

UNPACKING THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE: Imperatives for Advancing Scientific Cooperation with Africa



July 2, 2025. The University of Ghana
July 3-4, 2025. Accra International
Conference Centre (AICC)



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The African Academy of Sciences

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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 Presidency⁵, 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>

5 <https://g20.org/g20-south-africa/g20-presidency/>

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025 (DAY 1)

Venue: Cedi Conference Centre, University of Ghana

09.00 – 12.30

Side-event 1: Workshop on Horizon Europe -Africa Initiative III, Focus on Ghana

Organizer: EURAXESS Africa/EU Delegation to Ghana

09.00 – 9.30

Opening ceremony/Institutional greetings

Moderator: Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, Director, Research and Innovation University of Ghana

Speakers:

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

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

- Dr. Laurent Bochereau, Minister-Counselor for Science, Technology, and Innovation at EU delegation to the AU

10.00 – 10.30

Ghanaian scientists involved in Horizon Europe will share their experience

- Prof. John Gyapong, Chair of the Global Health EDCTP3 Scientific Committee
- Dr Edem Mahu, ARISE Grantee

10.55 – 11.25

Presentation on EURAXESS Africa and related opportunities on funding, mobility, and networking

- Dr. Yedilfana Setarge A regional representative for EURAXESS Africa and Associate Professor at Addis Ababa University

11.25 – 12.15

"Hands-on Interactive Practical Session" – Navigating Horizon Europe's Funding & Tenders Portal and filing in a proposal

- EURAXESS Africa Representative and NCPs

12.15 – 12.30

Ending remarks

- Dr. Laurent Bochereau and Representative from UoG

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025 (DAY 1)

13.00 – 13.40

Opening event: ARISE-SD Scientific Conference

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Winnie Sowah

Organizer: The African Academy of Sciences

Rapporteur: Dr. Rowland Opisa, AAS

Moderator: Dr. Obed Ogega, Programmes Manager, AAS

Opening remarks

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

Opening keynotes

1. Highlights from the Muscat Declaration on Global Science
 - 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
 - Dr. Ibukun Adewumi, UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for Africa & the Adjacent Island States, Nairobi, Kenya

13.40 – 15.15

SCS1: Global health

Session Chair: Prof. David Onyango, Maseno University, Kenya

Rapporteur: Dr. Thomas Hormenu, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Keynote remarks: Advances, opportunities, and priorities for global health in Africa

- Prof. Martin Nyaga, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance and Pathogen Genomics, University of the Free State, South Africa

Research spotlight presentations

Moderator: Prof. Christopher Nwani, University of Nigeria Nsukka

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
6. Dr. Ngonye Keroletswe, ARISE Fellow, Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation, Botswana
7. Dr. Ngu Abanda, ARISE Fellow, Centre Pasteur of Cameroon, Cameroon
8. Dr. Samuel Bunani, University of Burundi, Burundi

Panel: Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in global health in Africa

Moderator: Prof. David Onyango, Maseno University, Kenya

1. Prof. Martin Nyaga, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance and Pathogen Genomics, University of the Free State, South Africa
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

Q&A

15.15-15.30

Break

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025 (DAY 1)

15.30 - 16.15

SCS2: Sustainable agriculture and food security**Session Chair:** *Dr. Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, ARISE SAC Member***Rapporteur:** *Dr. Boniface Ushie, AAS***Keynote remarks:** Advances, opportunities, and priorities for Sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa

- *Prof. Adesola Ajayi, Professor of Crop Science & Vice Chancellor, First Technical University, Ibadan, Nigeria*

Spotlight presentations

- *Dr. Geoffrey Onaga, ARISE Fellow, Africa Rice Centre, Cote d'Ivoire*
- *Dr. Edem Mahu, ARISE Fellow, University of Ghana, Ghana*

Panel: Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa**Moderator:** *Dr. Benjamin Gyampoh, KNUST, Ghana*

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. *Dr. Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, ARISE SAC Member*

