



THE AFRICA THINK TANK PLATFORM (ATTP) PROJECT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Release Date: Thursday, 24 July 2025

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, 24 September 2025

Concept Note

I. Background Information

The [ATTP project](#) is a strategic initiative designed to enhance the capacity and influence of think tanks across Africa. This five-year, US\$50 million Investment Project Financing (IPF) operation aims to establish a sustainable platform for effective cooperation and harmonization on regional policy issues among country-level policymakers, regional blocs, and think tanks throughout Africa. Covering all countries on the continent, the project emphasizes encouraging collaboration in policy-making for regional integration priorities that provide significant positive externalities and mitigate negative ones. The priority themes—economic transformation and governance, climate change, regional trade, food security, human capital, and digitalization — are closely aligned with the African Union’s Agenda 2063, the World Bank’s Africa Strategy, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all with a strong emphasis on gender representation. These focus areas may be revised during the implementation of the ATTP project, with approval from the Think Tank Platform Steering Committee (TTPSC), to respond to emerging needs across the continent. This project empowers African think tanks to drive impactful, evidence-based policy research that informs policy-making processes. It provides essential tools and resources while establishing a sustainable platform to address cross-border challenges in trade and investment. The initiative also promotes collaboration among think tanks, policymakers, and stakeholders to effectively tackle emerging continental challenges.

Through targeted capacity-building efforts, including training and knowledge sharing, the project aims to equip African think tanks with best practices and innovative approaches. Additionally, it fosters research and innovation, supporting the creation of evidence-based policy solutions. By enhancing visibility and networking opportunities, the ATTP project strives to elevate the global and regional presence of African think tanks, ultimately reinforcing their role in shaping policy and promoting sustainable development throughout Africa.

II. The ATTP Project Development Objective

The proposed development objective of the ATTP project is *to establish a sustainable platform that strengthens the capacity for effective policy research and policy-making on cross-border priorities in Africa*. The ATTP Project is a pivotal initiative aimed at establishing a sustainable framework for cooperation and harmonization on regional policy issues across the African continent.

A central aspect of the project is its emphasis on six priority themes: *economic transformation and governance, climate change, regional trade, food security, human capital, and digitalization*. Each thematic area is integral to Africa’s development, with a strong focus on gender, ensuring that policy solutions are inclusive and equitable. The project is designed to be dynamic, allowing for updates to priority areas during implementation with the approval of the Think Tank Platform Steering Committee (TTPSC), to respond effectively to emerging demands across Africa.

The project’s approach also provides an opportunity to establish or support continental policy hubs that focus on priority policy areas. These hubs are expected to produce public goods relevant for all countries, delivering economies of scale in research standards, data collection, and the development of a robust pool of policy professionals. By minimizing the costs associated with supporting continental policy priorities, the project aims to avoid the duplication and fragmentation of efforts that often result from isolated national approaches.

III. The ATTP Project Components

The ATTP project will be implemented through three main components as follows:

Component 1: Establish Capacity to Operate a

Sustainable Policy-Making Platform

Component 1 focuses on establishing the capacity to operate a sustainable policy-making platform with a budget of US\$3.5 million. This initiative aims to enhance the AUC's ability to create and implement structures and systems for a continent-wide platform that facilitates economic policy-making. It involves the competitive selection of think tanks as consortia, which will submit proposals addressing at least four of the six regional priority themes. These think tanks will collaborate with the relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) at the African Union, fostering a network of researchers and policymakers. The goal is to support knowledge generation and provide advice on continental priority issues, thereby strengthening the platform's role in regional economic policymaking. The resources under this Component will be utilized to finance the following Tasks.

- Establishing a secretariat to manage the platform
- Establishing and maintaining the TTPSC, including its meetings
- Designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategies for the platform
- Establishing mechanisms to draw and learn from lessons during implementation
- Building and maintaining a network of think tanks, regional economic communities (RECs), and policymakers
- Organizing meetings of African governments, RECs, and other partners to identify and discuss regional policy challenges

Component 2: Strengthen Policy Research's Quality, Relevance, and Uptake on Priority Issues

Component 2, with a budget of US\$35.5 million, focuses on strengthening the capacity of think tanks and policy research institutions. This includes providing technical assistance and training to think tanks, supporting the quality and dissemination of research, facilitating resource mobilization efforts, establishing a peer network for female economic researchers, and conducting a study to research and analyze previous initiatives aimed at increasing female participation in policy research. The resources under this Component will be utilized to finance the following Tasks.

