



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY  
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT  
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

---

## Upcoming Africa Capacity Report 2016 on “Building capacity in science, technology and innovation (STI) for Africa’s transformation”

---

**Dr. Thomas C. Munthali**

*Director,*

*Knowledge, Monitoring and Evaluation Department*

*ACBF*

May 27, 2016

ACBF Headquarters

Harare, Zimbabwe



*The African Capacity Building Foundation | Fondation pour le Renforcement des Capacités en Afrique  
Securing Africa's future through capacity development | Assurer l'avenir de l'Afrique en renforçant les capacités*

# OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- 1 Background: Africa Capacity Reports since 2011**
- 2 Context of Africa: Agenda 2063 & Agenda 2030**
- 3 STI & the continental and global Agendas**
- 4 Why an ACR on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)?**
- 5 Focus of the ACR 2016**
- 6 Delivering the ACR 2016**
- 7 Your contributions**



# Reflection

- 'What will it profit a lady to buy all the expensive Brazilian hair only for her to lose her husband to a lady in short hair.' African Proverb



# 1. Background: Africa Capacity Reports since 2011

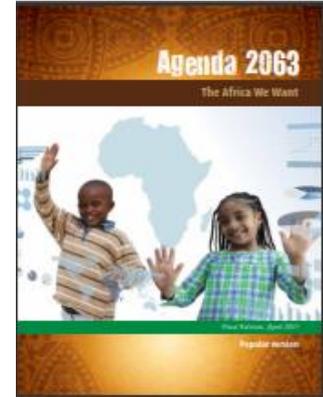
Since 2011, ACBF has attempted through its flagship publication (Africa Capacity Report, ACR) to address the *capacity imperatives of various strategic issues* considered as major impediment to the attainment of development goals across Africa.

- ❖ **2011:** Capacity Development in Fragile States
- ❖ **2012:** Capacity Development for Agricultural Transformation and Food Security
- ❖ **2013:** Capacity Development for Natural Resource Management
- ❖ **2014:** Capacity Imperatives for Regional Integration in Africa
- ❖ **2015:** Capacity Imperatives for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa
- ❖ **2016:** Building Capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa's Transformation (after wide consultations)



## 2. Context of Africa: Agenda 2063 & Agenda 2030

- ❖ Today, African countries are towards the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda
- ❖ Adoption of SDGs came at a right time when Africa has devised Agenda 2063, an effective vehicle through which it will implement the SDGs
- ❖ Agenda 2063 is Africa's transformative development framework to achieve accelerated, sustained and inclusive economic growth that leads to sound, resilient inclusive socioeconomic development in the next 50 years
- ❖ Agenda 2030 is a critical milestone towards the realization of Agenda 2063
- ❖ Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023): all stakeholders have a role to play for the successful implementation



Knowledge production, dissemination and utilization are key to the success of both Agenda





# 3. STI & the continental and global Agendas

## STI at the forefront of the Agenda 2063

- ❖ **Agenda 2063 underpinned by science, technology and innovation** as engine of sustainable and economic transformation
- ❖ Recognition of **STI as one of the major drivers and enablers** for achieving development goals of the African Union and its Member States
- ❖ Adoption of a **10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa** (STISA-2024)
- ❖ **Goal 2 in the 10-Year Implementation Plan dedicated to STI**
  - “Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation”
  - 07 targets at the national level, with 20 indicative strategies
  - 07 targets at the continental level, with 04 indicative strategies



# 3. STI & the continental and global Agendas (cont'd)

## STI crucial in achieving the goals of Agenda 2030

- ❖ *STI as one of the pillars of the Common Africa Position* on the SDGs
- ❖ *Goal 4 of the SDGs reflects STI*

“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”

### ❖ *STI features in ‘means of implementation’ and cross-cuts other Goals*

- ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Goal 6)
- build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Goal 9)
- take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Goal 13)



