

Launch of Academy of Sciences in Malawi



Malawi minister of education Hon. Agnes Nyalonje

The Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) teamed up with United Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTBLCs) to support the launch of Academy of Sciences in Malawi. The partnership supported the launch of the Academy of Sciences in Malawi, an independent organization intended to promote science and engineering and strengthen their influence in the political and social arena.

The event was held on **19th May 2021** in Lilongwe, Malawi. The ministry of Education of Malawi supported the launch of the Academy and committed to support it towards meeting its strategic and development goals under the theme *“Science Driving Malawi towards 2063 Agenda.”* The launch of the Academy of Sciences in Malawi is the beginning of a long-term vision on enhancing STI capacity for early-career scientists in collaboration with the Malawi University of Science and Technology and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), as well as Mzuzu University. The Academy of Sciences in Malawi will offer credible science advice to inform relevant and world-class research, secure food and nutritional sufficiency, address climate-change adaptation, and promote better use of ICTs.

In concrete terms, the Academy will strive to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics among the youth, and use science to empower women. In his speech at the launch event of the Academy in Malawi, the NASAC President, Prof. Norbert Hounkonnou, emphasized that:

“The academy must demonstrate that a strong scientific community strengthens local communities by enabling citizens to address critical economic, environmental and social issues in systematic and effective ways. Empower curiosity, discovery and innovation by stimulating national interest in science, technology and innovation. The academy must also promote and support research, improve science education, disseminate scientific knowledge, as well as recognize and publicize high achievement and ethics. These aspirations, if adopted by the Academy in Malawi, will remain fully supported by NASAC”.

Under the NASAC UN Technology Bank initiative, the Angola Academy of Science was launched in 2020, followed by academies in Lesotho, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Malawi in 2021. Other countries currently under consideration for the creation of science academies in Africa include the Central African Republic, Chad, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia.

From the President



With the launch of the Academy of Sciences in Malawi, their government will now participate on the global stage to advance

the utilization of scientific knowledge for the present and future generations. In the modern sense, the term ‘*academy*’ is an assembly of intellectuals or fellowship of scientists dedicated to the advancement of scientific knowledge within their institutions and on a global scale. It therefore follows that academies must pursue scientific excellence and imbue independent merit-based processes and practices. Indeed, no single definition fits the description of science academies around the world because each academy has its own unique feature. What remains as a common feature of all the world’s science academies is the aspiration to **seek nationwide economic and social advancements through wise application of science, technology and innovation in a merit-based manner.**

For detailed information on the origins of science academies in the world, please refer to the resource titled: [‘Guidelines for Establishing and Strengthening Academies’](#) on the NASAC website. In it, you will find history spanning from the 7th century with forums for societies of scientists and thinkers, to the 17th century, when the first science academy was established. This is the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei of Italy, founded in 1603, followed by the Royal Society of London of

England in 1660, the French counterpart 1st Académie Royale des Sciences in 1666. In Africa however, Madagascar’s National Academy of Arts, Letters and Science (originally the National Malagasy Academy) was the first to be established in 1902 when the country was under French colonial rule. The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences followed much later thereafter in 1959 under the country’s then President Kwame Nkrumah.

It is hoped that following the launch of the academy of sciences in Malawi, the membership and leadership will ensure a strong public voice in promoting scientific excellence and science-informed development. The academy must demonstrate that a strong scientific community strengthens local communities by enabling citizens to address critical economic, environmental and social issues in systematic and effective ways.

Empower curiosity, discovery and innovation by stimulating national interest in science, technology and innovation. The academy must also promote and support research, improve science education, disseminate scientific knowledge, as well as recognize and publicize scientific achievements and maintain ethical practices.

Malawi's first science and technology policy enacted in 1991 was revised in 2002. That policy has since been re-aligned to focus on the 2nd Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2013) and with international instruments to which Malawi is a party to. The establishment of the National Commission for Science and Technology to advise the government and other stakeholders on science

and technology-led development in 2011 is one outcome of that policy. With the support of the Commission, the science academy has been included as part of the STI landscape in Malawi.

