2023 GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

PrideInn Paradise Resort Mombasa Kenya, 16 and 17 November 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the inputs, discussions, and outcomes of the 2023 Global Research Council (GRC) Sub-Saharan Africa regional meeting, that was held in November 2023 in Mombasa Kenya, and hosted by the National Research Council (NRF) of Kenya.

The objective of GRC Sub-Saharan Africa regional meeting, was to:

1. Collectively shape the region's input to the 2024 GRC Annual Meeting theme on "*Effective research contributions towards sustainable development*".
2. Socialise the GRC, its value to the region and our contributions to it as a region, amongst all the HORCs, and especially to several HORCs who are new.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI) Annual Forum, Learning Workshop and Academic Symposium hosted on 13-18 November 2023.

The meeting was attended by Heads of Research Councils (HORCs) from 20 sub-Saharan African countries (Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) as well as representatives of other GRC participants (Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands, Germany, Brazil, United Kingdom, and Japan) observers from global science agencies, university associations and research policy organisations. It has been prepared as an official record of the discussions and to support the preparations for the 12th GRC Annual Meeting hosted by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the *Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation* (FONSTI), in Interlaken in the Canton of Bern Switzerland on 27 - 31 May 2024.

The gathering explored the context in which GRC's work in Sub-Saharan Africa happens *(Section 2)*, explored the question of *Effective Research Contributions to Sustainable Development (Section 3)*, and received reports from the three GRC working groups, and discussed the GRC Foresight report *(Section 4)* (*See Annexure A for the detailed agenda).*

2. THE GRC IN THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA CONTEXT

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the GRC engages and complements the activities of the Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI), a capacity strengthening initiative that partners with research councils. The GRC significantly contributes to the SGCI theme on supporting strategic communication, knowledge uptake and networking amongst councils. The GRC provides an active opportunity for sharing of experiences on the implementation of the SGCI in the global network of science funders and raising the global profiles and visibility of science funders in Sub-Saharan Africa.

To build on and leverage this complementarity, the GRC Sub-Saharan Africa regional meetings have been hosted jointly with the SGCI Annual Forum since its inception in 2016. The cohort of the SGCI participating councils are considered participating organisations of the GRC and form the forum that deliberates on the GRC annual themes, ensuring that the voice of SGCs in Sub-Saharan Africa is considered in the GRC. In addition, other non-SGCI participating organisations in the region, including Angola, Guinea, and the Seychelles, have been invited and traditionally joined either/or/and the GRC regional and annual meetings of the GRC.

The table below shows the participation of Sub-Saharan Africa GRC participating councils in the structures of the GRC:

Governing Board	**Executive Support Group**	**Programme Committee**	**Equality Diversity and Inclusion Working Group**	**Responsible Research Assessment**	**Multilateral Collaboration**
NRF, South Africa	NRF, South Africa	NRF, South Africa	NRF, South Africa	NRF, South Africa	NRF, South Africa
FONSTI, Cote d'Ivoire	FONSTI, Cote d'Ivoire	FONSTI, Cote d'Ivoire	FONSTI, Cote d'Ivoire	COSTECH, Tanzania	MESTI, Ghana
			COSTECH, Tanzania	FNI, Mozambique	NRF, Kenya
			FONRID, Burkina Faso		Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Guinea
			NCRST, Namibia		
			MESRI, Senegal		
			FNI, Mozambique		
			RCZ, Zimbabwe		
			NSTC, Zambia		

The GRC topics of discussions complement and are aligned to the SGCI themes and discussions. As such, the composition of working groups, and engagements at the regional and annual meetings serve as an important tool to profile practices, trends, and experiences in implementing the SGCI at the global level. The SGCI gender and inclusivity theme is aligned to the GRC EDI working group, with the SSA working group members representing champions of the gender and inclusivity theme within individual councils. Engagement in the GRC provides an opportunity to support the piloting and implementation of collaborative projects amongst GRC participating organisations and other regions of the GRC and further utilises lessons learnt from the SGCI capacity strengthening activities in research management and complements ongoing cooperation projects funded through the SGCI. Prominent examples are the *Africa-Japan Collaborative Research ("AJ-CORE") on Environmental Science* implemented with GRC participating organisation, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST); and the *Long-Term Europe-Africa WEF Nexus Research Programme (LEAWEF)*, implemented with GRC participating organisations, the Dutch Research Council (NWO) and the German Research Council (DFG). Finally, the majority of GRC participants serving in the GRC structures (*see table above*) are also SGCI participating councils.

