

AFRICA THINK TANK PLATFORM (ATTP) CALL FOR PROPOSALS

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1 | AUGUST 2025



Empowering African Think Tanks to Drive Policy Change across the Continent

I. OPENING MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues and Partners,
We are delighted to welcome you to the first edition of the Africa Think Tank Platform (ATTP) Call for Proposals Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed, inspired, and engaged as we embark on this transformative journey to strengthen African think tanks and advance evidence-based policymaking across the continent.

The ATTP Call for Proposals, officially launched on 24 July 2025 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa and streamed globally, represents a US\$50 million investment in Africa's knowledge and policy ecosystem.

African think tanks will collaborate in consortia to generate actionable research, influence regional and national policy decisions, and deliver solutions to cross-border development challenges aligned with Agenda 2063, the African Union's strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The ATTP directly contributes to its aspirations by encouraging knowledge-driven decision-making, strengthening institutions, and promoting regional integration through evidence-based research.

Through this newsletter, you will receive timely updates on the Call for Proposals, step-by-step guidance on application procedures, media highlights from

across the continent, and information on upcoming webinars and activities to help you submit a competitive proposal.

Together, we are building a continental knowledge movement that ensures African-led solutions for Africa's development challenges. We invite you to engage, apply, and share this opportunity within your networks.

Warm regards,

The ATTP Secretariat



2. ABOUT THE AFRICA THINK TANK PLATFORM (ATTP)

The Africa Think Tank Platform (ATTP) is a five-year, US \$50 million initiative led by the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and AUDA-NEPAD, with funding from the World Bank. It is designed to empower African think tanks to lead evidence-based policymaking and drive cross-border solutions for the continent's most pressing challenges.

What We Aim to Achieve

The ATTP project aims to strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission for policymaking and implementation by harnessing resources from national and continental think tanks. It focuses on translating the ambitions of Agenda 2063 into tangible development outcomes for the continent, promoting an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa. Ultimately, this project is intended to operate as a sustainable evidence-based policymaking tool.

The ATTP extends beyond a grant program to become a continental platform for collaboration that strengthens Africa's policy research ecosystem through resources and visibility for local think tanks.

This initiative supports regional and cross-border research collaborations that generate actionable policy recommendations while promoting evidence-based decision making at national, regional, and continental levels. The platform advances knowledge sharing and institutional networking across Africa.

Priority Thematic Areas

The first ATTP Call for Proposals focuses on six key thematic focus areas, selected for their direct impact on Agenda 2063 and Africa's long-term resilience.

- **Economic Transformation & Governance**
- **Climate Change**
- **Regional Trade**
- **Food Security**
- **Human Capital Development**
- **Digitalization**

Gender inclusion is integrated into all areas of the ATTP to ensure that women and youth voices are represented in research and policy outcomes.

The ATTP builds on Agenda 2063's policy infrastructure for the future through collaboration, visibility, and knowledge-driven action.

3. SPOTLIGHT ON THE ATTP CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The ATTP Call for Proposals was officially launched on July 24, 2025 and ready to support innovative, collaborative research led by African think tanks.

This unique opportunity provides multi-year funding, strengthens institutional capacity, and connects participants to a continental network shaping Africa's policy future.

Who Should Apply

African think tanks with a track record in policy-relevant research can lead consortia of 3–5 think tanks, with one institution

acting as the lead applicant. Teams must demonstrate commitment to cross-border collaboration and producing actionable, evidence-based recommendations.

What We Offer

Selected consortia will benefit from multi-year funding of up to 2.5 years for eligible proposals. Institutional strengthening and technical support from ACBF and partners will enhance capacity building.

Participants gain access to a continental knowledge network, connecting them with policymakers and peer institutions. The platform provides visibility for research, positioning institutions as key players in evidence-based policy in Africa.

Key Dates to Remember

The application deadline falls on 24 September 2025. Informational webinars with Q&A sessions will take place on:

- **Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 2:00 pm EAT:** ATTP Informational Webinar No. 2
- **Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 2:00 pm EAT:** ATTP Informational Webinar No. 3
- **Tuesday, September 8, 2025, at 2:00 pm EAT:** ATTP Informational Webinar No. 4
- **Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 2:00 pm EAT:** ATTP Informational Webinar No. 5

Ready to Lead Africa's Policy Future?

Successful applications require a well-formed consortium, strong evidence of past research, and demonstration of policy impact. Starting early allows adequate time for collaboration and preparation.

4. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAUNCH

The ATTP Call for Proposals was officially launched on 24 July 2025 during a high-level hybrid event held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa and streamed online to participants across the continent.

The event brought together the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), senior representatives from the AUC, World Bank, AUDA, NEPAD, and ACBF, along with African think tank leaders, policymakers, and development partners.

This launch marked a major continental step in strengthening Africa's knowledge ecosystem and policy influence.

Key Highlights from the Call of proposals event

A continental platform was introduced as the ATTP was presented as a US\$50 million initiative to support African-led, cross-border research and strengthen institutional capacity. Speakers emphasized the critical role of local knowledge in shaping Africa's development trajectory. AUC, ACBF, AUDA NEPAD, and the World Bank reaffirmed their joint commitment to empowering African institutions.

[Link to the Video of the launch](#)

Inspiring Quotes from the Launch

"The ATTP project is ultimately about strengthening the interface between African-led research and policymaking. It responds to a long-standing imperative: to integrate evidence into every step of our decision-making processes, and ensure African institutions and voices are at the forefront of the continent's development path."



