



NEPAD PLANNING AND COORDINATING AGENCY

CONCEPT NOTE

Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CJEDIET)

(1st Dialogue)

25th – 27th March, 2019

Johannesburg, South Africa

**Theme: Igniting Conversations around Mainstreaming Innovation and Emerging Technologies in
Development Policy and Programming**

CONCEPT NOTE

Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CJEDIET)

1. African Union Political Authorization and commitment of African countries to Science, Innovation and Emerging Technologies

- a. African Heads of State and decision makers, through Agenda 2063 have highlighted science, technology and innovation as key enablers in promoting the ability of African countries to achieve their economic transformation and socio-economic development goals.
- b. African Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) Assembly/AU/10(XXIV) of July 2017 requested the NEPAD Agency to facilitate knowledge building and extend technical support to Member States to appropriately put in place robust planning and build evidence-based analytical capacity to harness emerging technologies through increased investment and budget allocation to the social sector.
- c. The first Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, and Technology (STC-ESTI) requested the AU Commission and NEPAD Agency to advise Member States and RECs on matters of technology prospecting, including regulatory and ethical requirements that need to be put in place in order for the continent to benefit from emerging technologies. The Ministers further directed the NEPAD Agency to establish a system for obtaining expert contribution on the matters of technology development, acquisition, and deployment for socio-economic development.
- d. In response, the NEPAD Agency held several regional consultative meetings with forty (40) Member States on Innovation and Emerging Technologies Frameworks, attended by government officials responsible for issues of health, science and technology, environment and representatives from the umbrella bodies of biosafety and food and drugs organisations, researchers and academic to consult on science and emerging technologies; and mapped the capacity needs of senior government officials.
- e. The participants at the regional meetings recognized that there is a need to raise awareness among senior policy and decision makers on emerging technologies and strengthen their capacity to contribute to policy and programming in their respective countries. Similarly, participants called for the need for awareness on elimination of attitudinal barriers, and discussion on the strong link between science, technology and innovation and poverty reduction in development contexts in African countries.
- f. To this end the NEPAD Agency in collaboration with the African Union Leadership Academy is conducting a series of executive dialogues on emerging technologies for senior government officials of African Union Member States to strengthen mainstreaming of emerging technologies into policy and programming, in realization of Agenda 2063.

2. Background Information

- a. The Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CJEDIET) was established by the NEPAD Agency in honour of Prof. Calestous Juma who was the co-chair of the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies and a pioneer of science and technology in Africa.
- b. CJEDIET is designed to lay a solid foundation for senior policy and decision makers who have strategic and leadership responsibilities. The programme is aimed at providing a good opportunity for learning and exchange of knowledge, networking, experiencing diversity and building mutually beneficial relationships with a focus on emerging technologies in the 21st century.

- c. The Dialogue is relevant in addressing the challenges and opportunities that African countries face on this continent, by providing participants with a deep understanding of the complexities of harnessing emerging technologies in Africa within a global context. CJEDIET aims to graduate leaders who think critically about emerging technologies. Hence institutional strengthening will be an added benefit as institutions and organizations gain a critical mass of inspired and knowledgeable professionals who have a broad and holistic perspective on innovation and emerging technologies.

3. MAIN OBJECTIVES

- a. The Executive Dialogue aims to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of African executives, senior officials, decision and policy makers, researchers and academia on innovation and emerging technologies.
- b. CJEDIET aims at strengthening the capacity of senior policy and decision-makers to provide technical advice to governments in assessing and harnessing emerging technologies in their respective institutions and organisations.
- c. The Executive Dialogue will further enable them to provide evidence-based policy choices for African leaders in making informed decisions in harnessing emerging technologies.

4. THE LEARNING STRUCTURE

Learning on the CJEDIET will be highly interactive and consist of short presentation and case studies or exercises, with group work and networking sessions so that delegates can learn as much as possible from each other. Participants will also learn about themselves by being challenged to examine the assumptions they may have previously held when taking decisions and advising government officials concerning innovation and emerging technologies. The Dialogue will “unpack” emerging and existing technologies for more productive conversations about governance.

5. FORMAT OF THE DIALOGUE

The Executive Dialogue will be organized as follows:

a. 1st Day:

During the first day of the executive dialogue, participants will be provided an overview of African Union political authorisation on science and emerging technologies in AU Agenda 2063. Participants will also be introduced to the work of AU High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies, including some of recommended technologies for Africa’s socio-economic development. Delegates will further discuss select issues within the science, technology and innovation landscape in Africa, including specific technologies such as gene drive technology.

b. 2nd Day:

During the second day of the training, the concept of risk/benefit analysis or other important issues in innovation and emerging technologies including coordination and implementation strategies related to policy and programming will be the focus of the Dialogue.

The executive dialogue will include a visit by participants to a science, technology and innovation hub during the second part of the day. The purpose of the site visit is to enable delegates and technology site officials share knowledge, experience and best practices that can be replicated in delegates’ respective countries to inform policy and programming.

c. 3rd Day:

On the third day, participants will deliberate on other important topics in science, innovation and emerging technologies such as policy conformity, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in key governance areas of the continent. Equally, there will be exploration of effective methods on issue communications and perception change.

Participants will be awarded certificates of participation by AULA. NEPAD Agency and participants will establish an Alumni Association to build sustainable partnerships. Lastly there will be a creation of a community of practice for a critical mass of senior government officials on emerging technologies.

6. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the completion of the three day Executive Dialogue, participants should:

- a. Gain a new perspective on innovation and understand myths and barriers, risks and benefits and a better understanding of the importance of innovation and emerging technologies for the socio-economic development of African countries;
- b. Be able to contribute to discussions on technology and innovation at national, sub-regional and continental levels;
- c. Be able to identify, assess and evaluate new and emerging technologies relevant to their country and demonstrate proficiency in engaging in public conversations
- d. Be able to provide technical advice for harnessing emerging technologies and mainstreaming science, technology and innovation into national policies and programmes relevant to AU Agenda 2063, Science, Technology, Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024 and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

7. PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be drawn from experienced senior policy makers, influencers and decision makers and senior executives with significant responsibility for strategic decision-making, selected experts and relevant stakeholders who are influencers on the continent. These will include Chief Directors, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and Directors of government ministries, parliamentarians, CEOs, senior researchers, regulators, academics and emerging technology scientists as well as senior members of relevant organizations or agencies. Participant selection would be informed by representation from the respective geo-political zones of Africa.

8. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

The NEPAD Agency and African Union Leadership Academy are collaborating in implementing the CJEDIET. The NEPAD Agency will be responsible for the invitations, prepare and disseminate documents to the participants, and also provide technical and logistical support. AULA will be responsible for certification of programme graduates and provide technical support. The NEPAD Agency will cover the cost of airfare and local transportation and accommodation, and provide daily subsistence allowance for participants and facilitators for food and other incidentals in accordance with African Union Rules and Regulations.

9. CONTACT PERSONS:

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