



*Internationalisation in
the new Decadal Plan:*

*Cooperation between
DSI and DHET*

Portfolio Committee
25 February 2022

Making sure it's possible



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Overview

- Decadal Plan focus on “Expanded and Strategic Internationalisation”
- South African science diplomacy in practice – achievements and contribution to ERRP
- Cooperation with DHET
- Highlights of cooperation



Decadal Plan philosophy

- The Decadal Plan is an opportunity for all concerned with science, technology and innovation in South Africa, to achieve greater **impact** through: enhanced **partnerships** enabled by improved **governance** and coordination; strategic and focused **policy** direction; increased and more efficient **funding** – and more strategic **internationalisation will play a central role to enable this vision.**

Expanded internationalisation

- Enhanced strategic focus:
 - Transformative international joint research and innovation engagements
 - **Building human resources through international mobility**
 - Strengthening and growing research infrastructure capabilities
 - Promoting and enhancing STI capabilities in Africa
 - Stimulating STI and trade synergies
 - Attracting foreign investment

Science Diplomacy

- Courtesy of AAAS & Royal Society:
 - **Science in Diplomacy**
 - Global issues with science basis (e.g. climate change)
 - **Diplomacy for Science**
 - Developing international relations for scientific community
 - **Science for Diplomacy**
 - Science as tool for foreign policy – foster solidarity
- Combined with higher education portfolio: **knowledge diplomacy**; with economic diplomacy: **innovation diplomacy**

Science knows no borders

- DSI science diplomacy strategy, leveraging a diverse portfolio focused on strategic objectives:
 - Share in international resources, experience and expertise: researcher training and mobility; research infrastructure partnerships
 - Leverage foreign investment in South Africa and joint investment with international partners
 - Advance African agenda for science, technology and innovation (African Union / Southern African Development Community)
 - Influence international science policy agenda in support of national priorities (Sustainable Development Goals)



DSI Science Diplomacy Priorities

- Better coordination: “Team South Africa” including with DHET portfolio
- Alignment international cooperation with national priorities – specifically with regard to foreign funding
- Geographic:
 - African agenda
 - South – South cooperation / BRICS
 - EU
- Thematic: Bio-economy, Energy, Space, Circular Economy; Change – support implementation of Decadal Plan’s Societal Grand Challenges
- Success of global SKA partnership
- Innovation partnerships – beyond traditional R&D cooperation
- Transformation – specific attention, participation by:
 - Historically disadvantaged institutions / individuals
 - Gender, race and youth
- Communication

DSI Science Diplomacy Instruments

- Agreements only creates frameworks, implementation also through NRF, TIA, etc.:
 - National funding for collaborative research and innovation programmes
 - Seed funding to prepare international partnerships
 - Joint programmes for international researcher training and mobility
 - Incentives for foreign investment (including co-investment)

DSI Science Diplomacy Instruments

- Promotion platforms (support / advice) for international cooperation opportunities (e.g. ESASTAP)
- Technical exchanges and policy dialogues
- Membership of and participation in multilateral organisations and other platforms
- Events (Science Forum South Africa / World Science Forum 2022)

APP Performance 2021-2022

- International resource leveraging engagements undertaken by the Department - 46
- South African students participating in international training programmes as part of cooperation initiatives facilitated by DSI - 342
- Capacity building initiatives for international cooperation specifically targeting historically disadvantaged institutions and individuals - 17
- International policy dialogues and technical exchanges to support the policy intents of the White Paper on STI - 65
- STI initiatives targeting objectives of Agenda 2063 supported - 18
- STI initiatives targeting the objectives of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) supported - 17
- Bilateral STI plans of action implemented with African partners - 10
- Engagements with global science leaders to advance national priorities in multilateral forums - 11
- International STI initiatives focused on SDGs supported by South Africa - 12

Outcome 1 Achievements

- ***Outcome 1: A transformed, inclusive, responsive and coherent national system of innovation***
 - Secured foreign investment to complement national investment, especially COVID-19 response
 - Ongoing efforts to better coordinate the NSI with regard to international cooperation, e.g. through Africa Strategy (coherent)
 - Accessed international expertise to inform SA policy development (responsive)
 - Specific interventions to advance transformation agenda (e.g. participation HDIs compulsory in funding programmes) (inclusive)
 - Prioritized South-South cooperation (transformed)

Outcome 2 Achievements

- ***Outcome 2: Human capabilities and skills for the economy and for development***
 - Promoted access for South African students to international training and mobility programmes in a coordinated manner with DHET / NRF
 - Various training / skills development partnerships accessed through multilateral programmes, with a priority focus on female and young innovators

