

AFRICAN UNION

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
RESEARCH COMMISSION



UNION AFRICAINE

COMMISSION SCIENTIFIQUE,
TECHNIQUE ET DE LA RECHERCHE

**MINUTES OF FIRST CONSULTATIVE MEETING
ON IMPLEMENTATION AND LAUNCHING OF
AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL**

**Hosted by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
Accra, Ghana on 8th September, 2015**

Attendance:

The following organizations were in attendance; HRST, STRC, SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD, COMESA, PAU, ECA, AAU, CAMES

Agenda:

1. Brainstorming on the planning of the stakeholders' meeting towards operationalization of ASRIC scheduled to take place in Cairo, Egypt from 11-13 November, 2015

Introduction:

The meeting took place immediately at the end of the meeting of the implementation framework for STISA 2024 at the secretariat of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa in Accra, Ghana on 8th September, 2015. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Ag. Director HRST and Dr. Ahmed Hamdy, Executive Secretary STRC, the former welcomed the participant and explained why we are here for the meeting.

Discussion and Deliberations:

The Ag. Director called on the Executive Secretary to explain the rationale and the needs for the meeting of ASRIC. He articulated the concept of ASRIC and its manifestation in several places in the STISA 2024 and further cited its mandate and objectives. He recalled that the statutory document of ASRIC went through the Ministerial Conference of Ministers in Charge of Science and Technology AMCOST V in Congo, Brazzaville in April, 2014 (AU/MIN/CONF/ST/2/(II)) and the Executive Council in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2014 (EX.CL/839 (XXV)).

He stated that this planning meeting is to have expanded stakeholders meeting that will bring hundreds of scientist, engineers, researchers, innovators, STI managers, funding bodies, entrepreneurs, business leaders etc with the view of selecting the congress and bureau among other things. The meeting will mark the launch of the ASRIC in this regard we must consult with the RECS, ECA, PAU, AAU etc. The planning meetings will also discussion the funding of the expanded stakeholders meeting where Egypt agreed to host but there is no financial commitment as of now. He concluded by reminding the participant that the ASRIC secretariat is STRC as stipulated in the ASRIC documents.

The discussion that ensued after his explanations are; what is the current status of the ASRIC Statute as the Executive Council Decision requested the AUC to sort out issues of legalities and financial implications in establishing the council entails cost. What is the requirement for the launch the ASRIC? What are the relations between African Academy of Sciences and the ASRIC?

In response, the Ag. Director stated that the documents are at the level of the AUC Legal Counsel but that doesn't stop us from going ahead with the launching because we have similar experience with AOSTI. For the financial implication as STRC is going to be the secretariat it will not be a problem from the side of the AUC. On the issue of the requirement for the launch, that is the reason why this planning meeting was called for. As you were all informed Egypt has accepted to host the expanded meeting but we need to set up a planning committee that will compose all members here present to work out the requirement.

The relation between AAS and ASRIC; these are two independent institutions they will work in complementarity and build synergy in the implementation of projects and programmes. Note that ASRIC's mandate spells as to what ASRIC should do and AAS is a member of congress of ASRIC.

The Ag. Director stated that by next week we will develop a ToR for the meeting committee and I believe all of you here are part of the planning committee. We need your support in the hosting and launch of the meeting.

Then, IGAD; ECOWAS; NEPAD; PAU and ECA expressed support for the launch of ASRIC meeting and they will be available to attend further meetings. SADC also supported the launch in principle but they request to see legal issues sorted out before coming on board.

Conclusion:

The meeting agreed that:

- More members can join if they express interest to do so.
- STRC should be the secretariat of the organizing committee
- AUC was tasked to develop a draft TOR for the organizing committee for deliberation and finalization by the latter.
- The AUC will inform on the next meeting of the organizing committee