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## **Policy Statement On Open Access**

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## **POLICY STATEMENT OF OPEN ACCESS**

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) is an autonomous, non-profit, non-governmental organization established by Proclamation 783/2013 in March 2013. The Academy was first founded on March 27, 2010 by a group of prominent scholars drawn from a variety of disciplines and professions.

Two of the objectives of the Academy are to support and promote research on technology, learning and adaptation, and to encourage that problem-solving scientific research is conducted in areas and on issues of special importance to the country.

EAS aims to provide evidence-based advice to the Government and to promote the development of the sciences and their applications. It plans to do this by undertaking consensus studies, organizing conferences and workshops on significant national issues, awarding prizes in recognition of excellence and publishing reports in its own journal as well as other periodicals and books.

Making research publications easily and readily accessible at no or low cost is a sure way of realizing the application of up-to-date scientific knowledge and technology to resolve the challenges of humanity. This will also help build a knowledge-based society, a rich science culture, fostering closer collaboration among scientists and making science a powerful tool for sustainable human development.

As an academy in the developing world, EAS appreciates the limitation of scientists and technologists in accessing recent findings in journals as well as reference materials and databases which usually need subscription to access. EAS recounts the call by the InterAcademy Council (IAC) in 2003 on The InterAcademy Panel (IAP), International Council for Science (ICSU), UNESCO, World Bank, regional development banks, and foundations to promote the availability of professional journals and textbooks on the Worldwide Web for free, or at modest cost, to scientists and engineers from developing nations.

In associating with the 22 October 2003 Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Scientific Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, it is the position of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences that:

- Authors of research papers must use every available opportunity to widely disseminate their results, including making them available for free;
- Authors are urged to make it freely available to everyone on publication via the EAS online platform;

- Electronic copies of peer-reviewed articles/chapters or books undertaken by EAS fellows, Associate Fellows and Affiliate Members or funded by the Academy or any other organization that have been accepted for publication, could be made freely available through open access as soon as possible and in any event within six months of the journal publisher's date of final publication;
- Research Grants or contact research from any funding sources must make available additional funding to cover open access charges: and
- Ethiopian scientists should be encouraged to publish in Open Access Platforms.