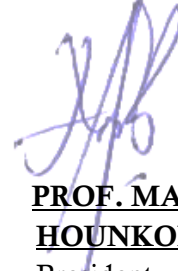
To support the national policy, it is expected that the academy will add value to the achievements already realized from policy implementation. For instance, the academy may focus on enhancing STI capacity for early-career scientists in collaboration with the Malawi University of Science and Technology and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), as well as Mzuzu University. The academy will offer credible science advice to inform relevant and world-class research, secure food and nutritional sufficiency, address climate-change adaptation, and promote better use of ICTs.

Through this Science Academy, NASAC hopes to build confidence in the lives and livelihoods of the people of Malawi. Confidence that *science has value* in everyday applications so as to guarantee better standards of living for the citizens. Confidence that *eminent Malawian scientists have value* in their scientific contributions to bridge the developmental- and digital-divide in this continent. Confidence

that *both science and scientists* will engage the public and private sectors to help navigate the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Doing so will enable Africa explore and benefit from emerging technologies like robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, quantum computing, biotechnology, The Internet of Things (IoT), 3D printing and autonomous vehicles.

Why the stress on self-confidence? This is because home-grown and relevant science, technology and innovation is a surefire way of improving the quality of life, reducing the global social inequality and raising economic and income levels in Africa.

It is our hope that through the journey of the academy in Malawi, many young people – our leaders and entrepreneurs of the days ahead – will be encouraged to believe in the service of science to society and humanity.



PROF. MAHOUTON NORBERT

HOUNKONNOU

President,

NASAC

Activities and Events

L'Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS) workshop

L'Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS) organized a *"National Workshop to curb the rate of Covid-19 infection in Senegal"*. This workshop was intended to inform and sensitize decision makers on the impacts of non-pharmaceutical interventions was held at (IRESSEF) on May 20 and 21, 2021 in a hybrid format (face-to-face and virtual). The overall objective was to share knowledge and practices followed by recommendations on the social-cultural, political and economic aspects as well as the respect and appropriation of barrier measures in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic in Senegal.



L'Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS) Webinar



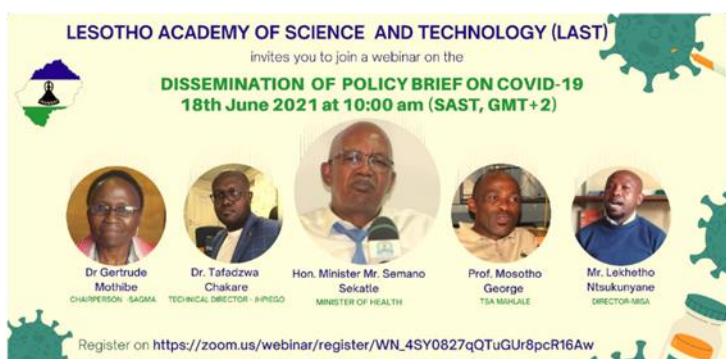
L'Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS) organized a *"Virtual Regional Workshop to Inform and Sensitize Decision Makers on the Impacts of Non-pharmaceutical Interventions to Contain the Covid-19 Infection Rate in Senegal, The Gambia, Ghana, and Nigeria"* on May 27, 2021. The report on this workshop is being prepared

ASSAf Member re-elected as the president of Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World

The Academy of Science of South Africa Member Prof. Jennifer Thompson was re-elected as the president of the Organization of Women in Science in the Developing World.



