



Biennial Plenary Session 9

Venue: Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)

Contact person: Ms. Jackie Nnam, RUFORUM

Email: j.nnam@ruforum.org

Session Name: Moving Africa's development agenda: Ingredients for success

Date: Friday; 26 October, 2018

Time: 09:00-10:30am

Room: Tsavo

Venue: KICC, Nairobi, Kenya

Background/ Introduction

De-colonization, the fight against apartheid and attainment of political and economic independence characterized the fifty years in Africa spanning 1963 to 2013. Over the last five years, Africa has taken greater control of her development aspirations. The African Union Agenda 2063 is the overarching vision for Africa in which Africans aim to achieve an “integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena which clarifies development prospects have changed considerably.” The consultatively developed 50-year ‘agenda’ (2013-2063) highlights seven aspirations, among them i) a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development and ii) an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children. The vision is aligned with the global sustainable development Goals (SDGs) as highlighted in the Common African Position on the Sustainable Development Goals (CAP- AU, 2014) which greatly influenced the crafting of the SDGs.

Already, some progress has been reported towards fulfilling this agenda. The [2017 Africa Sustainable Development Report](#) by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), reported progress on the continent towards the SDGs especially in sectors such as healthcare. Overall, however, Africa remains a long way from achieving this vision. In fact, despite the great optimism and speak, with over 800 million still facing hunger, poverty and malnutrition in Africa, the Agenda 2063 vision still seems a long way out of reach. Other challenges include:

1. *Globalization and urbanization.* In 1990 only a third of Africa’s population was urban (31 per cent)—by 2035, the figure is projected to reach 49 per cent (UNECA, 2017);
2. *Climate change and depleting water resources.* The IPCC reports (1990, 1995, 2001 and 2007) consistently indicate that SSA is the most vulnerable region to climate change and climate variability due to the weak economies and lack of technology;



3. *Unemployed youth.* a disproportionately high youth population without the necessary/relevant skills - with approximately 65 percent of the continent's citizens below the age of 35 (Swanepoel, 2017);
4. *Fast-growing higher education sector* is failing to keep pace with the education needs particularly of the private sector and the increasing social demand for higher education - gross enrollment ratio in Africa is at less than 8% compared to the over 30% global average.
5. *Inadequate knowledge generation and innovation.* Africa, with a share of 17.5% of the global population only produces, by best estimate, less than 3% of global research output.
6. *Lack of data and strong monitoring and evaluation systems*, and weak foresight continue to constrain learning and subsequent development of new strategies; 62% of the indicators in Agenda 2063 itself cannot be tracked due to lack of data (UNECA, 2017).

A well-grounded, bold and implementable strategy for mobilizing continental support is required to support the implementation of the Agenda 2063. The strategy must build on the progress to date and the multitudes of seemingly unlinked initiatives that are currently underway.

An agricultural led strategy has been identified in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) which calls for an annual increase in agricultural output of 6% per annum. CAADP is underpinned by the Maputo Declaration of 2003, calling for at least 10% of national budgets to be allocated to agriculture annually. A recommitment to CAADP was made by African Heads of States in 2014, in Malabo (Malabo Declaration). Driving agricultural led economic growth and development will require greater use of knowledge and innovation through science and technology. The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024 was developed and approved by heads of states as the first of five “10- year plans” that would support the attainment of the Agenda 2063. STISA identifies six key priority areas and four cross cutting pillars to place science at the center of development strategies. The STISA will be supported by the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2025) to strengthen education in Africa to respond to Africa’s growth needs.

As part of implementation of these various sciences driven, agricultural focused strategies, various initiatives have been put in place. At the regional level, these include the Pan African University, that has S&T centers in each of the five geographical regions of Africa, the World Bank (WB) African Centers of Excellence Projects (I & II), WB Agricultural Productivity Programs (such as WAAPP, EAAPP, SAAPP etc..), the Next Einstein Initiative, among others.

Despite the strong contribution of these initiatives, more needs to be done to stimulate and sustain Africa’s growth. It can be argued that with the absence of civil strife in more countries in Africa than ever before¹, this is the time for action. The commitment of African leaders is demonstrated

¹ Berhanu, 2017 showed that the profile of African leadership has changed from 1985 to 2015 and that a key aspect of this generational change has been the increasing number of leaders that have assumed power through democratic elections and the change in those that seized power through a coup d'état from 22 to less than 3. In 2015 more than



by new mechanisms for engagement such as the Committee of 10 African Heads of State to champion education, science and technology established in 2018. However, identifying the right menu of actions and priorities to be implemented by Africa that engages various actors including national governments, higher education and research, civil society organization, development partners and others, or ‘ingredients for success’ remains a challenge.

