The 2nd Congress of the
African Scientific, Research and
Innovation Council (ASRIC),
20-23 November, 2019, Abuja, Nigeria

The 2nd ASRIC Congress Report

I. INTRODUCTION

The 2nd ASRIC Congress held in Abuja, Nigeria from the 20th – 23rd November 2019 with the theme; **"Freeing Africa from Poverty, Hunger and Diseases".** The Congress was designed in two sessions; Session 1: ***ASRIC Governance and Operationalization*** while Session 2 was allocated to ***ASRIC Scientific Sessions.*** On the governance and operationalization session, reports on the implementation of the first congress output along with the ASRIC 1st and 2nd Bureau recommendations were presented and discussed. Thereafter, ASRIC Committees had their breakaway sessions to discuss issues related to the flagship projects, ASRIC Communication, ASRIC Journals and Resource Mobilization, among others. This session was extended for the first two days of the Congress and followed by the ASRIC Scientific Sessions.

The ASRIC Scientific Sessions were organized in four thematic areas; ***Health Sciences; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Water, Energy and Environment; and Governance, Sociology, Business& Economics***.

II. ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by 140 participants from Africa and Diaspora. Several National Academies of Sciences were present in the meeting along with a good number of ASRIC partners.

III. ASRIC GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONALIZATION

The session on governance and operationalization took place in the first two days of the Congress where the participants were briefed on the modalities of work of ASRIC which was followed by a breakaway session for the ASRIC's Committees.

a. BRIEFING ON THE MODALITIES OF WORK

This Session was to brief the Congress Members and participants on the modalities of work. That includes introduction to ASRIC, Reports from the Secretariat on STISA-2024; 1st and 2nd Bureau Meeting Report, Briefings on the Committees and to nominate new ex-official members to the committees.

1. Welcome Remarks

The ASRIC Chair **Prof Ratemo Michieka,** welcomed participants to the 2nd ASRIC Congress and briefed the gathering that the ASRIC Bureau had held two meetings since its inauguration and has been able to establish the Africa Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF). He appreciated the Members for responding to the invitation by the ASRIC.

In his welcome remarks, the Executive Director of AU-STRC in his capacity as the Executive Director of ASRIC **Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy** expressed his appreciation for the turnout of Members and commended the Bureau Members for what has been

achieved within one year. He called for more action to expedite the implementation of Decisions of the Congress and its Bureau.

In a goodwill message by **H.E Emmanuel Mpfayokurera,** Burundian Ambassador to Nigeria, he expressed his delight to be in the 2nd ASRIC Congress and stated that ASRIC assembled the cream of the cream of African Scientists, thus the onus of developing Africa lies with the ASRIC. He urged Congress to discuss the challenges of the continent and proffer solutions and wished the participants successful Congress and assured them of his support to ASRIC always.

2. Introduction to ASRIC

The ASRIC Chair, **Prof Ratemo Michieka**, made a presentation on the ASRIC by giving a brief on the background, functions, mandates, structure, composition, rules of procedure, outcome of the 1st Congress, funding and financial controls of the ASRIC.

3. Report by the Secretariat on STISA 2024

Executive Director of ASRIC **Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy** briefed the meeting on the midterm implementation of the STISA 2024 based on the programmes and activities of AU-STRC which also is the Secretariat of ASRIC. The programme and activities were done in accordance with STISA 2024 policy analysis that identified the gaps, needs, and policies that are required for STISA 2024 implementation. Under this Mid-Term implementation report several policies developed which are; Towards women participation in science in Africa; Research translation from bench to bedside; Climate change impact in Africa, Challenges and opportunities within the realm of science and technology; and African Union Green Innovation Framework.

On building technical and professional competencies, about 800 professional were trained by the AU-STRC in the following fields; 52% health sciences; 13% inclusive and community based innovation; 10% natural risk and disaster; 9% electrical engineering; 6% accessing Green Climate Fund; and 4% knowledge management. While under the institutional capacity building where the African Union Network of Sciences (AUNS) was established and functionalized, Federation of African Engineering Organization was assisted in reforming their structures, while the African Environmental Society was conceptualized and modalities on its establishment are presently ongoing.

