Building Political Infrastructure for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Africa

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Outline

- **African NSI/IS and STI Policy deficits**

- **Reframing rationales for STI Policy**

- **Redefining the locus of STI Policy (design and implementation)**

- **Political infrastructure for STI policy**

African NSI/IS and STI Policy deficits

- Institutional inertia and poor articulation

- Networking and dialogue fatigue

- Low levels of STI policy effectiveness (long policy gestation, policy illiteracy and policy incoherencies)

Reframing rationales for STI Policy

- From economistic rationales (economic growth, GERD, Scientific Productivity, Patents) to national security and sovereignty
- STI Policy to 'secure the nation' by confronting food, water, energy, youth unemployment, climate change insecurities
- STI Policy to 'assert national sovereignty' (influence globalization and integrate into world trade)

Redefining the locus of STI Policy

- From technocracy to social and political space

- Politics-championed, technically led and society driven STI policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

- <u>From</u> departments/ministries/commissions of/for STI <u>to</u> legislative assemblies and civic agencies

Political infrastructure for STI policy

- Political infrastructure=political institutions e.g. EFF in RSA, SWAPO in Namibia, ZANU in Zim, CORD in Kenya….), STI in party manifestos, endowed parliamentary committees with STI research officers..), civic bodies with STI policy activists, presidential STI summits,…

- Pillars of infrastructure=Public participation, executive accountability, and transparent STI policy processes <u>(PAT-based STI Policy)</u>

Political infrastructure for STI policy

- New types of STI indicators (R&D and Innovation Outcomes, human development and human capability-based measures instead of (or as a basis for) sterile input-output indicators such as GERD, patents..

- Training parliamentarians on STI policy issues and strengthen portfolio committees of STI, public accountability, etc.

- Create/establish civic/NGO agencies for STI policy activism, policy analysis and public mobilization

Bibliography (References)

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