3. DISCUSSIONS ON EFFECTIVE RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Setting the Scene

The discussion paper was presented by Prof. Pélagie Theoua, Member of the Scientific Council of the Organization of the 2024 Annual Meeting, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire while the keynote address was presented by Prof. Vasey Mwaja, Editor-in-Chief, Kenya Academy of Sciences (KNAS). Both provided a set of critical questions and comments to set the scene for the discussions on the paper. A summary of the discussion is provided below:

- It was emphasised that the discussion on 'sustainability' had significant relevance to the sub-continent and that it should be positioned as a discussion on how to take care of society, economy, and the environment.
- It was important to anchor the discussion at the intersection of science and society, and especially in connection with engaged science/ research.
- Several key aspects were raised as anchoring a different way of supporting sustainable research: open science/ open access, support for basic vs applied research, support for slow science, a focus on dissemination and uptake of scientific findings, focus on shifting to a collegial and integrated research culture, the importance of trust, support for greater collaboration (with a specific focus on intra-Africa collaboration), support for citizen science, and intentionally creating resourcing that supports all the new ways of doing and supporting sustainable research.

3.2. Overarching Summary of Discussions

The following is an overarching summary of the discussion of the three sub-topics: (i) research for sustainable development, (ii) making research itself sustainable, and (iii) making sure sustainability science matters:

i. **Funding** is a necessary requirement for greater quality of research but must be linked to shifting the enterprise to support inter and trans disciplinary research, while also supporting basic science.
ii. **Slow science with quality** requires that research is supported for longer times (longer research projects and programmes), including in the framing of national research priorities and agendas.
iii. There is a need to **strengthen and connect the whole ecosystem** that defines and enables research, including the science-policy interface, private sector engagement, funding levels, connecting with higher education imperatives, and shifting to open access.
iv. **Capacity strengthening** of practitioners and institutions: Research's usefulness lies in how it is done, not just the case made for it. This requires not only capacity for inter, multi and trans disciplinary research to develop approaches that enable user-oriented research but also the institutional capacities to support it.
v. **Research is an intervention into culture** and practices of society. Considering this, it must integrate the orientations of knowledge production, sustainable development, and usefulness to users.
vi. **The commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals** must underpin the conversations and actions.
vii. **Sustainability of councils in Sub-Saharan Africa, including through resourcing,** is foundational and will support whether they are able to effectively manage and support research contributions to sustainable development.
viii. **Context matters** in supporting research for sustainable development, in what councils can do to make research itself sustainable, and in championing sustainability science. Context at all levels must be considered and reflected in the actions pursued.
ix. **Councils and their stakeholders need to continue sharing experiences and promising practices** on how to promote and support engaged research in the context of supporting sustainable development.

The sections below present details of the three sub-topics.

3.3. Research for Sustainable Development

Shifting to greater inter and even transdisciplinary research for sustainable development was a key theme in this session with a recognised need for researchers to **engage key actors** across the research process, including in framing the research problem, identifying research gaps, and communicating research in support of slow science. It was agreed and supported that:

- An **intentional mapping process** of key stakeholders within the research system would help councils to design instruments and guide the research system to support greater transdisciplinary research.
- Greater investment in and promotion of **open science** will encourage greater collaboration and visibility of research.
- A strong case needs to continually be made **to invest in basic research**, in part for the contribution it makes to sustainable development, and councils were encouraged to commit to **keep supporting and recognising the convergence of basic and applied research.**
- **Research for sustainable development is research that is innovative** – and that such research, including its process, findings and translation into policy might challenge culture and familiar ways of doing things, both in society and in research practice itself.
- Research councils can and should **develop clear research agendas** that are linked to national (and regional) priorities, including those promoting sustainable development.
- **Monitoring and evaluation** play a useful role in making the case for science as a key contributor to sustainable development.
- There was a need to **pilot different mechanisms that enhance equity** amongst the key research stakeholders and accounting for the different trade-offs this requires.