In the same way, the following studies where carried out; Science, Technology and Innovation for Post-Conflict Recovery in Africa: Integrating Young Arms to their Societies; STI Business Incubators; African Pharmacopeia; African Union Science and Technology Framework for Detection, Identification and Monitoring of Infectious Diseases of Humans, Animals and Plants.

4. Report on ASRIC Bureau

The ASRIC Chair **Prof Ratemo Michieka**, gave a brief on report of the ASRIC Bureau meetings and mentioned that since the inauguration of the Bureau there were two

meetings held in March and September 2019 both hosted by AU-STRC in Abuja, Nigeria. The 1st meeting was centred on the full operationalization of the ASRIC where decisions on the 2nd Congress theme and sub-themes were taken. In the 2nd Bureau meeting, decisions on flagship projects, criteria, and the establishment of ASRIC Journal in four thematic fields (Health sciences; Agricultural sciences; Water, Energy and Environmental sciences; Social sciences and Humanities) were taken.

5. Introduction to Scientific & Innovation; Communication; and Resource Mobilization Committees

The three ASRIC Committees on Scientific & Innovation Committee Co-Chaired by **Mr. James Phiri** and **Prof. Mosto Onuoha**; Communication Chaired by **Prof. Driss Ouazar**; and Resource Mobilization Committee Chaired by **Prof. Beban Chumbow** presented a succint introduction on their Committees including composition, functions, duties and responsibilities, and the roles of the sub-committees of their respective Committees.

6. Nomination of New Members to the Committees and Information on Breakaway Sessions

Prof. Ratemo Michieka the Chair of ASRIC called for inclusion of new ex-official Members in the 3 respective Committees and gave a brief on how the Breakaway Session of each Committee should be conducted.This is done with the aim to hear more voices from the African scientists since ASRIC is calling for inclusion of all the layers of the STI pyramid.

b. Reports on the Committees Meetings

After lengthy discussions and consultations by members of the committes in their breakaway sessions, by the end of the day two, the committes were requested to present their output /recommendation to the Congress Plenary.

1. Report on the Scientific and Innovation Committeee

The report on Scientific & Innovation Breakaway session output was presented by the co–chairs **Mr James Phiri and Prof Mosto Onuoha.** The reports focused on the following:

- ASRIC Flagship projects' priority areas;
- Criteria for ASRIC flagship project;
- Modalities for development of ASRIC Flagship projects;
- Building the intra-African Research frontiers to implement the flagship projects.

After the presentations the following were unfolded after intensive discussions and deliberations:

1.1. Flagship Projects on the Priority Areas

The following research projects were identified by the committee as a flagship projects and they were clustered to address STISA 2024 priority areas where the following was endorsed.

1.1.1. Eradication hunger and ensure food and nutrition security:

Under the priority area Eradication hunger and ensure food and nutrition security, the following projects were identified.

- Improving food production strategies and technology including precision, irrigation and indigenous technology.
- Developing and preserving resilient / tolerant plant varieties, seed varieties and availability.
- Improving soil quality, soil preservation and soil protection.
- Improve post-harvest management and food processing and safety preservation and packaging.
- Improving and enhancing nutrient fortification and food nutrition (food quality)
- Research to improve Livestock productivity.
- Impact of toxins including aflatoxins and pesticides (quality, practices) on soils, environment, quality of food and health.
- Nexus and the interlinkages between food, energy, water and climate to address the SDGs.
- Tailored Agro-climate information services extension services to reduce the vulnerability of farmers and the agricultural sector to climate changes and also, for informed efficient decision-making process
- Sustainable agriculture intensification and value chain
- Domestic and industrial energy
- Research and extension linkage system: improving the extension services
- Improve the productions means: designers, engineers to invent machineries
- Digitalization of agriculture (building information system that supplies information to farmers for crop management)
- Use of information technology: robotics, machine learning (Artificial Intelligence)
- Agriculture and fisheries (improvement of agriculture)
- Improving livestock: pasture management and improvement
- Irrigation: use of ground water

1.1.2. Prevention and control diseases and well-being

Under the priority area Prevention and control diseases and well-being, the following projects were identified.