**H.E. SELMA
MALIKA
HADDADI**

Deputy
Chairperson of
the African Union
Commission

"The ATTP is more than an initiative – it is a collective commitment to lead, innovate, and transform Africa's development pathways with homegrown knowledge."



**FATEN
AGGAD**

Deputy Chief of Staff,
Cabinet of the Deputy
Chairperson, AUC

"By strengthening think tanks, we are strengthening Africa's ability to generate the knowledge needed for policy decisions that matter most to our people."



**SAMER
AL-SAMARRAI**

Lead
Economist,
World Bank
Education
Global Practice

"This initiative bridges the gap between research and policy. We are building not just institutions, but an ecosystem of collaboration and impact."



**ABDRAHAMANE
DICKO**

Director,
Programs and
Impact, ACBF

5. HOW TO APPLY - STEP BY STEP

Applying for the ATTP Call for Proposals follows a straightforward process designed to help eligible think tanks submit complete and competitive applications.

- **Form a Consortium**

Bring together 3–5 eligible African think tanks and designate one institution as the lead applicant. Ensure your team reflects regional diversity and the expertise required for your selected thematic areas.

- **Download the Application Package**

Visit the ATTP website at www.africathink-tankplatform.africa to download the Application Form, Budget and Timeline Template, Commitment Letter Template, and Instructions with FAQ.

- **Prepare the Required Documents**

Complete applications require the Application Form, CVs of key team members, evidence of past research experience including recent and relevant projects, budget and timeline covering up to 2.5 years, and signed commitment letters from all consortium members.

- **Submit Before the Deadline**

The submission deadline is 24 September 2025. Submit your application via the official ATTP portal on the website.

Early submissions are encouraged to allow for technical checks.

- **Quick Tips for Success**

Start early to give your consortium time for effective collaboration. Ensure alignment with one or more of the six ATTP thematic areas. Highlight policy impact through demonstrating how your research will inform national, regional, or continental decision making.

Take this step to position your institution as a leader in African-led, evidence-based policy.

See the Full How to Apply Guide

6. MEDIA CORNER

The launch of the ATTP Call for Proposals on 24 July 2025 captured strong media attention across Africa and beyond, highlighting the initiative's continental relevance and policy impact potential.

Over 40 media outlets published stories about the launch, including top national newspapers, pan-African platforms, and development news portals.

Media coverage amplified the key messages of the ATTP initiative including the \$50 million investment in African knowledge and policy research, the importance of evidence-based policymaking for Agenda 2063, and the role of think tanks as engines for regional and continental development.

Top Media Highlights

Daily Monitor (Uganda): **World Bank Com-mits \$50 Million to Strengthen African Think Tanks.**

Ethiopian Press Agency: **AU unveils 50 mln initiative to empower African think tanks**

The Nation (Nigeria): **AU, ACBF, AUDA NEPAD Unveil Africa Think Tank Platform**
Kenya Broadcasting Corporation KBC: **AU Launches Major Call for Proposals to Strengthen Think Tanks.**

Agence de Presse Sénégalaise APS: **UA lance un projet de 50 millions de dollars pour financer la recherche développement.**

7. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The ATTP Call for Proposals is live, and several activities are planned to support potential applicants and keep stakeholders engaged throughout the application period.

Key Upcoming Activities

- **3rd Informational Webinar – 26 August 2025**



This detailed guidance session focuses on consortium formation, eligibility, and completing the ATTP Application Form. We will also walk through the required attachments, including the Budget and Timeline Template, CV Template, Past Research Experience Template, and Commitment Letter Template. The one-hour virtual session includes live Q&A for think tank applicants, institutional leads, and proposal teams.

- **4th Informational Webinar – 8 September 2025**



This session addresses last-minute questions, clarifies documentation requirements, and ensures applicants are ready to submit high-quality proposals. We will guide participants on how to register and submit their consortium proposal, from entering think tank information to uploading files and editing submissions before the deadline. Participants should bring any outstanding questions about eligibility, budget, or consortium documentation.

- 5th Informational webinar – 23rd September 2025



This final pre-deadline session will cover the next steps after submission, including proposal screening, evaluation by experts, award notifications, and grant disbursement timelines.

- Proposal Submission Deadline – 24 September 2025

All complete applications must be submitted via the ATTP official portal before this date. Early submission is encouraged to allow for technical checks and avoid last minute delays.

- Monthly ATTP Newsletter

Stay updated with application tips, insights, and success stories throughout the call period. This newsletter will share media highlights and spotlight think tanks that are actively shaping Africa's knowledge agenda.

- Next Step for Applicants

Prepare your consortium, finalize your documents, and join an upcoming webinar to strengthen your proposal.

Apply Now

8. TAKE ACTION

Your expertise and leadership can shape Africa's policy future. The ATTP Call for Proposals offers you the opportunity to secure multi-year funding for impactful research, join a continental network of think tanks and policy-makers, and drive cross-border solutions that advance Agenda 2063.

This opportunity positions your institution at the forefront of evidence-based policy in Africa.

Stay Connected

Stay updated on upcoming webinars, media highlights, and application guidance.

Website: <https://www.africathinktankplatform.africa>

Email: attpinfo@africanunion.org

Apply Now