3.4. Making Research Sustainable

During this session, research councils were asked to **consider how sustainability is integrated in the whole research and grants management ecosystem**, and beyond for the research ecosystem, for example, when designing funding opportunities that explore sustainable research practices. Research councils have a significant role in supporting responsible research assessment as a tool for supporting sustainable research systems and can continue engaging in the various discussions (regional and global) that are **seeking to improve research assessment practices.** The efforts of the GRC Responsible Research Assessment Working Group were lauded as in important contributor to the culture changes required as they will make a significant contribution to continuous improvement of research quality within the SSA region. In addition:

- It was considered that new shifts towards sustainable research practices needed to be **context specific and informed by data and evidence**.
- **Monitoring and evaluation**, including the measures put in place to support more accurate tracking (developing systematic and synthesised accounts of projects and programmes that are completed) and reporting (countering under-reporting), as well as learning from these experiences, was critical to inform future practice.
- A **charter for sustainability** that is inclusive and serves as a reminder of what the expectations was considered desirable. However, it must engender greater inclusion and equity.
- **Capacity building** was required both in developing core abilities in research and research systems, and for research support (including addressing procurement processes and supporting development of the capacities of research performing institutions).

- **The development and recruitment of inter-disciplinary researchers** was acknowledged as a growing priority. Furthermore, approaches to capacity development for institutions and the whole ecosystem should view solutions as work-in-progress, that are developed and improved over time (with support of monitoring and evaluation processes of the systems, as well as research outcomes).
- There was need to increasingly include mechanisms that support **inter-institutional research, within and across countries**, including addressing open science (globally and regionally) and ethics approval processes.
- **Sustainable funding** was seen as key to enabling effecting contributions by councils. Several enablers were discussed regarding conversations and actions towards sustainable financing. They included:
    - A key *role for councils to set a research agenda for sustainable development*, and to continually *make the case for all research, including basic and applied research to be supported by governments*.
    - The correct *legal frameworks being in place to support research* and to enable researchers to enter equitable collaborations were discussed.
    - *Cooperation mechanisms with the private sector* were discussed as a key area that remains untapped in SSA.

3.5. Making Sure Sustainability Science Matters

This session was anchored by the overarching agreement of the need to support science that was both **user-oriented and co-created** while ensuring support for basic research. The importance of **building trust** was underscored and several areas to strengthen this for and by councils were discussed:

- Enable convenings of **"other publics"**, for example, cultural initiatives, faith-based organisations, and trade unions.
- Support research that employs **participatory research methods**.
- Enhance research councils' **science engagement** activities.
- Adopt a narrative that **centres the wellbeing of communities as a way of anchoring councils' research agendas on sustainable development.**
- Support researchers to **build skills on effective interactions with the multiple "publics"** and in approaches to co-creation that simultaneously support effective research and community engagement on their lived experience and needs. As research broadens to include cross-border/ sectoral collaboration, the need for social and cultural sensitivity grows.
- Build mechanisms for **rewarding and recognising researchers engaged in sustainability science** - including enhancing the career pathways of young researchers.
- Support **science communication** that enables two-way engagement between governments and councils on the one hand and councils and the scientific community on the other hand, including policy briefs and translation of policies into frameworks for researchers. This should be undertaken as a general approach to making science more accessible, and not only in crisis situations.

- Be more active in linking science's potential to contribute to **accelerating and scaling up on pursuit of SDGs.**

Finally, it was agreed that it was critical for councils and by extension the research ecosystem to frame sustainability science using a **social justice lens**. This can be undertaken through:

- Broadening **who participates** in research (for example gender, race, socio-economic status, rurality).
- Supporting research that considers **equity and inclusion as cornerstones** to sustainability.
- Actively enabling and supporting slow science that can engage in long term research while acknowledging the need for rapid research, especially in times of crisis.
- Continually experimenting with how to establish and nurture **equitable partnerships** for sustainability science.

4. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING GROUPS AND THE GRC FORESIGHT REPORT

4.1. GRC Working Groups

The three GRC working groups Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) and Multilateral Engagement (MLE) presented reports and updates. The following where overarching messages from the working groups' engagement:

- The support from AHORCs for officials that serve on the working groups, and in general to the activities of working groups are critical to the working groups operating in an effective and efficient manner.
- Working groups are interested in harvesting experiences and promoting the work of agencies. It is therefore important for GRC participants to support the requests for information.
- For the Africa region, working groups must be embedded and integrated in the various themes of the SGCI, as relevant so that there is no duplication of efforts. An example of how the SGCI Gender and Inclusivity work is connected to the EDI WG was presented together with an appreciation that the EDI SSA working group members are the same people serving as SGCI gender and inclusivity champions and therefore can complement the work of both groups.
- Working groups will further amplify their activities through hosting webinars, implementing surveys, and connecting with other likeminded organisations (e.g., RoRi for RRA)
- It was agreed that working groups are important vehicles to drive the work of the GRC and to provide additional insights into the operational of GRC participants. The MLE's preliminary survey report that was presented amplified many of the aspects that had been discussed throughout the week e.g., the importance of sustainable funding, capacity strengthening, and engagement with the private sector.

4.2. GRC Foresight Report

The GRC requested the SSA region to use the GRC regional meetings to reflect on the GRC foresight study, and most importantly, to shape the future of the GRC across its key activities and structures. This session was utilised to deepen understanding and engagement of the GRC in the region. The region's discussions were led by the following questions customised from what had been prepared by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI):

1. GRC Awareness
    a. How can we best utilise the GRC to raise the profiles of our organisations, and our region globally?
    b. What are the current challenges to increase our collective engagement in GRC activities? i.e., Working Groups, Governance Structures, Regional Meetings, Annual Meetings.

2. Impact and influence:
    a. How has the GRC influenced the development of policies and/or practices in your organisation? (Examples welcomed)

3. Statements of Principles (SOPs):
    a. How should the GRC take forward the Statements of Principles once they are endorsed?
    b. What kind of support would your organisation like to get from the GRC to be able to take forward the SOPs?

4. External engagement:
    a. What are good opportunities for the GRC to work in partnership/support the work of other international/multinational organisations?

5. Discussion topics:
    a. The report found that respondents were happy with the process by which topics are chosen, developed, and discussed. Do participants agree with this? How could this process be further improved?

6. The response rate to the survey was low (32%).
    a. What are the reasons for this?
    b. What would be effective alternative ways to capture GRC Participants' feedback?

All councils emphasised the **value and significance of the GRC** for research in the region. Its efforts to bring HORCs and research councils as institutions into regular engagement with one another at global and regional levels was marked out for appreciation. These engagements, in person and online, offered exposure to good practice and to one another and helped develop networks, confidence and new ways of seeing. In supporting and enabling north-south cooperation, they also provided platforms for stronger south-south collaboration, and for resourcing these. This was as true for newer members of the GRC as it was for the more established.

Participation and intellectual input from HORCs on the sub-continent were crucial to GRC's future and to the work of councils in the region. This required that resources be allocated to support participation, in both the regional and annual meetings as well as the working groups.

It was acknowledged that greater efforts to **enhance language inclusion in the global discussions** would increase active participation by additional councils. It was appreciated that all regional meetings had ensured language inclusion and had benefitted from additional engagement.

It was supported that the GRC should be given more **local level visibility through working group participation**, and that this could be helpfully driven by HORCs, including through their own participation and engagement with material. Additionally, the **governance structures in the SSA region of the GRC could be utilised as a mechanism for enhancing the visibility of not only the GRC but also the funding agencies in the SSA region** within important continental discussions, such as, the review of the continental STI strategy and engagement with the economic communities including the African Union.

Several suggestions were made for **maximising this value** further, including:

- Intentional engagement by HORCs from the region in GRC governance processes.
- Using these opportunities to initiate and grow relationships around issues of common interest and concern.
- Increasing HORCs engagement through virtual meetings in between the regional and annual meetings.
- Providing a global newsletter with updates on GRC.
- Creating induction processes for new HORCs.
- Utilising the Executive Support Group members in the region to support more activities of the GRC and in bringing the AHORCs together.

The GRC was acknowledged as a **provider of centralised services** to efforts to grow capacity on the continent. As such, this role could be expanded by:

- Continuing to provide the opportunity to develop and establish new partnerships within and outside of the continent. AHORCs were encouraged to utilise the Annual Meetings to engage with other GRC participants.
- Finding a mechanism to implement and domesticate the Statement of Principles in countries and the region. It was suggested that the regions be tasked to socialise the statements of principles, and devise mechanisms of reporting on their uptake and use at the regional meetings.
- Using GRC to report member activities, for example on social media, and bringing out important documents from national councils, for example, the national research agenda and database of researchers.

