

## 3RD ASRIC CONGRESS

### DECISIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASRIC Congress took place from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 virtually. The meeting was hosted and coordinated by the ASRIC secretariat “the Africa Union Scientific and Technical Research Commission (AU-STRC)”. The Congress has theme: ***Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Threats: What agenda for Africa?*** The Congress was attended by 100 African Scientists from the continent and Diaspora, after extensive discussions and deliberations the Congress arrived at the following decisions:

1. The Congress **NOTES** the 2020 report of the Bureau and **COMMENDS** its members for the launching of ASRIC movement to respond to COVID-19.
2. The Congress **APPLAUDS** the ASRIC movement to respond to COVID-19 and **APPRECIATES** the efforts of the Members of the ASRIC Advisory Board Working Groups, Taskforces on the work done during this year and encourages them to do more as the COVID-19 Pandemic is still in its second wave. In furtherance, **APPRECIATES** the role and effective participation of Women and Young African Scientists in the ASRIC movement and **CALLS** for more inclusivity.
3. The Congress **ACKNOWLEDGES** and **COMMENDS** the progress made in the publication of the first volume of the ASRIC Scientific Journals 2020 and **REQUESTS** the Secretariat to call for a meeting to expand the Journals outreach.
4. The Congress **NOTES** the output of the 2019 STC-EST meeting on the ASRIC’s position paper “Funds Allocation to ASRIC STI Flagship Projects” and **URGE** the Secretariat to work closely with the Bureau on the improvement of the paper that to be resubmitted for the consideration by the STC in its next meeting. **FURTHER** the Congress **CALLS** upon the STC-EST to support the ASRIC position paper to ensure streamed resources are allocated to the ASRIC flagship projects.

5. The Congress **CALLS UPON** the resource mobilization committees to develop actions and programmes that to bridge between the ASRIC and the Africa's Diaspora to ensure their full participation in ASRIC movement and activities.
6. The Congress **RECALLS** Africa's innumerable natural therapeutic resources (traditional medicine) and **CALLS UPON** the Secretariat with the support of Afro-centric working groups to develop guidelines on integrating African natural therapeutic resources to Africa's healthcare systems.
7. The Congress **REQUESTS** the Secretariat to hold a meeting with the view of establishing collaboration between institutions that are working on traditional medicine, ethnobotany, and biodiversity conservation.
8. The Congress **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretariat and the socio-economic working group to work closely with the AUC Department of Economic Affairs and the Africa's Economic Congress to ensure synergies for the advancement of socio-economic development in Africa.
9. The Congress **URGES** all African Scientists and Institutions to join the ASRIC Movement as this is a potential way to combat the impact of COVID-19 in the continent and this movement should continue after the pandemic to ensure STI plays its significant role in addressing other Africa's Challenges to achieve the agenda 2063 aspirations and STISA-2024 vision.
10. The Congress **WELCOMES** the efforts made on the establishment of the African Union Network of Ethical Research (AUNER) and **URGES** the Secretariat to convene meeting for the AU Member States' Research Ethics Committees towards establishment of AUNER. In Furtherance, the Congress **CALLS** upon national/regional independent Ethical Research Committees to join AUNER.
11. Realizing the role of COVID-19 pandemic modelling in the preparedness of the Member States to respond to the ongoing pandemic the Congress **URGES** the Secretariat and the ASRIC Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic Modelling to launch its capacity-building programme on COVID-19 Modelling as soon as possible.
12. The Congress **CALLS UPON** AU Member States to avail their data for the modelling Taskforce to develop realistic models that will enhance timely intervention at the level of the Member States and AU at large.
13. The Congress **NOTES** the report on Mapping out inventory of the pandemic R&D intervention and present its concern on the low participation of Member States in the questionnaires and surveys conducted by the taskforce and **CALLS UPON** Member States and Africa's scientific community to participate actively in such

questionnaire and surveys in order to benefit from each other's comparative advantage.

14. The Congress **NOTES** the progress on the development of the guideline on IP strategy in joint research and collaboration during outbreaks and **RECOGNIZES** the need to establish the African network of African IP Scholars; to build a roster of African intangible STI assets; and to design/implement a comprehensive capacity building programme on the guideline and the strategy. As such the Congress **CALLS UPON** the Taskforce and the ASRIC secretariate to take the necessary action in this regard.
15. The Congress **ACKNOWLEDGES** and **APPRECIATES** the capacity building workshop on "Low cost Moringa sand filter hybrid technology for Household and Community Water in Africa" organized by the Afro-centric working group and the Secretariat and **CALLS** upon the Afro-centric working group and the Secretariat to organize more workshops to ensure the benefit of African communities from this technology. In Furtherance, the Congress **CALLS** upon development partners; UN agencies and international organization to support the dissemination of such technology for the benefits of Africa's rural communities and internally displaced persons IDPs.
16. The Congress **APPLAUDS** the recent investment in health research by AU Member States since the advent of the COVID-19 Pandemic and **ENCOURAGES** the Member States to see COVID-19 as an opportunity to strengthen Africa's health systems and health research to ameliorate the impact of COVID-19 and any future pandemic.
17. The Congress **URGES** Member States to utilize the lessons learned during the COVID-19 Pandemic to strengthen Intra-Africa trade taking leverage of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and support local manufacturing.
18. The Congress **REQUEST** the Secretariat to set-up a Working Group to study the impact of COVID-19 on Education presently and its future in Africa.
19. The Congress **CALLS** upon the ASRIC Secretariat to work with the AU-SAFGRAD to develop guidelines on Ethical Agricultural Research.
20. The Congress **URGES** the ASRIC Secretariat to organize an urgent joint special session between the Advisory Board, Afrocentric Working Group and the ASRIC Bureau with the aim to advance pending research output.

21. The Congress **OBSERVES** the need for an urgent meeting between the Bureaus of the STC-EST and the ASRIC to inform and report to the STC-EST the achievement under the ASRIC movement and to request the political support of the STC-EST to ASRIC activities. As such the Congress **URGES** the ASRIC Bureau and Secretariat to take necessary action to conduct such meeting.
22. The Congress **AFFIRMS** the need to conduct its Scientific session and **WELCOMES** the invitation to have it on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and **APPRECIATES** the work done so far by the Secretariat and Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology. In furtherance the Congress **WELCOMES** the offer made by the Academy to host the ASRIC 4<sup>th</sup> Congress.
23. The Congress **RECOGNIZES** and **APPRECIATES** the goodwill message and support accredited to the Congress and the ASRIC movement by **H.E. Dr. Tumwesigye Elioda** (Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Uganda; Chair of AU STC-EST), **H.E. Prof. Driss Ouaouicha** (Minister Delegate in charge of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Kingdom of Morocco), **H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor** (AUC Commissioner for HRST), **Prof. Mustapha Bousmina** (Chancellor of Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Kingdom of Morocco) and **Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo** (Director HRST) and **REQUESTS** for their continuous support.
24. The Congress **COMMENDS** the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez, Morocco (UEMF) ASRIC scholarship scheme and appreciates the commitment of UEMF in championing the ASRIC scholarship scheme and **CALLS UPON** international partners to support this initiative. The Congress **FURTHER CALLS UPON** African/International Universities to join the ASRIC scholarship scheme.
25. The Congress **RECOGNIZES** and **APPRECIATES** the efforts made by the Pioneer Bureau and the Secretariat in organizing this meeting.

**Virtually Adopted by the ASRIC Congress on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2020**