
UNPACKING THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE: IMPERATIVES FOR ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH AFRICA

Accra, Ghana, 02 - 04 July 2025

INTRODUCTION

Inspired by the recent Muscat Declaration on Global Science¹, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) - in partnership with the Government of Ghana and the African Union (AU), the African Scientific Research, Innovation Council (AU-ASRIC), the University of Ghana, and AfroChampions - convenes a high-level meeting of key stakeholders in Africa's science-policy-practice nexus to celebrate progress made towards achieving Africa's science, technology, and innovation (STI) Agenda while taking stock of opportunities, priorities, and imperatives for scientific cooperation with Africa.

The meeting will be held in Accra, Ghana, from 02 - 04 July 2025 under the auspices of the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence² (ARISE). ARISE is an innovative research and innovation (R&I) support programme providing a vibrant platform and pathway for R&I exchanges in contribution to sustainable and inclusive development, economic growth, and job creation. The programme, which is mainly funded by the European Union (EU), is implemented by the AAS in partnership with the AU, the EU, and other national, regional, and global partners.

ARISE facilitates the transformation of Africa into a knowledge-based and innovation-led continent as envisioned in the AU-STI Agenda (STISA 2034). It also contributes to other relevant regional and global initiatives, including European Union's Global Gateway Strategy and its Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship, the United Nations (UN) Pact for the Future³, and the UN International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033)⁴. These initiatives share a common and mutually reinforcing agenda: to bridge science, technology, and innovation (STI) divides while supporting sustainable development and strengthening universal human values, protecting people and planet, and leaving no one behind.

Discussions from the meeting in Accra will culminate in a *Communiqué* to the 2025 G20 Summit under South Africa's Presidency, providing concrete recommendations on opportunities, priorities, and imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation and financing with Africa. Additionally, the meeting will provide visibility for ARISE-SD and its potential to revolutionize Africa's R&I ecosystem, mobilizing more domestic, especially from AU Member States and Philanthropies, and international investments to make ARISE-SD a truly pan-African programme, significantly contributing to the achievement of Africa's STI Agenda.

¹ <https://council.science/news/muscat-declaration/>

² <https://arise.aasciences.app/>

³ <https://summitofthefutureun.org/pact/chapter/a-more-sustainable-digital-world>

⁴ <https://www.un-sciences-decade.org/en>

AGENDA

Time (GMT)	Session
Wednesday, 2 July 2025 (Day 1)	
<i>Venue: Cedi Conference Centre, University of Ghana</i>	
09.00 – 12.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Side-event 1: Workshop on Horizon Europe -Africa Initiative III, Focus on Ghana</p> <p>Organizer: EURAXESS Africa/EU Delegation to Ghana</p> <p>09.00 – 9.30 Opening ceremony/Institutional greetings Moderator: Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, Director, Research and Innovation University of Ghana</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Cephas Adjei-Mensah, Director for research, Ministry of Environment Science and Technology 2. Prof. Felix Ankomah Asante, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development, University of Ghana 3. Massimo Mina Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Ghana <p>9.30 – 10.00 EU-Africa Cooperation, focus on EU-Ghana STI International Cooperation Strategy/Priorities, Policy Brief, Horizon Europe-Africa Initiative III topics and other Horizon Europe opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Laurent Bocherreau, Minister-Counselor for Science, Technology, and Innovation at EU delegation to the AU <p>10.00 – 10.30 Ghanaian scientists involved in Horizon Europe will share their experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. John Gyapong, Chair of the Global Health EDCTP3 Scientific Committee • Dr Edem Mahu, ARISE Grantee <p>10.55 – 11.25 Presentation on EURAXESS Africa and related opportunities on funding, mobility, and networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Yedilfana Setarge A regional representative for EURAXESS Africa and Associate Professor at Addis Ababa University <p>11.25 – 12.15 “Hands-on Interactive Practical Session” – Navigating Horizon Europe’s Funding & Tenders Portal and filing in a proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EURAXESS Africa Representative and NCPs <p>12.15 – 12.30 Ending remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Laurent Bocherreau and Representative from UoG
13.00 – 13.40	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening event: ARISE-SD Scientific Conference</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Obed Ogega, Head of Programmes, AAS</p>

