



## 13th Annual AERAP Forum

20-22 April 2026 | Brussels



**AERAP SCIENCE**

African - Europe Science and Innovation platform

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# Declaration

of the 13th Africa–Europe Science  
Collaboration Forum



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## “Science Collaboration for Shared Futures” Brussels, 20–22 April 2026

The 13th Africa–Europe Science Collaboration Forum convened policymakers, scientists, and investors to strengthen the strategic partnership between Africa and Europe through **science, technology, and innovation (STI)**.

This declaration outlines the critical outcomes and commitments intended to foster sustainable growth and equitable partnerships.

### 1. Strategic Policy and Financial Alignment

Participants emphasized the urgent need to align the **European Union’s Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034)** with **Africa’s Agenda 2063**. We commit to positioning science as the cornerstone of cross-continental cooperation, effectively linking the **EU’s Global Gateway** and **Horizon Europe** with African development priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals

### 2. Advancing Frontier Technologies and Research Infrastructure

The Forum recognized **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing, and Digital Public Infrastructure** as defining domains for shared leadership. We resolve to build connected and inclusive research ecosystems that empower researchers on both continents, ensuring these technologies drive **technological sovereignty** and shape global innovation standards

### 3. Transforming Health and Food Systems

We commit to transitioning from fragmented cooperation toward **long-term, impact-driven health research partnerships**. Priorities include strengthening health systems, advancing equitable access to vaccines, and leveraging data-driven approaches for future threat preparedness. Furthermore, we will prioritize **investing in innovation for food security** to catalyze scalable impact and build resilient food futures



#### 4. **Resource Sovereignty and Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)**

Acknowledging the green and digital transitions, the Forum calls for a new partnership on **Critical Raw Materials**. We move beyond resource extraction toward **integrated value chains and local beneficiation** in Africa. This will be supported by science-led cooperation in geoscience capacity building, circular economy technologies, and AI-driven resource mapping

#### 5. **Mobilizing Capital and Human Talent**

To bridge the gap between research and industrial impact as well as unlock the potential of STI, we will:

- Leverage **capital markets** and innovative financing instruments to de-risk STI investments.
- Enhance **talent mobility** through initiatives such as the **South Africa Presidential PhD Initiative** and the **EU Youth Mobility Flagship**, fostering a new generation of researchers capable of addressing global challenges

#### 6. **Science Diplomacy and Global Governance**

We position **science diplomacy** as a vital tool for foreign policy and global governance. The Forum has built significant momentum for the upcoming inaugural **Africa Science Diplomacy Conference in Pretoria**, ensuring diverse voices lead the future of global scientific cooperation

**Done in Brussels, 22 April 2026.**