- Inviting GRC officials to be part of regional and national events.
- Enhancing council staff exchange and visits across the GRC participants.

ANNEXURE 1: GRC SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING PROGRAMME

Thursday, 16 NOVEMBER 2023

Theme: Effective Research Contributions Towards Sustainable Development **Moderators: Dr Dorothy Ngila, NRF South Africa and Dr Annette Ouattara, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire**	
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival
Session 1: The GRC in the Sub-Saharan Africa Context **Chair: Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, NRF South Africa and SSA GRC Governing Board**	
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome, opening remarks and introductions **Dr Dickson Andala**, NRF Kenya Host, 2023 GRC SSA Africa Regional Meeting
09:30-10:00	Introduction and overview of the GRC **Prof. Euclides de Mesquita Neto**, FAPESP Brazil and GRC Executive Secretary
10:00-10:30	Effective research contributions towards sustainable development: GRC 2024 Discussion Paper **Prof. Pélagie Theoua**, Member of the Scientific Council of the Organization of the 2024 Annual Meeting, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire
10:30-11:00	Keynote address **Prof. Vasey Mwaja**, Editor-in-Chief, Kenya Academy of Sciences (KNAS) and Chairperson, Secure Capital Investments Limited
11:00-11:30	GROUP PHOTO AND TEA/COFFEE BREAK

Session 2: Research for Sustainable Development Chair: Prof. Laban Ayiro, Daystar University, Kenya	
11:30-13:00	Facilitated panel discussion on Research for Sustainable Development 1. **Dr Amos Nungu**, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Tanzania 2. **Prof. Soukèye Dia Tine**, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI), Senegal 3. **Guest Mugala**, National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Zambia 4. **Osamu Kobayashi**, Director, Department of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and co-chair, Multilateral Engagement Working Group. *Guiding Questions* 1. *What can we as funders do to ensure closer collaboration between societal actors/ stakeholders in the whole research process? What are the experiences with funding transdisciplinary research? How can closer collaboration be encouraged in funding schemes to encourage research on sustainability?* 2. *How can funders balance the (societal) impact orientation of research for sustainable development and basic science? Can the two be reconciled?* 3. *How can funders support the transfer of knowledge into implementation? What is the role of research in developing solutions and concrete options for acting upon a problem? How strongly should this be promoted by research funders?* 4. *How can research appropriately consider complex interrelations between sustainability goals?* 5. *What are the implications of more collaborative, use-oriented forms of research for sustainable development for research evaluation (proposal assessment)?* 6. *How can funders move from open research (consultation fees) to open access (publication fees)? How can funders support open access publications costs?* 7. *Many research questions on sustainable development require transdisciplinary co-creation. However, it can also be critical and non-inclusive to reduce it to such research. What contribution can mono-disciplinary and/or non-collaborative research make?*
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK

Session 3: Making Research Itself Sustainable Chair: Prof. Nancy Mungai, Egerton University, Kenya	
14:00-15:30	Facilitated panel discussion on Making Research Itself Sustainable 1. **Dr Martin Ongol**, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), Uganda 2. **Prof**. **Kouamé Traoré**, Le Fonds National de la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Développement (FONRID), Burkina Faso 3. **Prof. Anicia Peters,** National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST), Namibia 4. **Nosisa Dube**, NRF South Africa and GRC Responsible Research Assessment Working Group (*virtually)* *Guiding Questions* 1. *What examples are there of research funders encouraging more sustainable research practices (e.g., DORA, Open Science, Publication Practices). Are there examples where these have worked well? Are there areas where they have failed? What challenges have arisen where more sustainable research practices have been tried out?* 2. *To what extent do research funders reflect on whether their research evaluation systems support sustainable research practices? How can research assessment systems evaluate interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity appropriately? How can research funders develop evaluation systems that are sensitive to the lessons of Goodhart's Law and so, through changing evaluation systems, change the fundamental practices that can make research unsustainable? Are there any examples of where this is being done? Have they worked and if so, why not? What are the obstacles in evaluation systems?* 3. *Should research funders be actively encouraging change to achieve more sustainable research in research ecosystems more widely? Does doing this challenge the autonomy of universities and research institutes? Is it envisionable to develop an ""Athena Swann" charter for sustainability? Should holding such a charter be a condition for receiving research funding?* 4. *Should research councils require a sustainability impact assessment (SIA) to be completed for all research? For some types of research? How easy would it be to introduce SIAs? Would they make any difference? What would they have to look like to make a difference?* 5. *To what extent are you aware of SDG-aligned research being supported by your organisation? Is there any routine collection of data on SDG-aligned research? Are there examples of specific SDG-aligned research calls? What worked well in these calls? What challenges did they pose for evaluation?* 6. *What could individual responsibilities be in contributing toward sustainable development within research institutions and the research they conduct? Do research funders have a role in encouraging such individual responsibilities?*
15:30-16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK

Session 4: Making Sure Sustainability Science Matters Chair: Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya	
16:00-17:30	Facilitated panel discussion on Making Sure Sustainability Science Matters 1. **Dr Habtamu Abera Goshu**, Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MiNT), Ethiopia 2. **Dr Cephas Mensah**, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation (MESTI), Ghana 3. **Prof. Florêncio Maulano**, Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI), Mozambique 4. **Rudo Tamangani**, Research Council Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe and GRC Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group *Guiding Questions* *1. Where do you see as the key success factors for effective co-creation of sustainability research?* *2. Are there promising models for building trust and mutual understanding between researchers, policymakers, and societal actors? What can we learn from them?* *3. Are there promising examples of enduring research-practice communities, or similar interfaces between scientists, practitioners, and decision makers? What can we learn from them? How do we best include members of society in the dialogue between researchers and policy actors?* *4. Which key skills do researchers, policymakers and societal actors need to jointly define and address issues of sustainability? What are the specific requirements in the case of politically controversial or value-laden issues and which additional tensions arise with respect to scholar-activism?*
17:30-17:45	Reflection and Closing Remarks **Dr Yaya Sangare**, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire and SSA Governing Board
18:00 – 21:00	**Site Visit to Fort Jesus**

Friday, 17 NOVEMBER 2023

Closed Meeting of the AHORCs, GRC Participating Organisations and GRC Working Groups **Theme: GRC Strategic Business** **Moderators: Dr Dorothy Ngila, NRF South Africa and Dr Annette Ouattara, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire**		
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival	
Session 5: Consolidating the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting input for the International Steering Committee **Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters, National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST), Namibia**		
09:00-09:30	Summary of feedback and consensus	**Sue Soal**, Independent Consultant and Process Facilitator
09:30-09:40	Reflection and Endorsement *HORCs are requested to consider feedback and endorse its submission to the GRC Executive Secretariat*	
09:40-09:50	Next Steps on the 2023 Discussion Papers	**Dr Annette Ouattara**, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire **Prof Euclides de Mesquita Neto**, FAPESP Brazil
Session 6: GRC Working Group Updates **Chair: Gift Kadzamira, National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), Malawi**		
09:50-10:20	Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group **Nsama Mataka**, National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Zambia **Dr Ingrid Lynch**, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa	
10:20-10:50	Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) Working Group **Dirce Madeira**, Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI), Mozambique	
10:50-11:20	Multilateral Engagement Working Group **Dr Prudence Makhura**, NRF South Africa	
11:20 – 12:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
Session 7: GRC Foresight Report **Chair: Dr Dorothy Ngila, NRF South Africa**		
12:00-12:15	Introducing the GRC Foresight Report	
12:15-13:00	Facilitated Discussion with Guided Questions *AHORCs share experiences, practices, and insights on the GRC engagement*	
Session 8: GRC Governance and Closing **Co-chairs: Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo and Dr Yaya Sangare, SSA GRC Governing Board**		

13:00-13:15	Update on GRC governance	Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, SSA GRC Governing Board
13:15-13:20	Support and participation in the GRC 2024 Annual Meeting	Dr Yaya Sangare, SSA GRC Governing Board
13:20-13:30	**Closing Remarks** **Dr Dickson Andala**, NRF Kenya and Host 2023 SSA Regional Meeting **Prof Euclides de Mesquita Neto**, FAPESP Brazil and GRC Executive Secretary **Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo**, NRF South Africa and SSA GRC Governing Board **Dr Yaya Sangare**, FONSTI Cote d'Ivoire and SSA Governing Board	
END OF SESSION		