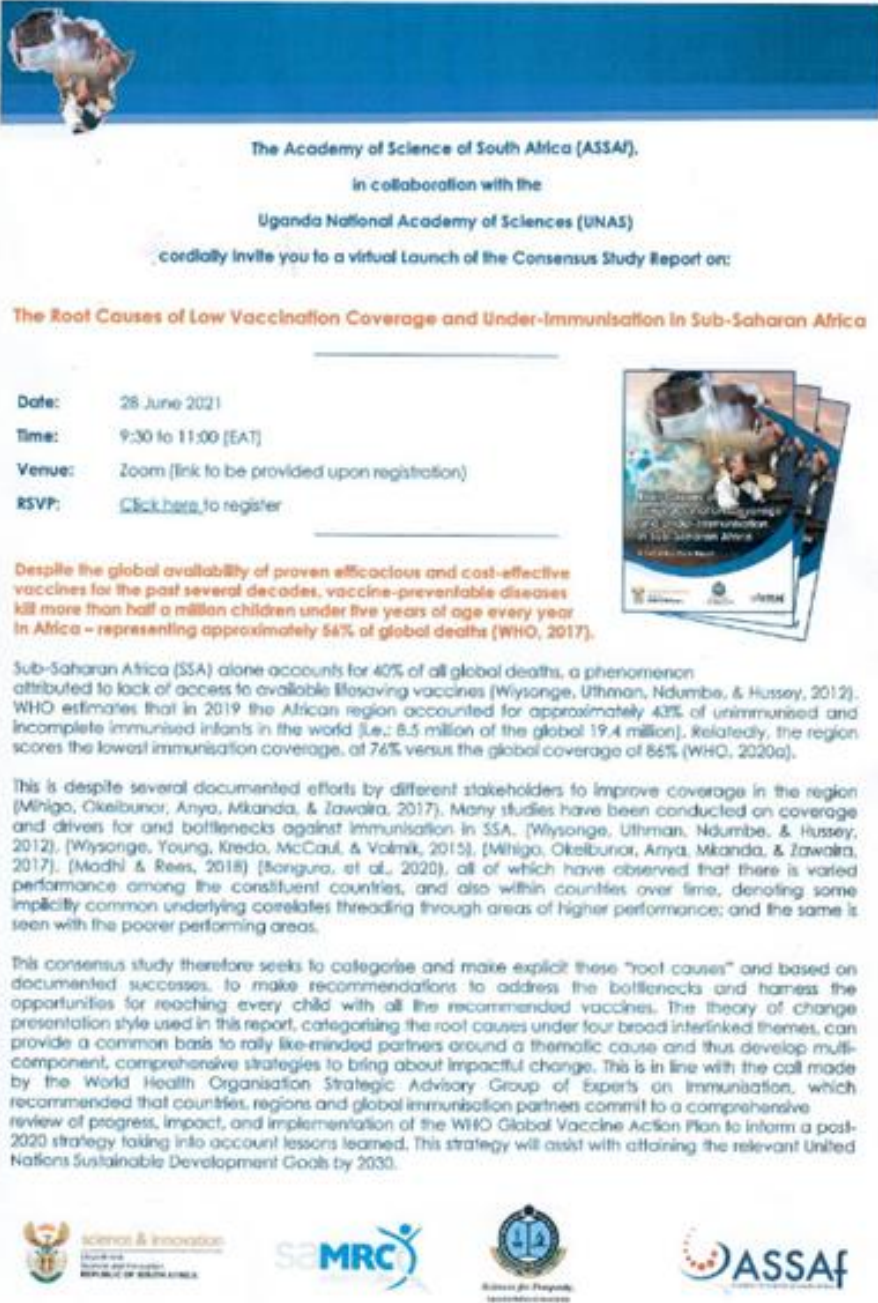
Lesotho Academy of Science (LAST) webinar



The Lesotho Academy of Science (LAST) which was launched on the 15th of March 2021 organized a webinar on *"Dissemination of Policy Brief on COVID19"*. The aim of the webinar was to engage experts and policy makers on key messages and recommendations of a policy brief relating to COVID that is relevant to Lesotho. The webinar was held on the 18th of June 2021.

ASSAf & UNAS Virtual Launch of the Consensus Study Report

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in collaboration with the Ugandan National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) organized a webinar on *“The Root Causes of Low Vaccination Coverage and under – Immunization in Sub-Saharan Africa”*. The webinar was held with the aim of categorizing and making explicit the root causes of low vaccination coverage and under-immunization in sub-Saharan Africa. The webinar was held on 28th June 2021.



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf),
in collaboration with the
Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS)
cordially invite you to a virtual Launch of the Consensus Study Report on:

The Root Causes of Low Vaccination Coverage and Under-Immunisation In Sub-Saharan Africa


Date:	28 June 2021
Time:	9:30 to 11:00 (EAT)
Venue:	Zoom (link to be provided upon registration)
RSVP:	Click here to register

Despite the global availability of proven efficacious and cost-effective vaccines for the past several decades, vaccine-preventable diseases kill more than half a million children under five years of age every year in Africa – representing approximately 54% of global deaths (WHO, 2017).

