

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

16th AAS Biennial Scientific Conference and General Assembly

Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity in Africa



15-17 DECEMBER 2026

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC), Shaaban Robert Street

Organized by The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) | **Hosted by** The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania

In collaboration with UDOM, COSTECH, UDSM, SUZA, SUA, NM-AIST and the Tanzania Academy of Sciences (TAAS)



16TH AAS CONFERENCE

Conference at a Glance

DATES 15-17 December 2026	VENUE Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, Dar es Salaam
THEME Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity in Africa	ABSTRACT DEADLINE 15 August 2026

About the Conference

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a Pan-African scientific organization established to promote and foster the growth of Africa's scientific community by recognizing, supporting and advancing excellence in scientific research by African scientists.

As part of its mandate to advance science, technology and innovation (STI), AAS will convene its 16th Biennial Scientific Conference and General Assembly from 15 to 17 December 2026 at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The conference will bring together leading scientists, policymakers, development partners, philanthropists, industry leaders, financial institutions, foundations and government representatives. It will provide a continental platform to advance scientific excellence, strengthen research partnerships and catalyse investment in STI.

Conference Purpose

The conference will position STI as a central driver of sustainable development and economic prosperity in Africa. Through knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and strategic partnerships, it will showcase the transformative societal, economic and policy impact of investment in science, technology and innovation.

Why Attend?

- ☐ Share cutting-edge research, innovations, policy analyses and implementation experience.
- ☐ Engage with researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, development partners and students from across Africa and beyond.
- ☐ Build interdisciplinary partnerships and strengthen the science-policy interface.

- ☐ Explore opportunities for technology commercialization, research investment and institutional collaboration.
- ☐ Expand professional networks and identify practical pathways to influence policy and create lasting societal impact.
- ☐ Support and inspire the next generation of African scientists.

ORGANIZATION

Conference Leadership and Governance

Guest of Honour: H.E. Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

- ☐ H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- ☐ H.E. Prof. Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim, former President of the Republic of Mauritius (FAAS)
- ☐ Prof. Friday Okonofua, President, African Academy of Sciences
- ☐ Prof. Carlos Lopes, former Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (FAAS)
- ☐ Prof. Hypolite Fofack, former Vice President and Chief Economist, African Export-Import Bank (FAAS)

Steering Committee

Name	Role
Prof. Friday Okonofua	President, AAS
Prof. Francine Ntoumi	Secretary General, AAS
Prof. Sospeter M. Muhongo	Vice President, Eastern Africa Region, AAS – MP
Prof. Kenneth Ozoemena	Vice President, Southern Africa Region, AAS
Prof. Felix Toteu	Vice President, Central Africa Region, AAS
Prof. Balla Diop Ngom	Vice President, Western Africa Region, AAS
Prof. Rajaâ Cherkaoui El Moursli	Vice President, Northern Africa Region, AAS
Prof. Stephen Agong	Treasurer, AAS
Dr Stephen Mutwiwa	Executive Secretary, AAS
Prof. Athanas S. Macheyeki	Secretary, Local Organizing Committee
Ms Gladly Wakaba	AAS Secretariat
Dr Nkem Khumbah	AAS Secretariat
Prof. Linus Munishi	Member, Local Organizing Committee (NM-AIST)

Local Organizing Committee

Chair: Prof. Sospeter M. Muhongo, Vice President, Eastern Africa Region, AAS

Secretary: Prof. Athanas S. Macheyeke, The University of Dodoma (UDOM)

Member	Institution
Prof. Yunus D. Mgaya	TAAS
Dr Philbert Luhunga	COSTECH
Prof. Steven Kibusi	UDOM
Ms Rose Mdami	UDOM
Dr Fredrick Mangasini	UDOM/STAMICO
Dr Leonard Binamungu	UDSM
Prof. Shukrani Manyi	UDSM
Dr Abdulrahim Haroun Ali	SUA
Prof. Japhet Kashaigili	SUA
Mr Avit Chami	Dr Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Conference Themes

Main theme: Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity in Africa

Abstracts are invited from researchers supported by AAS programmes, universities, research institutions, industry, government and development partners across Africa and beyond. Submissions should align with one of the four overarching sub-themes below.