- Priority diseases identified as areas of research under Health are: Cancer, HIV, Tuberculosis, Ebola and Malaria including abroviruses and neglected diseases
- Improving water sanitation and preservation (encourage adapting the best available technology to the African context)
- Application of telemedicine (eHealth) in medical diagnosis

- Methods to combat common diseases (and other “neglected” diseases) like malaria, asthma, typhoid
- Integrating traditional medicine with orthodox or modern medicine.
- Enhancing traditional medicine methods (quality, metrics, efficiency, toxicity…)
- Improving access to affordable or generic drugs
- Mechanisms to control proliferation of counterfeit drugs
- Improving health literacy and education
- Research on genetic diseases: sickle cell anemia
- Causes of diseases - (they might be linked to safe potable water)
- Creation of Centers of Excellence for diseases for which many Africans are travelling to seek medical care for
- Maternal-child health care
- Pollution control, air quality and environmental pollution
- Address the prevalence of youth in drug abuse and related vices
- Biomedical engineering and
- Biotechnology (diagnostic, vaccines, nanotechnology, drug discovery and development)
- Social determinant of diseases

1.1.3. **COMMUNICATION**

The following research areas were identified to be considered under the thematic areas of the flagship projects under Communication (physical and intellectual mobility).

- Reducing costs of land miles
- Methods of allocating sufficient/efficient ICT resources
- Methodologies of improving linkages across borders seaports and airports.
- Application and use of emerging technologies
- Digitalization (artificial intelligence, big data, internet of things, block chain…) to improve access to data and information
- Improve routes and transportation
- Educational technologies

1.1.4. **PROTECTING OUR SPACE**

The following research areas were identified to be considered under the thematic areas of the flagship projects under Protecting our space (including climate change).

- Improving water treatment and water recycling
- Improve waste management and waste recycling (plastic waste, electronic waste, etc), transition into circular designs
- Combating climate and environmental related diseases (ecological diseases), reduce diseases migration due to adverse environmental change
- Develop and/or improve the earth observation systems to assess natural and environmental resources, risks and disasters, and to develop early warning systems
- Build an African Satellite (to explore and protect African space)

- Pollution, Air quality monitoring and forecasting
- Improving the management of invasive and exotic species

1.1.5. CREATING WEALTH

The following research areas were identified to be considered under the thematic areas of the flagship projects under Creating Wealth.

- Improving mining resource preservation and value addition of mining technology (beneficiation) in line with the African Mining Vision
- Water resource management and allocation.
- Water/rainfall harvest and artificial recharge in a context where rainfall is going to increase in the future in several areas
- Sustainable renewable energy systems (solar, hydro, bio, wind…)
- Creating jobs for youth (avoid migration and keeping/preserving skills) and women
- Methods to envelop skills acquisition tools for employability
- Formal and non-formal ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship (Universities/research centers, technology hubs, business angels, co-working space)
- Technology Transfer and innovation management (Intellectual property, Up-take and commercialization of results, etc.)

1.1.6. CROSS CUTTING

The following research areas were identified to be considered under the thematic areas of the flagship projects under Cross cutting research actions.

- Fundamental science to underpin the applied and innovative research methodologies in all priority areas listed above
- Implement Data Centre to address big-data issue and computational high-performance infrastructure (HPC)
- Support AUNS and e-Network in all regions (Ubuntu, WACREN etc.., AFRICACONNECT) and at national levels (NREN)
- Promoting Open Data and Open science
- Innovative research methods that lead to leapfrog development pathway
- Support the development of large research infrastructure and excellence specialized centres that can welcome scientists of Africa and from the diaspora to perform research addressing the African priorities
- Support initiatives of Pan African University on eLearning for mass education

1.2. Criteria for ASRIC Flagship Projects

The criteria for any project to be named as a flagship projects were debated and the following was decided:

- 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 impact on the country, region and continent.
- Has its inclusivity for everybody in the continent.
- Should be proposed or adopted and implemented by more than 3 research institutions.
- To address community needs or market demands.
- It brings immediate and long-term sustainable solutions.
- Each project should have a Capacity building component.
- Gender sensitivity to be considered in the project development and implementation phases.
- Address Academia-Industry collaboration.

