

Resource Mobilization Plan for ASRIC Strategic Plan

2022 - 2028



African Scientific
Research and
Innovation Council



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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. What is ASRIC Comparative advantage	1
3. ASRIC Fund	3
4. Objectives of ASRIC Resource mobilization Strategy.....	3
5. Strategic Focus Areas of the Resource Mobilization Plan	5
5.1 <i>Secure substantial funding</i>	5
5.2 <i>Develop a smart partnership with partners and donors</i>	8
5.3 <i>Ensure the Diversity of the donor base</i>	9
5.4 <i>Gain the trust of all donors and partners on the financing execution, utilization and Impact</i>	13
5.5 <i>Envisage the possibilities of innovative funding mechanisms including alternative source of funding</i>	13
6. Mobilized Resources Utilization	13
Annex 1: Visualizing the ASRIC Strategic Plan	15

1. Introduction

The African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) of the African Union was established by the African Union Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/DEC. 747(XXII)) and launched in 2018. The objective of the ASRIC shall be to promote scientific research and innovation in order to address the challenges of the Africa's socio-economic development. While the mandate of the ASRIC as a continental platform is to mobilize African research excellence, promote and provide the voice of the Africa's scientific community, and it is to build and sustain continental research and policy nexus. The ASRIC further advocates for knowledge exchange, technology acquisition and link the scientific community with the view of building intra-Africa research and cooperation.

The ASRIC since inception was able to gather the largest congregation of Scientists in the continent annually during its Congress where major science, technology, innovation and policy activities are discussed in proffering solution to Africa's challenges which are submitted to Ministers and Heads of State for adoption and implementation. It also attracts over 16000 scientists to be active member of ASRIC digital platform where they form the ASRIC backbone to address its mandate and Africa's challenges. This clearly proves that ASRIC is working hard to achieve a recognized impact in Africa's economic prosperity and its populace livelihood and well-being in short, medium and long terms. In furtherance, the ASRIC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2028 consolidated and presented a holistic approach and an overview of an implementable strategy that are to ensure that ASRIC actualizes its mandate. The ASRIC Strategic Plan required the requisite funding for its implementation which calls for a robust Resource Mobilization Strategy.

This Resource Mobilization Strategy is developed to mobilize the needed resources to implement the ASRIC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2028 and beyond. It is also to assure adequate, predictable, flexibility funding to deliver the results in the ASRIC's strategic plan for the same period whose Vision, Mission and desired outcomes are summarized in Annex 1. Although the operational budget for ASRIC is fully catered by -the African Union Commission (AUC) which is used mainly for staff cost; ASRIC HQ capital and maintenance costs; ASRIC Statuary meetings; day to day expenses and other exigencies.

This Resource Mobilization Strategy is a living document, which will be built upon and improved with time depending on the realities and facts on ground; this is in order to take stock of its performances and to tailor the strategy to tackle new challenges and risks.

The objectives of this resource mobilization strategy are in line with the ASRIC mandate as captured in Article 4 (C) of its Statute, where ASRIC is mandated to mobilize resources to support scientific research and innovation programmes and activities in accordance with the AU financial policies to ensure that ASRIC respond to its mandate and objectives as stated in its Statute.

2. What is ASRIC Comparative advantage

In the development of this document “the Resource Mobilization Strategy of ASRIC” the question raised why the African Union Commission and its relevant Departments, AU member States, International donors and partners; African/international business community and venture capitalists; African Industries; Africa Diaspora and etc. need to invest in ASRIC morally and financially to support the implementation of this strategic plan.

ASRIC is the youngest AU specialized institutions with a life time less than 4 years as of the development of this document however ASRIC is the home for more than 16,000 African Scientist and researcher from the AU 55 Member States; it's membership is composed of 55 African Academies of Sciences and Research Institutions; Successfully launched 5 Scientific Journals that were published annually since 2020; 1,500 Scientist participated in ASRIC Congress and Scientific Meetings; ASRIC Scholarship Scheme that was launched in 2019 attracted a grant of 1.5 million USD and 37 PhD students were sponsored.



Figure 2: ASRIC in figures

On the other hand, ASRIC research work focuses on emerging research and innovations such as AI, and industry 4.0 among other; while the inclusive and community-based research and innovation considered as one of the most relevant areas of research and innovation under ASRIC research agenda while the market driven research comes on the tip of this agenda.