Sub-theme I: Frontiers in Scientific Discovery and Innovation

Scientific Excellence and Emerging Research

- ☐ Breakthrough discoveries and frontier science
- ☐ Priority research agendas
- ☐ Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches
- ☐ Research infrastructure and scientific capacity

Innovation, Technology and Digital Transformation

- ☐ Artificial intelligence
- ☐ Data science and big data analytics

- ☐ Advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies
- ☐ Digital research ecosystems

Health, Well-being and Biomedical Advances

- ☐ Precision medicine and genomics
- ☐ Pandemic preparedness and health security
- ☐ One Health approaches
- ☐ Mental health and population health research

Sub-theme II: Science for Sustainable Development

Climate, Environment and Sustainability

- ☐ Climate change and mitigation
- ☐ Biodiversity conservation
- ☐ Sustainable resource management
- ☐ Clean energy technologies and decarbonization

Public Health

- ☐ Health research systems, including vaccine and drug discovery
- ☐ Tropical infections and diseases
- ☐ Maternal and neonatal health
- ☐ Non-communicable diseases

Food Systems, Agriculture and Water Security

- ☐ Sustainable agriculture and food security
- ☐ Agricultural biotechnology
- ☐ Water resource management
- ☐ Climate-smart farming systems

Sub-theme III: Strengthening Science Systems

Research Funding and Strategic Investment

- ☐ National and regional research priorities
- ☐ Public-private partnerships
- ☐ Philanthropic and development funding
- ☐ Sustainable financing models for science
- ☐ Direct government funding for research

Human Capital Development

- ☐ STEM education and workforce development
- ☐ Early-career researcher support
- ☐ Leadership in science
- ☐ Gender equality, diversity and inclusion in research

Sub-theme IV: Translating Knowledge into Impact

Societal Impact and Public Engagement

- ☐ Translating research into practice
- ☐ Community engagement and citizen science
- ☐ Science communication and combating misinformation
- ☐ Measuring research impact

Science Policy, Governance and Diplomacy

- ☐ Evidence-informed policymaking
- ☐ Science diplomacy and international collaboration
- ☐ Research ethics and integrity
- ☐ Regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies

Partnerships and Collaboration

- ☐ Academia-industry-government collaboration
- ☐ Regional and global research networks
- ☐ Intellectual property management, knowledge transfer and commercialization
- ☐ Innovation ecosystems

Data, Open Science and Knowledge Sharing

- ☐ Open science policies
- ☐ Research data governance and ethics
- ☐ Scientific publishing and accessibility
- ☐ Digital repositories and research platforms
- ☐ Artificial intelligence and scientific research

Future Readiness and Strategic Foresight

- ☐ Horizon scanning and technology forecasting, including the role of artificial intelligence in scientific research

- ☐ Future risks and opportunities
- ☐ Resilience of scientific systems
- ☐ Scenario planning for emerging challenges

Abstract Submission Guidance

Submission email: aasconference2026@aasciences.africa

The AAS invites researchers, innovators, policymakers, practitioners, early-career researchers, postgraduate students, industry partners and development partners to submit abstracts presenting original research, innovations, policy analyses, implementation experiences and emerging scientific ideas.

Accepted contributions may be presented as oral or poster presentations and may also be included in plenary sessions or symposia, as appropriate. Accepted abstracts and conference proceedings will be published through official AAS platforms or other platforms recognized by AAS.

Abstract Format and Requirements

1. **Submission:** Submit the abstract by email to aasconference2026@aasciences.africa.
2. **Header:** Include the words "Conference Abstract" in the header.
3. **Title:** Place the complete title at the left of the page in Helvetica, 14-point font and capital letters. Keep the title brief and ensure that it clearly reflects the content.
4. **Authors:** Use Helvetica, 11-point font and justified alignment. Provide the initials and surname of every author; do not include degrees or titles. Underline the name of the presenting author. If an author appears on more than one abstract, present the name identically in every submission.
5. **Affiliations:** List institutional affiliations below the authors' names. For each author, provide the institution, city, state or province, and country. Do not include the department, division or laboratory. Where authors have different affiliations, use superscript numbers to link each author to the corresponding affiliation.
6. **Abstract text:** Use Helvetica, 12-point font, single line spacing and justified alignment. The abstract must not exceed 300 words, including any tables. Tables must be provided as text rather than graphics. Abstracts will be reproduced exactly as submitted and will not be edited.
7. **Abbreviations:** Use standard abbreviations sparingly. Spell out any unusual abbreviation or acronym at first mention, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses.
8. **Blind text:** Do not identify the author or institution in the body of the abstract.
9. **Evidence:** Make the abstract as informative as possible and ensure that all conclusions are supported by data.

