



## RESOLUTIONS OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> ASRIC BUREAU MEETING

AU-STRC Headquarter, Abuja, Nigeria

7-9 March 2019

### **Preamble:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> ASRIC Bureau meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria from the 7-9 March 2019 to discuss on the full operationalization of the ASRIC following the successful election of the Bureau and the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASRIC Congress in November, 2018. The Bureau made the following resolutions:

### I. Reports from the Scientific and Innovation Committee

#### **a) Modalities for development of ASRIC Flagship projects**

1. The Bureau endorsed the priority areas identified in the presentation;
2. The Bureau developed and endorsed the following criteria for ASRIC flagship projects:
  - A project that addresses any of the priority areas of STISA 2024 (as articulated in the 1st Congress of ASRIC) and has commonalities in majority of the countries;
  - It has inclusiveness and impact on the country, region and continent;
  - Should be proposed or adopted by more than 3 research institutions from different Member States;
  - To address community needs or market demands;
  - It brings immediate and long-term sustainable solutions to issues of urgent attention; and
  - Any other criteria to be proposed by the Scientific and Innovation Committee of ASRIC and adopted by the Bureau.
3. The Bureau identified the following modalities to develop the flagship projects.
  - i. Development of flagship projects by ASRIC Scientific and Innovation Committee; and
  - ii. A call to be sent out addressing the gaps in the priority areas.
4. The Bureau requests the Scientific and Innovation Committee with the support of the Secretariat to develop a comprehensive Concept Note on the

modalities for the development of ASRIC flagship projects in line with the criteria in no 2 above.

## II. Reports from the Communication Committee

### a) **Visibility study on the establishment of ASRIC Scientific Journals**

1. The Bureau urges the Communication Committee to ensure the launching of ASRIC Scientific Journal during the tenure of this Bureau;
2. The Bureau requests the Communication Committee to develop a Concept Paper on the establishment of ASRIC Scientific journals considering the following:
  - i. Priority/thematic areas (starting with Natural Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences, Applied Sciences and Technology, Social Sciences, Humanities, etc);
  - ii. To study the possibilities of building on existing journals by conducting a survey on existing journals in Africa according to the criteria listed below:
    - Scope of the Journal and its relevance to ASRIC Scientific/thematic areas of interest;
    - Lifetime of the Journal (number of years of its existence, total number of volumes produced);
    - Number of publications (volumes)/ year;
    - Geographical coverage (covers more than one member states);
    - Editorial board and reviewers ;
    - Impact factor;
    - Online accessibility;
    - Open access journal; etc.
  - iii. To develop a Legal framework on the engagement of existing journals;
  - iv. To advise on the way to institutionalize the following:
    - Editor-in-Chief;
    - Members of the Editorial Board;
    - ISSN number;
    - Tracking System for submitting and reviewing articles;
    - Website for the Journal;
    - Online visibility and publicity that include getting the journal indexed in the most important and relevant scientific databases;
    - Team of technical editors;
    - Reviewing criteria;
    - And others.
  - v. To develop an estimate of financial implications; and
  - vi. An action plan on the establishment of the journal.

## **b) International Cooperation and Partners for ASRIC**

1. The Bureau to introduce itself and ASRIC to the international organizations that have common mandate and objectives to bring to their notice the existence of ASRIC.
2. The Bureau requests the Communication Committee to develop a Concept Paper and identify potential ASRIC international partners, areas for potential partnership, propose the level of engagement, and to work out the modalities for such engagement.
3. It also urges the Committee to do any other proposals that are congruent with the Terms of Reference.

## **III. Report from Resource Mobilization Committee**

### **a. Presentation on Potential Resources for ASRIC**

#### **i. Green Climate Fund:**

1. The Bureau requests the STRC as the ASRIC Secretariat to take the necessary action to be registered as an Accredited Entity to the GCF.
2. The Bureau instructs the Secretariat to work with the Resource Mobilization Committee to ensure registration and accreditation of the STRC as the Secretariat of ASRIC as an entity to the GCF.
3. The Bureau further instructs the Resource Mobilization Committee to engage with National Designated Authorities (NDAs) for advice and consultation.
4. The Bureau mandates the Secretariat to be empowered to engage the services of experts in registration and accreditation for the GCF.

#### **ii. Africa Capacity Building Fund**

1. The Bureau requests the Resource Mobilization Committee and the Scientific and Innovation Committee with the support of the Secretariat to develop a funding proposal for the ACBF under the 'Financing of full-fledged projects for Capacity Building' that is aimed at the development of ASRIC flagship projects.

