

**Workshop on Lessons Learned
from the UNCTAD Pilot Project on Technology Assessment in Africa**

**Panel on International Trends in Technology Assessment
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Dear Panelists, dear Participants, let me first thank the organisers for inviting me to say a few introductory words on behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union at the important gathering on Technology Assessment (TA) in Africa

I would like to address three main points: (i) highlight importance of TA in STI policy making; (ii) describe EU-Africa STI cooperation Framework and (iii) give some concrete examples of how TA is used to inform our cooperation and build capacity in African countries

The EU has recently celebrated 40 years of Frameworks Programmes (FP) for Research and Technological Development and is currently preparing its 10th FP (2028-2034) which will succeed the current Horizon Europe programme. As most of the European panellists know, TA is one of building blocks in the preparation of our European FPs based on the expertise of the Joint Research Center (JRC) and EU Member States. The Draghi report that should shape up the work of the next European Commission has called for strengthening EU competitiveness and increasing investments in critical technologies.

STISA 2025 follows a similar approach and we support its development as development partner. The integration of TA within STISA 2034 is a critical approach to achieving sustainable development goals. By systematically assessing the potential impacts of emerging technologies, STISA ensures that innovation efforts are aligned with societal needs and priorities as outlined in the AU Agenda 2063. This holistic framework promotes responsible innovation by considering not only technological feasibility but also social, environmental, and ethical implications. Integrating TA into STI processes enables countries to make informed decisions about technology adoption, ensuring that innovations are effective, ethically sound, inclusive, and designed for long-term global sustainability

In 2010, African Union and EU leaders established the **High-Level Policy Dialogue on STI** as the policy forum where regular exchanges on R&I policy take place and where long-term priorities to strengthen cooperation are established. It serves as a model for how international S&T cooperation can help deliver on the broader **Joint Vision** between our two Unions to build a common future, as closest partners and neighbours. It contributes to turning these aspirations into reality by fostering knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and joint problem-solving. One year ago, AU and EU Ministers of research and innovation adopted the **AU-EU Innovation Agenda**, to foster the translation of research cooperation into innovative products and systems.

Under the AU-EU framework, we follow a TA approach when developing the FNSSA and LEAP-RE roadmaps including agrivoltaics. Furthermore, in cooperation with UN Inter-Agency Task Team on STI for SDGs, the JRC has developed a guidebook to facilitate the development of STI for SDGs Roadmaps by providing a framework, a common language and step-by-step advice for practical policymaking and communication purposes. They have also helped six countries develop their roadmaps and are currently holding a workshop in Pretoria to present and discuss results e.g.:

- For The Gambia: Leveraging STI to improve food self-sufficiency
- For The Seychelles: Leveraging STI for energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy

- For Namibia: Mobilising STI to increase resilience of rural communities to climate change, considering the localised challenges of the water-food-energy nexus and the role of indigenous knowledge.

Technology Assessment and STI4SDGs are different but complementary approaches leading to the development of roadmaps that can help plan government and STI stakeholders anticipate, prioritise and plan resources.

To conclude, TA are part of the STI policy toolbox that Africa at the national, regional and continental, needs to strengthen. The EU has shown its willingness to support this process with the ultimate goal to empower African policy makers and stakeholders.

I wish you very fruitful exchanges and look forward to receiving conclusions of workshop

Thank you for your attention