



Communique on the Commitment of the Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI) to Effectively Contribute to the Implementation of the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034 (STISA 2034)

September 19, 2025.

Preamble

We, the representatives of the twenty (20) African Science Granting Councils (SGCs) congregated under the Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI), gathered in Accra, Ghana, from September 18 - 19, 2025, in the presence of the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD, and development partners;

Cognizant of the African Union Summit's adoption in February 2025 of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034 (AU-STISA 2034), a comprehensive framework to advance Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in addressing Africa's pressing challenges;

Recalling that in September, 2024, leaders of 17 Science Granting Councils convened in Accra to reflect on the lessons of SGCI and to call for a stronger role for SGCs in shaping the new AU STISA-2034 implementation plan, as enshrined in the [Accra Communiqué of 2024](#);

Extending our appreciation to Honorable Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, Acting Minister of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) of the Republic of Ghana and the substantive Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, all the funders of the Science Granting Councils Initiative, the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD for co-organizing the Advocacy Meeting on the AU-STISA 2034;

We met at a pivotal moment to forge stronger links between SGCI and the AU–STISA 2034 process;

Acknowledging that the adoption of the AU-STISA 2034 comes as the SGCI prepares to launch its third phase (2026 – 2030), which establishes the SGCI Alliance, a Councils-led coordination mechanism, to respond to the increasing opportunities of Africa's STI landscape including, a youthful population eager to innovate, a vibrant start-up ecosystem, growing digital infrastructure, and increased political recognition of the role of STI in driving development.



This declaration reaffirms the central role of African SGCs in driving the implementation of the AU-STISA 2034 and it advocates for a continued key role of the SGCs in transforming the STI landscape of Africa.

Our Reaffirmations:

1. [We] recognize the importance of the sustainability of SGCI as an African-led Alliance to propel STI on the continent until 2034 and beyond.
2. [We] acknowledge that achieving the vision of STISA-2034 requires significantly increased and sustained investment in research and innovation. We commit to working with African governments to progressively raise domestic funding towards 1% of GDP for R&D by 2034 and commit ourselves to demonstrating the impact of research and innovation to justify increased public investment.
3. [We] recognize that most STI funding currently comes from outside the continent and is often directed toward thematic areas that do not fully align with the AU-STISA 2034 priorities. For example, external funding to engineering and manufacturing, which are critical pillars for industrialization, is disproportionately low. We reaffirm the need to advocate for better alignment of external resources with Africa's strategic priorities, aiming to double investment in engineering/manufacturing research by 2034.
4. [We] recognize the need to strengthen dialogue between SGCs, policymakers, and funders to ensure that research investments are aligned with national and continental priorities
5. [We] recognize that the SGC's have a key role to play in ensuring evidence from research informs effective decision-making
6. [We] welcome continued collaboration with African and global funders who share our vision of equitable partnerships. We will advocate to and work with donors to channel increased support through African-led mechanisms such as SGCI, which has become the largest continental platform for strengthening STI systems.
7. [We] reaffirm our strong commitment to the vision and objectives of the AU-STISA 2034 and to supporting its implementation through enhanced collaboration.



Our Commitments:

Guided by the above affirmations, we commit to:

1. **Strengthen STI Systems:** Alongside the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, work to strengthen national STI systems through optimized investments, better coordination of actions within the AU-STISA 2034 framework and support existing mechanism for tracking policy development, implementation and adoption of policy and enhancing the utility value of policies among SGCs to ensure inclusivity, alignment, accountability and consistency with continental and global priorities.

2. **Policy Coherence:** Champion policy coherence by aligning our mandates and research investment activities to harmonize national and regional research funding strategies with the AU-STISA 2034's cross-cutting priorities and thematic pillars.

3. **Knowledge Translation & Industrialization:**

Advance knowledge translation and uptake by prioritizing mechanisms that ensure scientific knowledge is transformed into policy, products and services that address Africa's development challenges.

Promote production of knowledge-based goods and services linked to Africa's industrialization agenda.

Support research that leads to value addition to natural resources and reduces export of raw materials, aiming to significantly increase the share of finished, locally produced goods in key sectors by 2034.

Track impact through measurable indicators.

4. **Strengthen Regional and Global Cooperation:**

Enhance South-South and North-South partnerships and mutual learning across Africa and with international collaborators through regional research networks and collaboration platforms to leverage shared resources, expertise and innovative ideas, amplifying the collective impact of STI efforts.

Develop flagship multi-country research calls under SGCI that align with the AU-STISA 2034 priorities, including agriculture, health, environment, ICTs, and energy transitions, and serve as a model for regional research collaboration.

5. **Innovative Financing and Strategic Local Funding:**



Encourage African Governments, development banks, private sector partners and donors to mobilize additional resources including innovative financing mechanisms such as Public Private Partnerships and blended finance to achieve Africa's development agenda.

Advocate for the creation of dedicated national and regional STI funds that can leverage external resources and co-finance large-scale AU-STISA 2034 aligned continental projects.

6. **Equity and Inclusion:** Uphold and promote equity and inclusion in research funding to advance gender equity, youth engagement, linguistic diversity and participation of marginalized groups in STI systems.

Accra, September 19, 2025

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