Q&A

17.15 - 17.30

SCS3: Digital transformation and innovation**Session Chair:** *Prof. Ahmed Zobaa, ARISE SAC Chair, Reader & PGR Director, Brunel University of London***Rapporteur:** *Dr. Rowland Opisa, AAS***Keynote remarks:** Advances, opportunities, and priorities for digital transformation and innovation in Africa

- *Dr. Tshiamo Motshegwa, Director AOSP, Digital Transformation, NRF South Africa*

Research spotlight presentations

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*

Panel: Imperatives for advancing scientific cooperation in digital transformation and innovation in Africa**Moderator:** *Prof. Amos T. Kabo-Bah, University of Energy & Natural Resources, Ghana*

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

Wrap-up and closure of Day 1**Closing remarks:**

- *Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, Director of R&I, University of Ghana*
- *Prof. Kenneth Ozoemena, AAS Vice President for Southern Africa*

THURSDAY, 3 JULY 2025 (DAY 2)

Venue: Accra International Conference Centre- Main Auditorium

8.30 – 09.30

Registration opens

10.00 – 12.30

Session 1: Official opening

Masters of Ceremonies:

- Ms. Pamela Korsah Boateng
- Mr. Ato Turkson

Rapporteurs: *Dr. Boniface Ushie & Mr. Patterson Siema*

Meeting opening: Ghana National Anthem

- Dr. Edem Mahu, ARISE Fellow, University of Ghana
- Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director, AAS

Cultural interlude

Opening remarks

- Prof. Liza Korsten, President, the African Academy of Sciences
- H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Ag. Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission
- Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, UNESCO

Opening presentation: Introduction of the *African Initiative for Scientific Excellence & Sustainable Development*

- *Dr. Obed Ogega, ARISE Programme Manager, AAS*

Fireside chat 1: Unlocking Africa's knowledge economy

Moderator: Mr. Ato Turkson

- H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

ARISE-SD funding and partnership announcements

- 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 (virtual)
- H.E. Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research & Innovation, Kenya
- Prof. Maria Leptin, President, European Research Council (video)
- Hon. Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Ghana

Cultural interlude

Keynote speeches

- H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya
- H.E. John Mahama, President of Ghana

Ghana National Anthem

Group Photo Session

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch Break

THURSDAY, 3 JULY 2025 (DAY 2)

13.30 – 14.15

Session 2: From ideas to action: bridging STI divides, accelerating Africa's transition to a knowledge-based and innovation-led continent**Rapporteur:** Dr. Thomas Hormenu & Ms. Saida Ramadhan**Keynote address**

- H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Ag. Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union

Panel: Imperatives for strengthening Africa's knowledge economy**Moderator:** *Prof. Ahmed Zobaa, Chair, ARISE Scientific Advisory Committee***Panel Members:**

- Eng. Dr. Ahmed Hamdy, Executive Director, African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC)
- Prof. Alain Schuhl, Deputy CEO for Science, CNRS, France
- Mr. Edmond Moukala, UNESCO Representative to Ghana
- Prof. Friday Okonofua, AAS Secretary General & Professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Benin, Nigeria

Q&A

14.15 – 15.15

Session 3: Key Ingredients for R&D Ecosystems and Accelerating Innovation in Africa**Rapporteurs:** Dr. Thomas Hormenu & Ms. Saida Ramadhan**Opening presentation**

- H.E. Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research & Innovation, Kenya
- Mr. Tolu Kweku Lacroix, Executive Director, Ghana Country Network of the UN Global Compact, Ghana

Research spotlight presentations**Moderator:** *Dr. Cherif F. Matta, FAAS*

- 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

Q&A

15.15 – 15.45

Break

THURSDAY, 3 JULY 2025 (DAY 2)

15.45 – 16.15

Panel (Session 3b): Imperatives for accelerating innovation in Africa

Moderator: Dr. Edem Adzogenu, Co-Chair of AfroChampions

Rapporteurs: Dr. Thomas Hormenu & Ms. Saida Ramadhan

Panel members

- Prof. Wilfred Ndifon, Chief Scientific Officer & Centre President, AIMS Research & Innovation
- Prof. Valérie Verdier, President of French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)
- Dr. Humphrey Ayim-Darke, President, Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Ghana
- Dr. Tshiamo Motshegwa, Director AOSP, Digital Transformation, NRF, South Africa
- Mr. Tolu Kweku Lacroix, Executive Director, Ghana Country Network of the UN Global Compact

