



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest for selection of Members for the African Science and Technology Advisory Group (A-STAG) for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Agenda in Africa

1. Background

The African Union (AU) is a Pan African continental body with the responsibility of spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa as well as developing new partnerships worldwide.

Over the past decade, DRR in Africa has been guided by the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ARSDRR), which was adopted by African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government in 2004. The implementation of the Strategy has been undertaken through the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the ARSDRR developed in 2005, subsequently extended in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

As the Hyogo Framework was concluding in 2015, Africa joined the world to chart a way forward for renewed momentum for extended framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Subsequently, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was developed and replaced the Hyogo Framework. The Sendai Framework was adopted by United Nations Member States at the 3rd UN World Conference for DRR in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan and endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The Sendai Framework has helped to sharpen the focus of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, which, along with the Paris Agreement, represent global landmark commitments made in 2015.

The African Union Heads of State and Government expressed their strong commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and adopted the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The diversity and complexity of Africa's disaster risks underline the need for deliberate engagement of Africa's scientific, technical and academic communities at all scales as well as indigenous and traditional communities. This ensures that risk assessment and surveillance, as well as risk reduction measures implemented, are underpinned by robust and rigorous research that is locally informed and contextually relevant. It also increases prospects for accumulating risk knowledge to be retained institutionally for both educational and capacity building purposes.

There is global and continental recognition on the need for strengthened scientific engagement in advancing resilience and risk reduction as key elements to advance efforts that increase resilience to drive poverty reduction, and sustainable development within the overall African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Advancing skilled human capital of the disaster risk and resilience domains within Africa, as well as related science, technology and innovation dimensions calls for greater involvement of the scientific and academic community through the implementation of

Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

The African Union Commission (AUC) seeks to develop an African Science and Technology Advisory Group (A-STAG). The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (REA) will work in close collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) to establish an inclusive A-STAG for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction agenda in Africa.

2. Objective

The purpose of the African Science and Technology Advisory Group (A-STAG) is to establish a voluntary group to provide scientific and technical support to African union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and AU Member States for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction agenda in Africa. The STAG will support generation of assessments of scientific and technical information for effective implementation of Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, and the Agenda 2063. The work of the A-STAG will be governed by the following principles: 1) Transparency; 2) Innovation; 3) Impartiality; and 4) Inclusiveness.

3. Scope of the Work

Membership of the A-STAG is limited to 15 representing national, in addition to selected few individual experts. The composition of the Group will reflect the makeup of the technical institutes and disciplines needed for disaster risk reduction as well as the geographical balance and gender. The scope of the Work includes, but not limited to the following;

- Conduct independent analysis into DRR science, economics and policy
- Promote scientific research of disaster risk patterns in Africa, causes and effects;
- Disseminate risk information with the best use of technology;
- Provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data;
- Promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making;
- Work in coordination and linkage to national and regional DRR platforms, partners or networks;
- Advise national, regional and global DRR platforms to integrate S&T actors in their bodies and events;
- Contribute to and implement DRR policies in collaboration with various stakeholders in the different areas;
- Identify key scientific information, knowledge and case studies needed for policymakers and practitioners;
- Catalyze new efforts and Partnership to generate new knowledge and contribute to capacity building for scientists particularly in developing countries.

The A-STAG will have a Chair and a Vice-Chair elected by members of the group to serve for one term of two years. The A-STAG will report to the African Union Commission (AUC). The A-STAG G will meet face to face at least once a year and will hold regular telephone or video conferences.

4. Required Skills and Experience

4.1 - Education

Post-graduate degree (Masters) in civil/structural engineering, public administration, or other relevant field Experience;

A Master's degree in Urban Planning, Disaster Risk Management, Geography, Engineering, Economics, or closely related field;

4.2 - Experience

The A-STAG is a voluntary group which consists of members drawn from renowned science, academia and research oriented individuals and institutions across the continent, with science, research or technical background from national platforms, science institutions, academic institutions or technical agencies from the African countries.

It's includes also:

- A minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience in fields which include disaster risk management, environmental management, and land use planning;
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with Government officials and technical staff and with other DRM stakeholders;
- Proven strong leadership and communication skills and ability to work cross-sector and lead interdisciplinary teams;
- Strong written and oral communication skills, with demonstrated ability to make effective presentations to diverse audiences;
- Self-motivated, Good communication and interpersonal skills, team oriented work style.

5. Accountability, use of information and publications

A-STAG will provide advice and recommendation to the African Union Commission (AUC). Members of the A-STAG shall respect the impartiality and independence required by AUC. Members of the A-STAG will share, as appropriate, their work and results. Information provided by members does not imply endorsement by AUC. Any publication generated by and in the name of A-STAG by a member shall be subject to review and approval by the chair of S A-STAG and AUC its issuance and shall contain appropriate disclaimers. Members shall not make public statements on behalf of the AUC, unless authorized by AUC. The use of name and logo of AUC in any statement or materials shall be through proper consent of AUC.

6. Submission of Applications

The application comprises a one page cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and suitability for the profile and an updated CV with a Passport Photograph. The expression of interest should be sent to: DianeA@africa-union.org with copy to BachirS@africa-union.org, before **14 April, 2019**.