# Reflection

- ‘Do not tell the man that is carrying you that he stinks’ – African Proverb



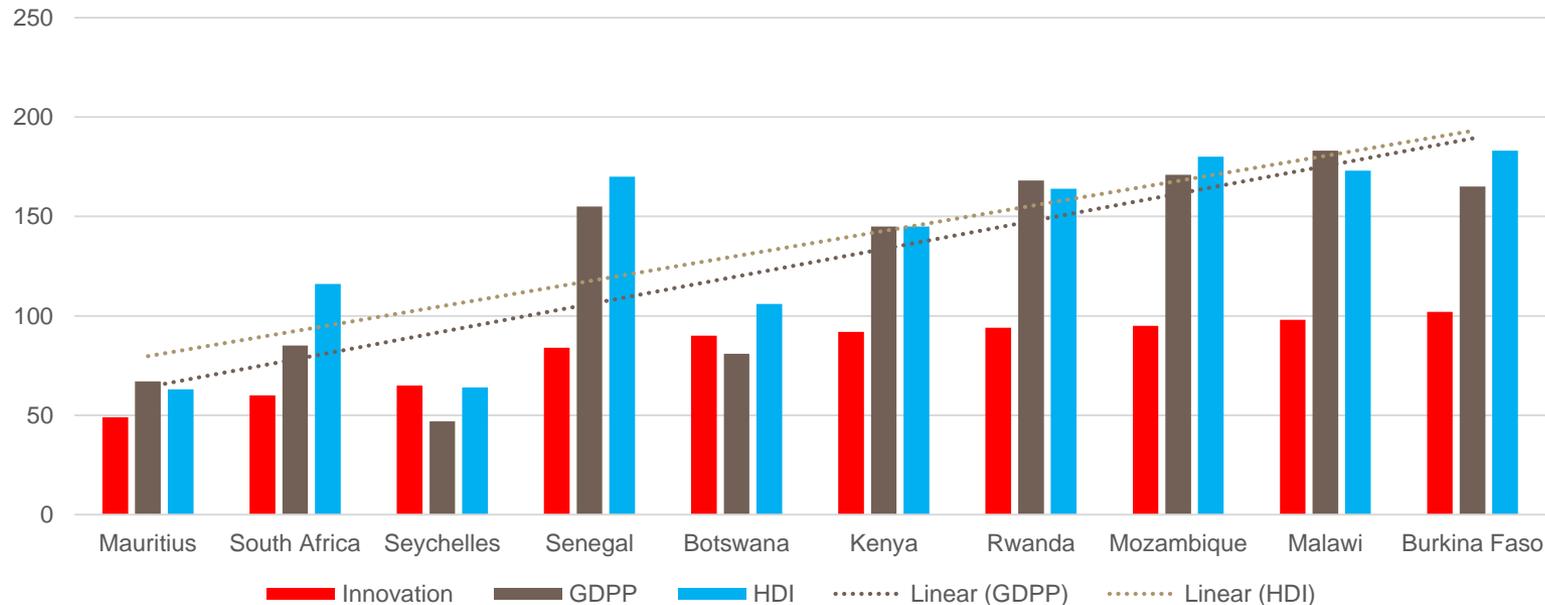
# Why an ACR on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)?

- In modern economies, growth and development are driven by **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**.
- Late in the industrial era, it was recognized that the economic growth or increased productivity is not actually derived from intense capital and labor, but rather from **changes in technology**.
- Statistics show a **strong correlation between socio-economic development and STI**. Countries that embrace innovation into their culture and systems are more prosperous. Their people are richer, competent, adaptive and score the highest standard of living.
- **Innovation** is the engine that drives rapid and sustainable economic growth and global competitiveness.



# Why an ACR on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)? Contd.

Link Between Innovation and Socio-econ. development



- Africa lags behind in global competitiveness and on embracing STI. **Only Mauritius** has been featured in the top 50 innovative countries in the world, ranking 49<sup>th</sup> out of 141 surveyed countries.



