In the same year, in September, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, for collective action on economic, social and environmental dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner. Both agendas recognize the critical role of science, technology and innovation, as universal enablers for achieving the aspirations and goals set therein: fight against poverty and inequalities; diseases; climate change impact; food and nutrition insecurity, digital gap, environmental degradation among others that disproportionately affected most countries and require collective action by African governments.

Strengthening capacity in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, and harnessing the outcome discoveries, can only be achieved within a comprehensive framework of science, technology and innovation, where we respond at the national, regional and continental levels, with policies, programmes, institutions and partnerships, which maximize economic opportunities and societal benefits. In this regard, the African Heads of State and Government in June 2014 adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024)¹ as the continental framework for accelerating Africa’s transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy within the overall framework of the AU Agenda 2063. In the process, they also adopted decisions and statutory documents to establish strategic African institutions namely African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC), the African Observatory for Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) and the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO).

STISA-2024 outlines the key socio-economic priority areas that Africa must collectively address through scientific research and development. Importantly, it calls for multidisciplinary STI systems geared towards creating a continent where its inhabitants live together in peace and harmony. It is the first of ten-year incremental phasing strategies that responds to the demand for STI across various socio-economic and development sectors by embedding STI into these sectors. These will ensure that STI is an effective multi-functional tool and enabler for achieving the continental development goals, namely, diversification and beneficiation of resources to optimize our socio-economic growth potential and sustaining and extending the current economic performance. There is an urgent need to change the narrative that Africa, being home to 15% of the world’s population and 5% of the world’s GDP, accounts for just 1.3% of the globe’s investment in research and development (R&D) and holds only 0.1% of the world’s patents. Africa needs to make greater investments in science and technology to become more efficient and competitive, says the African Development Bank (AfDB). This will unlock the massive benefits from science, research and innovation for its economy and boost scientific publication and patents registration. The potential of Open Science in line with the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science should also be further explored and used for the benefits of African researchers and populations.

Over the years, in collaboration with AUC/ESTI, UNESCO assisted AU Member States in formulating their STI policies, strategies and plans as well as in the reform of their science systems, by bringing to light policy options for the governance of science systems in new contexts and supporting participatory policy formulation and/or reviews to improve science management at the national level. This is done through the provision of guidelines and methodologies, partnerships and collaborations, technical

advice and guidance on the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and review of policies and plans concerning national science, technology and innovation.

The support to the implementation of science, technology, innovation strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) for achieving the broader goals of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to further accelerate the transition of African countries to innovation-led, knowledge-based economies has been further highlighted as one priority activity within the framework of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41/C4) and Flagship 4 of UNESCO's Priority Africa Flagship Programmes.

Objective of the assignment

1. The main aim of the assignment is to take stock of the implementation status of STISA-2024, review progress, challenges and lessons, and make strong strategic recommendations for the next STISA-2034.
2. The strategic recommendations must take into consideration the lessons from national and regional-level implementation of STISA-2024 – notably in terms of the adaptations required for STI systems to become fit for purpose, critical gaps, development challenges and opportunities, current developments in the STI landscape of Africa, analysis of Africa's innovation ecosystem taking into account the current initiatives on innovation including the new AU-EU Innovation Agenda, best practices from countries, international science-related normative instruments and the Africa and global development milestones defined in the Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 respectively.

Methodology

The consultancy firm or institution will be expected to:

- Map out the stakeholders to be engaged in the review of STISA 2024
- use a combination of desktop studies, questionnaire interviews, virtual workshops to collect relevant data from institutions such as AUC and its technical offices such as AUDA-NEPAD, PAU, ASRIC, AOSTI, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNECA, OACPS, members of the RCM cluster on STI, AAS, FARA, AAU, , RECs, selected Member States and the Private Sector.
- organize a consultative meeting with UNESCO, UNECA, AUC and relevant institutions and experts to finalize the methodology and data collection approaches
- synthesize a report from data collected with recommendations on recommendations for the formulation of STISA-2034
- organize a validation workshop to finalize the report and recommendations for STISA-2034

Expected deliverables

1. Inception report with clear methodological approach, activities and timelines for completion
2. Terms of references with list of literature sources, relevant institutions, experts and Member States to be used in the study
3. Designed semi-structured questionnaires for data collection
4. Technical report with proposed strategic recommendations for STISA-2034

Time Frame

The deliverables will be submitted according to a phased plan to be jointly decided. The final product is expected to be concluded within 4 months from the period the task is assigned.

Who can apply?

Research and academic institutions, consulting firms and Think tanks registered in Africa with a reputation in STI policy development processes and review. Previous experience with the African Union, UN entities, the EU and related international bodies in conducting similar assignments is an advantage.

How to apply

To apply, please send summary of Expression of Interest (EOI), cover letter with testimonies on a particular work experience related to the tasks and responsibilities outlined above, and a financial proposal in English by email to: aa.recruitment@unesco.org. Please label the subject line of the email as: **STISA-2024 Review Application**

Closing Date/deadline: **Midnight Ethiopian time, 30 April 2023**

ⁱ https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/33178-wd-stisa-english_-_final.pdf