Outcome 3 Achievements

- ***Outcome 3: Increased knowledge generation and innovation output***
 - Continued South African success in EU cooperation programmes such as Horizon 2020, European Developing Country Clinical Trials Partnership
 - Increased BRICS Framework Programme participation
 - Joint innovation programmes with African partner countries

Outcome 4: Achievements

- ***Outcome 4: Knowledge utilisation for economic development in (a) revitalising existing industries and (b) stimulating R&D-led industrial development***
 - International partnerships in support mRNA Hub
 - Strong collaboration with DSI Programme 2 on various energy research and innovation partnerships, including green hydrogen
 - Important success in EU raw materials, materials and battery technology, maritime and marine technologies, next generation communication technologies close to market programmes
 - Newton Fund cooperation DARA (data science)
 - BRICS AI cooperation

Outcome 5: Achievements

- ***Outcome 5: Knowledge utilisation for inclusive development***
 - Inclusive development priority focus development partnerships: EU Sector Budget Support
 - Multilateral partnerships: UNDP, Global Innovation Fund, World Bank

Outcome 6: Achievements

- ***Outcome 6: Innovation in support of a capable and developmental state***
 - Sharing in international experience and expertise through various dialogue forums
 - Support for science advice for policymaking in Africa capacity-building
 - International partnerships to leverage resources for key societal challenges: GBV, Trafficking in Persons
 - Policy advice resources from support to ASSAf, HSRC, etc.

Step Change to assist with the implementation of the Decadal Plan

- Developing skills for the digital economy and infrastructure development (including reskilling and retraining) (*with DHET*)
- Unlocking potential of youth dividend to drive economic growth (*with DHET*)
- Leveraging RDI to:
 - Revitalise and modernize existing industries / sectors
 - Create new sources of growth and stimulates R&D led industrial development
 - Support a capable and development state
 - Sectors: agriculture, mining and mineral beneficiation, manufacturing, energy, space
- Focus SMMEs and entrepreneurs
- Economic diplomacy and Pan-African integration

DSI – DHET cooperation

- Providing advice on and support for accessing cooperation instruments and programmes
- Initiate and foster key strategic relations, especially where political support is needed
- Market SA's STI and HE capacities and profile as international partner
- Develop institutional partnerships, e.g. support for regional capacity-building
- Provide each other with feedback, advice and intelligence

DSI – DHET cooperation (2)

- With regard to Pan-African agenda:
 - South African students studying elsewhere in Africa (mobility)
 - UNECA Entrepreneurial Universities
 - Pan-African University (including hosted by South Africa for space science)
 - SADC programmes
- With regard to multilateral cooperation:
 - UNESCO
 - ICGEB, etc.
 - Vocational skills training, also for local government
 - Opportunities for young entrepreneurs and innovators

DSI – DHET cooperation (3)

- With regard to inter-governmental cooperation:
 - BRICS Young Scientists Forum / University Network
 - Young Students Exchange Programme China
 - South Africa – Japan Universities Forum
 - Newton Fund (UK)
 - Various bilateral scholarship programmes (France, Germany (DAAD), Hungary, etc.)
 - EU funded research and mobility programmes
- Development cooperation (Foundations, philanthropy)
- Public private partnerships with multinationals

Gender responsive planning

- Operational Plan includes specific actions to promote participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, addressing demographic imbalances in:
 - Profile of SA participants in international R&I programmes
 - Profile of SA delegation participating in international engagements
 - Profile of beneficiaries (user communities) international STI cooperation
- Hosting of national node SADC WISETO
- Regional women in science initiatives (OWSD) and gender-sensitive research agenda (GenderInSITE)

Key DSI Contacts

Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources:

Daan.Dutoit@dst.gov.za; 076 511 2965

Directorate: America, Asia, Australasia: Duke.Nkadimeng@dst.gov.za

Directorate: Europe, Middle East: Khaya.Sithuba@dst.gov.za

Chief Directorate: Multilateral Cooperation & Africa: Mmampei.Chaba@dst.gov.za

Directorate: Multilateral: Dumisani.Mthembu@dst.gov.za

Directorate: Africa Multilateral: Mandry.Ntshani@dst.gov.za

Directorate: Africa Bilateral: Lindiwe.Game@dst.gov.za

Chief Directorate: International Resources: Vinny.Pillay@dst.gov.za

Directorate: Foreign Investment: Cecil.Masoka@dst.gov.za

Directorate: Development Partnerships Francois.Davel@dst.gov.za

Directorate: European Union: Toto.Matshediso@dst.gov.za

Brussels Office: Eudy.Mabuza@dst.gov.za

Tokyo Office: Ghaleeb.Jeppie@dst.gov.za

Thank you

Science Diplomacy : Uniting nations for and through science more than ever a global imperative

