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Promoting collaboration among African Research
and Technology Organisations**

**, 03 November 2022 12:30-15:30
CSIR ICC, Pretoria, Gauteng**



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Overview/Context



Diplomacy for Science: where diplomatic efforts and resources are aimed at facilitating international scientific and technical cooperation. (Royal Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2010)

Utilisation of scientific collaborations for implementation of SDGs

Socio-economic development

Multilateral collaborations and support for STI landscape

Strengthening science and technology collaborations

Capacity strengthening of national & continent-wide innovation system

Facilitating technology transfer

Communication of potential emerging technologies

Popularisation of science

Creating synergies between local scientific talent pool and scientific diasporas

Engagement of scientific diaspora



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WAITRO



- The World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO) was formally founded as a non-governmental organization under the auspices of UNIDO.
- 84 industrial research organizations (RTOs) from 54 developing and developed countries met in Vienna from October 28-30, 1970 for the founding meeting.
- Global membership-based association that promotes collaboration amongst partners and members.
- Science, technology and innovation are at the heart of sustainable development.
- Committed to increasing the impact of research and development to contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



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African Context & Rational



- Science, Technology and Innovation plays a crucial role as a foundation upon which industrialisation is built.
- Unless African countries both individually and together, fully commit to an industrial transformation agenda that reflects the crucial role of industry in the continent's development, significant industrialisation may never take hold in Africa.
- Equally important is the role of Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and networks and as entities that are mandated and empowered to catalyse the industrialisation process through enhanced technology use and deployment of highly skilled manpower.
- The RTOs in Africa can work even more efficiently and effectively if they were better organised to contribute to the development of the continent; to pool resources and share infrastructure amongst themselves; to support some intra-Africa collaboration initiatives; and to demonstrate their effectiveness through relevant research that is aligned with continental priorities in order to garner more support from African governments.



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Intra-Africa Collaboration Programme



- These programmes may be implemented by:
 - facilitating the exchange of technical expertise and sharing of infrastructure amongst members in Africa
 - facilitating training programmes for skills development and enhancement among members in Africa
 - facilitating information-sharing meetings, webinars, and project development workshops with the main focus on the African development matters;
 - creating continent-focused research, innovation, technology and policy discussion forums and special interest groups;
 - serving as a link between research establishments and international associations



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Intra-Africa Collaboration Programme



- providing assistance in finding financial sources in order to improve research for industrial development.
- actively engaging African RTOs to participate in (global) WAITRO programmes and services (e.g. SAIRA, Innovation Award, Capacity Development Program)
- regular information exchange with and supporting the Secretariat in designing and implementing the overall WAITRO Programs and Services
- lobbying for the African perspective in WAITRO meetings and in regular information exchange with the Secretariat, to ensure the region's needs are included (e.g. support in needs design and implementation of needs assessment)



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WAITRO Africa Special Interest Group (SIG)



- Formed to promote collaboration among African research and technology organizations (RTOs) in order to enhance their capacities for innovation that will lead to the improvement of the quality of life of the people and the economic competitiveness of the countries of Africa.
- The SIG will provide a platform to:
 - coordinate African participation in WAITRO and create synergies with other RTO's globally;
 - strengthen relations between African RTOs and improve cooperation with other regions and RTOs for industrial development;
 - facilitate project proposals for international projects;
 - secure national, regional and international funding for programmes; and
 - strive to achieve institutional capacity building and research management.
- The SIG aims to achieve institutional capacity building and research management by implementing various interventions including:
 - creating continent-focused research, innovation, technology and policy discussion forums and special interest groups;
 - facilitating training programmes for skills development and enhancement among members in Africa;
 - facilitating information-sharing meetings, webinars, and project development workshops with the main focus on the African development matters.



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WAITRO SUMMIT 2022



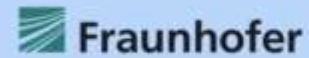
14-15 November 2022
Cape Town | South Africa
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“Research, Innovation and Industrialization for socio-economic impact in Africa” Session during the World Science Forum



- **Objective:**

To provide a platform for discussion of different sectorial perspectives on research, innovation and industrialization (RII) for socio-economic impact in Africa’

- **Participants include:**

- African Network of Solar Energy (ANSOLE)
- AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology & Innovation (AUDA-NEPAD CoE in STI)
- Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI)
- Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO)
- African Futures Institute
- SADC WaterNet

- **Expected Outcome:**

Draft Position Paper on Building capacity for “Research, Innovation and Industrialization (RII) for socio-economic impact in Africa”



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Thank You

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