# 4. Why an ACR on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)?

**Theme:** 'Building Capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa's Transformation.'

**Definition:** STI encompasses all systematic activities which are closely concerned with the **generation, advancement, dissemination, and application of scientific and technical knowledge** in all fields of science and technology - natural sciences, engineering, medical and agricultural sciences as well as the social sciences and humanities. Specifically, **innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved** product (good or service), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organizational method in business

- ❖ **Support the implementation of continental Agendas:** looking at the capacity dimensions and guiding the various stakeholders and actors on capacities required to achieve Africa's economic transformation through STI
- ❖ Look at the capacity imperatives that are behind the **low Technology Achievement Index and Global Innovation Index in Africa** as well as define strategies for addressing them
- ❖ Understand the **causes behind the low expenditure in STI as a resource challenge or lack of capacity** to effectively manage the resources meant for STI which in turn leads to Governments allocating lower resources
- ❖ Respond to the question "**how to capacitate and incentivize scientists** to stay on the continent?"



# Reflection

- However much the buttocks are in a hurry, they will always remain behind – African Proverb



# Summary on STI

- Need to understand what largely contributes to the achievement of the few African countries in STI-led growth:
  - (i) enabling public policies and systems that foster innovators?
  - (ii) availability of funding to R&D?
  - (iii) availability of skilled manpower in science and technologies?
  - (iv) institutional and societal capacity to generate, diffuse, use and commercialize innovation?
  - (v) large based private and informal sectors?
- Key Question: Do countries have the capacity in these areas?



# Summary

# Contd.

- Africa's strive to leapfrog social and economic backwardness and transform the continent into STI-led economy, hence, demand **more aggressive, inclusive and practical measures.**
- While almost all African countries have STI policies, not much is achieved because of **capacity to implement** them.
- Furthermore, for the continent to achieve its dream of a transformed and united Africa, national initiatives must be **effectively harmonized with the AU's strategy for STI-2024** and other relevant continental frameworks.
- As innovation is more important than invention, it is the practical implementation of national and continental STI strategies that can bring about the required socio-economic transformation in Africa.



# 5. Focus of the ACR 2016

- ❖ **Understand the STI landscape and uptake** by countries in Africa
- ❖ **Examine the capacity imperatives** facing African countries, RECs, continental bodies as well as non-states actors in creating sustainable STI platforms for the continent's economic, political and social transformation
- ❖ **Mobilize high level political and financial support** for development and implementation of sustainable capacity building solutions around STI that will catalyze Africa's transformation
- ❖ **Define the appropriate roles** for governments, RECs, continental bodies, and non-state actors in addressing the capacity imperatives around STI development
- ❖ Through use of country case studies, **serve as a knowledge product that encourages further policy-oriented research** aimed at extending the frontiers of knowledge around what works and doesn't in the area of building capacity for STI



# 6. Delivering the ACR 2016

## ❖ *Data collection*

- Primary data will be gathered at the country-level employing seasoned data collectors
- Country case studies showing individual countries' experiences and initiatives

## ❖ *Approach for delivering the ACR*

- primary data (survey questionnaires and in-country interviews);
- secondary data (commissioned country case studies and reviews of extant literature);
- insights and experiential know-how of the External Reference Group (ERG) & invitees to the validation workshop amongst others
- work closely with external partners already in the field of STI (AUC, NEPAD,...)
- Validation workshops

### **Ongoing:**

(1) data processing; (2) country case studies; (3) full Report



# 7. Your contribution

- ❖ What do you want to see in the ACR2016?
- ❖ What strategic partnership can help successful production of ACR2016? Any institutions which might add value?
- ❖ How are you planning to support the production, dissemination and use of the ACR2016?



# Reflection

- 'Not to know is bad. Not to wish to know is worse.'  
African proverb



# Thank you for your Attention

Nous vous remercions pour votre  
attention



# More information

- ACBF Virtual Library <http://elibrary.acbfpact.org>
- ACBF website: [www.acbf-pact.org](http://www.acbf-pact.org)