The Committee also agreed to add weight to each criteria in order to make a ranking.

1.3. Modalities for development of ASRIC Flagship projects

On the Modalities for development of ASRIC Flagship projects, the Committee considered two methods for development of ASRIC Flagship projects namely:

- Intra Africa Call for projects (Using the book of light house project modalities)
  OR
- Development of Projects by the ASRIC Scientific and Innovation committee

The Committee agreed on the following modalities for an Intra Africa Call for projects.

First: Submit a Concept Note

Second: Evaluation of the Concept Notes

Third: Submission of full proposals

Fourth: Evaluation of full proposals

1.4. Building Intra Africa Research frontiers

On building Intra Africa Research frontiers to implement the flagship projects, the Committee discussed on two methods of building African intra Research frontiers to implement the flagship projects namely: “Research Consortia” and “Virtual labs”. The Committee also discussed the criteria for selection of lead and participating institution in research consortium and virtual.

1.4.1. Criteria for selection of Members of ASRIC Research Consortium

On the Criteria for Selection of Lead Institutions and Participating Institutions (Research Consortia) in the implementation of ASRIC Flagship Projects the Committee highlighted the following criteria for selection of Lead Institutions such as:

- Job creation

- Geographical regional distribution (5 AU regions)
- Legal establishment in one African country
- Human resources: at least 50% of the staff is African
- Proof of good financial and administrative management (Audit of financial report)
- Financial capability (able to provide some funding – “matching fund”)
- Website and other relevant contact info
- Must provide the number of publications with impact factor and research influence

The Committee highlighted the following criteria for selection of Participating Institutions such as:

- Ensure that less advanced institutions will be part of the team (to benefit from the experience of others)
- May have lesser number of years of existencethan lead institution

1.4.2. Criteria for selection of Virtual Lab Membership

On Criteria for Selection of the Virtual Lab membership, the following was agreed:

- Any virtual lab should not exceed 10 members;
- The AUNS network could be the medium of communication and facilitates other issues that may be needed by the members;
- Non -African Scientists and African Scientific individuals in the Diaspora to be encouraged to join these virtual labs by registering in the AUNS;
- Members should show competences in the sense of publication, scientific production, and leadership along with scientific achievements;
- Evidence of support from their mother institutions.

2. Report on the Communication Committee

In its breakaway session, the Communication Committee chaired by **Prof Driss Ouazar**, had presentations on:

- Communication Committee concept note;
- Presentation on the ASRIC Scientific Journals;
- Sub-committee on Scientific publications

After the presentations the following were unfolded after intensive discussions and deliberations:

2.1 Establishment of sub-committee on scientific journals

On the establishment of sub-committee on scientific journals, the following was agreed:

- The Committee had a consensus on the need to establish a sub-committee on scientific journals mandated to develop and oversee the ASRIC Scientific

publications such as: Scientific journals – Peer review; Conference proceedings; Reports; Shorts communications amongst others.

- The ASRIC Scientific Journals are to be printed on request and online, the Journals are aimed at being the main source for visibility of Africa STI, where rapid publication, good and friendly editorial platform (Submission friendly, Article alert system), Make known research results by Africans for African consumption, with the ultimate goal to protect African scientists from predatory journals.
- The selection criteria for the Journal's organogram were discussed. This includes criteria for Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board among others.
- The committee agreed on the establishment of the Scientific Journals sub-committee with the membership of (Dr. Gabriel A. Agbor (Chairperson), Dr. Hassan Achimugu, Prof. Afolakemi Oredein, Prof Dr Mahmoud M Sakr, Dr. Ilham Hassan F. Mansour, Prof Manasse Mbonye, Prof. Driss Ouazar).