Figure 3: ASRIC Research and Innovation focus areas

3. ASRIC Fund

While ASRIC was busy to occupy its place in the STI landscape in the continent and to put in place its governance structure and establish networks across the continent, it was widely recognized in Africa and beyond. As such, several institutions approached ASRIC with donations and support for its programmes and projects both in cash and in kind, institutions that supported this cause are; Euromediterranean University of Fez, Morocco; 18 AU Member States' National Academy of Sciences among others. These are testimony on ASRIC's capacity and capabilities in mobilizing resource for its programmes and projects.

Meanwhile to facilitate bank transaction and ensure effective mobilization of financial resources by ASRIC and after consultation with the AUC relevant Authorities and services the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission granted the approval to open a special account for ASRIC Fund, which is operational as of today.

This fund was established as a direct implementation of the ASRIC Statute Article 4 (c) Functions of ASRIC *“mobilize resources to support scientific, research and innovation activities and programmes in accordance with the AU policy in this area”*; and Article 9 Budget, number 2(a, b & f) *“voluntary contribution from AU Member States and partners, contribution from development partners of the Union and the Commission; and any other source of funding in accordance with AU Rules and procedures; and its resource mobilization strategies and guidelines including those focusing on alternative source of funding”*. The Fund was established due to the fact that, there is a need.

4. Objectives of ASRIC Resource mobilization Strategy

The overall objective of the ASRIC Resource mobilization Strategy is “ASRIC Receives Adequate Funding”. While the specific objectives as shown in figure 4 are:

- 1) Secure substantial funding;
- 2) Develop a smart partnership with partners and donors;
- 3) Ensure the Diversity of the donor base;
- 4) Gain the trust of all donors and partners on the financing execution, utilization and Impact;
- 5) Envisage the possibilities of innovative funding mechanisms including alternative source of funding

ENVISAGE THE POSSIBILITIES OF INNOVATIVE FUNDING MECHANISMS INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF FUNDING

ASRIC RECEIVES ADEQUATE FUNDING

SECURE SUBSTANTIAL FUNDING

- ✓ Increase the contribution of the AUC to ASRIC Programme Budget
- ✓ Encourage Member states to voluntarily contribute to ASRIC Programme Budget
- ✓ Encourage the sectorial development Departments within the AUC to avail funding
- ✓ Ensure AESTIF to allocate 10% of its annual disbursement to ESTI programmes and Projects in any given year to ASRIC

DEVELOP A SMART PARTNERSHIP WITH PARTNERS & DONORS

- ✓ ASRIC to ensure alignment of its programmes and projects to AU Agenda 2063 and its continental frameworks, and SDGs
- ✓ Engage with partners to develop programmes and projects of priority and common Interest

ENSURE THE DIVERSITY OF THE DONOR BASE

- ✓ Multi-donor pooled funds
- ✓ Tapping on AU Bilateral and Multilateral partnerships
- ✓ Direct engagement with international and fund agencies and development foundations
- ✓ Small donors and individuals' support
- ✓ Tapping on similar institutions and networks funds

GAIN THE TRUST OF ALL DONORS AND PARTNERS ON THE FINANCING EXECUTION, UTILIZATION AND IMPACT

- ✓ Advocate for ASRIC financial, administrative control, guidelines and principles (efficient, transparency, accountability, M&E, through external and internal audits) (publish an annual public financial statement)
- ✓ Popularizing the impact of the programmes and projects (value for money) result focused, (inclusivity of the beneficiaries, changing the landscape)

5. Strategic Focus Areas of the Resource Mobilization Plan

This section outlined how the overall objectives of the resource mobilization strategy along with its specific objectives can be achieved. In furtherance, it highlights in details the strategic actions for “ASRIC Receives Adequate Funding” to implement the ASRIC Strategic Plan 2022-2028.