	<p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director, AAS 2. Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, VC, University of Ghana 3. Dr. Cephas Adjei Mensah, Director, Research, Statistics and Information Management, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST), Ghana <p>Opening keynotes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highlights from the Muscat Declaration on Global Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Doyin Odubanjo, ISC Governing Board Member & Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science 2. Imperatives for advancing the identification, generation, and application of critical ocean knowledge for a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Ibukun Adewumi, UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for Africa & the Adjacent Island States, Nairobi, Kenya
13.40 - 15.00	<p style="text-align: center;">SCS1: Global health</p> <p><i>Session Chair: Prof. David Onyango, Maseno University, Kenya</i> <i>[Rapporteur: Dr. Thomas Hormenu, University of Cape Coast, Ghana]</i></p> <p>Keynote remarks: Advances, opportunities, and priorities for global health in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Martin Nyaga, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance and Pathogen Genomics, University of the Free State, South Africa <p>Research spotlight presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Graeme Hoddinott, ARISE Fellow, University of Namibia 2. Dr. Protus Tarkang, ARISE Fellow, Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plants Studies, Cameroon 3. Dr. Daniel Kiboi, APTI Fellow, JKUAT, Kenya 4. Dr. Laty Thiam, ARISE Fellow, Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal 5. Dr. Olivia Matshabane, APTI Fellow, Stellenbosch University, South Africa <p>Panel: Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in global health in Africa <i>Moderator: Prof. David Onyango, Maseno University, Kenya</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Martha Mwangome, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, Kenya 2. Prof. Hamisi Malebo, Secretary General at National Commission for UNESCO of the United Republic of Tanzania 3. Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah, Professor of Environmental Health and Sanitation at KNUST, Ghana 4. Prof. Friday Okonofua, AAS Secretary General & Professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Benin, Nigeria <p>Q&A</p>
15.00 - 15.15	Break
15.15 - 16.00	<p style="text-align: center;">SCS2: Sustainable agriculture and food security</p> <p><i>Session Chair: Dr. Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, ARISE SAC Member</i></p>

	<p>Keynote remarks: Advances, opportunities, and priorities for Sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa <i>Prof. Liza Korsten, Professor in Plant Health and Food Safety & AAS President, South Africa</i></p> <p>Spotlight presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Geoffrey Onaga, ARISE Fellow, Africa Rice Centre, Cote d'Ivoire • Dr. Edem Mahu, ARISE Fellow, University of Ghana, Ghana <p>Panel: Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Benjamin Gyampoh, KNUST, Ghana</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Felicitas Mukumbo, Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture, Rwanda 2. Dr. Marthe Montcho, National University of Agriculture, Benin 3. Prof. Adesola Ajayi, Professor of Crop Science & Vice Chancellor, First Technical University, Ibadan, Nigeria 4. Prof. Liza Korsten, Professor in Plant Health and Food Safety & AAS President, South Africa <p>Q&A</p>
16.00 - 17.00	<p>SCS3: Digital transformation and innovation</p> <p><i>Session Chair: Prof. Ahmed Zobaa, ARISE SAC Chair, Reader & PGR Director, Brunel University of London</i></p> <p>Keynote remarks: Advances, opportunities, and priorities for digital transformation and innovation in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tshiamo Motshegwa, Director AOSP, Digital Transformation, NRF South Africa <p>Research spotlight presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Bessie Malila, ARISE Fellow, University of Cape Town, South Africa- 2. Dr. Katawoura BELTAKO, University of Lome, Togo 3. Dr. Emna Harigua, Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia <p>Panel: Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in digital transformation and innovation in Africa</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Amos T. Kabo-Bah, University of Energy & Natural Resources, Ghana</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Rajaâ Cherkaoui El Moursli, Professor of Physics at the Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco 2. Dr. Christina Yan Zhang, CEO, The Metaverse Institute, London, UK 3. Dr. Julianne Susan Sansa-Otim, Team Leader IoT-ra lab, Makerere University, Uganda (Virtually) 4. Prof. Raphael Munavu, Chairperson, Konza Technopolis Development Authority Board, Kenya