2.2 **Establishment of sub-committee on Advocacy**

On the establishment of sub-committee on Advocacy, the following was agreed:

- The Committee had a consensus on the need to establish a sub-committee on Advocacy with the mandate to engage with policymakers through (Conferences targeting policymakers and scientists; Briefing visits to policymakers; Exchange visits "inter-country/regional/international"; Media (mass communication/social networks); Policy analysis (at the national and AU level); along with Testimonies.
- The sub-committee is to utilize different ways to engage with the target groups (policymakers, scientists/researchers, development partners and agencies, private sector, media) that include: Periodic media briefings; online media platforms to enhance exchange/interaction among the different target groups focusing more on the young scientists engagement.
- The sub-committee discussed the need for awareness creation on ASRIC focusing on the youth through exhibitions, essay competitions, science clubs, researchers' conferences, online platform, competitive grant, scholarships, public/private linkages amongst others.
- The sub-committee is to advice and co-organize Media capacity building, and Media monitoring and evaluation systems and eventually establish/with science media networks.
- The Committee agreed on the establishment of Advocacy sub-committee with the membership of (Ogunyiriubo B. Oparazi (Chairperson), Prof Haruna Mohammad Aliero, Daniel Otunge).

2.3 **Establishment of the Sub-committee on Internal Communication**

On the establishment of the Sub-committee on Internal Communication, the following was agreed:

- The Committee had a consensus on the need to establish a sub-committee on internal communication mandated to organize/propose communication procedures, mode of reporting and interface with the ASRIC Congress and Secretariat.

- The Committee discussed on modifications to improve the ASRIC website such as improvement of the logo/name on landed/homepage, Language button for English and other AU official languages, Social media pages, links and other contact on the website.
- The Committee agreed on the establishment of Internal Communication sub-committee with the membership of (Doyin Odubanjo (Chairperson), Blessing Onyema, Rose Iember Nungul).

2.4 Establishment of the Sub-committee on Outreach and Education

On the establishment of the Sub-committee on Outreach and Education, the following was agreed.

- The Committee had a consensus on the need to establish a sub-committee on Outreach and Education for popularization of ASRIC, capacity building, youth education, social media, distance learning and MOOCs.
- The Committee discussed the principal objectives of popularization of ASRIC/Science by: Fostering growth of African Science education; Promoting awareness via sciences and technology exhibitions and relevant events; Ensuring regular update of ASRIC website with specific information.
- The Committee also discussed on Youth education and capacity building to: Encourage both male and female children to join scientific fields; Develop distance learning platforms and MOOCs; Training in scientific writing and communication; Facilitate intra-mobility of scientists all over the continent; Promote fellowships, African Scientific collaboration and international collaboration.
- The Committee agreed on the establishment of Outreach and Education sub-committee with the membership of (Prof Abdeslam Hoummada (Chairperson), Darlene K. Mutalemwa, Seth Christopher Yaw Appiah, Nebie Auguste Jean-Yves, Adel Hussein Elduma, Patrice Lekeraho Mirindi (rapporteur).

2.5 The proposals of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology Egypt to support ASRIC

The Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology offers its full support to ASRIC and proposed the following advocacy progrmmmes to be considered by the Congress.

- Launch Scientific Prizes for the best african scholars in Food and Agriculture; Water, Energy and Environment; and Health Sectors;

- The Egyptian Academy has organized an International Exhibition for innovation for the past six years which is one of the biggest innovation fairs worldwide. The Egyptian Academy offers to jointly co-organize this exhibition with ASRIC starting from the 2020 edition.

3. Report on the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC)

Presentation on Resource Mobilization Concept Note that addresses Human Resource Mobilization and Financial Resource mobilization; the need for the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Member States mobilization; the establishment of a Sub-Committee on the functionalization of ASTIF; among others was made by Prof. Beban Chumbow Chair of the Resource Mobilization Committee.