5.1 Secure substantial funding

Securing enough funds for ASRIC at any given time to attain to its mandate is of great challenge and ASRIC must overcome such for it to make any meaningful progress. In view of securing substantial funding for ASRIC the following focus area must be considered:

Focus Area

1. Increase the contribution of the AUC to ASRIC Programme Budget to achieve 1% of Member States’ contribution to ASRIC

As per Article 9-1 of the ASRIC Statute, ‘the budget of the ASRIC shall be within the AU budget’. The AUC as the Secretariat for the Union is compelled to avail adequate funding for ASRIC to ensure ASRIC is to attain its mandate and objectives among others. The AUC gets its funding through the Member States allocation, which used to fund programme and projects of the AUC Departments and the Union’s Specialized Technical Agencies and Institutions including ASRIC. Since the establishment of ASRIC, its annual budget never been sufficient or adequate to execute its programmes and projects.

This section of the resource mobilization strategy is introducing an innovative solution that should be considered by relevant authorities within the African Union (AU) bodies to fund ASRIC by allocating 1% of the Member States’ contribution to African Union Commission (AUC) in a given budgetary year to ASRIC to fund its programmes and projects. The fact is that, in any budgetary year the execution rate of the AUC budget is less than 70% i.e. allocation of the 1% from the annual budget of the AUC to ASRIC fund” will in no way burden the Member States with extra financial commitments.

This position also justified by the fact that ASRIC mandate cuts across the entire spectrum and mandate of the AUC while it programme and projects address all sectors of development and endeavours of life such as; Tourism, Social, Economic, Health, Agriculture, Environment, Infrastructure, Industry, Trade, Mining, Peace and Security. It is imperative for the AUC to generously invest in ASRIC to ensure successful implementation of its continental frameworks such as: PIDA, CAADP, Africa Health Strategy 2030, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Plan, Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security, Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA), Strategic Framework 2020-2030 for the AU/ILO/IOM/UNECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance For Development And Integration In Africa (JLMP), Transport Policy Framework among others.

Mode of Engagement

Earlier to the development of this strategy, a position paper was developed by 10 African National Academies of Sciences “funds allocation to the ASRIC STI flagship projects” and endorsed by ASRIC Congress. This position paper can be a discussion document that is to be

presented to relevant stakeholders within the AU system such as STC-ESTI and PRC Advisory Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters while Members of ASRIC Congress are encouraged to lobby for action in the level of their respective Member States. In furtherance, the ASRIC Secretariat is to develop a brief document on engagement rules.

2. Encourage Member States to voluntarily contribute to ASRIC Programme Budget

The ASRIC Statute Article 9-2 (a) gives leverage for ASRIC to mobilize resources from within the AU Member States as a voluntary contribution, these resources could be in cash or in kind including direct funding to projects and programme.

ASRIC is to leverage in its experience in mobilizing such resources, recalling the launching of the ASRIC Scholarship Scheme in partnership with Euromediterranean University of Fez, Kingdom of Morocco. While in the other hand, the ASRIC Secretariat (AU-STRC) accumulated large experience in this endeavour such as partnership with the Egyptian Syndicate of Engineering to build the capacity of African Engineers, Merck Foundation for Health Capacity for Early Career Practitioners, ICMR/AU-STRC Capacity Building Programme these will facilitate and attract more voluntarily contribution from AU Member State.

These modes of actions is done to facilitate and encourage Member States voluntarily contribution to ASRIC without circumventing the monetary rules that is governing the Member States Institution such as cash transaction abroad and also for ASRIC to be able to benefit from their existing development funds and organization among others. Meanwhile, some of the AU Member States established specials funds for cooperation within the country and in some instances can be expanded beyond while others has set in place intra-Africa development/cooperation funds were established by others e.g. Nigeria's Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Nigerian Funds for Technical Aids and Cooperation, Egypt Science and Technology Fund, Egyptian Funds for Technical Cooperation with Africa, Academy of Sciences' National Fund among others.

Mode of Engagement

This can be done by ASRIC conducting the target Member State analysis as the Member States are in different level of financial strengths thereafter either ASRIC engaging them for discussion through the appropriate Ministry or Agencies with the view of coming up with an amicable agreement on funding ASRIC Programme and Projects or the Member State can approach ASRIC based on their specific needs.

It can also be made through call for support and funding to ASRIC through a concept note and proposals and the Member States can respond to the calls. Meanwhile, national tech-funds to be approached and encouraged to support the execution and conduct of ASRIC programmes and project in their national levels especially those are community and inclusive based innovations.

