



# Critical Issues for AU-EU Collaboration on Health and Science

## Speaking Notes

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## SUMMARY NOTES

**“The Power of Reverse Linkages in Entering the Digital Era of Education and Health”**

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### **UNDER the THEME:**

Critical Issues for Africa-Europe Collaboration

on Health and Science

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### **Reverse linkages defined**

“Reverse linkages”—the impacts of developing countries on industrial countries- (IMF)- Reverse Linkages: The Growing Importance of Developing Countries Author: SWATI R. GHOSH, Publication Date: 01 Jan 1996 ISBN: 9781451953190

Partners or collaborators each with Valuable resources or knowledge, development, willing to be shared

Principle of exchange of know-how, expertise and resources across partners

Harnessing the untapped potential especially in the south, where the north may imply Europe and other industrialized nations

Need tools, platforms and mechanisms/framework that can translate the benefits of Reverse Linkages (RLs)

### **FRAMEWORK OF AFRICA-EUROPE COOPERATION**

- 1) Technical cooperation, knowledge exchanges, expertise and technology sharing and resources re-distribution
- 2) Foster collaboration within those countries
- 3) Promote opportunities for the exchange of experience, information and appropriate technologies
- 4) Enhance managerial, technical and institutional capacity to increase actualization of benefits of the linkage
- 5) Mapping of needs and capacity in partner AU-EU states and institutions-

### **Pillars of REVERSE LINKAGES**

- 1) Strategic Alignment- (AU-EU) harmonization of needs and priorities
- 2) Inclusiveness- AU-EU both have something to offer
- 3) Win-Win for all- Both partners have something to gain
- 4) Peer-to-Peer management- Both must be committed to long term engagement- High level of transparency
- 5) Ownership and commitment- Sustainability and further capacity building and resource sharing
- 6) Best fit rather than impose a fit-for-all solution

### **Is Africa defining its own destiny under new collaborations?**

- 1) Africa has built Capacity over the last decades, especially in human resources for digital science
- 2) North-South support has taken a different dimension under new situations of global political economy
- 3) South-South cooperation is possible but could be enhanced with the reverse linkage of European Partners
- 4) Africa is increasingly getting digitalized in education, health, governance etc

Example of DISH success

### **DIGITAL ERA FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION- great model in the dish project**

- 1) DISH-Digital Innovation and Skills Hub established by Africans and a reverse linkage aspect from European Partners
- 2) African-bred Project involving skilling of youths, women and vulnerable communities

- 3) Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda
- 4) African Capacity driving the Project, with catalytic resources from NUFFIC
- 5) Sustainable because African Institutions carry responsibility long after the project
- 6) Expected to benefit thousands in Africa, with a multiplier effect

### **Parameters for sustainable Digital Cooperation**

- 1) Digital sustainability- digital divide between Africa and Europe
- 2) ICT, distributed and adapted to local realities and designed with local expertise.
- 3) ICT for Development and the unintended effects of digitalisation

System diversity

- 4) Critical parameters which impact on digital progress in different places, including cost and affordability, the availability of electricity, latency, legacy and congestion, in addition to social and political contextual features- Infrastructure

### **Way forward for AFRICA EUROPE Cooperation UNDER REVERSE LINKAGE**

- 1) Application of Data Science and Artificial intelligence to share resources
- 2) Reverse linkages to develop a two-way system for institutions at different ranking levels
- 3) Understand the dynamics of internationalization and globalization and set systems and frameworks for Africa-Europe collaborations
- 4) Enhance effective and efficient communication strategy for all key stakeholders in a collaboration
- 5) Continuous benchmarking of successful models of cooperation, reverse linkages and great innovations to support SDGs implementation

**SPECIAL APPRECIATION**

Hon. Chief Fotune Charumbira, Ag. President of the Pan-African Parliament

H.E. Director General, WHO

Dr. Lieve Fransen

All distinguished Speakers

All participants

Our partners who have made this possible

Prof Mirjam van Reisen in a very special recognition for moderating this session

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION***

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