Policy Taskforce – Roundup Newsletter – Vol. 1

Dear honoured member,

The Pan-African Policy Taskforce is officially active, following our successful launch on the 13th of December 2022. We welcomed over 45 members, hailing from all corners of the globe with one goal of championing Africa's startup revolution. The Policy Taskforce would like to extend our deep gratitude to you for your attendance and active engagement throughout the session.

The Taskforce was created from a collective need voiced by the African startup ecosystem to build a platform that cultivates connections that enable the flow of information, where specific expertise, learnings and best practice can be shared. The Taskforce will work to convene policymakers and broader startup ecosystem players to co-develop policies that strengthen startup ecosystems across the continent and support entrepreneurs, startups, and ecosystem players to prosper,
as well as facilitate partnerships that identify areas where legislation can be strengthened and/or introduced to support startup ecosystems and develop actions for implementation.

Guiding Principles of the Taskforce include:

- **Co-creation** which will enable members to set the agenda, shape what they want to see from the gatherings, share their own experiences and have a key role in making it happen.
- **Willingness to share and learn**, which harnesses the rich knowledge and experience shared between a range of countries with varying maturities of technology ecosystems. Generosity to openly share these experiences will ultimately enhance the continent's digitalisation efforts.
- **Open-mindedness** will enable members to be receptive to a range of insights, and it will keep the task force agile to emerging trends and flexible to adapt to how this will affect technology and innovation policy.
- **Action Oriented**, as the Taskforce aims to be a vehicle that helps to develop bold actionable steps that can be sustainably implemented in the representatives' context through formal and informal avenues.

In alignment with co-creation, we invited you to share what you expect to see from the Taskforce. There was a resounding consensus for using this space as collaborative support to drive a variety of existing initiatives from laws to MoUs into effective implementation, leaning on support from participant counterparts. The Taskforce will therefore also be a forum where problem solving sessions can be held, successes and challenges can be shared, and solutions can be co-developed through leveraging the expertise of Taskforce members.

For future Taskforce sessions you told us what you want us to discuss including: Finance and the tech ecosystem, Regional and continent market access, innovative startup policies and legislation, education, securing the ecosystem, strategic partnerships, and bridging information asymmetry. These focus areas chosen by you will be prioritised in shaping future sessions.

We are excited to grow this community as a place where people can connect with counterparts and find and share best practices for the development of the African technology ecosystem.

What happens next?

Following your insightful contributions from the inaugural session, we will commence planning for the first technical workshop scheduled to take place in March 2023. We will communicate closer to the date details of how the session will run but feel free to contact the Policy Taskforce team if you have any questions or comments.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next session.

The Pan-African Policy Taskforce Team

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Please find attached the presentation, including the Mentimeter results from inaugural session and below our organisational resources.

Resources from TBI, i4Policy and Smart Africa

i4policy Entrepreneurship Policy Toolkit
Supercharging Africa's Startups: The Continent's Path to Tech Excellence
Africa's Blueprint for the development of an ICT Start-Ups and Innovation Ecosystem