Required Abstract Structure

- ☐ Objectives
- ☐ Methods
- ☐ Results and findings
- ☐ Relevance and conclusions

Evaluation Criteria

Abstracts will be assessed against the following criteria:

- ☐ Originality
- ☐ Scientific quality
- ☐ Methodological rigour
- ☐ Relevance to the conference theme
- ☐ Significance
- ☐ Clarity

Important Deadlines

Date	Milestone
15 August 2026	Abstract submission deadline
30 August 2026	Notification of selected abstracts and invitation to submit full papers
7 September 2026	Deadline for submission of draft full papers
14 September 2026	Feedback from the Planning Committee on submitted papers
30 September 2026	Deadline for final presentations
15-17 December 2026	Conference

Conference Website and Digital Access

Visit <https://aasciences.africa/> for conference updates, abstract submission information, registration, accommodation, sponsorship opportunities, visa information, frequently asked questions and material from previous conferences.

PARTICIPATION

Registration

Registration for the 16th AAS Biennial Scientific Conference and General Assembly will open when authors are notified of accepted abstracts. Delegates are encouraged to register early to access discounted rates. Registration is confirmed only after full payment has been received.

Register through <https://aasciences.africa/> or contact aasconference2026@aasciences.africa.

Registration Categories

- ☐ **AAS Fellows:** Fellows participating in the General Assembly and conference will be guided in accordance with AAS policies.
- ☐ **Student Delegate:** Undergraduate, master's and doctoral students enrolled at recognized higher-learning institutions. Proof of current student status is required.
- ☐ **Academic / Researcher:** University faculty, researchers, scientists, postdoctoral fellows and staff from research institutions.
- ☐ **Government Delegate:** Representatives of ministries, government departments, agencies, regulatory authorities and public institutions.
- ☐ **Development Partner / NGO:** Representatives of international organizations, development agencies, foundations, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.
- ☐ **Private Sector / Industry:** Representatives of private companies, consultancies, financial institutions, technology firms, innovation hubs and other commercial organizations.
- ☐ **Exhibitor Representative:** Personnel representing exhibiting organizations. Registration covers conference participation for one representative; exhibition space is booked separately.
- ☐ **Virtual Delegate:** Online participation in selected sessions, access to electronic conference materials and a digital certificate of participation.
- ☐ **Accompanying Person:** Spouses or accompanying guests. Registration includes the opening ceremony, welcome reception, social events and closing ceremony, but excludes scientific sessions.

Registration Categories and Fees (USD)

Category	Early bird	Regular	On-site / late
AAS Fellows*	Complimentary	Complimentary	Complimentary
Invited Keynote and Plenary Speakers*	Complimentary	Complimentary	Complimentary
Student Delegate - Africa	40	50	100
Student Delegate - Outside Africa	100	125	150
Academic / Researcher	200	250	300
Government Delegate	300	350	400
Development Partner / NGO	350	400	450
Private Sector / Industry	500	600	700
Exhibitor Representative**	400	450	500
Virtual Delegate	100	125	150
Accompanying Person	150	175	200

* Complimentary registration is subject to AAS policies and applies to invited participants only.

** Exhibition booth rental and sponsorship packages are charged separately.

Registration Benefits

Full in-person registration includes:

- ☐ Admission to all scientific sessions, plenary sessions and approved side events
- ☐ Conference materials, delegate badge and conference kit
- ☐ Electronic conference programme and abstract book
- ☐ Lunches and scheduled tea or coffee breaks throughout the conference
- ☐ Welcome reception and official networking events
- ☐ Access to the exhibition area
- ☐ Certificate of participation

Cancellation and Substitution Policy

- ☐ Registration fees are non-transferable, except through an official delegate substitution approved by the Conference Secretariat.
- ☐ Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing.
- ☐ Any applicable refund will be processed in accordance with the Conference Cancellation Policy, which will be published on the conference website.
- ☐ Administrative charges may apply to approved cancellations.

