



Nigeria-EU Science & Innovation Day 2026

Lagos | 24 February 2026

PANEL SESSION 1

Towards an Appropriate and Focused National Agenda for Science and Innovation in Nigeria

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PANEL 1 **Towards an Appropriate and Focused National Agenda for Science and Innovation in Nigeria**

Duration

60 minutes (10:50 – 11:45)

Format

High-level ministerial policy dialogue

Executive framing

Nigeria's economic transformation depends on its ability to convert scientific knowledge, digital capability and educational reform into industrial productivity and employment. Yet policy ambition alone is insufficient without institutional convergence, coordinated financing and effective research-to-market pathways.

This ministerial dialogue positions science and innovation as the backbone of Nigeria's industrial future. It brings together key policy actors to examine how existing mandates, strategies and financing mechanisms can align around a focused national agenda capable of delivering measurable economic outcomes.

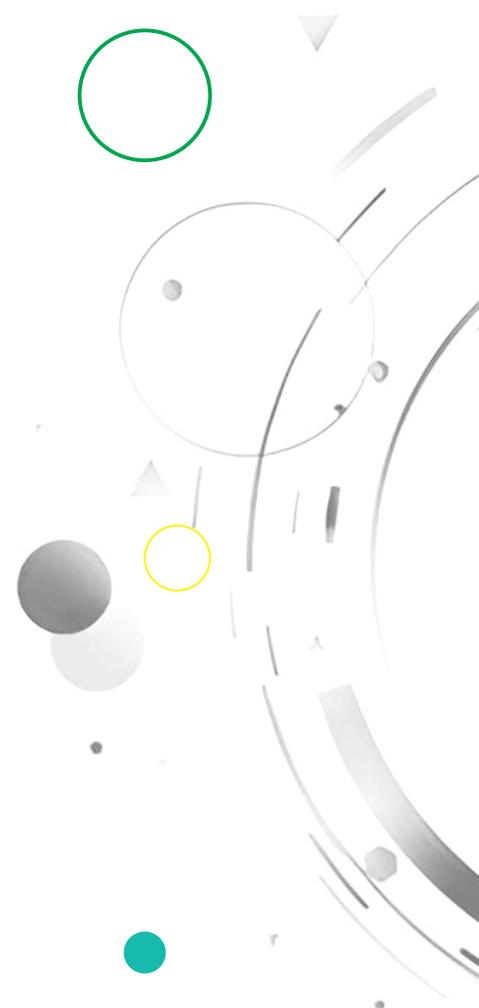
The session also introduces comparative insight from the European Union, highlighting how policy coherence between science, innovation and industrial development has been structured and operationalised in practice.



Background and rationale

Nigeria's ministries responsible for Innovation, Science and Technology; Education; and Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy each hold essential components of the national innovation system. The Bank of Industry, as the country's principal industrial development finance institution, plays a decisive role in translating policy into enterprise growth.

However, fragmentation across policies and institutions continues to limit scale and impact. A streamlined and implementation-driven framework is required to strengthen research infrastructure, upgrade capacity, mobilise sustainable financing, and institutionalise research commercialisation and industry linkage mechanisms, including the potential establishment of a Nigeria Research and Innovation Fund.



Strategic purpose

The session will:

1.

Clarify how Nigeria can ensure convergence between science, education, digital and industrial policies

2.

Identify reforms required to strengthen research commercialisation and industry linkage

3.

Examine financing structures that can sustainably support science- and innovation-driven industrial development

4.

Surface actionable steps towards a pragmatic and coordinated national innovation framework

Proposed Panelists



Dr Bosun Tijani
Honourable Minister
for Communications,
Innovation and
Digital Economy



Dr Tunji Alausa
Honourable Minister
for Education



**Dr Kingsley
Tochukwu Udeh**
Honourable Minister
for Innovation, Science
and Technology



Dr Olasupo Olusi
Managing Director,
Bank of Industry



Dr Vincenzo Lorusso
Policy Officer,
Science, Technology and
Innovation Cooperation

Expected outcome

The dialogue is expected to generate clearer alignment among key institutions, strengthen understanding of policy convergence mechanisms, and articulate priority actions required to accelerate Nigeria's transition towards a coherent, industry-linked and investment-ready science and innovation ecosystem.



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