

**International  
Science Council**

# **The role and institutional presence of the International Science Council in Africa**

**Daya Reddy**

**With acknowledgements to Farai Kapfudzaruwa and Heide Hackmann**

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# Background

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## ISC Regional Office in Africa

Hosted by South Africa (2005-2021)

Funding: Dept of Science and Innovation + ISC

2021: ISC call for expressions of interest for

### Regional Focal Points

(Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Europe)

- Deepen the Council's engagement with Members, individual scientists
- Help build capacity of science systems and the global voice for science in the regions
- Part of an expanded global secretariat

Failure to secure Expressions of Interest in Africa

Two-year agreement between the ISC and Future Africa (University of Pretoria):

**Convene African partners** to lead a scoping and development process

**What should be the longer-term nature of the ISC's role and presence in Africa?**

# FA-ISC Task Team and Steering Committee

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## Task Team

Heide Hackmann

Farai Kapfudzaruwa (project lead)

Jason Owens (project support)

Claire Chagwiza (senior postdoctoral fellow)

Tracy Bailey (project support)

\*Alison Meston – ISC liaison and contact person

## Steering Committee

Daya Reddy, University of Cape Town, South Africa (*chair*)

Ahmed Bawa, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Oladoyin Odubanjo, Nigerian Academy of Sciences/INGSA, Nigeria

Lise Korsten, African Academy of Sciences

Christian Acemah, Uganda National Academy of Sciences, Uganda

Isabella Aboderin, University of Bristol, UK

Nokuthula Mchunu, African Open Science Platform

Mavoarilala Claudine Ramiarison, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et  
de la Recherche Scientifique, Madagascar

Dorothy Ngila, National Research Foundation, South Africa

Jackie Kado, Network of African Science Academies

Priscilla Kolibea Mante, Global Young Academy and KNUST, Ghana

**Stakeholder mapping, consultative meetings, survey ...**

## **Outcome and findings**

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- 1. Perceptions on the state of African science**
- 2. Reflections on the value of the ISC in Africa**



# Increase in hubs

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UN Regional Hub for Big Data and Data Science in Africa

Facilitation of Projects

Sharing of Knowledge

Provision of Training



futurearth

African Global Secretariat Hub



# Value of the ISC in Africa: Reflections

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## Benefits to members include

- **Connecting** with global scientific community
- Enhance **visibility** and engagement
- Database to facilitate **collaboration**
- Inclusion of **social sciences**

## Perceptions include

- Perceived by some as peripheral to Africa
- Voices not heard – not enough to invite on board
- Top-down and bottom-up approaches essential
- Value proposition unclear
- No coordinated approach since closure of ROA



# Recommendations

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- 1. Further develop an African STI Leaders' Forum**
- 2. Appoint Regional Coordinator**

# African STI Leaders' Forum



Potential additional members: e.g.



Mo Ibrahim Foundation

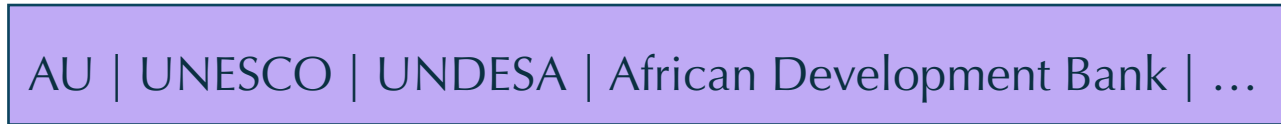
# African STI Leaders' Forum



## Potential additional members: e.g.



# Partners



**THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**  
for the advancement of science in developing countries

# African STI Leaders' Forum



## Responsibilities of ISC Regional Coordinator

Operationalise ISC strategies, coordinate collaborative initiatives

Strengthen relationship between ISC and African members

Represent the ISC in the ASTIL Forum

Coordinate and facilitate ISC capacity development, fundraising

## Forum would address

- Need for a common vision for science in Africa
- Limited domestic R&D investment in R&D
- Reliance on and competition for foreign funding
- Fragmentation of landscape and collaboration
- Increase Africa's **visibility** in global STI policy arenas
- An **integrated approach** to
  - exchanging information
  - catalysing innovative thinking
  - mobilising advocacy
  - fostering collaborative action

## Value to the ISC

**Access** to and increased **visibility** among pan-African networks, also on key priority issues

Opportunity to expand **partnerships** | **engagement** with key STI decision-makers

Access to relevant **capacities** to support other ISC activities

# Focus in the first three-year period: Funding STI

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Future Africa (Univ of Pretoria) and CREST\* (Univ of Stellenbosch) will continue to facilitate and manage Forum activities – leadership provided by **Heide Hackmann**

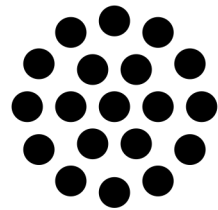
## Complementary and supportive activities:

- **Strategy** development to identify key STI interests and needs, viable pathways to funding
- Identifying funding **data and knowledge gaps**, mobilisation of resources
- **Horizon scanning** towards a shared vision for STI in Africa: challenges and opportunities
- Engagement in regional and global STI **funding and policy fora**

# Thank you!



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