- Create and maintain a database of African and global think tanks, including information on the number of female professionals
- Organize knowledge exchange events, such as regional conferences and forums, to align policy researchers and policymakers on policy needs and promote uptake and adoption
- Facilitate fellowships or secondment programs between governments and think tanks to enhance research skills and narrow the research-policy gap, supporting both government and think tank capacities
- Provide training and capacity building for policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders to develop their research and analytical capabilities
- Create and maintain an online Africa Knowledge Repository of existing policy research, including data on research outputs with female authors
- Finance high-quality research on priority issues and support think tanks' capacity building to provide a knowledge and evidence base for regional policy making and engagement

Component 3: Support Platform Sustainability

With a budget of US\$11 million, this project component aims to support the think tank platform and policy research over the long term. This includes developing the AUC's capacity to mobilize resources and establish facilities for crowdfunding from various stakeholders. The Component will explore the establishment of a special fund and an endowment fund to pool resources from African governments, the private sector, foundations, individuals, and institutional donors. The endowment fund aims to support further research and capacity-building efforts beyond the expiration of the ATTP project period. The resources under this Component will be utilized to finance the following Tasks.

- Defining Fund Purpose and Governance Framework
- Develop and Implement a Resource Mobilization Strategy for Securing Capitalization and Financing

IV. The Project's Logical Framework

Based on the proposed components and tasks, the ATPP project aims to produce a series of benefits streams related to improved policymaking and implementation across Africa. The ATPP project's logical framework is centered on establishing a robust Think Tank Platform for researching continental priority issues generated by African Think Tanks, particularly policy research conducted by female researchers. Figure 1 summarizes the ATPP project logic based on the proposed interventions.