3. Encourage the sectorial development Departments within the AUC to avail funding from its annual programme budget to ASRIC relevant programmes that are responding to their mandate and frameworks.

Presently the AUC has the following departments: Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE); Economic Development, Trade, Industry, Mining (ETIM); Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI); Infrastructure and Energy; Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAP); Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS); and Women, Gender and Youth; Civil Society and Diaspora. These Departments have several Specialized Technical Institutions under their portfolio, which are mandated to contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2063 aspirations and to implement its frameworks and strategies. These frameworks and strategies are PIDA, CAADP, Africa Health Strategy 2030, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Plan, Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security, Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA), Strategic Framework 2020-2030 for the AU/ILO/IOM/UNECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance For Development And Integration in Africa (JLMP), Transport Policy Framework among others. Some of these technical institutions are engaged in research such SAFGRAD, IBAR, while others are more focused on regulations, standardizations, policy advocacy along with its interventions such as AU-IAPSC and ACDC. In relation to the above, and reflecting on ASRIC mandate as a specialized technical advisory body to the African Union and its Commission with the objective to promote scientific research and innovation in order to address Africa's socioeconomic development in one hand, while on the other, its wide spectrum of scientists with a congregation of over 16,000 scientists, and its existing laboratories and research infrastructure makes it a perfect partner that AU Departments and its Specialized Technical Institutions to rely on to conduct scientific research under their sectorial frameworks and strategies.

To achieve this an innovative way of fund disbursement should be developed to ensure that these departments can channel part from their annual programme budget allocation that is allocated for research to ASRIC. Other way, is to sub-contract ASRIC to conduct research, development and innovation on their behalf.

Mode of Engagement

To achieve this an innovative way of fund disbursement should be developed to ensure that all AUC Technical Departments can channel the allocated budget for research within their annual programme budget to ASRIC. On the alternate, is to sub-contract ASRIC to conduct research, development and innovation on their behalf. In furtherance, ASRIC is to study and analyses all AU sectorial frameworks and strategies and to identify areas of leapfrogging and then to approach the AUC Technical Departments to have a dialogue on the areas of common interests to offer its support and services.

4. Ensure AESTIF to allocate 10% of its annual disbursement to ESTI programmes and projects in any given year to ASRIC

The African Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (AESTIF) is a unique, Africa-initiated, continental level financing instrument designed to facilitate Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Higher Education (HE), Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) in Africa. The AESTIF was developed in response to the gap in the financing of key education and skills,

and STI sub-sectors that have a high potential for employment and wealth creation leading to industrialization and economic transformation as a way to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aspiration of Agenda 2063.

AESTIF is under establishment process since 2007 to the date of writing this document, AESTIF went through challenges, which hinders the conceptualization and execution of the fund, and by 2020 the Department of HRST re-engaged with AfDB to re-conceptualize the fund and to expedite its establishment.

ASRIC is to envisage the way to ensure upon capitalization and functionalization of the AESTIF, AESTIF should be compelled to allocate 10% of its annual disbursement/allocations in any given year to ASRIC to fund its programme and projects to ease the financial challenges of ASRIC and enables it to deliver on its mandate as the premier continental advisory body on STI.

Mode of Engagement

ASRIC to continue its contribution to the development and conceptualization on the development of AESTIF through its secretariat AU-STRC (Member of AESTIF Drafting Committee). In addition, ASRIC is to develop a position paper for onward submission to Commissioner ESTI, AESTIF advisory Board, and STC-ESTI

5.2 Develop a smart partnership with partners and donors

Partners and partnership is key to the success of multidisciplinary programmes and projects of ASRIC as it builds on complementarity and working on areas of comparative advantages on win-win mode of project development, management and implementation for greater successes and impact on the African populace. To have smart engagement with partners and donors the following focus areas must be attained.

Focus area

1. ASRIC to ensure alignment of its programmes and projects to AU Agenda 2063 and its continental frameworks, and SDGs

It is the fact that ASRIC global vision and activities is designed to service the Agenda 2063 and the SDGs however, this need to be more highlighted and to be at a glance of ASRIC communication and interaction with any development partners. Whereas, the impact of the ASRIC programmes and projects on achieving the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations and SDGs are clearly articulated in its programmes and projects long-term objectives and outputs. For ASRIC to attract effectively more funding from within Africa and international donors it is imperative for ASRIC to design and focus its programme and projects to address the areas of common priorities under the Agenda 2063 and SDGs.

