Background
The *Africa Sustainable Development Report 2018* indicates that the continent has made steady progress in building the critical ingredients for sustainable and resilient societies, but the pace is slow. Access to basic infrastructure and services such as energy, water and sanitation has improved marginally, and falls below the international standards. Sadly, the overall performance is characterized by wide regional disparities which cut across gender, age, marginalized and minority groups and communities. Amidst this performance, the *African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy Africa 2024 (STISA-2024)* places Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) at the epicenter of Africa’s socio-economic development and growth.

Kenya’s Vision 2030 and its Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) as well as the previous MTPs recognize ST&I as an enabler of the national development agenda through increased productivity and efficiency. A robust policy, legal and institutional framework exist to govern and guide the various actors in development and application of ST&I for the realization of national development goals. The Science, Technology and Innovation Act of 2013 provides the legal framework to facilitate the promotion, coordination and regulation of the process of ST&I; assign priority to the development of ST&I and entrench the same in the national planning and production systems. Further, the Act establishes three institutions; Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA), National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and National Research Fund (NRF) to support the advancement of ST&I in Kenya.

Investments in ST&I have been associated with positive outcomes in Kenya. *The World Bank’s Enterprise Survey 2016* revealed that between 2011 and 2016, 69.3 per cent of Kenyan firms
surveyed introduced new products or/and services, the highest result in Africa. Related to this, 79.6 per cent had introduced a process innovation, again the highest result in Africa. The development and use of M-Pesa, a mobile money transfer system has given Kenya global recognition for making financial transactions easier for many people who may not have bank accounts.

**Gaps in ST&I Development in Kenya and Rationale**

A cursory view of Kenya’s ST&I sector gives the impression of an organized, well-coordinated and properly governed sector, with strong and well-functioning institutions. However, in reality, the sector is marred by a myriad of challenges which impede constructive and systematic interaction among the players in the national innovation system. Among the key challenges are weak policy frameworks to facilitate effective integration of ST&I into the economy; lack of coordination among the stakeholders; inadequate funding and support; non-alignment of education and training curricula to industry needs; inadequate ST&I data to quantify contribution of the ST&I sector to the national economy; and weak advocacy for ST&I at high leadership, management and policy-making levels among others. These challenges coupled with weak mechanisms for implementation, evaluation and review of ST&I initiatives have significantly limited the chances for ST&I to effectively catalyze economic activities and create an environment for stakeholders to interact dynamically and respond to societal needs as envisaged in development policies.

Currently, generation, storage and dissemination of ST&I data and information is not coherent and interactive to inform policy decisions for the growth of the sector. In addition, information on ST&I is neither mapped nor interlinked. The existing system for ST&I information management is not automated. In the absence of a tracking system on the status of ST&I, it is difficult to benchmark the national system of innovation for global competitiveness and empirical policy interventions. The situation calls for urgent interventions to streamline the system through coordination of stakeholders and availing comprehensive data on their activities in order to integrate the sector into planning and development goals. The establishment of national ST&I baselines that enable monitoring of ST&I indicators and support for learning and policy decisions would significantly address most of the gaps hindering ST&I development and application in Kenya.
UNESCO’s Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN)
The Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) is a methodological tool developed by UNESCO to map national ST&I landscapes and analyze ST&I policies and their implementation. The open-access platform offers innovative databases with powerful graphic and analytical tools capturing key information on ST&I governing bodies, legal frameworks, policy instruments and long-term series of indicators for evidence-based policy analysis, design and foresight studies. With a complete set of diverse information on ST&I policies, the platform is useful for decision-makers, parliamentarians, universities, knowledge brokers, specialists and the general public.

One of the critical steps in implementation of GO-SPIN project is establishment of a National Policy Platform on Science, Technology and Innovation (NAPSTI). Formation of NAPSTI entails identifying and bringing together different ST&I stakeholders (researchers, policy makers, civil society, NGOs and private sector among others) to interact, develop and apply technological innovations and solutions that are viable in addressing development challenges. The interdisciplinary approach is critical to ensure inclusiveness and gender equality in the ST&I field given its cross-sectoral nature, dynamism and systemic fragmentation. The members of NAPSTI are charged with the responsibility of collecting, analyzing, validating and regularly updating national ST&I baselines on the GO-SPIN platform. Implementation of the GO-SPIN project in Kenya has commenced through collaboration between the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, NACOSTI and UNESCO.

Objectives
The main objective of the project is to develop national ST&I baselines that enable monitoring of ST&I indicators and support for learning and policy decisions at multiple scale. The specific objectives of the project are:

i. To establish a multi-sectoral group of stakeholders in the ST&I field (NAPSTI);

ii. To conduct a capacity building workshop to equip the members of NAPSTI with knowledge and skills to enable them to perform their roles under the GO-SPIN framework;

iii. To develop an operational framework to guide implementation, monitoring, evaluation of progress and reporting on activities; and
To develop a platform for information sharing with policy makers, researchers and the general public with a view to influencing evidence-based policy making and implementation.

**Outputs**

i. Report of the capacity building workshop

ii. Operational framework to guide NAPSTI activities

iii. Reporting template

iv. ST&I Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

**Expected Outcomes**

i. Constitution of NAPSTI

ii. Members of NAPSTI equipped with relevant knowledge and skills under GO-SPIN framework

iii. Coherence in the data collection, analysis and reporting on ST&I development and application

**Participants**

**Lead Institutions**

1. National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)

2. Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM)

**Government Institutions**

3. Ministry of Education (MoE) – Directorate of Research, Science and Technology (DRST)

4. Treasury


6. Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA)

7. Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEAL)

8. Commission for University Education (CUE)

9. National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)

10. Public Service Commission (PSC)

11. Council of Governors (CoG)
12. Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS)
13. Technical and Vocational Training Authority (TVETA)
14. Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC)
15. National Research Fund (NRF)
17. Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI)
18. Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat
19. Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)
20. Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)

**Research Institutes**
22. Kenya Industrial Research & Development Institute (KIRDI)
23. Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPPRA)
24. Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)
25. Africa Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD)

**Universities**
26. Strathmore University
27. Maseno University
28. Technical University of Mombasa (TUM)
29. Egerton University
30. Kirinyaga University
31. Meru University of Science and Technology
32. Kenyatta University (KU)
33. University of Nairobi (UoN)
34. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)
35. Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST)
36. Turkana University

**Private Sector**
37. Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)
38. Safaricom
39. Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
Credit/Financial Institutions
40. Equity Bank
41. Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
42. Research Triangle Institute - RTI International
43. African Centre for Technological Studies (ACTS)
44. Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA)
45. Evidence Action
46. Africa Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC)
47. African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)
48. International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

Date and Venue
The training workshop will take place on 4th to 8th May 2020. The venue is yet to be determined but will be outside Nairobi.