File Ref. | 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting on the African Synchrotron Initiative (ASI)
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Date of Meeting | 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022
Document name | Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ASI
Time of meeting | Meeting started at 1800hrs to 1917hrs (EAT)

| Present | 1. Shabaan Khalil (Chair) – Zewail City of Science and Technology, Egypt
2. Rolf Heuer – CERN, Switzerland
3. Gihan Kamel – SESAME, Jordan
4. Malik Maaza – IThemba Labs, South Africa
5. Fairouz Malek – CNRS, France
6. Edward Mitchell – ESRF, France
7. Yannis Papaphiippou – CERN Switzerland
8. Emmanuel Tsesmelis – CERN, Switzerland
9. Mary Bishai – Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA
10. Catherine Ngila – African Academy of Sciences (AAS) |

| Absent with apology | Faïcal Azaleza - IThemba Labs, South Africa |
| Absent | Sekazi Mtingwa – American Physical Society |

| Agenda | 1. Deliberations by the ASI Committee.
2. Next steps - Tasks of ASI Committee towards a Roadmap.
3. Actions. |

**Deliberations**

1. The opening remarks were by the Chair, Prof Shabaan Khalil, who thanked the members for attending the meeting.
   He noted that Dr Sekazi Mtingwa had not attended the ASI meetings. He will be requested to advise whether he intends to be a member of the ASI Committee.

2. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the ASI have been reviewed and modified. This was shared for comments. Initial comments were that:
   a) The mandate of the Committee is wider than the Advisory role based on the scope provided. This is a task force with specific timelines and deliverables.
   b) The term of four years should be reduced to two years.
   c) Any other amendments should be shared by members for modification.

3. The ASI Chair informed the meeting that he had held discussion with the President of the AAS, Prof Dakora, who had confirmed that the African Union (AU) has confirmed that the AAS is the organization they will work with towards achieving the African Synchrotron. Prof Dakora also shared with him official communication (letter) of the confirmation on this.
4. At the sub committee level, Prof Malik confirmed that he had started to lobby with African governments at the Director General level in SADC, North and West African countries. By June he will travel to Ethiopia and will meet and discuss ASI with the new AU Commissioner after consultation with ASI and AAS President. The new ASI Commissioner being his compatriot, gives this a personal touch. He has already started discussions with colleagues at policy level in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia Ghana, Senegal and Benin. Prof Fairouz requested to be looped in the lobbying aspect.

5. During the World Science Forum in December 2022, the AAS President and ED will share the conclusions of ASI’s roadmap, thereby creating awareness of and support for the African Synchrotron.

6. It is important is to have a good relationship with the Science, Research and Education Ministries and Science Academies in specific countries as they are respected by their governments. They should be included in ASI’s activities and in the roadmap.

7. The issue of collaborating with the AfLS was reiterated again. There is need for Africa to speak with one voice, otherwise it will be difficult to receive funding. It was repeated that a collaboration is important. AfLS is research driven and ASI is academy driven through the AAS, which has an observer status at the AU. Any potential funding towards the African Synchrotron will go through the AU to the AAS. There is urgent need to finalize on this issue of avoiding two voices in Africa.

Next steps - Tasks of ASI Committee

1) Continuous lobbying with the AU and updating them on milestones achieved by the ASI.
2) Preparation of documentation to invite countries that wish to host the Synchrotron.
3) Creation of flagship projects to create awareness of and support for the African Synchrotron.
4) Inclusion of emerging early career scientists in Synchrotron training.
5) Reaching out to ICTP and entering into an MoU.
6) Consideration for good projects that can attract funding opportunities.

Actions

1. Prof Maaza was tasked to follow up with Sekazi Mtingwa to determine if he is able to commit to the ASI Committee mandate and attend meetings.
2. All members to review the ToRs and make further comments for modifications.
3. Prof Heuer was tasked to contact AfLS and request them to send a representative to attend a Special Meeting between ASI and AfLS.
4. Hold a Special Meeting between ASI and AfLS in approximately two weeks from this meeting date.
5. Consider having an MoU between ASI and AfLS with the aim of making AfLS as an observer.
6. Schedule the next meeting in a month’s time from the date of this meeting.

Meeting ended at 19.17hrs (EAT).

Signed: ------------------------------- Date-----------------------------
Prof Shabaan Khalil
Chairperson of African Synchrotron Initiative