

The Fellows of the African Academy of Sciences expresses concern over the regulatory changes proposed by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The recent mission and rule changes proposed by the [U.S. Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\)](#) have triggered significant alarm across academia and among fellows and affiliates of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). The proposal considers “that peer review and expert evaluations are only advisory. Political appointees would be required to review and approve grant awards before funding to ensure alignment with presidential policy priorities. The rule bans federal funds from being used to promote and subsidize Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) aspects. Agencies gain explicit authority to terminate previously awarded multi-year grants if the projects no longer satisfy agency priorities, in order to eliminate wasteful and “woke” subsidies, with the added concern that a “woke” character is ill-defined and open to broad interpretation”.

The AAS affirms its commitment to the fundamental principles of the rigorous pursuit of science freed from all political and ideological levers that might influence the outcome of science. History has demonstrated that the most useful results of science is derived from scientists free to imagine, think, and process ideas without the interference of any intrusive ideologies. As pursuers of truths based on facts and principles evaluated by peers with competent skills, our scientists seek to support national and international processes for the betterment of humanity.

Science in the service of humanity cannot be narrowed to follow any political tunnel to serve only the few; it must remain open, accepting of all ideas from every region and area where curious people observe, experiment, and apply the best available knowledge and instruments. As such, science, for the AAS, is the foundation of national and international collaboration. It is always found in respect, trust, and careful attention to the economic and social needs of society.

Africa and the world benefit from the broad collaborations that occur when scientists are free to follow their imaginations without fear of political or ideological constraints. Free societies are ultimately societies free to explore innovative approaches to human problems.

Because of the positive effect of strong scientific work for the productive economic development in all regions of the continent, the African Union, African governments, and principled corporate and individual philanthropic institutions must consider increasing their support to ensure that science in Africa is further strengthened and thus able to play its role in development more effectively.

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On behalf of all Fellows and Affiliates of the Academy