After the presentations, the following were unfolded after intensive discussions and deliberations:

3.1. Human resources Moblization

3.1.1 On the Human resource mobilization, the following was agreed:

- Conduct meetings/ conferences to mobilize Scientists;
- Building scientific road maps that will appeal to the needs and interests of scientists that taping on the success story of East Africa's Regional Policy, roadmap;
- Building upon enabling environment, "Adequacy first"– scientists in Africa should have the most up-to-date facilities creating relevance of the research to scientists;
- Research Grants to be directed towards the application of Science, uplifting the recognition and renumeration for scientists.

3.1.2 On the Diaspora mobilization, the following was agreed:

- There is a need for more engagement and participation of the Diaspora in the Congress;
- Diaspora should be in the forefront of any capacity building programme that designed by ASRIC for Africa's based Scientists to benefit from their expertise, capacities and mentorship;
- The ASRIC to utilize the information technologies to ensure the virtual participation of the Diaspora in such capacity building programmes;
- ASRIC to enhace the collaborations and partcipation of Africa's Dispora in its Research Consortia, Virtual Laboratories in one hand, while on the other hand, it is highly recommended to Establish Research Fellowships; and partnerships with the Dispora's universites and institutions;
- Encourage more the Africa's Diaspora to host and sponsor the young African Scientists in their respective universites and institutions;

3.1.3 On the African Union Network of Sciences (AUNS), the following was agreed:

- The African Union Network of Sciences is an innovative way to reverse Brain Drain;

- AUNS is to be used as a platform to build exchange processes that allow students from different countries to do their PhDs; get students from the continent and the Diaspora to work collaboratively, Heighten Information exchange which is critical for enhancement of collaboration between Africa-based Scientists and Diaspora;

- Diaspora are to be reached and encourage to join the AUNS,noting that the Diaspora forms the 6th Region of the Continent;

- AUNS to develop database on Diaspora by consulting with the relevant authority of their countries of orgin in Africa, on the other hand, ASRIC request such authorities to avail their data to AUNS.

3.2. Financial Resource mobilization

The RMC Discussion on Financial Resource mobilization covered the Establishment and Management of ASTIF; Fund Raising Strategies; and the Utilization of Funds. The information on establishment and management of ASTIIF pointed out that the : ASRIC Secretariat with the support of the ASRIC Bureau had opened a bank account for Science Technology and Innovation fund **(ASTIF)**; The Fund is to be allocated to different flagship projects upon the recommendation of the ASRIC Bureau and in line with the partners conditions while the oversighting of the fund will be done by the Secretariat (dissemination, granting, auditing); and Financial rules and regulation of the AU will be the guide for the fund dissemination, granting, and auditing.

3.2.1 On Fund Raising Strategies, the following was agreed:

The Fund Raising actors identifed were: AU Member States; African Development Institutions; African Diaspora; Direct application for grants and funds; Alternative sources of funds; Corporate social responsibilty of African and International Firms and African Venture Capitalist.

3.2.1.1. On Member States Commitments

ASRIC is to build upon the *East African Community success story "*where 5% of the national allocation to STI is to be transferred to ASTIF (African STI Fund); It was further emphasized that they should liaise with East African Community to prepare a protocol (document) and an action plan. They should also have the protocol accepted by the African Union General Assembly; Lobby members of the parliament for ratification; Engage regional bodies, presidents and Committee of 10 leadership; Engage with member states to contribute 5% of their 1% R&D contribution to GDP.

3.2.1.2. On African development Institutions

ASRIC is to develop a list of African development Institutions that may be added to the AfDB and ACBF to contribute to ASRIC fund, and also as co-funding institutions to support and fund ASRIC projects; examples include: Islamic Development bank, African Export and Import bank, African Development Agency (Egypt), African Finance Corporation among others.

3.2.1.3. On African Diaspora

ASRIC is to identify and appoint focal / contact persons per region to assist in ASRIC engagement with Diaspora including resource mobilization which includes “North America, Australia, Europe, United Kingdom”, among others. On the other note there was an idea to appoint Diaspora Ambassadors, however such idea needs more investigation.

