African Union Network of Ethical Research
AUNER

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3rd Congress of the
African Scientific Research and Innovation Council
(ASRIC)
December, 15-17, 2020

AUNER: Facts

- Ethical research and **Independent Ethics Committee (IEC)** are very weak and disparate in Africa;

- Important ethical challenge facing Africa with respect to the present medical situation (**COVID**) and **human research**;

- Lack of coordination between African countries in **ethical guidelines**.

AUNER: Facts

- Need for positive efforts to **raise effective awareness** on the Ethical research issues in Africa;

- Need to encourage the creation of a **knowledge-based and innovative society** and to promote the creation;

- Need of **Harmonized Ethical research guidelines** in the AU and Its Member States.

AUNER: Objectives

- **Promote ethical research** at our Member States level and at the level of the AU;

- Work together and **safeguard Africa's Clinical Research**;

- **Protect the rights, safety, and wellbeing** of all human research participants.

AUNER: Objectives

- **Build a robust network** of Experts, Societies and Agencies on Clinical Research;

- **Provide strong and independent information** on the Research Ethics;

- **Develop, adopt, implement and evaluate** Clinical Research policies in Africa;

- **Safeguard** our descendant future and resources.

AUNER: Missions

- **Develop, update, and Harmonize** a guideline for good Clinical Research practices;

- **Facilitate the use of Ethical standards** to promote Ethical Clinical research and creativity;

- **Facilitate/promote** the realization and harmonization of national legislation and regional treaties and **Ethical standards** at all the AU levels.

AUNER: Missions

- **Assist African Union Member States** upon request in formulating policies;

- **Initiate and facilitate strategies** that shall promote and develop a robust African Clinical Research, and Ethical practices;

- **Strengthen the existing National IEC** and facilitate their establishment in Member States, which have no such committees.

AUNER: Missions

- **Develop policy guidelines** using best practices and training modules;

- **Provide a forum for policy discussions and formulation**, addressing political issues;

- **Develop African Common position** related to Clinical Research practices and Ethics.

AUNER: Missions

- **Take deliberate measures** to promote the protection of Research output within the AU Member States;

- **Collect, process and disseminate** relevant information to Member States;

- Support the establishment of **continental databases** on Clinical Research and Challenges by establishing the **African Clinical Research information portal**.

AUNER: Missions

- **Produce the Africa Clinical Research outlook** biennial;

- **Promote and facilitate positive efforts** to raise awareness on Research Ethics challenges in Africa;

- **Initiate and facilitate activities** that strengthen the human, financial and technical capacity of Member States and the African Communities at large.

AUNER: Missions

- **Advice the ASRIC and African Union** on the issues related to Clinical Research and Research Ethics;

- **Contribute to the accelerated achievement of the objectives** of the African Union as stated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

AUNER: Organization

- **MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Recognized African National/Regional independent ethics committees (IECs) and National/Regional Networks.

AUNER: Organization

- **AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS:**

- The African Union Commission;
- Department of Social Affairs;
- Department of Human Resource, Science and Technology;
- AU CDC;
- the African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission;
- ASRIC;
- Other Ethical organizations within or outside Africa;
- African scientist from the African Diaspora.

AUNER: Organs

- The **AUNER** shall be composed of the following organs:

- **AUNER** General Assembly;
- **AUNER** Bureau;
- **AUNER** Secretariat.

AUNER: Conclusions

- **AUNER** may be a **wonderful tool** to stimulate the reflection on ethical research in AU Countries;

- **AUNER** will **help** many AU Countries to **implement ethical committee** where not existing;

- **AUNER** will **strengthen** the capacity of AU Countries to deal with the **pharmaceutical companies**;

- **AUNER** will help to **safeguard** the African population.