

Inclusive and sustainable innovation to promote well-being in Africa: STIAS-Wallenberg Roundtable Statement 23 February 2016

The opportunities in Africa are immense. We, the delegates of the 2016 STIAS-Wallenberg Roundtable on *Innovation for prosperity*, support efforts to improve the conditions for innovation-driven development in the countries of Africa, while acknowledging the differences between these countries. Recognising the complexity of innovation, the following guidelines should be considered by policy makers and other stakeholders:

- Align country policies with the objectives set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasises that innovation should favour social cohesion and sustainability.
- Promote conditions that enable human capital development; strengthen schools and vocational education systems; enhance the role of universities in the context of innovation systems; and, ensure accessibility to education at all levels.
- Encourage and facilitate the diffusion of technology and the development of sustainable business models as well as value-creating models more generally.
- Promote incentives to encourage innovative and entrepreneurial ventures, supported by an enabling environment.
- Develop policies that build on Africa's historical strengths, for example, increased agricultural productivity, while simultaneously providing conditions that diversify the industrial sector and strengthen participation in global value chains.
- Create an attractive setting for competitive local clusters; build connectivity to relevant regional and global hotspots through enhanced, fair regional integration; and, promote investments in infrastructure including physical and digital infrastructure and the development of social networks.
- Promote collaborative innovation in the informal sector, which includes marginalised groups to their benefit.
- Identify and address institutional shortcomings and barriers, including the rule of law; transparent and efficient governmental procedures and the dismantling of excessive regulatory burdens, thereby ensuring a fair playing field for all.