



STRI WEEK
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION 4 SOCIETY

**OFFICE OF PRIME CABINET SECRETARY & MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND
DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPERS

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH & INNOVATION (STRI) FOR SOCIETY
WEEK 2026**

Igniting Innovation: Bridging Science and Society for Sustainable Development

18th to 22nd May 2026

Nairobi, Kenya

1. BACKGROUND

The Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (STRI) for Society Week 2026 is Kenya's inaugural flagship national platform dedicated to demonstrating how science, research, and innovation translate into tangible societal impact. Convened by the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation (SDSRI), in collaboration with the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), the National Research Fund (NRF), and the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), STRI for Society Week 2026 will be held from 18–22 May 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The STRI for Society Week 2026 will serve as a vibrant national platform showcasing Kenya's scientific excellence, cutting-edge research, and transformative innovations. It will bring together researchers, innovators, students, industry leaders, policymakers, development partners, and the public to explore how Science, Technology, Research and Innovation can deliver sustainable and inclusive development. Anchored in Kenya Vision 2030 and aligned with the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), STRI for Society Week 2026 strengthens the interface between science and society by moving knowledge from laboratories into policy, industry, communities, and markets.

A central component of STRI for Society Week 2026 will be the Scientific Conference & Policy Dialogues, comprising structured technical and thematic knowledge-exchange sessions on national STI priorities, policy frameworks, and emerging global scientific trends. These sessions will provide a high-level national platform for researchers, innovators, policymakers, and industry actors to present cutting-edge findings, share policy-relevant insights, and showcase scalable solutions aligned with Kenya's development priorities and broader regional and global STI agendas. The Week will also feature exhibitions, innovation showcases, startup pitching sessions, youth and student activities, and public science engagement programmes.

2. EVENT OBJECTIVES

STRI for Society Week 2026 seeks to:

- i. Showcase Kenya's scientific excellence and innovation in addressing national and global development challenges.
- ii. Strengthen science-policy-industry linkages through technical sessions and policy dialogues on national STI priorities and emerging global trends.
- iii. Promote research uptake, commercialization, and technology transfer to accelerate socio-economic transformation.
- iv. Foster partnerships and collaboration among academia, industry, government, development partners, and civil society.
- v. Inspire youth participation and strengthen STEM and innovation culture across the country.
- vi. Enhance the visibility and societal impact of research and innovation in line with Kenya Vision 2030, MTP IV, and BETA.

3. CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Organizing Committee invites abstracts from researchers, innovators, practitioners, policymakers, early-career professionals, students, startups, and institutions.

Submissions may include:

- Original research papers
- Innovation case studies
- Policy research papers
- Proof-of-concept innovations
- Scalable technological solutions
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Programme or project implementation and evaluation studies

Both complete and ongoing research are welcome.

All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review process by the Scientific Review Committee, evaluated on originality, scientific rigour, thematic relevance, methodological soundness, and societal impact.

4. THEMATIC AREAS

Submissions must align with one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. Science for National Development – STI contributions to economic growth, health, agriculture, manufacturing, and public service delivery
2. Digital Futures & Emerging Technologies – AI, data science, robotics, IoT, biotech, space science, and frontier technologies
3. Youth, STEM & Innovation Culture – STEM education, talent development, youth-led innovations, and skills for the future
4. Industry–Academia–Government Synergy – Collaborative research, technology transfer, and innovation ecosystems
5. Climate Action & Green Technologies – Climate resilience, renewable energy, circular economy, and sustainable technologies
6. Inclusive Innovation & Regional Development – Gender, disability inclusion, community-based innovation, and regional equity
7. Africa & Global STI Partnerships – South–South cooperation, international research collaboration, and global knowledge exchange

5. SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

- **Oral Paper Presentations:** Presentation of original research, policy papers, or case studies (15–20 minutes including Q&A).
- **Poster Presentations:** Visual display of research findings. Posters must be A0 size (841 mm × 1189 mm), portrait orientation, clearly readable from 1–2 metres.
- **Innovation & Prototype Showcases:** Physical demonstration of prototypes or market-ready solutions accompanying oral/poster presentations
- **Student Research & Youth Innovation Posters:** A dedicated category for university and TVET students. Outstanding student presentations may be considered for special recognition awards.

6. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All abstracts must be submitted in English and adhere to the following structure:

- i. **Title** – In UPPER CASE, not exceeding 25 words

- ii. **Authors** – Full name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and corresponding author email. Underline the name of the presenting author.
- iii. **Abstract** – Maximum 300 words, structured with the following sub-headings:
 - Background/Introduction
 - Objectives
 - Methodology/Approach
 - Key Findings/Results
 - Conclusions/Societal Relevance
- iv. **Keywords** – 3–5 relevant keywords
- v. **Preferred Presentation Category** – Indicate preference: Oral, Poster, Innovation Showcase, Pitch, or Student Poster. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to reassign the presentation mode.
- vi. **Thematic Area** – Indicate the primary thematic area (1–7) under which the abstract falls.
- vii. **Format** – MS Word (.doc or .docx), Times New Roman, font size 12, single-spaced

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All abstracts will undergo a double-blind peer review. The Scientific Review Committee will evaluate submissions based on:

- **Relevance:** Alignment with the conference theme and selected thematic area.
- **Originality:** Novelty of the research, policy insight, or innovation.
- **Clarity:** Coherence of objectives, methodology, and conclusions.
- **Methodological Rigour:** Soundness of research design and analytical approach (for research papers).
- **Innovation Potential:** Scalability and Technology Readiness Level (for innovations).
- **Societal Impact:** Impact on society, potential for societal transformation, policy influence and/or commercial application.

The Scientific Committee reserves the right to recommend revisions, reassign presentation modes, or decline submissions that do not meet the required standards.

8. WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

- Researchers and academics
- Innovators and startups
- University and TVET students
- Industry professionals
- Research institutions and centers
- Government agencies and policymakers
- Civil society and development partners
- International collaborators and diaspora researchers
- County governments and devolved units

9. WHY PARTICIPATE?

- National visibility for your research or innovation
- Opportunities for collaboration and funding linkages
- Contribution to Kenya’s STI policy and development agenda
- Inspiration for the next generation of STEM champions
- Publication of all accepted abstracts in the official STRI for Society Week 2026 Book of Abstracts
- Awards and recognition for outstanding papers, posters, and innovations
- Certificate of participation for all presenters
- Networking with Kenya’s leading researchers, innovators, and policymakers

10. IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Deadline
Call for Abstracts Opens	25 th February 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	7 th April 2026, 11:59 PM EAT
Notification of Acceptance	17 th April 2026
Submission of Full Papers	30 th April 2026
Conference Registration Deadline	10 th May 2026
STRI for Society Week 2026	18–22 May 2026

11. REGISTRATION AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Acceptance of abstracts will be contingent upon successful registration for STRI for Society Week 2026. Authors of accepted abstracts must complete their registration to confirm participation and inclusion in the official programme.

Registration details and categories are available at: <https://stri4society.go.ke>

12. SUBMISSION AND ENQUIRIES

All abstracts must be submitted through the official STRI for Society Week 2026 online submission portal:

Submission Portal: <https://stri4society.go.ke>

For any enquiries related to abstract submissions, send them at;

Email: striweek2026@sri.go.ke **CC:** rael.adhiambo@nacosti.go.ke

Subject Line: *STRI for Society Week 2026 – Enquiry_[Your Name]*

Receipt of all submissions will be acknowledged automatically via the portal. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 48 hours, please follow up using the email contacts above.

We look forward to your valuable contributions to Kenya's STRI for Society Week 2026!