

# Declaration:

## Enabling an equitable Ethiopian research system

22-23 November 2018





## **Declaration: Enabling an equitable Ethiopian research system**

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### **We, participants of the Ethiopia dialogue event on enabling equitable research systems, collectively issue the following Declaration:**

Government has recognised the critical role that Ethiopian research plays in development, as articulated in Ethiopia's Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy, 2012.

In order for this vision to be realized we need stronger cohesion and collaboration across the national research system. Recognizing that many actors within this system have a role to play in achieving national development aspirations, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and INASP convened a dialogue event with national research and policy institutions and government representatives to explore approaches to enable a cohesive and equitable research system.

### **Our vision for a strong, sustainable and self-sufficient Ethiopian research system is one which:**

Values, aligns and responds to Ethiopian needs, informs national policy, delivers impactful research in support of national priorities and operates within an independent space

Recognizes and builds on the wealth and variety of knowledge within Ethiopia, while also looking to shape the future of research globally

Is collaborative, participatory, and trans/multi-disciplinary in approach, recognizing that all types of research have a role to contribute to achieving national development needs

Supports and sustains diversity and inclusion by creating a conducive environment that values and encourages all research voices – regardless of gender, institution or region etc.

We hereby, call on the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, academia, civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders to play their share in achieving a **unified, nationally driven Ethiopian research system that is able to respond to national priorities.**

More specifically, we recommend the following:

#### **I. To achieve equitable resource allocation to, within and between Ethiopian research institutions:**

##### **Government to:**

- 1.1. Establish an overarching National Research Council with the mandate to create a unified research system. The council should be empowered to work with the sector to define, prioritise, harmonise a research agenda that speaks to national development goals in a multi-disciplinary/multi-sector approach; able to effect a balance between funding for basic and applied research; and align federal and regional discrepancies
- 1.2. Government to increase current proportion of GDP allocated to research from 0.6% to 2%, with proportional basic/applied research allocations
- 1.3. Support the creation of a national data repository system that is accessible to all

##### **Institutions (public and private universities, research institutions) to:**

- 1.4. Hold their researchers accountable for greater research output by putting a results-based performance management system in place-

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- 1.5. Recognise and reward researchers for conducting translational and other ground-breaking research

**Government and institutions collaboratively to:**

- 1.6. Pursue diverse sources of funding by:
  - 1.6.1. Engaging proactively with the private sector, private individuals, public-private partnerships
  - 1.6.2. Increasing funding from Government
  - 1.6.3. Increasing funding from private sector
  - 1.6.4. Decreasing dependence on donor funds
  - 1.6.5. Achieving better distribution from Universities of the funds they receive

**Ethiopian Academy of Sciences to:**

- 1.7. Conduct mapping of “who is doing what” in research
- 1.8. Raise awareness about the value and support for R&D in both private and public sector

**2. *To achieve more international visibility for Ethiopian research, and develop research collaborations that deliver greater impact for Ethiopian development:***

**Government to:**

- 2.1. Develop a research collaboration policy that defines the principles of partnership, ensures equity in leadership of research collaborations and ensures that the value of Ethiopian research capital is recognized within international research projects.

**Institutions to:**

- 2.2. Pursue greater South-South collaboration on research
- 2.3. Hold northern researchers (in dialogue with them) to standards of institutional policies and principles of collaboration
- 2.4. Collaborate more within Ethiopia in research proposal development and in conducting research, in a transparent way
- 2.5. Produce nationally significant, relevant, original research – with proposals that are focused on problem solving, aligned to clear needs, better designed methods
- 2.6. Ensure appropriate:
  - 2.6.1. Training for researchers, including transformative critical thinking approaches about what and how to research
  - 2.6.2. Mentoring systems are in place for researchers to strengthen research design, implementation and communication skills
  - 2.6.3. Incentives for researchers, and recognition for the work that they do

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### **Government and institutions collaboratively to:**

- 2.7. Explore how to regulate the “consultancy culture” to ensure that priority can be given to undertaking research that is in line with the national research agenda

### **3. To achieve strengthened national technology infrastructure for Ethiopian research:**

#### **Government and EthERNet to:**

- 3.1. Increase awareness and accessibility of EthERNet among Higher Education Institutions, universities (both public and private) and other research institutes
- 3.2. Develop a plan to increase its usage of EthERNet’s services

### **4. To achieve greater inclusion and gender parity in Ethiopian research and Higher Education systems:**

#### **Government to:**

- 4.1. Ensure that Ethiopian Higher Education legislation is aligned to gender inclusion and equity
- 4.2. Audit Ethiopian Higher Education from a gender inclusion equity perspective (as per government guidelines and policies) and link grants to performance improvements

#### **Institutions to:**

- 4.3. Hold themselves accountable to respond to issues of gender in a range of areas:
  - 4.3.1. Create a conducive teaching and learning environment
  - 4.3.2. Set concrete targets to reach gender policy goals and female representation among researchers, teachers and senior academic staff
  - 4.3.3. Develop sexual harassment and abuse policies to protect female and male staff on campus
  - 4.3.4. Increase funding for gender focused research – i.e. research that is culturally relevant, values local knowledge and culture, and empowers women and men to support equity and increase understanding of gender in the local context
  - 4.3.5. Provide dedicated research funds for women researchers, and early career researchers (both men and women)
  - 4.3.6. Develop leadership and capacity building programmes for women researchers
- 4.4. Expand avenues for post-graduate opportunities for women

### **Government and Institutions collaboratively to:**

- 4.5. Engage girls and boys at an early age
- 4.6. Create (or expand) special programmes to support women in research

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**5. To achieve greater research communication capacity, improved research publication quality and ownership of the Ethiopian research publishing process:**

**Government to:**

- 5.1. Support/advocate for the EAS current publication on standards to be supported for adoption

**Institutions to:**

- 5.2. Raise standards of journals by providing training at the institution for reviewers, editors and researchers
- 5.3. Provide incentives to reviewers and editors in recognition of their voluntary contribution
- 5.4. Ensure all institutions of higher education have a publication advisory board to support staff on where to publish their research and how to extract and present relevant policy issues for engagement with policy matters
- 5.5. Require researchers to publish all abstracts in local languages and English
- 5.6. Provide funds and knowledge for researchers to publish using open access methods

**Ethiopian Academy of Sciences to:**

- 5.7. Raise awareness of the important role and value of Ethiopian journals, and platforms such as African Journals Online (AJOL) and Ethiopian Journals Online (EJOL); and the value of the Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS)

**Institutions and Ethiopian Academy of Sciences collaboratively to:**

- 5.8. Provide capacity building to researchers on how to extract and present relevant policy issues and how to engage with the media
- 5.9. Encourage researchers to use the media to disseminate/communicate research findings to the public
- 5.10. Integrate training on science reporting in existing curricula of journalism courses, and training offered by societies/EAS