#### **iii. African Union Research Grant**

1. The Bureau realized the duplication of roles between the ASRIC and the Programme Management Unit (PMU) of the AU Research Grant and referring to Article 8.4.a of the ASRIC Statute, the Bureau is calling upon the Commissioner of HRST to transfer the AU Research Grant PMU to the ASRIC Secretariat.
2. The Bureau requests the Chair to communicate the recommendation above in (iii. 1) to H.E. Commissioner of HRST and to follow up and further report to the next Bureau.

#### **iv. Co-financing (Intra-Academies Funds)**

1. The Bureau requests the Scientific and Innovation Committee and the Resource Mobilization Committee with the support of the ASRIC Secretariat to develop ASRIC Research Cluster using the following modalities:
  - Launching a call for ASRIC Research Cluster and the call administration;
  - Priority areas and priority sectors under the call should be aligned with those of ASRIC;
  - Co-financing models including (Direct financing and indirect financing “contribution in kind”);
  - Incentives that encourage academies and institutions to form clusters and to work together;
  - Legal relationship between ASRIC and ASRIC Research Cluster.

#### **b. Report on Resource Mobilization Strategies and Work Plan Development**

1. The Bureau appreciates the report from the Resource Mobilisation Committee and commends the efforts made by the Committee members and the Chair of the Committee.
2. The Bureau endorses the Concept Paper submitted by the Resource Mobilisation Committee and requests the Committee to further develop with the support of the Secretariat a full Concept Paper to address:
  - Fund Administration and Governance;
  - Fund Raising; and
  - Fund Utilisation.
3. The Bureau realizes the challenges in setting up a full-fledged Fund (ASTIF) and the urgency to kick-off the flagship projects, the Resource Mobilisation Committee is requested to start from a single bank account to achieve a full-fledged STI Fund by 2022. And in this regard, the Bureau instructs the AU-STRC as the Secretariat of ASRIC to take the necessary action to set up that Bank Account.
4. The Bureau mandates its Chairperson to consult with the African Union Commission Chairperson and the Commissioner of HRST on the possibilities of identifying alternative sources of funding for the African Science Technology Innovation Fund (ASTIF).

#### **IV. Information on ASRIC Website**

1. The Bureau endorses the ASRIC logo and website and requests the Secretariat to register the logo and further urges the Secretariat to launch the website before mid of April 2019;
2. The Bureau urges the Secretariat to ensure the timely updating of the website;
3. The Bureau recognizes the development so far on the implementation of the African Union Network of Sciences (AUNS) and urges the Secretariat to expedite its implementation. Meanwhile, the Secretariat should identify a web sharing platform to ensure the exchange of data and knowledge between committee members.

#### **V. Preparation of the ASRIC General Assembly 2019**

1. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to urgently get in touch with the Algerian Academy of Science to reaffirm their willingness to host the 2019 ASRIC Congress in November with a deadline to receive their commitment within two (2) weeks from the date of despatch.
2. The Bureau agrees on the following to be the Theme and the Sub-themes of the 2nd ASRIC Congress.

Theme: ***FREEING AFRICA FROM POVERTY, HUNGER AND DISEASES***

Sub-Themes:

- Health Sciences;
  - Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
  - Water, Energy and Environment; and
  - Governance, Sociology, Business and Economics.
3. The Bureau assigns the following Vice Chairs to lead the Scientific Committees for the sub-themes with the support of the Secretariat as follows:
    - Health Sciences – Prof James Phiri
    - Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – Prof Mosto Onuoha
    - Water, Energy and Environment – Prof Driss Ouazar
    - Governance, Sociology, Business and Economics – Prof Sammy Chumbow
  4. The Bureau resolves on the following modalities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASRIC Congress:
    - Day 1 – Meeting of the Committees of ASRIC
    - Day 2 AM – Continuation of Day 1 Meetings
    - Day 2 PM – ASRIC Congress: presentation and consideration of reports of the ASRIC Committees
    - Day 3 AM – Official Opening Ceremony of the Congress
    - Day 3 PM – Scientific Sessions
    - Day 4 – Continuation of Scientific Sessions and Closing Ceremony
  5. The Bureau urges the Vice Chairs with the support of the Secretariat to develop Concept Note on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress.

**VI. Way forward**

**VII. Adoption of the Bureau Report and Recommendation**  
The Bureau unanimously adopts the Resolutions.

**VIII. Appreciation**