

# COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF ORGANISATIONS OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (COHORT)

*\*Logo to be designed-representing collegiality/industry association/science system*



## FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

### COHORT SECRETARIAT

### The Academy of Science of South Africa

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#### Executive Secretary

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#### Liaison Officer

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## VISION STATEMENT

The vision of The Committee of Heads of Organisations of Research and Technology is to be recognized as a national forum for the heads of organisations of science, research and technology, in order to leverage their collective strengths in developing a culture of innovation and science for society in South Africa.

## MISSION STATEMENT

- To provide policy advice to the Minister of Science and Technology as a consultative forum;
- To reinforce and maintain a platform aimed at furthering knowledge-sharing between member organisations in the advancement of innovation in science and technology;
- To share the goals and strategies of key organisations and institutions involved in research and technology innovation, to ensure alignment with the government's National System of Innovation initiative;
- To provide updates, share goals, opportunities, successes and challenges, and in so doing, empower individual member representatives' organisations and the collective;
- To work closely with other stakeholders to identify and act upon possible threats to and opportunities of research and innovation;
- To review and improve the governance of research on an ongoing basis, in order to ensure that the investment in research and technology is translated into outputs;
- To foster collaborations around key research areas; and
- To identify critical human resources training needs and infrastructure for research.

## VALUES

- We will cooperate by engaging each other as well as other stakeholders through asking, giving support and sharing our successes;
- We will ensure that we are reliable partners in the National System of Innovation, and will encourage and assist each other in meeting our shared objectives, and keep those with whom we are doing business informed;
- We will value each other's independence and encourage a sense of synergy in what we do;
- We will strive to ensure that we encourage effective communication, and strive towards excellence and quality assurance in all activities;
- We will value the contribution of others, irrespective of their differences and diverse nature; In our capacity as heads of reputable organisations, we will strive for honesty, trustworthiness and integrity; and
- We will endeavour to prevent corruption in our own institutions.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- Engage in the continuous sharing of, review, and will advise on system strategic intents of other committee members;
- Develop solid and reliable recommendations on national research and development issues;
- Continuously improve the South African research and technology innovation system and benchmark with both the developed and new emerging scientific structures;
- Encourage more research and technology organisations to enlist as members of COHORT;
- Ensure that South Africa participates in the national and international events aimed at improving the global and national innovation system; and

- Through consultation with the Department of Science and Technology and other government departments, identify and work towards addressing cross-cutting challenges experienced within Science and Technology sectors and the country in general.

## MEMBERSHIP

The membership of COHORT comprises the following organizations and any other state organization in the research, development, science and technology space in South Africa:

- Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
- Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
- Council for GeoScience (CGS)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Higher Education of South Africa (HESA)
- Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- Institute for Maritime Technology (IMT)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- MINTEK
- National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI)
- National Health and Laboratory Services (NHLS)
- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)
- Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA)
- South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Space Agency
- South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
- Water Research Commission (WRC)

## COHORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COHORT will be governed by an Executive Committee (EXCO) consisting of an elected Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and between three and five elected members.

## COHORT PROGRAMMES

### Plenary Meetings

COHORT will host two plenary meetings per annum where all members will be expected to attend. During the plenary, issues of governance will be discussed including financials, and possible projects that the committee can adopt as part of its programme of action. Dates of the two plenary meetings per annum are pre-arranged and fixed, and the scheduling of Ministerial meetings are guided by the availability of the Minister of Science and Technology.

### Ministerial Meetings

Optional

### Round Table Discussions

After the plenary, a round table discussion of selected ministers, CEO's of science sector and chairpersons of science organisations will be held depending on the topic of discussions.

**Attendance**

The meetings are attended by heads of organisations and not their delegates. In the exceptional case of a delegate attending COHORT meetings, the delegate must be given the necessary proxy for decision making by the relevant head of organisation.