Mode of Engagement

A comprehensive analytical study to be conducted by ASRIC to identify areas of common priorities under the Agenda 2063 and SDGs with the aim to align its strategic plan, programmes, projects and activities to these common areas. Such analysis and alignment to be communicate to potential partners and stakeholders via ASRIC's communication strategy and advocacy plan.

2. Engage with partners to develop programmes and projects of priority and common interest.

Based on the developed alignment of common priorities on AU Agenda 2063, sectorial framework, and the SDGs the ASRIC will develop bankable and fundable programmes and projects along the common priority areas in accordance with ASRIC Strategic Plan for presentation to partners/donor to garner support to fund ASRIC's programmes and projects. This is to ensure driving a maximum benefit for the target groups and sectors by smart utilization of existing funds and resources with the aim to minimize and eliminate duplication and wastages of limited resources; financial, human and time.

Mode of Engagement

More participation in international conferences and dialogues on Africa's socio-economic challenges to garner support and acceptance for the fact that ASRIC is the answer "African solution for African problem by African scientists". It is also to demonstrate and introduce that ASRIC can be trusted, relied upon as it is on ground by delegating, and/or contracting to work on behalf of direct and indirect stakeholders in implementing their priority socioeconomic development programmes and projects that targeting Africa. Nevertheless, developing a joint programme with a set of activities in a joint work plan and budget that involves two or more participating partners, with the aim to build on each other's comparative advantages could be another innovative way for ASRIC to engage with partners.

5.3 Ensure the Diversity of the donor base

Diversity and diversification of donors and partners brings more choices and options to the table on the programmes and projects implementations given that donors have constraints on type of programmes, amount of funds and resources that they may avail at a given time. This encourages ASRIC to diversity its donor base as not to relent on only one or two and this cannot be achieved without the following focus areas.

Focus Area

1. Multi-donor pooled funds (Thematically based project funding)

A multi-donor pooled fund is a mechanism used to receive contributions and donations from multiple financial partners and donors that is to be allocated to fund programmes and projects in specific thematic area in national, regional and continental development priorities.

The multi-donor pooled fund aspect encourages moving away from small one-off initiatives to longer term high impact programmes which gives the privilege to attract funding and other support from multiple donors, it is also gateway for ASRIC to build long term strategic relationships with development partners.

Mode of Engagement

ASRIC to develop large-scale programmes and projects that to positively impact large number of African populaces which are in agreement with the African development priority areas.

ASRIC to develop a cluster/database of donors and financial institutions that are interested or likely to participate in such large-scale programmes and projects for a multi-donor conference to encourage their participation and establish the multi-donor pooled funds that focuses on thematic based priority.

2. Tapping on AU Bilateral and Multilateral partnerships

African Union through its Commission “Partnerships Management and Resource Mobilization Directorate” has developed several multilateral and bilateral relationships and agreements. On the level of the multilateral: Africa-League of Arab States, European Union Africa partnership, and Africa-South America Cooperation Forum (ASACOF). While on the bilateral level AUC-USA high-level dialogue, China-Africa cooperation forum FOCAC, Tokyo international conference on Africa Development (TICAD), Africa-India Partnership, Africa-Turkey Partnership, and Africa-Korea Partnership. In furtherance, the African Union has a special partnership with international donor organizations such as World Bank, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Commonwealth, La Francophonie, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Sweden International Development Agency (SIDA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

Mode of Engagement

The ASRIC Secretariat needs to approach the Partnerships Management and Resource Mobilization Directorate (PMRMD) of the AUC to ensure that: ASRIC strategic plan 2022-2028 receives the attention of the PMRMD and AU partners; the participation of the PMRMD is participating actively in all ASRIC programmes including those mainly focuses on resource mobilization. It is imperative that the ASRIC Secretariat to participate in all resource mobilization meetings, donors’ meetings, exhibitions that foreseen to take place in the AU headquarters to ensure that AU Bilateral and Multilateral partners are well informed on the ASRIC programmes and projects.

