

Africa-Wide Call for

Strategic Reflections on NEPAD@25

Reimagining Africa's Development Future

The NEPAD Legacy and Role of AUDA-NEPAD



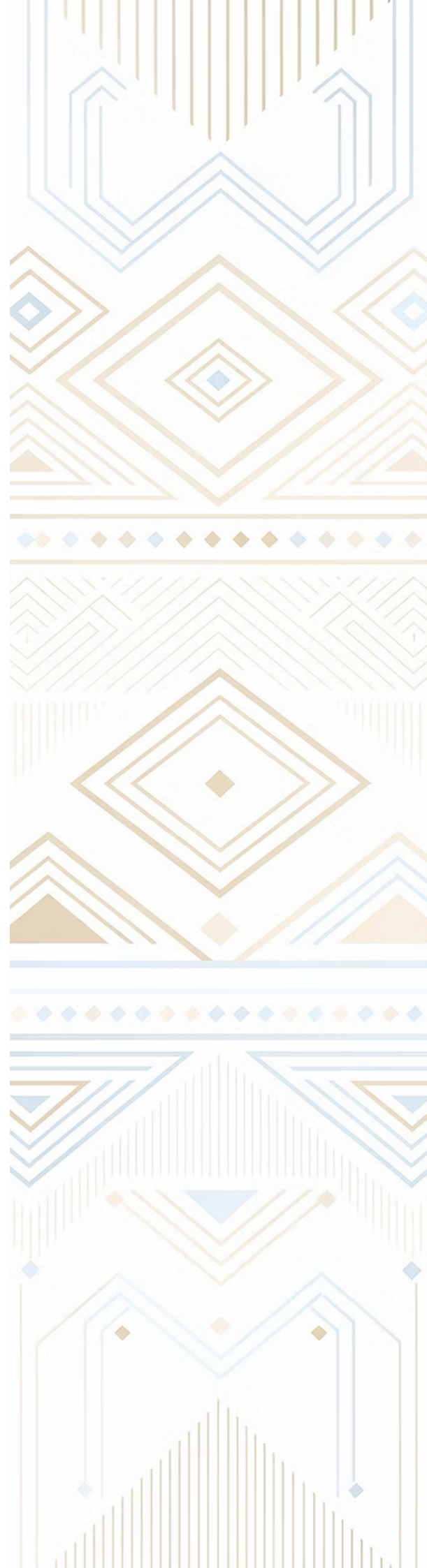
Africa-Wide Call for Strategic Reflections on NEPAD@25

Twenty-five years ago, African Heads of State and Government took a historic step by adopting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001 as Africa's bold, home-grown blueprint for renewal, transformation, and self-determined development. At a pivotal moment in the continent's history, NEPAD articulated and advanced a vision of African agency, leadership, accountability, and partnership that placed Africans at the centre of defining and driving their own development agenda - African solutions to African challenges. As the continent's flagship socio-economic development programme, NEPAD helped shape priorities that continue to define Africa's trajectory today, including regional integration, infrastructure, agricultural transformation, human capital development, peace and governance, and Africa's engagement with the global community on its own terms.

As Africa commemorates this Silver Jubilee milestone, we reflect on NEPAD's dual legacy: first, as a transformative continental vision for Africa's renewal, integration, and sustainable development; and second, as the institutional vehicle established to advance that vision—from the NEPAD Secretariat, to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and now the African Union Development Agency–NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), a pioneering African institution driving development implementation, partnerships, and continental transformation through Agenda 2063.

The commemoration aims to examine both the developmental impact of the NEPAD agenda and the effectiveness of the institutions that have supported its implementation, while identifying the reforms, innovations, and strategic priorities required for the next phase of Africa's transformation.

This milestone therefore provides an opportunity to assess NEPAD's contributions, achievements, and lessons over the past 25 years while shaping a forward-looking agenda for Africa's future. We therefore invite African thought leaders, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, innovators, private sector actors, youth, civil society representatives, journalists, and citizens across the continent and the diaspora to contribute to this landmark continental reflection process on NEPAD@25.



The Journey of NEPAD

While focusing on NEPAD's contribution to advancing the principles of African ownership, self-determination, leadership, accountability, and partnership as foundations for African-led development, the reflections will also examine the evolution of the institutions established to implement this vision—from the NEPAD Secretariat (2002), to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) (2010), and subsequently the African Union Development Agency–NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) following the African Union Institutional Reforms. This institutional journey offers valuable lessons on how continental institutions can evolve, adapt, and strengthen their capacity to deliver development impact.

