

ACADEMY SYNERGY BUILDING SESSIONS (ASBS)



Academies as Champions of AU Agenda 2063 & UN Agenda 2030 (SDGs)

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Roadmap: Two Mandates, One Vision

It is a distinct honour to address NASAC and its member academies on the strategic role of science academies in Africa's long-term transformation.

This presentation is structured in two complementary parts:

Session 1 — Science academies as champions of AU Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want.”

Session 2 — Science academies as champions of the UN 2030 Agenda, with a strategic focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 13.



Session 1

Science Academies as Champions of AU Agenda 2063



AU Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want”

- **Agenda 2063 was launched in 2013, on the fiftieth anniversary of the African Union and its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU).**

Its defining vision, “The Africa We Want,” was adopted by the African Union Commission and endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The vision drew inspiration from African youth through the proposal “The Africa We Would Like to Live In,” advanced within education, science and technology.

Agenda 2063 articulates Africa’s collective strategic ambition for the next fifty years.



The Defining Question

How can African science academies contribute decisively to the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and to the realization of Africa's long-term continental vision by 2063?

The following reflections identify strategic pathways through which academies can rise to this responsibility and translate knowledge into impact.



From Vision to Action on Agenda 2063

- The AU vision is clear: “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.”

Academies can align their programmes with Agenda 2063 priorities through authoritative science advice, policy engagement and strategic foresight.

They can advance continental integration by coordinating academy-led initiatives across borders.

AAS and NASAC can strengthen science diplomacy and support coherent responses to transboundary challenges, including climate change and insecurity.

Partnerships between national academies—such as NAS (Nigeria) and ANSALB (Benin)—can serve as practical instruments of integration.



Strengthening the Science–Policy Interface

- **Science academies provide independent, evidence-informed advice to decision-makers at national, regional and continental levels, including the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).**

ASSAf in South Africa offers a strong example, notably through its policy engagement in health and nutrition.

African academies should deepen collaboration with AU scientific institutions that promote excellence in higher education, research and innovation:

- The Pan African University (PAU)
- The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA)
- The African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC)



Session 2

Science Academies as Champions of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



Session 2: Strategic Focus

- **Session 2 examines the strategic role of academies as intellectual, scientific and institutional actors in advancing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

At the interSession of science, policy, education and society, academies are called not only to produce knowledge, but to translate evidence into actionable solutions.

The session highlights five priority SDGs that are central to Africa's transformation: SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4 and SDG 13.



The UN 2030 Agenda: A Framework for Transformation

- **The Sustainable Development Goals constitute a universal framework for human progress, social justice, environmental responsibility and shared prosperity.**

They are deeply interconnected: poverty, hunger, health, education and climate resilience cannot be addressed in isolation.

For Africa, the SDGs must be approached as a practical agenda for inclusive growth, institutional capacity, scientific excellence and long-term resilience.



How Academies Deliver on the SDGs

- Academies play a decisive role in generating, validating and disseminating scientific knowledge in support of sustainable development.

By mobilising experts across disciplines, they can provide independent advice on poverty reduction, food security, public health, education systems, environmental protection and climate resilience.

Their added value lies in transforming knowledge into guidance, guidance into policy, and policy into measurable impact.



Bridging Science, Policy and Society

- **Scientific knowledge produces meaningful development outcomes only when it is understood, trusted and used by those responsible for action.**

Academies must therefore serve as credible bridges between research and decision-making, between universities and governments, and between innovation and public needs.

This requires stronger policy engagement, accessible communication of scientific findings and sustained dialogue with communities, civil society, industry and public institutions.



Partnerships That Multiply Impact

- No academy can address the challenges of sustainable development in isolation.

The achievement of the SDGs requires strong partnerships among national academies, universities, research institutions, governments, private-sector actors, international organisations and development agencies.

Academies must become platforms of convergence, bringing together science, governance, innovation and society in the service of sustainable development.



Five SDGs Where Academies Matter Most

- This session places particular emphasis on five priority goals that speak directly to Africa's development transformation and to the broader mission of scientific academies.
- **SDG 1 — No Poverty**
- **SDG 2 — Zero Hunger**
- **SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being**
- **SDG 4 — Quality Education**
- **SDG 13 — Climate Action**

These goals provide a strategic entry point for science advice, capacity building and policy transformation.



SDG 1 and SDG 2: Poverty and Food Security

- **SDG 1 — No Poverty**

Academies can support poverty eradication by producing evidence on inclusive growth, social protection, employment, rural development and access to essential services. Their advisory work can help governments design policies that are both socially equitable and economically sustainable.

SDG 2 — Zero Hunger

Academies can contribute through agricultural research, climate-smart farming, soil science, nutrition studies, biotechnology, water management and support for resilient food systems.



SDG 3 and SDG 4: Health and Education

- **SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being**

Health systems require strong scientific foundations. Academies can provide evidence-based guidance on public health, prevention, epidemiology, maternal health, mental health and the integration of science and technology into healthcare delivery.

SDG 4 — Quality Education

Education is the foundation of long-term development. Academies can strengthen science education, teacher training, research culture, digital learning and the preparation of future scientists, engineers and innovators.



SDG 13: Climate Action and Resilience

- **Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our century.**

Academies must help societies understand climate risks, design adaptation strategies, strengthen resilience and support policies grounded in scientific evidence.

In vulnerable regions, academies can play a particularly important role by connecting climate science with agriculture, water security, urban planning, public health, disaster-risk reduction and long-term development planning.



Where We Go From Here

- The discussion should lead to strategic reflection on how academies can become more proactive, more visible and more influential in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Guiding questions:

- How can academies strengthen their contribution to national and regional SDG strategies?
- How can scientific evidence be better integrated into public policy and development planning?
- How can academies build stronger partnerships to accelerate practical, measurable and inclusive progress?



A Call to Responsibility

Science in the Service of People, Policy and Sustainable Transformation



Thank you!

**For more information, please
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