



## **THE AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ASRIC ADVISORY BOARD ON STI INTERVENTION FOR COVID-19**

## **Introduction**

The African Union's Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/Dec.747 (XXII)) established ASRIC as a specialized Technical Advisory Body to the African Union with African Union, Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC) as its Secretariat. The ASRIC promotes scientific research and innovation in order to address the challenges of Africa's socio-economic development. It also mobilizes African research excellence and provides a platform for dialogue among African scientists and serves as a voice of the scientific community in building and sustaining continental research and innovation nexus.

Launching the ASRIC and its Congress in November 2018 was a landmark in the Science, Technology and Innovation impact on Africa's future and prosperity. The ASRIC Congress is composed of African scientists from all the African National Science Academies, National Research Councils, top Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) Institutes in Africa, Diaspora Scientists and Partners. The Congress decides on the implementation of key science and technology programme and projects in accordance with the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) and the overarching continental framework AU Agenda 2063.

The STISA-2024 is the first of the ten-year incremental phasing strategies to respond to the demand for science, technology and innovation from various impact sectors. The STISA-2024 is built upon four pillars, one of which is **building technical and professional competencies that are** anchored on six distinct priority areas that contribute to the overall development of Africa. One of the priorities is **Prevention and Control of Diseases**. In light of the unprecedented emergence of the Corona Virus Disease Pandemic (COVID-19) ravaging the world the onus lies on ASRIC to respond to the challenges.

The ASRIC called upon its members to assemble an **ASRIC Advisory Board Members on STI Intervention for COVID-19** that is to be composed of eminent scientists those drawn from the pool its members to advise on how best ASRIC can respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Objective**

To advise/guide the ASRIC on how best ASRIC can respond to the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing STI while building on existing African resources.

## **Mandate of the Advisory Board**

1. Develop a guideline that address STI intervention including;
  - Continental research roadmap on COVID-19;
  - Outline coordination of the continental research;
  - Prioritize areas of research on the COVID-19; and
  - Any other relevant guidelines that may address this intervention.
2. Identifying and exploring areas of quick win (rapid diagnostic tests)and interventions drugs, vaccines, as well as drug/vaccine trials in the research for COVID-19; and

3. Develop a guideline on forming network of BSL 4 and BSL 3 laboratories that can be used for conducting the COVID-19 Research.

### **Deliverables**

- Developed guideline on the STI intervention on COVID-19;
- Identified areas of quick win and intervention;
- Established network of BSL4 and BSL3 laboratories.

### **Duration**

The Period is for one year with a possibility of extension for another one year based on the needs of the programme and availability of fund.

### **Modus Operandi**

1. You will remain in your place of domicile;
2. You are expected to work with colleagues virtually for now.
3. You will be invited for meetings anywhere within the continent if the need to be.

### **Service Reward**

- Members of the Advisory board are participating voluntarily in the board i.e. the participation in the Board will not attract any payment but should incase there is meetings that involves travels, the ASRIC will borne the cost of your travels and daily subsistence allowance according to the UN rates.
- At the end of the programme you will receive a recognition certificate from the ASRIC for your valuable contribution to the continent and ASRIC in this difficult time.