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) alone accounts for 40% of all global deaths, a phenomenon attributed to lack of access to available lifesaving vaccines (Wiysonge, Uthman, Ndumbe, & Hussey, 2012). WHO estimates that in 2019 the African region accounted for approximately 43% of unimmunised and incomplete immunised infants in the world (i.e.: 6.5 million of the global 19.4 million). Relatedly, the region scores the lowest immunisation coverage, at 76% versus the global coverage of 86% (WHO, 2020a).

This is despite several documented efforts by different stakeholders to improve coverage in the region (Mhigo, Okelbunor, Anya, Mkanda, & Zawala, 2017). Many studies have been conducted on coverage and drivers for and bottlenecks against immunisation in SSA. [Wiysonge, Uthman, Ndumbe, & Hussey, 2012], [Wiysonge, Young, Kredo, McCaul, & Volmink, 2015], [Mhigo, Okelbunor, Anya, Mkanda, & Zawala, 2017], [Madhi & Rees, 2018] [Songuro, et al., 2020], all of which have observed that there is varied performance among the constituent countries, and also within countries over time, denoting some implicitly common underlying correlates threading through areas of higher performance; and the same is seen with the poorer performing areas.

This consensus study therefore seeks to categorise and make explicit these “root causes” and based on documented successes, to make recommendations to address the bottlenecks and harness the opportunities for reaching every child with all the recommended vaccines. The theory of change presentation style used in this report, categorising the root causes under four broad interlinked themes, can provide a common basis to rally like-minded partners around a thematic cause and thus develop multi-component, comprehensive strategies to bring about impactful change. This is in line with the call made by the World Health Organisation Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation, which recommended that countries, regions and global immunisation partners commit to a comprehensive review of progress, impact, and implementation of the WHO Global Vaccine Action Plan to inform a post-2020 strategy taking into account lessons learned. This strategy will assist with attaining the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



Announcements and Appointments

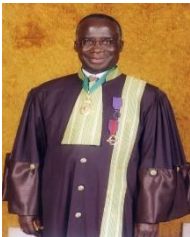
NASAC's Vice President ranks first among African Scientists

NASAC Vice-President for Policy Review and Administration Prof. Rajaa Cherkaoui EL Moursli was ranked first among African scientists according to the classification of world scientists 2021. Follow [this](#) link for more information

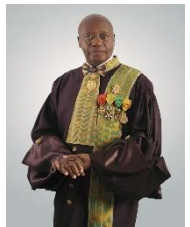


ASCAD Board Members term extended

The Academy of Sciences, Arts, Cultures of Africa and the African Diasporas (ASCAD) extended the terms of their board members during an extraordinary board meeting which was held on the 27th of May 2021. Their terms were extended from 2021 to 2024. The following are the board members whose terms were extended.



President: Prof. HAUHOUOT ASSEYPO ANTOINE



Vice-president: Prof. GADEGBEKU ANANI SAMUEL

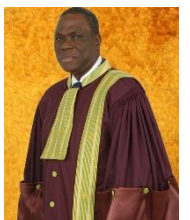
Academy Secretaries



Prof. N'GUESSAN Yao Thom



Prof. MALAN KLA Anglade



Mme Werewere-Liking GNEPO



Prof. KOUADIO N'Guessan Jérémie



Prof. ESSANE Séraphin

ANSTS Day of the Scientific Renaissance of Africa Celebrations

L'Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS) intends to celebrate the Day of the Scientific Renaissance of Africa 2021, on the theme: "GENOMIC PUBLISHING: Issues and Perspectives". During this day, which will be held on June 30, 2021, it will be organized the session of awarding the prizes to the best theses of the doctoral schools of the national university system of Senegal (TED Prize) - Edition 2021. Remember that the previous editions were all organized on 30th June of each year at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE), 25 Avenue Pasteur Dakar.

Death Announcement



The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS) deeply regrets to announce the death of Dr. **Emmanuel Evans-Anfom, FGA**. He passed away on 7th April 2021 and was given a befitting state-assisted burial service at the forecourt of the State House, Ghana on Thursday, 13 May 2021.

