

**Declaration of the Youth in Science, Technology and Innovation Indaba, 9-10 June 2017, CSIR ICC,
Pretoria**

Nothing about the youth, for the youth, without the youth

Recognize that in line with the National Youth Policy, National Development Plan and the Science Technology and Innovation Policy framework, an innovative and entrepreneurial youth population is key for South Africa's long-term inclusive growth and development.

Recognize that although inefficiently, different stakeholders of the national system of innovation are already cooperating and collaborating in advancing inclusion of youth in science, technology and innovation.

Recognize that for an inclusive growth and development agenda, equity in access, participation in the science, technology and innovation value chain and in enjoying the benefits of science, technology and innovation are compulsory.

Recognize that technology is transforming the manner in which people transact, create, disseminate and apply knowledge and that collaborative multi-stakeholder responses are required for integrating technology for an inclusive and prosperous South Africa.

In the Youth in Science, Technology and Innovation Indaba declaration, the parties agree to the following:

- Harmonize policies, procedures, strategies, programmes and action plans to advance effective and efficient inclusion of youth in science, technology and innovation.
- Strengthen and expand the contribution of transformed institutions of higher education and science councils to support youth innovation and entrepreneurship through making research and innovation infrastructure accessible.
- Strengthen and invite further collaboration amongst key actors of the system of innovation to the benefit of youth through technical mentoring, support and business administration.
- Call for transformation of the financial sector to ensure that it responds to youth innovations and invest in appropriate business management and entrepreneurship capacity in funding institutions.

- Ensure that the intellectual property management framework responds to innovation by youth.
- Strengthen the science, technology and innovation dialogue with the youth across South Africa, particularly in rural areas. In this regard, the youth is encouraged to use existing and create platforms to advance inclusion in the system of innovation.
- Strengthen collaboration across the system of innovation, particularly in ensuring availability of funding to support youth innovation, particularly in areas relevant for improving the standard of living in South Africa. These areas include education, water, sanitation, health, food and nutrition security, renewable and cleaner energy, and conservation of biodiversity.
- Call for the acceleration of the implementation of the cabinet resolution adoption of locally developed technologies, with an emphasis and preferential allocation for youth innovations.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder efforts to improve the public understanding of science, technology and innovation and implement more STEM projects in primary and high schools.
- Ensure that connectivity is affordable and improve connectivity infrastructure to support township and rural economies.
- Ensure the inclusion of youth in manufacturing opportunities that arise as a result of the next industrial revolution.
- Undertake regular joint assessments on the impact of initiatives aimed at supporting youth in science, technology and innovation and to make any necessary adjustments.
- Ensure that the science, technology and innovation policy framework, procedures and programmes prioritize gender equality and equity as measured in terms of access, participation and sharing in the benefits of the science, technology and innovation value chain.