	Q&A
17.00 - 17.15	<p>Wrap-up and closure of Day 1</p> <p>Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, Director of R&I, University of Ghana • Prof. Liza Korsten, President, AAS
<p>Thursday, 3 July 2025 (Day 2)</p> <p><i>Venue: Accra International Conference Centre- Main Auditorium</i></p>	
8.30 – 09.30	Registration opens
09.30 - 09.50	<p>Closed Door Meeting with the H.E the President of Ghana with High Level Officers</p> <p>Session 1: Official opening</p>
10.00 – 12.00	<p><i>Master of Ceremony: Ms. Pamela Boateng'</i></p> <p><i>[Rapporteurs: Dr. Boniface Ushie & Mr. Patterson Siema]</i></p> <p>Meeting opening: Ghana National Anthem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Edem Mahu, ARISE Fellow, University of Ghana • Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director, AAS <p><i>Cultural interlude</i></p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Liza Korsten, President, the African Academy of Sciences • H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria • H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Ag. Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission • Hon. Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Ghana <p><i>Cultural interlude</i></p> <p>Keynote speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya (TBC) • H.E. John Mahama, President of Ghana <p><i>Ghana National Anthem</i></p> <p><i>Group Photo Session</i></p>
11.30 – 12.30	<p>Session 2: Rethinking Africa's funding for science & innovation for sustainable development</p> <p>Opening presentation: Introduction of the <i>African Initiative for Scientific Excellence & Sustainable Development</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Obed Ogega, ARISE Programme Manager, AAS</i> • <i>Mr. Jean-Michel Sers, DG INTPA, European Commission</i> <p>Fireside chat: Unlocking Africa's knowledge economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya (TBC) • H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria <p><i>[Moderator: Ms. Pamela Boateng']</i></p> <p>ARISE-SD funding and partnership announcements</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Prof. Ahmed Zobaa, Chair, ARISE-SD Scientific Advisory Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Massimo Mina, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ghana • Prof. Gina El-Feky, Ag. President of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt, Egypt • Hon. Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Ghana
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch Break
13.30 – 14.15	<p>Session 3: From ideas to action: bridging STI divides, accelerating Africa's transition to a knowledge-based and innovation-led continent</p> <p>Keynote address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Ag. Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union <p>Panel: Imperatives for strengthening Africa's knowledge economy</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Friday Okonofua, Secretary General, AAS</i></p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eng. Dr. Ahmed Hamdy, Executive Director, African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) • Prof. Alain Schuhl, Deputy CEO for Science, CNRS, France • UNESCO Rep in Ghana • H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Ag. Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union <p>Q&A</p>
14.15 – 15.15	<p>Session 4: Key Ingredients for R&D Ecosystems and Accelerating Innovation in Africa</p> <p><i>Session Chair: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, University of Ghana & ARISE SAC Member</i></p> <p><i>[Rapporteurs: Dr. Thomas Hormenu & Ms. Saida Ramadhan]</i></p> <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tolu Kweku Lacroix, Executive Director, Ghana Country Network of the UN Global Compact

	<p>Research spotlight presentations</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Cherif F. Matta, FAAS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bessie Malila, ARISE Fellow, University of Cape Town, South Africa • Dr. Emna Harigua, ARISE Fellow, Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia • Dr. Michael Bodunrin, AESA-RISE Fellow, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa • Dr. Gaymary Bakari, AESA-RISE Fellow, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania • Dr. Charles Ndawula, ARISE Fellow, National Livestock Resources Research Institute, Uganda <p>Q&A</p>
15.15 – 15.45	Break
15.45 – 16.15	<p>Panel (Session 4b): Imperatives for accelerating innovation in Africa</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Edem Adzogenu, Co-Chair of AfroChampions</i></p> <p>Panel members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Wilfred Ndifon, Chief Scientific Officer & Centre President, AIMS Research & Innovation • Prof. Valérie Verdier, President of French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) • Mr. Lukovi Seke, Principal Programme Officer, African Science, Technology & Innovation Indicators (ASTII), AUDA-NEPAD • Dr. Tshiamo Motshegwa, Director AOSP, Digital Transformation, NRF, South Africa • Mr. Tolu Kweku Lacroix, Executive Director, Ghana Country Network of the UN Global Compact <p>Q&A</p>
16.15 – 16.30	<p>Wrap up and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director, AAS
<p>Friday, 4 July 2025 (Day 3)</p> <p><i>Venue: Accra International Conference Centre (TBC)</i></p>	
09.00 – 10.00	<p>Session 5: Good practices, opportunities, and priorities for science-diplomacy actions</p> <p><i>{Rapporteurs: Dr. Boniface Ushie and Ms. Saida Abdul Ramadhan, AAS}</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Frederick Ato Armah, Director of Research and Programmes, Association of African Universities</i></p> <p>Opening keynotes: Leveraging the political economy for science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, FAAS & Governor of Kisumu County, Kenya • Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, MP & Deputy Minority Leader, Ghana

