2026 Annual Meeting of African Science Academies
(AMASA 2026)

SECURING AFRICA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Artificial Intelligence
Cybersecurity
Sustainability

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME AND CONCEPT NOTE

AI | CYBERSECURITY | SUSTAINABILITY

Convener:
NASAC and Strategic Partners

AMASA 2026

ICRAF Campus, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya | 10–11 November 2026

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Network of African Science Academies – NASAC	***Mr. William Collince***	Communication Officer, NASAC

Programme – Day 1

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2026

07.00 - 09.00	**NASAC Board Meeting**	(Members only)
09.00	**REGISTRATION**	(NASAC Secretariat)

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Moderators: **Dr. Philip Osano (Landscape Alliance) and Dr. Jackie Kado (NASAC)**

09.30

1. WELCOME REMARKS

Prof. Ekanem Braide, FAS
President, Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)

Dr. Thomas Kiprono Serem
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, National Research Fund (NRF)

Prof. Vasey Mwaja
Chairperson, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)

2. OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS

H. E. Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak
Principal Secretary for the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation (SRI), Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary (PCS), Kenya

3. GOODWILL MESSAGES

Prof. Ratemo Michieka – President, KNAS
Prof. Friday Okonofua – President, AAS
Prof. Oyewale Tomori – Chairman, WANNAS
Dr. Erik Hansalek – Head of Division, BMBF
Prof. Stephanie Burton – Co-Chair, IAP
Prof. Tobias Bonhoeffer – Managing Director, MPI
Dr. Paul-Andre Calatayud – Representative for East Africa, IRD
Dr. Doyin Odubanjo – Board Member, ISC
Dr. Priscilla Mante – Immediate Past Co-Chair, GYA
Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy – Executive Director, ASRIC
Amb. Prof. Peter Ngure – Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO

11.30 - 12.00 **GROUP PHOTO & REFRESHMENT BREAK**

4. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

H. E. Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS
Special Envoy on Technology, Republic of Kenya

Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro
Chief Executive Officer, Landscape Alliance and Managing Director, ICRAF

13.00 - 14.00 **LUNCH BREAK**

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
SESSION 1: AI FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Session Chair: **Prof. Ishmael Masesane (NASAC Board)**		
14.00	**Abstract 1** From Reactive to Preventive Territories: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Risk Reduction in Africa.	***Djillali Benouar (Algeria)***
14.15	**Abstract 2** Responsible AIfor Predictive Academic Advising in African Higher Education Evidence from Uganda Christian University	***Simon Fred Lubambo (Uganda)***
14.30	**Abstract 3** How the Fossil Fuel Phaseout Impacts Sustainable Development Indicators: A Computational Modelling Approach	***Nelson Ndugu (Uganda)***
14.45	**Panel Discussion** ***Where can AI make the greatest impact on Africa's sustainable development today?*** *Abubakar Sambo (Nigeria)* *Brice Legbe (Benin)* *Thabile Ndlovu (Eswatini)*	*Tobias Bonhoeffer (Germany)*
15.15	**Q&A Session**	*Session Chair*
15.45 - 16.00	**HEALTH BREAK**	
SE SSION 2: CYBERSECURITY AND DIGITAL RESILIENCE Session Chair: **Dr. Doyin Odubanjo (ISC Board Member)**		
16.00	**Abstract 4** Ethical Governance of AI in Africa's Gig Economy: Towards Data Justice and Worker Autonomy	***Tom Kwanya (Kenya)***
16.15	**Abstract 5** From Strategy to Practice: Mapping the AI Governance Readiness Gap in Zimbabwe's State Universities Against the National AI Strategy 2026–2030	***Antony Tinozovepi*** ***Robert Kujenga (Zimbabwe)***
16.30	**Abstract 6** Towards a Continuous Assurance Framework for Trustworthy Agentic AI in Africa's Digital Transformation Research in Africa	***Benson Macharia (Kenya)***
16.45	**Panel Discussion** ***How can Africa build trust in its digital systems amid growing cyber threats?*** *Prof. Jacob K. Agbenorhevi (Ghana)* *Anselimo Makokha (Kenya)* *Itoro Emembolu (Nigeria)*	*Deoraj Caussay (Mauritius)*
17.15	**Q&A Session**	*Session Chair*
17.45	**END OF DAY 1**	