Session Aim

This plenary session aims to review agricultural led strategies, including on-going initiatives, for supporting economic growth in Africa towards meeting of the African Agenda 2063 and to identify key “ingredients of success” to ensure that Africa is on track to meeting the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The session should provide insights to priorities for the next ten years to 2030 and the potential role of universities in driving this agenda.

Session Objectives

Specifically, the session will:

- Review the current overall progress and trajectory towards achieving the African Union Agenda 2063 and associated strategies such as the STISA, CESA and CAADP
- Assess ongoing initiatives and their performance and gaps that are aimed at implementing Africa’s approved strategies
- Clarify the role of national, regional and international partnerships in driving forward Africa’s agenda.
- Identify the necessary and critical ingredients to stimulate science led growth in Africa
- Identify opportunities and creative means to enhance Africa’s capacity (human, infrastructure, enabling environment) to enhance the use of knowledge for development
- Recommend the contribution of African universities towards implementing the needed agenda, based on lessons from other countries.

Mode of session contributions:

The session shall employ mixed methods for delivery and engagement.

- In principle, presentations will be oral, without use of PowerPoint, with exception of the lead speakers. Panelists who will wish to do so can provide handouts or printed statements after their presentations
- Oral presentations shall be followed by questions from the plenary directed towards. Questions for the lead speaker shall be handled immediately after his presentation. For panelists, questions shall be after all presentations have been made.

50% of African presidents come from such professions as Lawyers, scientists, engineers, economists, political scientists, professors, financial experts (MBA, Accounting, etc).



Moderator:

Moderator: Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Kenyatta University

The moderator will introduce the session to the plenary and highlight the key objectives. She will introduce the panelists for the session and ensure that the approach for the session is clear to both panelists and the audience. The overall process proposed is below:

- Call panelists to the platform to be seated (2 mins)
- Introduce the session- background, key objectives and expected outcomes (3 mins)
- Invite each speaker either from their seat or to the podium to make a pitch
- Close out the presentation of each speaker and introduce the next one in line
- Ensure that speakers keep to their allotted time
- Facilitate audience participation during the discussion following presentations. Questions should be short, precise and, preferably, directed towards a specific presenter
- Present a brief **summary of salient points and needed actions** at the end of the discussion and close the session

SESSION AGENDA

Moderator: Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Kenyatta University

Time	Activity
08:30 – 08:35	Moderator introduces session and panelists
08:35 – 08:50	<p>Lead Speaker: Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA: Achieving a green revolution in Africa. What are the key challenges and gaps in supporting achievement of the AU Agenda 2063.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Talk verbally or Make a PowerPoint presentation (five slides at most) to set the scene on Agenda 2063; detail progress on achievement of targets to-date; and make key recommendations on moving forward with special focus on progress in CAADP, STI and role of higher education ▪ Raise questions to be addressed by panelists and further reflection by the audience
08:50 - 09:00	Plenary Q&A
09:00 – 09:50	<p>Panelists and suggested topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Kenya (TBC). <i>Key strategies for African governments to drive agricultural transformation: experiences from Kenya. What are the skills needed to deliver on Kenya's strategy?</i>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Hon. Mothepeu Mahapa, Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Lesotho. <i>The role of education in national development: Experiences and lessons from Lesotho</i>3. Mr. Gerald Makau Masila, CEO, East African Grain Council. <i>Role of the private sector in driving agricultural growth in Africa</i>4. Dr Patrick Okori, ICRISAT. <i>The Role of the CGIAR and the National Research Systems in catalyzing agricultural transformation in Africa.</i>5. Ms Njeri Njau, PhD student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. <i>Building capacity for agricultural transformation-perspectives from a RUFORUM student</i>
09:50 – 10:20	Plenary Q&A directed at the panelists
10:20 – 10:30	Take Home message from the Moderator and session close out

Expected take away messages:

- Key recommendations (ingredients) to propel the STI and higher education agenda in Agenda 2063 particularly for agricultural sector transformation
- Key thrusts and actions to drive R&D in support of agricultural transformation in Africa
- Lessons in integration and prioritisation of education in national development
- Levers for creating an enabling environment for private sector engagement in Africa's economic development
- Role of higher education in support of development (specifically for CAADP, Malabo Declaration, STISA etc).