

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

Accra International Conference Centre, 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), 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 Excellence and Sustainable Development² (ARISE-SD). ARISE-SD 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. In so doing, ARISE-SD, which is implemented by the AAS in partnership with the AU, the European Union (EU), and other national, regional, and global partners, facilitates the transformation of Africa into a knowledge-based and innovation-led continent, as envisioned in the AU-STI Agenda (STISA 2034). Additionally, ARISE-SD contributes to other relevant regional and global initiatives, including the AU-EU Innovation Agenda³, the United Nations (UN) Pact for the Future⁴, and the UN International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033)⁵. These initiatives share a common and mutually reinforcing agenda: to bridge science, technology, and innovation (STI) divides while 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://bit.ly/4i0YzgA>

⁴ <https://summitofthefutureun.org/pact/chapter/a-more-sustainable-digital-world>

⁵ <https://www.un-sciences-decade.org/en>

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 1: 02 July 2025

[Venue: Cedi Conference Centre, University of Ghana]

09.00 – 12.00 Side-events

- SE1: Africa Initiative III (Hosted by Euraxess Africa & EU Delegation to Ghana)

13.00 – 18.00 ARISE-SD Scientific Conference

Keynote presentation: Highlights from the Muscat Declaration on Global Science

Scientific Conference Sessions

a) Global health

- **Keynote remarks:** Advances, opportunities, and priorities for global health in Africa
- Research spotlight presentations
- **Panel discussion:** Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in global health in Africa

b) Sustainable agriculture and food security

- **Keynote remarks:** Advances, opportunities, and priorities for Sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa
- Research spotlight presentations
- **Panel discussion:** Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa

c) Digital transformation and innovation

- **Keynote remarks:** Advances, opportunities, and priorities for digital transformation and innovation in Africa
- Research spotlight presentations
- **Panel discussion:** *Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in digital transformation and innovation in Africa*

Day 2: 03 July 2025

[Venue: Accra International Conference Centre]

09.00 – 13.00 **Official opening**

- Meeting opening and welcome remarks
- Opening keynote and keynote remarks
- **High-level conversation 1:** Rethinking Africa's funding for science & innovation for sustainable development
- Official launch of ARISE-SD
- ARISE-SD funding and solidarity commitments

14.00 – 15.15 **Session 2:** From ideas to action: bridging STI divides, accelerating Africa's transition to a knowledge-based and innovation-led continent

- **Panel 2a:** Imperatives for strengthening Africa's knowledge economy
- **Panel 2b:** Situating science at the core of Africa's international relations

15.30 – 16.45 **Session 3:** Key Ingredients for R&D Ecosystems and Accelerating Innovation in Africa

- Opening presentations
- Research spotlight presentations
- High-level conversation 2: Imperatives for accelerating innovation in Africa

17.30 – 20.00 **Gala reception**

- Poster presentations from select researchers/innovators
- Ghanaian culture experience
- Networking dinner

Day 3: 04 July 2025

[Venue: Accra International Conference Centre]

09.00 – 10.00 **Session 5:** Good practices, opportunities, and priorities for science-diplomacy actions

- **Opening presentations:** Leveraging the political economy for science
- **Panel Discussion**

10.00 – 10.45 **Session 6:** A highlight of initiatives of interest from partner organizations

11.00 – 12.30 **Session 7:** Priorities and opportunities for R&I cooperation with Africa

- **Panel discussion:** Priorities for R&I cooperation with Africa
- **Roundtable Conversation:** Opportunities for R&I cooperation with Africa

13.30 – 15.00 **Session 8:** Closing session

- Closing plenary: Envisioning the next 10 years of advancing Africa's sustainable development through research and innovation
- Accra Declaration
- Closing remarks

15.00 – 18.00 Field visits