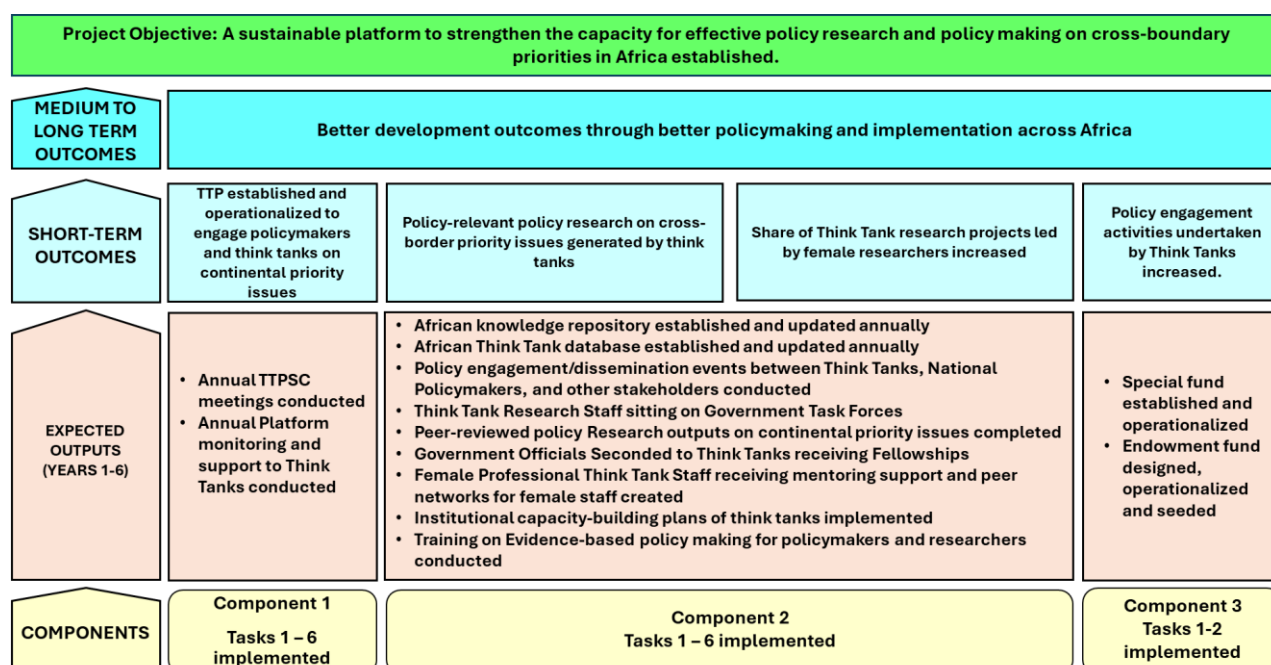


Figure 1: ATPP Project Logic

The logical framework depicted in Figure 1 highlights the key components and their expected outcomes in establishing a sustainable platform that strengthens the capacity for effective policy research and policymaking, led by African Think Tanks, on cross-border priorities affecting Africa. The project's interventions are structured across three main components, each with its assumptions and risks that can influence the achievement of the desired outcomes.

As illustrated in Figure 1, implementing Component 1 interventions is expected *to establish and operationalize the TTP* that frequently engages policymakers and Think Tanks on continental priority issues. This short-term outcome is anticipated to strengthen the organizational foundations of the AU institutions and member states, enabling them to coordinate and support the effective implementation of Agenda 2063. Secondly, implementing Component 2 interventions is expected *to improve the generation of policy-relevant research on cross-border priority issues* by Think Tanks and increase the share of research conducted by female researchers. Lastly, implementing Component 3 outcomes is expected *to lead to sustainable financing*, thereby increasing policy engagement activities undertaken by Think Tanks. These short-term outcomes are anticipated to contribute to the medium-term goals of improving development through better policymaking and implementation across Africa.

The ATPP project logic is underpinned by assumptions and risks related to stakeholder engagement, resource availability, technical capacity, coordination, infrastructure, and political commitment. The project's ability to effectively manage these assumptions and mitigate the associated risks will be crucial in achieving the desired short-term, medium-term, and long-term outcomes.

V. Who Should Respond to the ATTP Call for Proposals?

To be eligible, Think Tanks must apply as a consortium comprised of 3-5 African Think Tanks, with one serving as the lead think tank. Applications must include comprehensive activities covering at least four of the six priority themes and demonstrate a strong commitment to aligning with and contributing to regional integration priorities, such as addressing regional and cross-border issues, harmonizing research and policy efforts, and supporting regional cooperation. All applicants must be African Think Tanks with established organizations registered in one of the 55 African countries, and all required call for proposal documents must be submitted in English. Additionally, firms or individuals declared ineligible or sanctioned by the World Bank are excluded from participation.

VI. The ATTP Call for Proposals Application Requirements

All Interested Think Tanks must include the following information as part of their proposal submission:

- 1) Completed ATTP Application Form
- 2) Project work plan and budget (up to 2.5 years)
- 3) Curriculum vitae (CV) of consortium coordinator
- 4) CV of deputy consortium coordinator
- 5) CVs of research team members (top 2 experts from each think tank)
- 6) Past research and engagement experience
- 7) Signed commitment letter from all consortium members and the lead think tank confirming their agreement to the consortium plan and active participation in its execution
- 8) A copy of the legal registration for each consortium member
- 9) Board of trustees' structure for each consortium member
- 10) Audited financial reports (up to three years) for each consortium member

VII. Deadline & Application Submission

- **ATTP Call for Proposals Launch Date:** Thursday, 24 July 2025
- **ATTP Call Proposal Submission Deadline:** Wednesday, 24 September 2025
- Before applying, all applicants must read carefully the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** to understand the application process and requirements thoroughly available on: <https://africathinktankplatform.africa/faq>
- Download the call for proposal documents via: <https://africathinktankplatform.africa/callforproposal>
- Submit your completed application using this link: <https://africathinktankplatform.africa/callforproposal>

VIII. Contact Person

For any questions or inquiries, please contact the ATTP Secretariat at attpinfo@africanunion.org.

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