

**Background Note 10 for  
UN Workshop on building capacity and scaling up adoption of STI4SDGs Roadmaps in  
Africa  
Oct. 12-13, 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; co-organized by DESA, ECA, and EC/JRC.**

**Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa Funding Initiative**

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Brief presentation of the RHISSA funding initiative

- Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
- Financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research since 2016 with more than 100 Mio. € by the end of funding phase 2 (2028)
- DLR-PT coordinates initiative
- Networks have an African Director and a German Co-Director
- Each network has 3-8 African and 2 German partner institutions
- 50 institutions involved in funding phase 2 (started this year)
- 18 SSA countries plus Germany in phase 1 and 2
- Goals of the initiative are
  - to support the partner countries in achieving the SDGs
  - to implement excellent research under African leadership with African ownership
  - to strengthen research and administrative capacity sustainably
  - to build scientific careers (junior and senior)
  - to network with key stakeholders, incl. government representatives, for research uptake

Response to Guiding Questions of Roundtable 2

**1. Transfer of Technology**

- Depending on the technology in question and involving the necessary partners from governments, the private sector, research institutions, and international organizations, the transfer can be financed through several or a combination of mechanisms, e.g., international grants, concessional loans, public-private partnerships, and innovation funds.
- LMIC could directly integrate technology transfer and financing into their STI Roadmaps by identifying priority sectors, technologies, and potential partners.
- Funding calls addressing relevant research and innovation should be set up, with technology transfer to LMIC being mandatory where possible.

**2. Identifying Impediments and Funding Mechanisms**

- Aside from scaling up open science, affordable and open-source technology, and R&D, other challenges may include inadequate infrastructure, regulatory barriers, and limited access to global markets. Funders can help mitigate these impediments by funding capacity-building programs and technology & innovation hubs.
- LMIC could incorporate these issues into their STI Roadmaps by conducting comprehensive assessments of barriers and prioritizing actions to address them.
- Funding calls addressing research and innovation with LMIC partners should always include research and administrative capacity-building work packages.

### **3. Existing STI Funding Mechanisms and Workshop Catalyst**

- Existing mechanisms include government and NGO funding, bilateral aid, multilateral development banks, venture capital, and public-private partnerships.
- The workshop could foster collaboration among such stakeholders, informing on the value proposition and defining funding needs and types (e.g., seed funding for research, investment for scaling up) but also bearing in mind that there are different preconditions for funding for different funders.
- The ask could be aligned with specific project proposals and roadmaps, and the value proposition could emphasize the potential impact on SDGs.

### **4. Strengthening Linkages between UN STI4SDGs Activities and Funding Entities**

- Strengthening linkages requires regular communication and information sharing.
- Joint planning between UN bodies and funding entities may be an option for some funders.
- STI4SDGs roadmaps should be understood as a valuable resource for investment decisions; therefore, information sharing and high visibility are crucial.

### **5. Ensuring Participatory Approaches and Building on Progress**

- To increase the chance of participation, member states and other stakeholders should be consulted in the design and governance of a voluntary fund for STI.
- Funders have vastly different funding regulations to adhere to, meaning a voluntary fund should be set up in a way that includes different mechanisms through which contributions could be made. Funders need to know what they will be funding and with what outcome.
- Building on progress made by non-UN partners requires collaboration, data sharing, and recognition of successful initiatives.

### **6. Timelines for Deliverables and Success/Failure Metrics**

- Timelines for deliveries or next steps depend on the specific topic and may be established for each proposed solution or proposition. Running funding initiatives that were set up to include some of the suggested activities may contribute to achieving the desired goals with measurable milestones.
- Success can be defined by 1) increased STI investments, 2) successful technology transfer and capacity building, and 3) research uptake and, thus, improved SDG achievement.
- Failure would be indicated by 1) insufficient funding, 2) lack of progress in technology transfer and capacity building, and 3) lack of research uptake and thus improved SDG achievement (or inadequate integration of STI into SDG achievement planning).