As Africa marks this Silver Jubilee milestone, the objective is not only to celebrate achievements, but also to critically assess remaining gaps, emerging challenges, and new opportunities. It is a moment to renew Africa's development imagination and strengthen collective commitment toward the aspirations of the African Union and Agenda 2063.

This call therefore seeks to stimulate bold, evidence-based, and action-oriented contributions that can help shape the future of NEPAD and inform the continued evolution of AUDA-NEPAD as a catalyst for Africa's development in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing global environment.

Essentially, the Silver Jubilee presents a historic opportunity for a reflection process that aims to identify the strategic priorities, institutional capabilities, and partnerships required to accelerate Africa's transformation and advance the aspirations of Agenda 2063 over the next quarter century, towards the Africa We Want.





Who Should Contribute

We invite contributions from:

- ☐ **Universities and academic institutions**
- ☐ **Research institutions and policy think tanks**
- ☐ **Governments and public institutions**
- ☐ **AU organs and Regional Economic Communities**
- ☐ **Private sector leaders and entrepreneurs**
- ☐ **Civil society incl. journalists and non-state actors**
- ☐ **Africa's youth and youth-led movements including parliaments**
- ☐ **Women leaders and gender advocates**
- ☐ **Development practitioners and multilateral institutions**
- ☐ **Pan-African scholars and thought leaders**
- ☐ **African diaspora communities and organisations**

Contributors are encouraged to provide innovative, evidence-based and action-oriented reflections that advance dynamic and value-adding solutions capable of propelling NEPAD into a new era of African transformation, sovereignty, resilience and sustainability. The reflections are encouraged to generate bold, future-oriented propositions to challenge Africans to foster a robust and sober collective discourse towards a responsive machinery to deliver an integrated and prosperous Africa.

The reflections may focus on key achievements, remaining gaps, emerging risks and opportunities, and strategic priorities for a responsive and resilient AUDA-NEPAD driving Africa's transformation in a rapidly evolving global landscape.





Objectives of the Call

The NEPAD@25 reflections process aims to:



Revisit NEPAD's Foundational Vision and Historical Legacy

Critically examine the founding principles, aspirations and institutional architecture of NEPAD, assessing its contributions to Africa's development trajectory over the past 25 years and identifying lessons for the future.



Assess NEPAD's Contemporary Relevance

Explore NEPAD's relevance in addressing emerging continental and global challenges, including: Climate change and environmental sustainability; Digital transformation and technological innovation; Food systems and agricultural transformation; Natural resource governance; Peace, security, and state-building; Public service and institutional resilience; Youth employment and demographic transition; Economic integration and industrialisation; Africa's position in shifting global geopolitical and economic systems; Illicit capital and resource flows and repatriation of Africa's stolen assets.



Reimagine Pan-Africanism for the Future

Reflect on the evolving state of Pan-Africanism and its continued relevance in shaping Africa's future development trajectory. Contributors are encouraged to explore how Pan-Africanism can be modernised and strengthened as a transformative force in today's world and into the future.



Reflect on Regional Integration

Assess NEPAD's role in advancing continental infrastructure programmes, connectivity, trade corridors, energy systems, digital infrastructure and regional integration, including their impact on economic growth and intra-African cooperation.



Strengthen Governance and Institutional Capacity

Evaluate NEPAD's contribution to governance reform, accountability, public sector transformation, institutional strengthening and development effectiveness, while identifying opportunities for more adaptive, responsive and citizen-centred institutions.



Foster Strategic Partnerships for Africa's Future

Promote deeper collaboration among AU institutions, member states, academia, the private sector, youth, civil society and global partners to co-create innovative pathways for Africa's development future.





Suggested Reflection Themes for the NEPAD@25 Engagement Series

Contributors may reflect on successes, persistent gaps, emerging risks and strategic priorities for a future-ready AUDA-NEPAD operating within a rapidly changing global economic, technological, climate and geopolitical landscape. An important cross-cutting issue in all the thematic areas is how citizens, youth, academia, private sector and communities become co-creators of Africa's transformation agenda.