3. Direct engagement with international fund agencies and development foundations

ASRIC to open its eyes to unlimited challenging opportunities that does exist in the realm of international fund agencies and development foundations. There are numerous numbers of such opportunities at the global level such as Green Climate Fund (GCF), Wellcome Trust, Rockefeller foundation, Bill & Melina Gate etc while in the African Union level Dangote Foundation, Tony Elumelu Foundation, Sawiris Foundation etc.

The direct engagement of ASRIC with such international agencies and development foundations will vary and depends on the mode of operations and regulations of such agencies and development foundations. Some may require direct application or participation in call for proposals while others may require accreditation to receive their support such as Green Climate Fund among others.

Mode of Engagement

ASRIC to commission a study to analyse the existing landscape of the international agencies and development foundations and to develop a comprehensive database of such agencies with a continuous monitoring of their activities and plan of actions. It is also requested to develop

fundable and bankable projects that addresses the common interest of ASRIC and that of the targeted funding agencies.

ASRIC to take all the necessary preparatory steps to be in a position to apply for out coming call for proposals and/or grants and to register for accreditation of ASRIC in the GCF and other similar institutions.

4. Small donors and individuals' support

For ASRIC to ensure the diversity of its donor base there is a need to attract small donors to participate directly or indirectly in ASRIC mobilizing resources actions and activities. The small donor group is composed of African Diaspora, Philanthropists, Celebrities and Social influencers, Private sectors along with one-off donation.

Mode of Engagement

The mode of engagement for small donors and individuals support are diverse in nature and as follows:

- a. **Diaspora Engagement** – ASRIC Secretariat is to establish/activate the ASRIC Diaspora chapters and request them to identify innovative, attractive ways to fund ASRIC. These innovative ways may include: one dinner per month for ASRIC (i.e for Diaspora to give equivalent of one dinner amount monthly to ASRIC fund); visit Africa programme where Diaspora scientists can fund their travels to their motherland during holidays to acquire university/research chairs; and to envisage the possibilities of conducting joint research in STISA priority areas with their counterpart in the continent; while having joint supervision for post graduate studies will increase the benefits of Africa's based scientists. To maximize the benefit from Diaspora Chapters it is imperative for ASRIC Secretariat to enlarge the diaspora base by contacting existing associations of African scientists based in Diaspora, this will imply the need to develop a publicity concept that is targeting African Diaspora.
Encourage ASRIC Diaspora Chapter to engage with the relevant authorities in their diaspora land, universities and research institutions to encourage them to fund ASRIC programmes and activities.
- b. **Philanthropists** – are individuals of immense wealth, experience and skills that are ready to create a better Africa for Africans and are generous enough the give or part-away with some of what they have for a noble cause. The ASRIC to develop a landscape and database of such individuals both within and outside the continent and organize ways to approach them through organizing a philanthropists' forum or individually with the view of attracting funds from them.
- c. **Private Sector** – are private business and firms that are owned and run by individuals or multi-stockholders, these businesses is divided into two groups; small and medium firms own by just one person and multinational business that is owned by many persons and operates around the continent or world. The goal of business in the private sector is to make profit. ASRIC must inform well the private sector about the benefits they may receive from ASRIC, which is solving industrial problems and challenges where they may contract or sub-contract ASRIC to conduct research and innovation on the behalf of their firms and this will attract direct payment to ASRIC through research grants. In furtherance,

the contracting or sub-contracting will demonstrate that these firms are conducting R&D for their products, which will result in increase in revenue for the firms and uplift their profile. They can also, benefit from ASRIC as mega Advisory Board to the AU that has membership of 55 AU Academies and Research Centers and large number of collaborating Universities and Research Institutions within the continent. Where ASRIC can examine their products in accordance with Africa's and International standards and certify it in consultation with relevant authorities in the AU Member States as such their products can receive certification of compliance. This will account for a small to negligible percentage that is to be added to any products that is produced by the firms and certified by ASRIC. This certification will improve, ease market penetration and will introduce the firms' products to new markets in Africa and beyond through the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement.