3.2.1.4. On Direct applications for Grants and Funds

ASRIC needs to benefit from other potential funds besides GCF and ACBF such as ERASMUS+, sovereign funds, internal revenue generation opportunities; EU and also explore ways to generate “new” funds. In furthrance, ASRIC is to file applications to GCF and ACBF while working with innovation actors in ways to focus on addressing their challenges. On the other hand, steps to be taken by ASRIC to engage with the ACBF to ensure funding of ASRIC programmes includes: revisit of the ACBF to explore avenues for partnership, particularly in HR development; Engage with Pan African Private Sector Trade and Investment committee of the (AUC).

3.2.1.5. On International Partners and Donors

The ASRIC needs to develop a list of potential international partners and donors in line with the priority areas of STISA 2024. Various international partners available includes EU, WB, UKRI, DfID, IDRC, GIZ, Privates among others. ASRIC can explore the support of international partners and donors to fund ASRIC projects through enhancing on-going engagements; developing scenarios and planning on adaptability and mitigation.

3.2.1.6. On African Venture Capitalists

The ASRIC is to find out ways to engage African Venture Capitalists such as **Aliko Dangote, Patrice Motsepe, Mo Ibrahim, Mike Adenuga, Oprah Winfrey, Nicky Oppenheimer, Johann Rupert and Family, Nassef Sawiris** among others, to be the main sources of funding the ASTIF. ASRIC Committee members are to provide the committee with additional names of personalities who they will put in contact with ASRIC using a Peer-to-peer approach. In furtherance, ASRIC is to liaise with HRST, AUC (Commissioners, Ambassadors – AU, ASRIC, resident country, etc.) to identify and contact key persons.

3.2.1.7. On Alternative Sources of Funds

ASRIC needs to employ a Consortium model – working in partnerships and joint research projects/calls; Set up foundations and endowment funds. On the other hand, ASRIC needs to leverage on existing professional networks – e.g. the Society of Doctors, Engineers, etc; Register with Green Climate Funds; Use sponsors / promoters for specific ASRIC projects and Branding among others. Areas for fund utilization under the concept note include: **Flagship Projects; Research Grants; Science, Research and Development Advocacy; STI Human Resource Development and Training; Funding of Scholarship and Fellowship Schemes; National Department of Innovation; Regional incubators**; **and any other research-based or research-oriented activity.**

3.2.1.8. Establishment of the sub-committee for the functionalization of ASTIF

There was an agreement on the establishment of the sub-committee for the functionalization of ASTIF. The Sub-Committee shall comprise of : **the RCM Chair**, **Ahmed Hamdy, Robert Ridley, Felix Mavondo, Rex Harawa, Chuks Daniels Uzoka, Mimmie Watt, Emmanuel Mpfayokurera (ASRIC goodwill Ambassador), Mahmoud Sakr, Bather Kone, Steve de Cliff, Magnus Onuoha,** and representative of the Communication Committee.

The Sub-Committee shall also handle the operationalization of partnerships of ASRIC with African Development Institutions, Diaspora, e.t.c. A detailed document on the sub-committee mandate, Membership, among others to be devleoped in due course.

3.3. The proposals of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt to support ASRIC

The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt offers the following to the ASRIC;

- Five research grants (seed funds) to young african scholars. The monitary value of each grant is about $15000 USD this will be done joint with the ASRIC.
- Proposed a new funding mechanism of multi-african flagship project while ASRIC can only offer a little fund for networking, kick off meetings and management of the projects.
- Offers to help/host the Technological Incubation Center for ASRIC North Africa hub.

3.4. NOMINATION OF ASRIC Goodwill Ambassador

The Committee discussed the appointment of ASRIC Goodwill Ambassador and unanimously nominated **H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Mpfayokurera** as the first ever ASRIC Goodwill Ambassador.

IV. Official Opening of the 2nd ASRIC Congress

Prof. Mosto Onuoha, the President of the Nigerian Academy of Nigeria welcomed the participants to the Congress in Abuja, Nigeria again and expressed his delight for the commitment of the scientists. He mentioned that the continent can't survive without science and technology and ASRIC must cart the way forward for the development of Africa.

