

Executive Summary

The 2nd Calestous Juma Seminar Series themed ‘*Steering Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*’ was held virtually on 29th-30th, November 2021. The seminar, which attracted more than 200 participants drawn from different parts of the globe, was jointly organized by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and the Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation (CJLF). The seminar provided an ideal platform for experts to share their work and expertise with special focus on science, technology and innovation and how they are aligned with SDGs.

The first day featured insights from the Steering Research and Innovation for Global Goals (STRINGS) project, a global collaborative initiative led by the science policy research unit at Sussex University, whose key objective is to provide evidence and policy events and discussions to map, illustrate and better understand the alignments and misalignments between investments and priorities in STI and SDGs; and to get policy changes to improve STI and related investment towards SDGs. The presentation explored synergies between STIs and SDGs and how the former can be leveraged to achieve the latter especially in low income countries.

The second discussion item explored a case study on STI pathways to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The case study focused on innovations (technological, institutional and social) to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) with a view to reducing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and overfishing in the lake - cage culture pathway and pond fishing farming - two potential pathways to reduce pressure on inland capture fisheries. This was followed by an exciting panel discussion where experts explored technical issues relating to STI and their link to societal challenges. Key issues discussed included digitizing LVB fisheries for socio-economic inclusion, entrepreneurship through aquaculture, international research and capacity building priorities and innovation policies for sustainable aquaculture in LVB.

The second day featured a rich memoir of Prof. Juma, ably delivered by Prof, Norman Clark from the University of Sussex. It explored the journey of Prof. Juma from his humble beginnings in Western Kenya to a global icon for the application of science, technology and Innovation. His work focused on analyzing how knowledge and innovation could be harnessed for development in the context of institutional change in socio-economic systems. All his initiatives promoted this agenda through advance STI policy research provision of high level science technology advice and promotion of conservation of bio-diversity. He founded ACTS in 1988, where his initial developmental ideas were nurtured.

Prof. Juma’s memoir paved way for a discussion on the global pilot program of STI for SDG roadmap, designed by the United Nations Interagency Task Team (UNIATT) whose main objective is align the SDGs with actions in STI. The pilot program kicked off with five pilot countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya and Serbia and later Ukraine. Key representatives of the three African countries – Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia - provided updates with regard to STI for SDG roadmaps in their respective countries, mainly focusing on progress, challenges and opportunities. The final session of the seminar focused on steering agri-food system transformation and the role of STI. It featured innovations in marine fisheries and its potential for economic empowerment; community cooling hub – tapping into clean-energy solutions for reducing agricultural post-harvest loss in Africa; evidence for policy-making; and sustainability of food systems.