Call for Nominations

Members of the Governing Council of the African Open Science Platform (AOSP)

Closing Date: 31 October 2022

The African Open Science Platform (AOSP) seeks nominations of candidates to serve as members of its Governing Council. Since the formalisation of the platform, it has been guided by an Advisory Committee – a voluntary group of eminent and knowledgeable experts in areas relevant to the AOSP. A Governing Council will formally succeed the current Advisory Council.

1. About the AOSP

Established in 2017, the AOSP aims to position African scientists at the cutting edge of data intensive science by stimulating interactivity and creating opportunity through the development of efficiencies of scale, building critical mass through shared capacities, amplifying impact through a commonality of purpose and voice, and to engage in a Global Commons to address continental and global challenges through joint action. The AOSP is conceived as an enabler of collective planning and practice to:

- Drive alignment, collaboration, and cooperation between existing initiatives
- Identify critical gaps and set priorities for action
- Design and deliver activities to respond to those gaps/ priorities
- Mobilise existing and resource new initiatives in pursuit of the Platform's aims
- Enhance communication, outreach, and advocacy.

The Operations of the AOSP encompass the following:
- A federated e-infrastructure
- Policies, practices, tools of research data management
- A Data Science and AI Institute
- Programme delivery
- Science programmes
- Education and skills programmes
- Societal engagement, dialogue, and policy.

The Secretariat of the AOSP is based at the National Research Foundation (NRF) in Pretoria, South Africa, with additional financial support provided by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), and the International Science Council (ISC). For details on programmes and networks supported by the AOSP, refer to the following link: https://aosp.org.za/

2. Terms of Appointment

The AOSP Governing Council shall consist of up to ten members and be appointed for a

maximum of two three-year terms, starting on 15 November 2022. No direct remuneration will be made; however, costs associated with participation will be supported by the NRF as necessary.

3. Responsibilities, scope of work and tasks of the Governing Council

- To provide strategic advice on Open Science engagements in Africa and the further strategic development of the AOSP, including plans to implement the AOSP strategy;
- Advise on appointments of AOSP Technical Working Groups;
- Provide strategic leadership and develop priorities agendas and associated activity and business plans for implementation of the AOSP;
- Support the development of networks in national, regional, and global systems of scientific priority setting and funding;
- Build connections and collaborations with major national, regional, and international science and data initiatives;
- Build linkages with influential decision-makers, policy-makers and leading scientists on a national and regional level;
- Serve in an advocacy role for the platform;
- Advise on and support fundraising initiatives;
- The Governing Council shall meet at least twice per year.

4. Eligibility

- A proven track record of achievement in their domain of expertise or profession, aligned with the principles and objectives of the AOSP;
- A detailed understanding of national, regional, continental and global systems of research, science, technology and innovation (RSTI);
- Considered knowledge of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and resourcing of policy and strategy – including in RSTI;
- Leadership and proven track record of building networks - or access to networks of collaborations, policy making and resource mobilisation.
- Proven commitment towards advocacy and engagement in open science.

5. Nomination Procedure

The nominations must include the following information:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae of the nominee that includes membership of all boards/ committees the nominee currently serves on;
- A personal nominating statement written by the candidate (500 words or less); the candidate should indicate their willingness to serve if not self-nominated;
- One letter of support which serves as reference from the current employer organisation;
- Both self-nominations and nominations of others are accepted.
- Nominations should be submitted to Dr Nokuthula Mchunu, the AOSP Deputy-Director, at email: NP.Mchunu@nrf.ac.za