Important Registration Information

1. The Organizing Committee will announce the closing date for early-bird registration.
2. Registration is confirmed only after full payment has been received.
3. Student delegates must provide valid proof of enrolment in an academic programme.

4. Registration fees do not include accommodation, travel, visa costs or personal insurance.
5. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend the conference programme where necessary.
6. Delegates requiring visa-support letters must complete registration before requesting an invitation letter.
7. At the discretion of the Organizing Committee, special registration waivers or discounts may be awarded to travel-grant recipients or invited participants.
8. The official conference language is English. Interpretation or translation services will be provided for plenary and session presentations in French and/or Portuguese.

Visa and International Travel

Invitation-letter procedures, visa requirements and indicative processing timelines will follow the immigration guidelines of the United Republic of Tanzania. Further details will be provided in the second circular.

IMPACT

Conference Outputs, Awards and Partnerships

Expected Outputs

- ☐ The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa's Development and Prosperity
- ☐ Conference proceedings
- ☐ Policy briefs for African governments
- ☐ Recommendations for investment in STI
- ☐ New research and institutional partnerships
- ☐ A Young Scientists Networking Platform
- ☐ Scientific publications and special journal issues
- ☐ Innovation and technology showcase reports

Conference Awards and Recognition

Subject to the determination of the Organizing Committee, awards will be presented in the following categories:

- ☐ Best Oral Presentation
- ☐ Best Poster Presentation
- ☐ Outstanding Early-Career Researcher

- ☐ Young Scientist Award
- ☐ Innovation Award

Sponsorship Opportunities

Level	Contribution	Indicative benefits
Platinum	USD 50,000 and above	Premium branding; exhibition space; speaking opportunity; recognition during the opening ceremony
Gold	USD 25,000	Branding opportunities; exhibition booth; visibility in conference materials
Silver	USD 10,000	Exhibition booth; inclusion of promotional materials
Bronze	USD 5,000	Logo placement; acknowledgement in conference materials

Call for Partnership and Support

AAS invites governments, development partners, private-sector organizations, philanthropic foundations, research institutions and individuals to support this important continental initiative. The conference offers a unique platform to advance science, innovation and sustainable development while contributing to Africa's long-term prosperity.

DELEGATE LOGISTICS

Accommodation

Delegates may book any hotel of their choice. The Local Organizing Committee has identified hotels in several categories located within approximately 20 minutes' walking distance of the conference venue. The hotels listed below have offered special rates to delegates who quote AFRICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES or the specified conference booking code when making a reservation.

Please note: Delegates should confirm availability, taxes, meal-plan inclusions, cancellation terms and final rates directly with the hotel before booking.

Indicative Hotel Rates (USD per night)

Hotel	Room category	Normal rate	Delegate rate	Contact / booking details
Serena Hotel - 5-star	Standard single room, bed and breakfast	220	170	slusala@serena.co.tz
Serena Hotel - 5-star	Executive Suite	450	390	slusala@serena.co.tz
Serena Hotel - 5-star	Diplomatic Suite	900	700	slusala@serena.co.tz
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Standard City View Room	300	195	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Standard Sea View Room	355	220	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Club Rotana Room	405	270	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com

