

## **Impact Analysis of APET's Work**

APET's focus for the past 6 years has been on supporting the AU Member States in harnessing science, technology, and innovation in socio-economic development. Through direct technical support, publishing and dissemination of knowledge products and capacity strengthening of stakeholders, APET has achieved remarkable success.

## **Modus Operandi of the Panel**

APET's work is serviced by a joint Secretariat composed of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the African Union Commission. The Secretariat provides an enabling environment for the Panel's deliberations, ensures that institutional procedures and practices are followed, and assists with compiling reports developed by African experts. However, the conclusions and recommendations presented in these reports are those of the Panel.

Leveraging African expertise, APET conducts research and analysis on emerging technologies and their potential impact on Africa's economic development. The Panel engages in foresight exercises to anticipate emerging trends and identify opportunities and challenges that African countries may face. It also hosts roundtable discussions, workshops, and other events to share its findings and engage with stakeholders. The Panel is committed to engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and civil society organisations to identify and evaluate emerging technologies that could have a significant impact on the African continent.

In carrying out its work, APET adheres to principles of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability. The Panel strives to ensure that its work is inclusive and representative of the diverse perspectives and interests of African countries and their citizens. It also prioritises transparency in its processes and decisions, ensuring that its work is open and accessible to the public. Finally, the Panel is committed to being accountable to the African Union and its Member States for the recommendations and advice it provides.

APET submits its reports to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for transmission to the AU Summit through its subsidiary bodies. This ensures that the Panel's recommendations are considered and incorporated into the broader policy framework of the African Union. Through its work, APET aims to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, foster collaboration between African countries, and contribute to the continent's long-term development goals.

## Terms of Reference of APET

APET, as a pathfinder Think Tank and Strategic Initiative of AUDA-NEPAD, advises the AU and its Member States on harnessing emerging technologies for economic development. This includes but not limited to the following:

- a. Identification of emerging technologies relevant to Africa, such as drones, gene drives, artificial intelligence, etc
- b. Current and future trends in emerging technologies
- c. The implications that may be associated with the adoption and/or non-adoption of such technologies for regional integration and trade
- d. Provision of scientific evidence and advice on maximising benefits and reducing adverse effects from emerging technologies
- e. The identification of priority areas that have the potential for regional research, development and innovation, including aspects of risk assessment, management, and communication
- f. Harmonisation of the regulation of emerging technologies into a regional/continental regulatory regime for shared research, development and innovation and technology management (this may include ways and means of integrating regulatory measures in existing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and related trade arrangements)
- g. Scientific capacity that will be needed to ensure the safe application and use of products derived from emerging technologies, including human resources for research, laboratory testing, safety evaluation, and enforcement
- h. Strategic ways of building Africa's scientific capacity for regionally oriented regulation and management of emerging technologies and
- i. Ways of improving cooperation with other regions of the world to effectively address trade, research and development and regulatory issues about emerging technologies

The Panel also makes recommendations on the nature of regional institutional arrangements that are required to promote and sustain common regulatory approaches to the application and use of and propose a strategy and policy on emerging technologies.