Dr. Emmanuel Evans-Anfom, born October 7, 1919, was a Ghanaian Physician, Scholar, University Administrator and Public Servant. He was undoubtedly, one of Ghana's living legends. He had been one of the great pioneers of the medical profession in Ghana and an outstanding University Vice-Chancellor. A gentleman of many parts and varied accomplishments, Dr. Evans-Anfom had indeed lived a rich and fulfilling life, a brilliant surgeon, a talented artist and an outstanding hockey player. He brought to Ghanaians higher education, a wealth of experience, vision and leadership amply recognized in many local and international positions of honour and distinction that have come his way within his profession of medicine and the general field of education.

Dr. Evans-Anfom was elected into Fellowship of the Academy in 1971. He served as Vice President, Sciences from 1977 - 1986 and was elected President in 1987 - 1990. In 1986, the African Academy of Arts and Sciences was formed in Nairobi, Kenya, with Dr. Evans-Anfom as one of the founding Fellows. In that capacity, he made his first visit to China representing the Academy. Later in 1990, he attended a meeting of the Third World Academy in Caracas, Venezuela.

In January 2020, after Dr. Evans-Anfom clocked 100years of age, the Academy hosted a Special Lecture in honour of Dr. Evans-Anfom, on the topic "History Surpasses Science", delivered by yet another Fellow of the Academy and Kwegyir Aggrey Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics, Ghana, Dr. Felix I.D. Konotey-Ahulu. The Academy acknowledged Dr. Evans-Anfom's immense contribution to the growth and development of the intellectual programmes of the Academy.

On the Spotlight

Strengthening National Academies of Science in Least Developed Countries

NASAC in collaboration with the UN Technology Bank are working to strengthen the capacity of academies of sciences in least developed countries so that these institutions can act as advisors to the government and industry on science, technology and innovation. The Academies will assist in directing science and technology policies, integrating these vital areas into sustainable development achievements.

The academies will provide science, technology and innovation information and advice, by conducting studies, on policy issues at the request of policy and decision making bodies. They will also bring together research and technology leaders to address science, technology and innovation, acting as a communications hub for up-to-date information and developments on science, technology and innovation in-country.

Science, technology and innovation (STI) is critical for the socioeconomic transformation of least developed countries and their sustainable development. These countries experience serious deficits in their STI capacities and lag behind significantly compared to the more-advanced developing countries that are closing socio-economic divides through more developed knowledge-based economies. The UN Technology Bank assists least developed countries by building capacity of these nations to access and use STI.

A series of baseline STI reviews and technology needs assessments are currently underway, starting with a small number of least developed countries and over time, scaling up to cover all 47 nations. The reviews and assessments are being conducted in collaboration with the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD) and the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO) and other relevant organizations. They will identify technological gaps and priority needs, as a first step towards developing coherent and integrated strategies that are tailored to the specific situation of the country under review. They will also include recommendations for strengthening policies and measures to improve national and regional technological capabilities and encourage innovation, including detailed assessments in areas of critical importance for the countries under review.

The least developed countries experience considerable challenges in gaining access to published research, which makes it difficult for them to operate on an equal playing field with other nations in the areas of science, technology and innovation. The importance of strengthening national capabilities and providing expertise to this group of countries is a key concern of the UN Technology Bank.

To ensure that least developed countries are not left behind in achieving internationally agreed development goals, the UN Technology Bank is taking steps to stimulate the production of high-quality research in these countries through capacity development and fostering international research collaboration, both South-South and South-North.

The UN Technology Bank works with several partners including Research4Life, a collective of five research programmes focusing on health, agriculture, environment and other life, physical and social sciences, to deliver these activities. Research 4Life provides developing countries with free or low-cost access to academic and professional content online. The UN Technology Bank is ensuring that the least developed countries make the best possible use of this access.

Member Academy Feature

Académie Algérienne des Sciences et Technologies (AAST)

The Algerian Academy of Science and Technology (AAST) was established by Presidential Decree in March 2015. AAST is a national independent institution, provided recently for by the constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. The Academy is currently composed of 46 founding members spread over two divisions (science and technology). This number is to be increased to reach 200 members.

According to its statutes, the AAST advises decision-makers in the field of its expertise, contributes to the progress of science and technology as well as their applications and promotes national and international collaborations. The Algerian Academy is in charge of the development of science and technology for education at all levels, together with the introduction of scientific culture to the society. The AAST supports and encourages the production of knowledge in general.