- d. **Celebrity and Social Influencers** – are well-known individuals who live in the public eye, with exceptionally great skills and talents and they are famous with millions of followers around the continent and the world. They exist in all spheres of endeavours and Africa is the homeland for many of such. ASRIC must develop ways of approaching and engaging the African celebrities and social influencers to appreciate ASRIC programmes and projects and to believe on its impact on the betterment of African populace livelihood. ASRIC needs to develop a database of African celebrities and social influencers and approach them to use their networks and influences to popularize, advertise and to be ambassadors of ASRIC to champion the cause of ASRIC and its resource mobilization campaign including mentoring and showcasing.
- e. **One-off donation** – this is a common among fund mobilizers which applies to all modes of engagements above mentioned (a-d) however targeting direct one-off donations in mega stores, airports, stations etc, needs publicity and activities that are targeting the African populace. One-off donation either to be targeted to the whole ASRIC activities or to selected specific projects like the Drinking Water for All and Africa free of Hepatitis "Hepatitis-free village" under the ASRIC Strategic Plan 2022-2028.

5. Similar institutions and networks

There are many existing similar institutions to ASRIC in the world like European Research Council (ERC), American National Research Council, American Academy of Science, Chinese Academy of Science, French Academy of Science, TWAS, International Council of Science ICSU among others. The ASRIC must explore many such similar institutions and networks across the globe for technical cooperation, developing capabilities and capacities, joint research programme, joint resource mobilization campaign.

Similarly, Africa host a good number of institutions and networks that are mandated to leapfrog Science, Technology and Innovation such as African Academy of Science, African Technology Policy Studies, Association of African Universities, Pan African University, African Centre for Technology Policy Studies, Africa Research and Impact Network among others,

Mode of Engagement

ASRIC to conduct situational analysis of the targeted international institutions and those of Africa based institutions aiming at engaging with them to envisage the probability of conducting joint programmes and projects for mutual benefits.

ASRIC to call for participation of these similar institutions ‘above mentioned’ in its annual Congresses as non-voting members while an open call for active participation in its programmes and projects will eliminate duplication and wastage of resources and ensuring larger impact on the beneficiary group.

5.4 Gain the trust of all donors and partners on the financing execution, utilization and Impact

ASRIC must establish trust with the donors for them to feel satisfied and contented with the programme and projects of ASRIC from its development and execution. There is the need for ASRIC to build strong emotional connection and prove itself as capable of developing and implementing programme and projects, as honest and transparent organization.

Focus Area

- 1. Advocate for ASRIC financial, administrative control, guidelines and principles (efficient, transparency, accountability, M&E through external and internal audits) (publish an annual public financial statement)**

The ASRIC according to Article 2 of its Statute as Specialized Technical Advisory Body to the AUC is subjected to all financial, administrative control, guidelines and principles of international best practices and rules that shows efficiency in implementation of programme and projects under a transparent and accountable manner to funders and donors. Its programme and projects are monitored and evaluated through the Africa Monitoring of the Environment and Resources Tools (AMERT) and exposed to both internal and external board of auditors, all its accounts are published annually in financial statements.

- 2. Popularizing the impact of the programmes and projects (value for money) (result focused, (inclusivity of the beneficiaries, changing the landscape)**

ASRIC Programmes and Projects are inclusive and result focused that are targeting the wider layer of African populace, whereas 90% of these programmes and projects are inclusive and community based. The popularization of such programme and projects through the communication strategy of the ASRIC is of great importance to echo the impact and the successes achieved so far in addressing Africa’s socioeconomic transformation along with sway on intra-Africa trade and Africa’s product market share.

5.5 Envisage the possibilities of innovative funding mechanisms including alternative source of funding

This alternative source of funds objective is equally addressed in the above-mentioned objectives since it cut across. The ASRIC Resource Mobilization Committee to engage with its expert to identify more innovative ways to mobilize resources (human and financial) to close the funding gap in any budgetary year if the need be.

6. Mobilized Resources Utilization

The mobilized funding resource under the ASRIC Fund either funds allocated by partners and donors to specific ASRIC flagship project or it is donated directly to the Fund without targeting

special programmes and projects (Pool Fund) such as the funds that are mobilized from Small Donors and Individual Supports among others.

1. Funds allocated to one specific ASRIC flagship project

The funds allocated to one specific ASRIC flagship project will be solely used for the project that is intended for. While all financial controls will be observed as it is explicitly mentioned in the funding agreement.