Programme - Day 2

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
	SESSION 3: Governance, Ethics and Policy Session Chair: **Prof. Dexter Tagwireyi (Zimbabwe Academy of Sciences)**	
8.15	**Abstract 7** Catalysing Digital Transformation for Sustainability Science in Africa: Strengthening Research Capacity, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships	***Daniel Nyanganyura (South Africa)***
8.30	**Abstract 8** UoN Connect: A Student Built Campus Super App as a Model for Digital Innovation in African Universities	***Samuel Kariuki (Kenya)***
8.45	**Abstract 9** Data-Driven Conservation: Strengthening Research and Innovation through the Digital Transformation of the Lagos University Herbarium (LUH)	***Temitope Onuminya (Nigeria)***
9.00	**Panel Discussion** ***What governance and ethical safeguards are needed to turn digital innovations into lasting public benefit?*** *Marie Christine Gasingirwa (Rwanda)* *Mohamed Khodja (Algeria)* *Brice T. Kamtchueng (Cameroon)*	*Paul Baki (Kenya)*
9.30	**Q&A Session**	*Session Chair*
10.00 - 10.15	**HEALTH BREAK**	
	SESSION 4: Digital Capacity, Innovation and Partnerships Session Chair: **Prof. Abubakar Sambo (Nigerian Academy of Science)**	
10.15	**Abstract 10** Securing Africa's Digital Transformation: A Strategic Lever for Sovereignty, Resilience and Innovation	***Kamel Barkaoui (Tunisia)***
10.30	**Abstract 11** A Neural-Network-Based Distributed Denial of Service Algorithm for Real-Time Edge Security	***Ruth Osukuku (Kenya)***
10.45	**Abstract 12** Strengthening Cyber Resilience in Ugandan Universities through AI-Enabled Digital Governance	***Aureri Akankwasa (Uganda)***
11.00	**Panel Discussion** ***How can partnerships strengthen Africa's digital capacity and turn local innovations into practical solutions?*** *Mamadou Diallo (Mali)* *Orlando Quilambo (Mozambique)* *Paul-Andre Calatayud (France)*	*Pulane Koosaletse (Botswana)*
11.30 - 12.00	**Q&A session**	*Session Chair*

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
	CLOSING SESSION Session Chair: **Dickson Andala (NRF)**	
12.30 - 13.00	**1. *Rapporteurs Report*** – ***Prof. Vasey Mwaja,*** Chair, Scientific Committee	
	2. *Closing Statements* – ***Prof. Ekanem Ikpi Braide,*** President, NASAC – ***Dr. Thomas Kiprono Serem,*** Chairperson, NRF – ***Dr. Peter Minang,*** Director Africa, Landscape Alliance	
	3. *Vote of Thanks* – ***Dr. Jackie Kado,*** Executive Director, NASAC	
13.00 - 14.00	**LUNCH BREAK**	
	Peer Exchange on the NASAC Policy and Practice Toolkit	***Habiba Chaabouni*** ***STEP WG Chair & Session Moderator***
14.00	Welcome and session objectives	
14.05	Presentation of the toolkit and guidance for the peer exchange	***Dr. Jacqueline Kado,*** ***Executive Director, NASAC***
14.15	Academy perspective: experience of policy engagement in Burkina Faso	***Prof. Afsata Kaborė (ANSAL-BF),*** ***Burkina Faso Academy representative***
14.20	Academy perspective: experience of policy engagement in Zambia	***Prof. Cyprian Katongo (ZaAS),*** ***Zambia Academy representative***
14.25	Small-group peer exchange: applying a selected toolkit tool to an academy challenge	***Participants, supported by group group facilitators***
14.45	Group feedback: practical lessons and proposed toolkit improvements	***Group rapporteurs***
14.55	Synthesis and next steps for finalisation	***STEP WG moderator***
15.00	END OF SESSION	
15.00 - 15.15	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**	
15.15 - 16.45	**NASAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** **Chair: Prof. Ekanem Braide, FAS, President**	(By Invitation Only)
17.00 - 20.00	**NASAC 25 ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER & AMASA THE 2026 PRIZE CEREMONY**	

CONCEPT NOTE

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA) is NASAC's flagship platform for advancing science-informed policymaking and fostering collaboration among African science academies and relevant partners. Each year, AMASA convenes distinguished scientists, policymakers, development partners, private sector actors and other stakeholders to deliberate on issues of strategic importance to Africa's development agenda. Over the years, AMASA has evolved into a unique continental platform where science, policy, innovation and diplomacy converge to address emerging opportunities and challenges relevant to Africa's development.