Launching and reinforcing the AAST activities are in progress in a difficult national and international context strongly impacted by the present global health crisis.

The Algerian Academy of Science and Technology is NASAC and GID-EMAN member since 2016 and 2017. The AAST has also recently joined IAP as member.

Objectives

- To create an Academy dedicated to the development of science and to advise public authorities in this field.
- To be the reference institution and the privileged intermediary between the world of research and the socio-economic actors on technological issues.
- To be a place of expertise and interdisciplinary reflection on the technological upheavals and major challenges facing society.
- To contribute to building a competitive nation of knowledge and innovation.

The Academy associates to its reflections the industry sector, the scientific research community, the political and social world and the socio-economic actors. It participates in the development of the reflections carried out at the international level and constitutes a tribune for the Algerian scientist. It disseminates its expertise to a wide audience through the publication of opinions, reports ..., and the organization of conferences and symposia.

Mission

The Academy contributes to the progress of science and technology and their applications. It encourages the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and its application. It assesses the relevance of possible actions of technological development. It contributes to the identification and formulation of problems in this field, and also to the anticipation of technological and economic breakthroughs.

The Academy promotes the teaching of science and technology

A periodic reflection updating the organization of science teaching, the emergence of scientific advisors and works to ensure that the achievements of scientific development are integrated into the national culture. The Academy is attentive to the role and quality of scientific language.

The Academy exercises a role of expertise and advice

The academy contributes to thematic or multidisciplinary evaluation processes, covering knowledge, technological developments and transfer, and undertakes, on its own initiative or at the request of public authorities, studies of societal problems with scientific components, and which raise questions between ethics and technology, or between science and society. It can take a position or make its conclusions known through detailed reports.

The Academy encourages scientific life

This is done through the publication of journals ensuring the diffusion of new results to the national and international scientific communities; the participation in the scientific debate on the great topics of topicality; and the organization of national or international colloquia, as well as the awarding of prizes and medals to the most deserving.

The Academy favors international collaborations

Mostly through bilateral or multilateral cooperation actions, being a member of international networks of academies and the representation of the country in international scientific institutions.

About NASAC

The Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) was established on 13 December 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya and is currently the affiliate Network for InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) in Africa.

NASAC is a consortium of merit-based science academies in Africa that aspires to make the “voice of science” heard by policy and decision makers within and outside the continent. NASAC is dedicated to enhancing the capacity of existing national science academies and champions in the cause for creation of new academies where none exist

As at November 2019, NASAC comprised of the following twenty-eight members:

1. **African** Academy of Sciences (AAS)
2. **Algerian** Academy of Science and Technology (AAST)
3. Académie Nationale des Sciences, Arts et Lettres du **Bénin** (ANSALB)
4. **Botswana** Academy of Sciences (BAS)
5. Académie Nationale des Sciences du **Burkina** (ANSB)
6. **Burundi** Academy of Sciences and Technology (BAST)
7. **Cameroon** Academy of Sciences (CAS)
8. Académie Nationale des Sciences et Technologies du **Congo** (ANSTC)
9. Académie des sciences, des arts, des cultures d'Afrique et des diasporas africaines, **Cote d'Ivoire** (ASCAD)
10. Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, **Egypt** (ASRT) – *Provisional Member*
11. **Ethiopian** Academy of Science (EAS)
12. **Ghana** Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS)
13. **Kenya** National Academy of Sciences (KNAS)
14. **Madagascar's** National Academy of Arts Letters and Sciences
15. **Mauritius** Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)
16. Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology in **Morocco**
17. Academy of Sciences of **Mozambique** (ASM)
18. **Nigerian** Academy of Science (NAS)
19. **Rwanda** Academy of Sciences (RAS)
20. Académie des Sciences et Techniques du **Sénégal** (ANSTS)
21. Academy of **Science of South** Africa (ASSAf)
22. **Sudanese** National Academy of Science (SNAS)
23. **Tanzania** Academy of Sciences (TAS)
24. Académie Nationale Des Sciences, Arts Et Lettres Du **Togo** (ANSALT)
25. **Tunisia** Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters
26. **Uganda** National Academy of Sciences (UNAS)
27. **Zambia** Academy of Sciences (ZaAS)
28. **Zimbabwe** Academy of Sciences (ZAS)

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