

THE CULTURE OF SCIENCE ACTION AGENDA 2026 TO 2030

Preamble

CHReaD convenes the Culture of Science Conference 2026 in Nairobi, 8 to 10 September, with Speak Up Africa as co-convener and main sponsor, and AHRIDA and Faith to Action Network as co-convening partners and sponsors.

Africa has already articulated its scientific ambition through the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, STISA-2034, the Abuja Declaration on Health financing, and the Algiers Declaration. The challenge is no longer ambition. It is the persistent gap between what these frameworks commit to and what gets delivered.

This Agenda establishes a framework for collective action and accountability from 2026 to 2030, connecting scientific knowledge to public priorities, investment to outcomes, and institutional commitment to measurable progress. We affirm science as a public good, and Africa's ownership of its scientific future, drawing on research, innovation, indigenous knowledge, and lived experience.

The Six Action Paths

1. Learning, Knowledge and Scientific Talent

Africa's scientific future depends on the people and institutions that sustain it. We commit to advocating for investment in data infrastructure and talent pipelines, align science education and research training to the national, regional and global challenges faced.

2030 ambition: *African science systems retain, develop, and deploy the talent they train.*

2. Health and Wellbeing

Consultation input names one recurring gap, science and health technologies already exist, but cost, distance, and weak referral systems keep them from reaching people. We commit to close that last-mile gap to build referral pathways connecting traditional, community, and formal health systems, including a one health approach grounded in evidence and mutual respect.

2030 ambition: *Research and innovation reach the people who need them, not only the policies that cite them.*

3. Food, Environment and Livelihoods

We commit to aligning agricultural, nutritional, and environmental science with the realities of farmers, fishers, and food producers, and to investing in climate resilient food systems and livelihoods.

2030 ambition: *Science contributes directly and visibly to resilient food systems and livelihoods.*

4. Innovation, Enterprise and Production

Consultation input names a specific constraint, most African health commodities and technologies are currently imported. We commit to mobilize financing, including manufacturing and innovation guarantee facilities, and enable regulatory environments that let African production reach African and regional markets.

2030 ambition: *African innovations are developed, produced, and adopted at scale on the continent.*

5. Culture, Media and Public Trust

We commit to building partnerships between scientists and media, and to embed science in African media, culture, and public discourse, and build confidence in vaccines and locally manufactured products.

2030 ambition: *Science is consistently represented, understood, and trusted in African public life.*

6. Governance, Financing and Accountability

Consultation input converges on domestic financing over donor dependency as the central failure of prior frameworks. We commit to align domestic budgets to research and innovation investment, and coordinate transparent tracking of this Agenda's own commitments.

2030 ambition: *African science systems carry domestic financing and clear institutional ownership.*

Cross-Cutting Commitments

- Meaningful engagement & leadership roles for young people and women across Africa's science and innovation ecosystem.
- Equitable access to scientific opportunity for underserved communities.
- Ethical engagement with indigenous knowledge, including consent and benefit sharing.
- African-led partnerships alongside constructive global cooperation.
- Public visibility of commitments, open to review.

From Commitment to Action

This Agenda precedes the development of the Culture of Science Action Agenda Roadmap, which follows the conference and is coordinated by CHReaD. The Agenda sets shared direction toward the Sustainable Development Goals' 2030 targets and Africa's Agenda 2063 ambitions. The Roadmap will translate that direction into institutional action: result, timeframe, responsible institution, and indicator, reflecting each institution's own mandate and capacity.

Review and Accountability

Progress is reviewed through the Culture of Science Network, with a mid-term review in 2028 and a final review in 2030, both inside this Agenda's own period. Reviews consider Roadmap progress, identify where more action or collaboration is needed, and give institutions the opportunity to renew or adjust their commitments. CHReaD convenes this process; implementation remains the shared responsibility of participating institutions and the wider ecosystem.

Our Collective Commitment

No single institution builds a Culture of Science alone. Governments, research institutions, universities, industry, financiers, development partners, civil society, media, communities, innovators, and young people each carry a role. CHReaD convenes. The ecosystem acts. By signing, institutions commit to their Action Paths and to naming their specific actions through the Roadmap, building a Culture of Science in which African knowledge creates African solutions, African investment sustains African capability, and scientific progress reaches people's lives by 2030.