Importantly, what should be the AUDA-NEPAD's defining strategic role over the next 25 years. Contributors may address, but are not limited to the following themes:

1

NEPAD at 25: Africa's Development Journey – Achievements, Impact and the Road Ahead

2

Pan-Africanism, African Agency, State Capability and Development Sovereignty

3

Human Capital, Innovation, Social Inclusion and Institutional Development

4

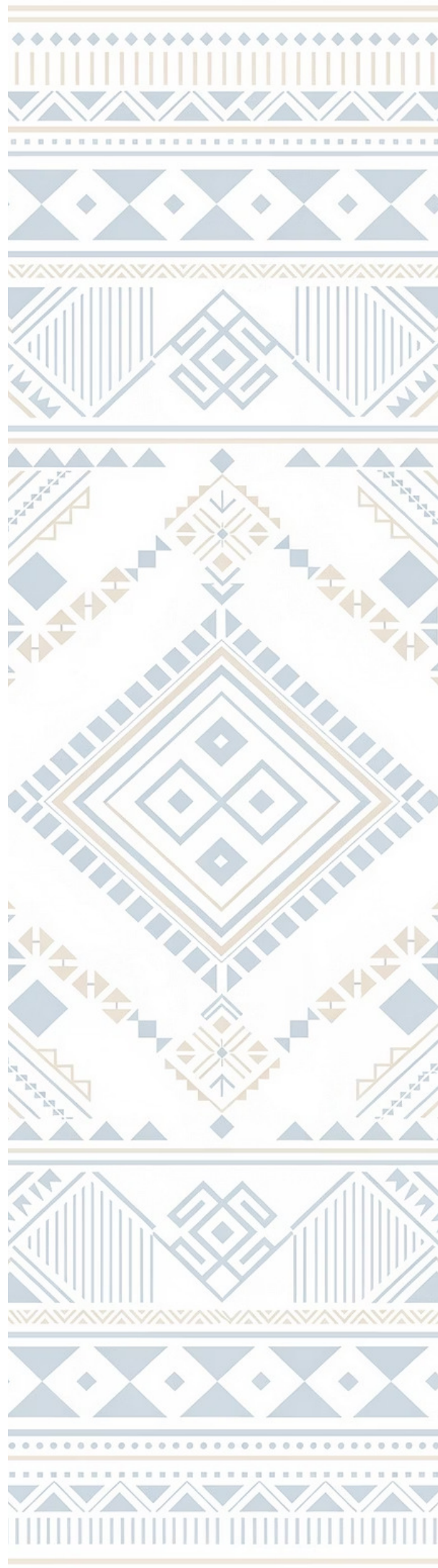
Regional Integration, Economic Transformation, Industrialisation and Shared Prosperity

5

Agriculture, Climate Resilience, Food Systems and Sustainable Development Futures

Cross-Cutting Issues (to be mainstreamed across all papers as relevant):

- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Youth inclusion
- Governance and accountability
- South-South cooperation
- Climate resilience
- Peace and security dimensions of development





Nature of Contributions

Reflections are invited in the following formats:

Position Papers

Strategic Essays and Reflections

Conceptual and visionary thought pieces

Youth perspectives and innovation papers are highly encouraged, as well as practical policy and institutional reform recommendations.



Contributions should aim to generate actionable insights, transformative ideas and strategic propositions that can shape NEPAD's future role in advancing Africa's development aspirations.

Submission Guidelines

Format

Word Document

Length

1,500 - 3,000 words

Language

English, French, Arabic or Portuguese

Deadline

22 July 2026 (5:00 PM SAST)

Submission Email

nepad-25@auda-nepad.org

Selected contributions will form part of the official NEPAD@25 Reflection Compendium and the top 5 will be presented during the NEPAD@25 Grand Silver Jubilee Colloquium and related regional engagements as part of key panels. Top submissions from Africa's youth on re-dynamizing Pan-Africanism will also be presented on a panel at the Colloquium.



NEPAD: 25 Years Shaping Africa's Development Agenda



NEPAD@25 is More Than a Commemoration

It is a defining continental moment for reflection, renewal and strategic repositioning. It is an opportunity for Africans to collectively assess where we have come from, where we stand today, and how we can shape a more sovereign, prosperous, integrated and sustainable future for generations to come.

Through this Africa-wide reflections process, we seek to catalyse bold thinking, strengthen Pan-African solidarity, and generate transformative ideas that will help propel NEPAD and Africa's development agenda into the future.

We look forward to your valuable contributions and active participation in shaping the next chapter of Africa's transformation journey.

African Union Development Agency - NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD)

Knowledge Capitalisation and Management



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