	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Laurent Bocherreau, Minister-Counsellor for STI, Delegation of the EU to the AU • Amb. D.K. Osei, Council on Foreign Relations Ghana • Dr. Philemon Mjwara, Ambassador Extraordinaire for South Africa to UNESCO, Paris, France (virtual) • Dr. Ibukun Adewumi, UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for Africa & the Adjacent Island States, Nairobi, Kenya <p>Q&A</p>
10.00 – 10.45	<p>Session 6: A highlight of initiatives of interest from partner organizations Moderator: Prof. Kenneth Ozoemena, FAAS & Research Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa [Rapporteur: Dr. Rowland Opisa, AAS]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on STI/Innovation Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Saidou Madougou, Director for ESTI, African Union Commission- 2. EU Africa Initiative III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Laurent Bocherreau, Minister-Counsellor for STI, Delegation of the EU to the AU 3. African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lukovi Seke, Principal Programme Officer, ASTII, AUDA-NEPAD • Ms. Ida Burguete Holmgren, ASTII Project Leader, Lund University, Sweden (online) 4. Frontier Planet Prize & Frontier Planet Prize Africa Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gilbert De Gregorio, Associate Director, Frontiers Planet Prize (online) • Dr. Marilena Cabral, AAS Lead, Africa Frontiers Planet Prize (online) <p>Q&A</p>
10.45 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 12.00	<p>Session 7: Priorities and opportunities for R&I cooperation with Africa [Rapporteur: Dr. Boniface Ushie, AAS]</p> <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences • Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy, Executive Director, AU-ASRIC <p>Panel discussion: Priorities and opportunities for R&I cooperation with Africa Moderator: Prof. Felix Toteu, FAAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Gina El-Feky, Ag. President, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt (ASRT) • Prof. Rajaâ Cherkaoui El Moursli, AAS Vice President for North Africa & Vice-President of NASAC • Mr. Osamu Kobayashi, Director of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (Virtual)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Isabel Diaz, Deputy Vice President for Internationalisation and Cooperation, CSIC, Spain <p>Q&A</p>
12.00 – 13.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 8: Closing session</p> <p>Closing plenary: Envisioning the next 10 years of advancing Africa's sustainable development through research and innovation</p> <p><i>[Rapporteurs: Dr. Rowland Opisa, AAS & Mr. Patterson Siema]</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Benjamin Gyampoh, Editor-in-Chief, <i>Scientific African</i></p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Edem Mahu, ARISE Fellow, University of Ghana • Prof. Ahmed Zobaa, Chairperson, ARISE-SD Scientific Advisory Committee • H.E. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice President, Ghana (TBC) • Prof Anyang' Nyong'o, FAAS & Governor of Kisumu County, Kenya <p>Signature of MOU and Partnership Agreements</p> <p>a) Egypt/ASRT-AAS/ARISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prof. Prof. Gina El-Feky, Ag. President of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt, Egypt (TBC) <p>b) CNRS-AAS/ARISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prof. Alain Schuhl, Deputy CEO for Science, CNRS, France <p>c) ERC-AAS/ARISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prof. Maria Leptin, President, European Research Council (video) <p><i>Cultural interlude</i></p> <p>Closing keynote & Accra Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice President, Ghana (TBC) <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Liza Korsten, President, AAS
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 18.00	Field visits