Q&A

16.15 – 16.30

Wrap up and closing

Signature of MOU and Partnership Agreements

1. CNRS-AAS/ARISE
 - Prof. Alain Schuhl, Deputy CEO for Science, CNRS, France
2. IRD-AAS
 - Prof. Valérie VERDIER, Présidente-Directrice Générale de l'IRD

Closing remarks

- Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director, AAS

FRIDAY, 4 JULY 2025 (DAY 3)

Venue: Accra International Conference Centre (Meeting Hall 1)

09.00 – 10.00

Session 4: Good practices, opportunities, and priorities for science-diplomacy actions**Rapporteurs:** Dr. Boniface Ushie and Ms. Saida Abdul Ramadhan, AAS**Moderator:** Prof. Frederick Ato Armah, Director of Research and Programmes, Association of African Universities**Opening keynotes:** Leveraging the political economy for science

- H.E. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, FAAS & Governor of Kisumu County, Kenya
- Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, MP & Deputy Minority Leader, Ghana

Fireside chat 2: Science Diplomacy as a Strategic Lever in Africa's Global Engagement**Moderator:** Mr. Ato Turkson

- H.E. Dr. Julius Ogamba, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Education, Kenya

Panel Discussion

- Dr. Laurent Bocherreau, Minister-Counsellor for STI, Delegation of the EU to the AU
- Amb. D.K. Osei, Council on Foreign Relations Ghana
- Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, University of Ghana & ARISE SAC Member

Q&A

10.00 – 10.45

Session 5: A highlight of initiatives of interest from partner organizations**Moderator:** Dr. Boniface Ushie, Programmes Officer, AAS**Rapporteur:** Dr. Rowland Opisa, AAS

1. AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on STI/Innovation Agenda
 - Prof. Saidou Madougou, Director for ESTI, African Union Commission
2. EU Africa Initiative III
 - Dr. Laurent Bocherreau, Minister-Counsellor for STI, Delegation of the EU to the AU
3. African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII)
 - 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
 - Dr. Gilbert De Gregorio, Associate Director, Frontiers Planet Prize (online)
 - Dr. Marilena Cabral, AAS Lead, Africa Frontiers Planet Prize (online)

Q&A

10.45 – 11.00

Break

FRIDAY, 4 JULY 2025 (DAY 3)

11.00 – 12.00

Session 6: Priorities and opportunities for R&I cooperation with Africa

Rapporteur: *Dr. Boniface Ushie & Ms. Saida Ramadhan*

Opening presentation

- Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy, Executive Director, AU-ASRIC

Panel discussion: Priorities and opportunities for R&I cooperation with Africa

Moderator: *Prof. Felix Toteu, FAAS*

- 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
- Prof. Osamu Kobayashi, Director of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (Virtual)
- Prof. Stephen Agong, AAS Treas
- Dr. Isabel Diaz, Deputy Vice President for Internationalisation and Cooperation, CSIC, Spain

Q&A

12.00 – 13.00

Session 7: Closing session

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

Rapporteurs: *Dr. Rowland Opisa, AAS & Mr. Patterson Siema*

Moderator: *Dr. Benjamin Gyampoh, Editor-in-Chief, Scientific African*

Panel Members:

- Dr. Edem Mahu, ARISE Fellow, University of Ghana
- Prof. Ahmed Zobaa, Chairperson, ARISE-SD Scientific Advisory Committee
- Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng Executive Director AAS
- H.E. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice President, Ghana
- Prof Anyang' Nyong'o, FAAS & Governor of Kisumu County, Kenya

Cultural interlude

Closing keynote & Accra Declaration

- H.E. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice President, Ghana

Closing remarks

- Prof. Liza Korsten, President, AAS

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 – 18.00

Field visits



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