2. Funds mobilized under the ASRIC Pool Fund

Funds mobilized under the ASRIC Pool Fund “the donation directly made to the Fund without targeting special programmes and projects” shall be utilized as follows:

- 60% of the Pool Fund will be channelized to research call for proposals on African development priority areas; ASRIC scholarship scheme and to ASRIC initiative on community based and inclusive innovations.
- 40% of the Pool Fund to be utilized for ASRIC endowment fund to ensure ASRIC future self-sustainability and in special cases it may be used as grants or direct research funding when the need arises for emergency research such as the case of pandemic outbreaks among others.

Generally, for the funds mobilized under 1 and 2 above mentioned, all the AU financial, Procurement, Administrative controls will be adhered to, recalling that the project will be evaluated through the Africa Monitoring of the Environment and Resources Tools (AMERT) and exposed to both internal and external board of auditors, all its accounts are published annually in financial statements.

Annex 1: Visualizing the ASRIC Strategic Plan

ASRIC Strategic Plan 2022 - 2028

Outcome: STI products and services contribute more to Africa's economic transformation and prosperity

Vision: An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena

Mission: To accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation led, knowledge based economy

Enhance Intra-Africa Research Cooperation

⇒ To strengthen intra-Africa research through investment, collaboration, policies, and partnerships to address socioeconomic challenges, facilitate trade, and build a research network
 ⇒ Development of harmonized training concepts and approaches at various levels taking into consideration regional, national and local skills needs and requirements to boost Africa's economy and made in Africa technologies and solutions

Output: AU Member States to conduct joint research

- * Conduct National Academies of Sciences (NAS) and the National Research Councils (NRC) Dialogue for Intra-Africa Research
- *Development of conducive environment for intra-Africa research
- *Support regional and continental joint research programs

Output: Recognize Africa's research output to increase market share

- *Promoting and recognizing excellence in Africa's research findings among stakeholders including Africa's industrialists
- *Conduct African STI Souk for boosting intra-Africa trade
- *Conduct needs and gaps analysis on market demand and analysis on needed STI products and services in the African market
- *Development and administration of an African Network of Technology Transfer and Acquisition

Promote Human Capacity Development

⇒ Development of harmonized training concepts and approaches at various levels taking into consideration regional, national and local skills needs and requirements to boost Africa's economy and made in Africa technologies and solutions

Output: African scientists having the requisite skills and knowledge and participating actively in address Africa's challenges, economic transformation, and technological needs

- *Establishment of African Union Network of Sciences (AUNS)
- *Building the critical mass of M.Sc. and Ph.D. with a special focus on Africa's development priority areas and science frontiers
- *Build robust lifelong learning
- *Promote knowledge exchange and brain circulation

Promote STI's potential for Africa's economy and livelihoods

⇒ To effectively promote the impact of ASRIC STI on Africa's industrialization, intra-Africa trade, livelihood improvement in national and international forums, and to develop and apply appropriate communication strategies and mechanisms

Output: Stakeholders, policy and decision-makers, and partners give due recognition to the role of STI in improving Africa's economy and the livelihoods of its populace.

- *Build public understanding while raising awareness on STI as a driving force for socioeconomic transformation of Africa
- *Develop smart partnership with strategic partners both within and outside Africa

Output: Adequate financial resources mobilized for the sustainability of ASRIC

- *Advocate for ASRIC's direct involvement in AUC fund raising process
- *Mobilization of Alternative Source of funding at all levels
- *Lobby and advocate for enhanced support for STI

Increase ASRIC member participation in decision-making

⇒ To effectively govern the operationalization and functionalization of ASRIC in accordance with AU and international best practices

Output: ASRIC members are engaged, carried on and effectively participate in the decision-making process

- *Conduct ASRIC Congress, Bureau and Scientific Committees meetings timely
- *Dissemination of ASRIC Success Stories and Information
- *Development of ASRIC Engagement Campaign

Impact Factors

Objectives

Outputs

Enabling Environment: 1. Relevant policies and legislation 2. Financial and Administrative Governance 3. Financial Mechanisms

ASRIC Performance Enablers:
 1. Strengthening ASRIC Secretariat 2. Capacity Building and Human Development 3. Creative and Innovative Systems and Processes
 4. Advocacy and Communication Outreach 5. Smart Partnership

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