Prof. Ratemo Michieka the ASRIC Chair expressed his profound gratitute to the Members of the Bureau, the Secretariat AU-STRC and the participants. He underscored the achievement made by the Bureau in one year and called for more support from development partners and financial institutions.

H.E Prof. Sarah M. Agbor Anyang, the Commissioner Human Resources Science and Technology welcomed the participants to the Congress and appreciated the ASRIC Bureau and its Secretariat AU-STRC and commended the success achieved since inauguration of the Bureau.

She called on eminent scientists to put Africa at heart as we have no other continent than this and we must use the resource available to us to move forward. She mentioned that we must learn from Asia and find our comparative advantage to make Africa to be a dynamic force to be reckoned with within the global area and wish the Congress success in its deliberations.

V. Scientific Sessions

The ASRIC 2nd Congress Call for Papers was designed to focus on four (4) thematic areas: Health Sciences; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Water, Energy and Environment; and Governance, Sociology, Business and Economics. The Call attracted 654 abstracts from 32 AU Member States where the initial assessment of the Abstracts recommended 158 abstracts to request for their full manuscripts for further evaluation. Out of the 158, only 108 full manuscripts were received. The ASRIC Scientific Committee after thorough evaluation of the full manuscripts, out of the successful manuscripts, only 43 were invited for presentation in the 2nd ASRIC Congress as of the limitation of financial resources.

VI. Any Other Business

The Representative of Hassan II Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco reaffirmed the commitment of the Academy to host the 3rd ASRIC Congress which was unanimously accepted by the Congress.

VII. Presentation and Adoption of the ASRIC Report

The 2nd ASRIC Congress report was presented by the ASRIC Chair **Prof. Ratemo Michieka** where the reports from the three Committees were presented.

1. Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Scientific and Innovation Committee

The report of the Scientific and Innovation Committee was presented to the ASRIC Congress by the Co-Chairs and it was endorsed unanimously and the work of the Committee was applauded by the Congress. In furtherance, the Congres requested the partcipants along with the Scientific and Innovation Committee members to develop a fiche document for the flagship projects which is to be submitted to the Secretariat on or before January 15th 2020.

2. Presentation and Adoption of the Communication Committee Report

The report of the committee was presented to the ASRIC Congress and endorsed unanimously and the work was applauded by the Congress. In furtherance, the Congress welcomed and appreciated the offer made by the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and requested the Bureau and the Secreteriat to work in close cooperation with the Egytian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology to benefit from this offer.

3. Presentation and Adoption of the Resource Mobilization Committee Report

The report of the committee was presented to the ASRIC Congress and endorsed unanimously and the work was applauded by the Congress. In furtherance, the Congress welcomed and appreciated the offer made by the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and requested the Bureau and the Secreteriat to work in close cooperation with the Egytian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology to benefit from this offer.

The Congress welcomed the nomination of **H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Mpfayokurera** as the first ever **ASRIC Goodwill Ambassador**, and wished him all the success and called upon the Bureau and the Secretariat to avail him the support needed to ensure his success in such noble endeavour and passion for the continent.

4. On hosting the ASRIC 3rd Congress

The offer by Hassan II Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the 3rd Congress of ASRIC was welcomed by the participants and the offer was applauded by the congress members. The Bureau and the Secretariat was requested to work in close cooperation with the Hassan II Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco to immplent this decision.

VIII. Closing of the 2nd ASRIC Congress

The Commissioner HRST **H.E Prof. Sarah M. Agbor Anyang** thanked the participants for a job well done for working tirelessly in the last four days and wished the participants safe journey back to their respective destinations.

In his closing remarks **Prof. Ratemo Michieka,** the ASRIC Chair recognised the unlimited support he had during the meeting by the Members of the ASRIC Bureau and expressed his gratitute for the pertinent contribution of the scientists gathered here in the Congress without which this Congress will not be successful. On another note, he applauded the role of the Secretariat in organizing and running the 2nd ASRIC Congress.

Finally, he wished the participants safe journey to their respective destinations and called upon them to keep discussing, communicating and interacting for Africa to Walk the Talk.

Done in Abuja, Nigeria on the 23rd of November, 2019