The 2026 edition of AMASA focuses on **Securing Africa's Digital Transformation: AI, Cybersecurity and Sustainability.** The conference comes at a critical moment when Africa is accelerating investments in digital infrastructure, connectivity, innovation ecosystems, artificial intelligence and digital public services. Across sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, finance, education, climate services and governance, digital technologies are increasingly shaping Africa's development trajectory.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents significant opportunities for advancing economic growth, improving public services, strengthening research and innovation and supporting sustainable development. However, the expansion of digital systems also introduces growing risks associated with cyber threats, data insecurity, misinformation, digital exclusion and vulnerabilities affecting critical infrastructure and public trust.

Cybersecurity is increasingly becoming a development issue rather than merely a technical concern, particularly in economies where digital finance and mobile-based public services are deeply embedded in daily life. Secure, resilient and trusted digital systems are essential for enabling sustainable digital transformation and safeguarding Africa's economic and social future. Addressing these issues requires transdisciplinary collaboration, evidence-informed policymaking, institutional preparedness and strengthened continental cooperation.

Science academies in Africa have an important responsibility not only in generating evidence, but also in helping policymakers navigate the rapidly evolving digital landscape. Additionally, they must also strive to inform public policy, strengthen science communication and support responsible and ethical approaches to emerging technologies. Through NASAC, science academies are uniquely positioned to convene multidisciplinary expertise and facilitate continental dialogue on AI, cybersecurity, governance, innovation and sustainability.

Hosting AMASA 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, provides a strategic opportunity to advance these discussions within one of Africa's leading innovation and technology hubs. Often referred to as Africa's *Silicon Savannah,* Nairobi has increasingly positioned itself as a regional centre for digital innovation, fintech, entrepreneurship, research and policy engagement, making it an appropriate setting for discussions on Africa's digital future.

AMASA 2026 will therefore provide a timely platform for advancing dialogue, partnerships and science-informed approaches towards secure, inclusive, resilient and sustainable digital transformation in Africa.

2. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Goal

To explore the role of AI and cybersecurity in advancing secure, resilient and sustainable digital systems in Africa.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 Strategic Dialogue

Examine emerging opportunities, risks, trends and scientific developments shaping AI-driven digital transformation in Africa.

2.2.2 Policy and Governance Engagement

Explore policy, ethical, regulatory and institutional frameworks necessary for strengthening digital resilience, trust and cybersecurity in Africa.

2.2.3 Collaboration and Capacity Enhancement

Enhance collaboration among science academies, policymakers, research institutions, industry and development partners in advancing Africa's digital transformation agenda.

3. SUB-THEMES

3.1 AI for Sustainable Development

AI applications in health, agriculture, forestry, education, climate and industry
Digital innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship
Opportunities and risks associated with AI adoption in Africa

3.2 Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience

Protection of critical digital infrastructure
Cyber threats, data governance and digital trust
National and regional cybersecurity preparedness

3.3 Governance, Ethics and Policy

AI governance and regulatory frameworks
Ethical and responsible use of emerging technologies
Science advice and evidence-informed policymaking

3.4 Digital Capacity, Innovation and Partnerships

Digital skills and workforce development
Strengthening research and innovation institutions
Public-private partnerships and regional collaboration

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- **Conference Communiqué and Report:** Summary of key discussions, recommendations and strategic priorities
- **Policy Brief:** Evidence-informed recommendations on AI, cybersecurity and sustainable digital transformation
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Enhanced collaboration among science academies, policymakers, research institutions, industry and development partners
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Increased visibility of African scientific expertise and policy engagement on emerging digital issues

5. PARTICIPATION

The conference is expected to bring together:

- Members of African and international science academies
- Government officials and policymakers
- Researchers, academics and innovators
- Technology and cybersecurity experts
- Private sector and industry representatives
- Development partners and international organizations
- Youth and early-career researchers/professionals

AMASA 2026

Securing Africa's Digital Transformation

AI, Cybersecurity and Sustainability

CONVENER: NASAC and Strategic Partners
DATES: 10 - 11 November 2026
VENUE: ICRAF Campus Gigiri - Nairobi, Kenya

CONFERENCE **SUB-THEMES**

- AI for Sustainable Development
- Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience
- Governance, Ethics and Policy
- Digital Capacity, Innovation and Partnerships

For more information, please contact:

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