TAF FUTURETECH BREAKOUT DISCUSSION BRIEF

TAF UBUNTU 2026 ANNUAL GATHERING, 28 November 2026

THE AFRICAN FEDERATION

Annual theme: Creating Our Common Future • 28 November 2026 • 45-minute breakout
Purpose: Review three possible initiatives and select ONE primary initiative to advance during 2027. This brief is both advance reading for participants and the live facilitator guide.

Advancing African Technological Innovation and Ownership

Purpose: This is both the advance reading for participants and the live facilitator guide. Participants will consider three proposed initiatives, select one primary initiative for 2027, and identify the people and first steps needed to develop it. The proposals are options for discussion, not approved TAF programmes.

1 Background and rationale

Across Africa, researchers, developers, entrepreneurs and institutions are creating technologies relevant to local needs. Yet gaps in research funding, technical skills, infrastructure, intellectual-property support and routes to market can limit how widely these innovations are developed and used. The original FutureTech proposal emphasizes a transition from consuming technologies to developing and owning them. This brief retains that ambition while focusing on contributions a volunteer-led continental network could realistically begin in 2027.

TAF FutureTech can connect people and institutions across countries, share expertise and convene practical partnerships. It should not assume that TAF can immediately finance laboratories, manufacture hardware, operate medical services or establish legal trusts.

2. Three proposed initiatives for 2027

Option A - African Technology Talent & Collaboration Network

Connect African developers, researchers, students and technology professionals across TAF Chapters to exchange knowledge and collaborate on a defined, locally relevant challenge.

Possible first steps: recruit volunteer technical coordinators; map participating expertise and institutions; hold two cross-country knowledge exchanges; scope one modest open-source collaboration. Success would be a functioning network and a documented first collaborative output—not a commitment to build a new foundation model.

Option B - Digital Solutions for Community Development

Identify an existing, affordable African-developed digital tool that could help an underserved community, and explore responsible adaptation or adoption with local partners.

Possible first steps: solicit practical use cases from Chapters; shortlist existing solutions; select one use case and implementing partner; assess accessibility, data protection, maintenance and cost. Health applications would require clinical oversight and should not be presented as autonomous AI diagnosis.

Option C - African Innovation & Technology Commercialization

Help African innovators better understand pathways to protect, develop and commercialize innovations through expertise-sharing and connections to qualified institutions.

Possible first steps: recruit IP and commercialization specialists; convene an introductory clinic; map existing university, accelerator and legal support; produce a practical resource guide. This does not require TAF to establish an IP trust or draft legislation in its first year.

3 How to evaluate the options

Consider relevance to African needs; achievable results by November 2027; volunteer leadership and expertise already available; feasibility without major new funding; opportunities for Chapters and partners; and potential for learning or replication. Participants may suggest a stronger alternative, but the group should select only one primary initiative.

4 Live breakout session — 45-minute facilitator agenda

Time	Discussion	Facilitator instructions
0–5 min	Open and orient	Welcome participants; confirm facilitator and rapporteur; explain that the goal is one primary initiative plus initial commitments.
5–17 min	Compare the three options	Invite concise views on relevance, feasibility and available expertise. Ask whether an alternative is stronger. Select one priority by consensus or a simple indicative vote.
17–30 min	Shape the selected initiative	Agree on intended beneficiaries, a realistic 2027 objective, 2–3 initial activities, potential partners and what measurable progress would look like.
30–40 min	Secure ownership and first steps	Invite named volunteers and a provisional lead; agree on a first deliverable, target date and first follow-up meeting. Record dependencies and unresolved questions.
40–45 min	Confirm and prepare report-back	Rapporteur reads back decisions; facilitator checks agreement; nominate presenter and prepare the three-minute plenary summary.

5 Ubuntu in Action — 2027 commitment record

The rapporteur completes this during the session. These are provisional commitments to be confirmed after the gathering; the detailed implementation plan will be developed subsequently.

Selected primary initiative / alternative:

_____

2027 objective and intended beneficiaries:

_____

Initial activities and measurable result by Ubuntu 2027:

_____

Provisional coordinating lead and volunteers:

_____

Potential partners and support required:

_____

First deliverable, owner and target date:

_____

First follow-up meeting date:

_____

Three-minute plenary report-back presenter:

_____

6 Three-minute plenary report-back

State (1) the initiative selected and why; (2) what the group proposes to accomplish in 2027; (3) who will take the first steps; and (4) the first deliverable and follow-up date. Note unresolved dependencies honestly. Other proposals remain documented for future consideration.