

Contribution of IP & Innovation to the Promotion of Industrialization for Sustainable Development In Africa

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Outline of presentation

- Introduction;
- Some stylized facts;
- How can IP and STI promote Africa's sustainable industrialization?
 - Is IP important for/in Africa?
 - Channels of transmission
- Conclusion

Introduction

- On IP this presentation and matters of the soul, heaven and redemption

Stylized facts

- Africa's the world's least industrialized country;
- Technology – key to industrial development and structural transformation;
- Cost of performing R&D to create new technologies increasingly prohibitive
- Governments have diminishing R&D (STI) budget;
- R&D increasingly driven by the private sector;
- Current production technologies not conducive to sustainable development;
- IP important tool to address unsustainability.. (?)

How can IP & STI promote industrialization for Africa's sustainable development?

- Answer depends on (a)
 - Policy
 - Expenditure on R&D to create new knowledge and technologies;
 - Innovation reeadieness;
 - Amount of protected knowledge used in production and consumption (e.g. mobile phone and pharmaceuticals production)
 - Economic structure of the country;
 - Overall economic framework/ideology

How can IP & STI promote industrialization for Africa's sustainable development? (2)

- Answer depends on (b)
 - Incentive effects of IT for creating new knowledge, information and technologies;
 - Implications for the diffusion of knowledge information, technologies within and across economies
 - Effects on market structure and prices
 - Effects of income and wealth distribution – and distribution of power across countries/economies;
 - International conventions/Summit Outcomes and policy space

Channels of Impact

- Aid and Trade – especially for aid dependent countries. EU/EPAs, US section 301 of the Omnibus Trade Competitiveness Act of 1988;
- Trade and investment
 - Trade;
 - Foreign direct investment;
 - Licensing;
 - Foreign patenting (patenting by foreigners);
 - Language;
- Regional integration arrangements

How should African governments respond? (recommendations)

- STI policies;
- IP policies;
- Industrial policies;
- Competition policies;
- Other complementary policies (fiscal/macro/foreign)
- Education policies;
- Regional integration
- Multilateral organizations

Conclusion

- IP and STI can promote industrialization for Africa's sustainable development. But the following are required"
 - Realism and pragmatism;
 - Resources
 - Leadership
 - International cooperation

Thank you

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