Hotel	Room category	Normal rate	Delegate rate	Contact / booking details
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Classic Suite	415	280	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Premium Suite - Sea View	490	355	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Club Rotana Suite	550	415	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Ambassador Suite	1,080	945	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Johari Rotana - 5-star	Royal Suite	5,030	4,995	Booking code: 16AAS Conference 2026 rukia.chuma@rotana.com
Hyatt Regency - 5-star	Rates to be confirmed	-	-	Amina.kapya@hyatt.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Deluxe Queen Room, pool/city view, 28 m ² - single	155	135	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Deluxe Queen Room, pool/city view, 28 m ² - double*	175 or 195*	155 or 175*	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Deluxe Twin Room, pool/city view, 28 m ² - single	155	135	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Deluxe Twin Room, pool/city view, 28 m ² - double	175	155	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Premium Executive Queen Room, pool/partial city view, 38 m ² - single	195	175	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Premium Executive Queen Room, pool/partial city view, 38 m ² - double	215	195	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Four Points by Sheraton - 4-star	Queen room with living room, harbour view, 56 m ² - single or double	350	330	sales@fourpointsdaressalaam.com
Southern Sun Hotel - 4-star	Standard Room	125	125	Grace.shao@southernsun.com
Southern Sun Hotel - 4-star	Executive Room	220	220	Grace.shao@southernsun.com
Southern Sun Hotel - 4-star	Junior Suite	430	430	Grace.shao@southernsun.com
ONOMO Hotel - 3-star	Standard Queen Room	112	72	fm.daessalaam@onomohotel.com
ONOMO Hotel - 3-star	Business Room	132	92	fm.daessalaam@onomohotel.com
ONOMO Hotel - 3-star	Junior Suite	152	112	fm.daessalaam@onomohotel.com
ONOMO Hotel - 3-star	Suite	182	142	fm.daessalaam@onomohotel.com
Holiday Inn - 4-star	Standard Room	-	99	sales.team@holidayinn.co.tz
Holiday Inn - 4-star	Executive Room	-	119	sales.team@holidayinn.co.tz
Holiday Inn - 4-star	Suite	-	139	sales.team@holidayinn.co.tz
Mkomila Royal Annex	Basic Room	25	25	+255 760 339 768 mkomiloannexhotel@gmail.com
Florida Executive Inn	Basic Room	25	25	+255 768 466 161 floridaexecutiveinn@gmail.com
Courtyard Sea View Hotel	Basic Room	100	100	+255 755 448 525
Tiffany Diamond Hotel	Basic Room	100	100	+255 677 016 826 Makunganya Street
Tiffany Diamond Hotel	Double Room	120	100	+255 677 016 826 Makunganya Street

DELEGATE INFORMATION

Travel, Local Logistics and Payment

Transportation and Local Logistics

JNICC is about 13 km from Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), a 15-20 minute drive in normal traffic. Journey times may increase during peak periods. Airport taxis, hotel shuttles and app-based ride-hailing services are available.

Pre- and Post-Conference Tours

Delegates planning to visit Tanzania's beaches or national parks before or after the conference may contact tour and safari companies directly. The Local Organizing Committee has identified the following operators for consideration.

Location	Company / contact person	Telephone	Website / email
Arusha	Kibo Guides	+255 621 482 828	https://www.kiboguides.com
Arusha	Maulu Tours	+255 754 266 522	https://maulu-tours.com/tour/tanzanian-trio-safari/
Zanzibar	Fisherman Tours & Travel Ltd - Ms Shangwe Yussuf	+255 773 662 662	reservations@fishermantours.com
Zanzibar	Zanzibar Exotic Tours & Safaris Ltd - Ms Fatma Muhuddin, Sales and Marketing Manager	+255 672 623 043	sales@exoticzanzibar.com

Delegates are responsible for verifying services, costs, insurance, terms and safety arrangements directly with the selected operator.

Payment Details

All payments should be made through the conference account shown below.

Payment field	Details
Account name	THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Account number	53110026130
Currency	Tanzanian Shillings (TZS)
Bank	NMB BANK PLC
SWIFT code	NMIBTZTZ
Branch code	531
Postal address	P.O. Box 888, Dodoma, Tanzania
Physical address	Bunge Branch, Parliament Grounds, Uzunguni, Dodoma, Tanzania

Payment verification: Before transferring funds, delegates should confirm the amount payable, exchange-rate treatment, invoicing instructions and beneficiary details with the Conference Secretariat.



Conference Contact and Updates

16th AAS Biennial Scientific Conference and General Assembly

15-17 December 2026 | Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Website: <https://aasciences.africa/> | **Email:** aasconference2026@aasciences.africa

Further information on the programme, registration, visa support, sponsorship and delegate logistics will be provided through the conference website and subsequent circulars.