



Nomination and Elections Committee (NEC) 2020-2023 AAS Governing Council

March 31, 2020

Dear AAS Fellows and Associate Fellows,

Re: Invitation of Nomination of Candidates for the positions of President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Vice Presidents for the 2020-2023 AAS Governing Council

The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) for the 2020-2023 AAS Governing Council is hereby inviting nominations of eligible Fellows to contest the following positions of President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and the five Vice Presidents of the Academy. The Vice Presidents will each represent one of the five AAS regions, namely; North Africa; Eastern Africa; Southern Africa; West Africa and Central Africa. Kindly note that none of the Governing Council positions are paid positions. The cost of travel, accommodation and appropriate stipends will be provided for meeting attendance and official travel.

Please be informed and take note of the following General Guidelines for the Nominations and Elections into the 2020-2023 Governing Council:

- (a) Members of NEC are not allowed to nominate, be nominated nor endorse any nominations for any of the office bearers for the 2020-2023 Governing Council. They are, however, free to exercise their right to vote. The following Fellows are members of the NEC: Burton Mwamila (Chairperson), Quarraisha Abdool Karim (Member), Isabella Quakyi (Member), Balkiss Bouhaouala-Zahar (Member), Paul Nkwi (Member).
- (b) Honorary Fellows, Associate Fellows and Affiliates are not eligible for any of the elected positions of 2020-2023 Governing Council.
- (c) The eligibility criteria for one to be nominated to contest any of the elective positions in the AAS Governing Council (GC) includes one being up-to-date with respect to payment of AAS membership fees.
- (d) Fellows who wish to nominate candidates for any GC position must also be up-to-date with respect to payment of AAS membership fees.
- (e) All Fellows who are in the current Governing Council wishing to be in the 2020-2023 Governing Council may be nominated for any position provided they meet the eligibility criteria for the position, and must have had satisfactory record of service in the current Governing Council.
- (f) There shall be no self-nominations to contest any of the positions in the Governing Council.
- (g) To ensure strong engagement from Fellows currently in the 39 countries of the African continent, no two elected members in the 2020-2023 Governing Council shall be residents of the same country.

- (h) Lead nominators shall provide signed recent (2020) CV of their respective nominees.
- (i) The Lead nominator must upload the signature of his/her respective nominee before submission, to signify the latter's acceptance of his/her nomination.

There are four nomination forms, one for each of the nominees for the positions of the President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Vice Presidents.

The Specific Guidelines for the Nominations and Elections for the various positions in the 2020-2023 Governing Council are as summarised in Sections 1 to 4 below. *In completing the individual nomination forms, kindly observe the guidelines and ensure that the nominees you nominate meet the eligibility criteria mentioned above and all required documents are duly completed and submitted as instructed.*

1. Nominations and Election of the President *(Also refer to the detailed criteria in the Nomination Form)*

- 1.1** Nominees for the position of AAS President may be nominated from any of the five (5) regions of AAS, namely; Central Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, and Eastern Africa.
- 1.2** The nominee must be resident in Africa and must have become an AAS Fellow at least five years before these 2020 elections, viz. in 2015 or earlier.
- 1.3** Nominees for the position of AAS President must be Fellows of integrity and in good financial standing with the AAS.
- 1.4** Nominees for the position of AAS President must have Pan-African science leadership and the ability to interact with AAS Fellows, scientists and policy makers.
- 1.5** Nominees for the position of AAS President must have played recognized leadership roles in running the affairs of national science academies or similar institutions.
- 1.6** Nominees for the position of AAS President must have a strong and clear vision and strategic thinking on advancing science and the role of science, technology and innovation on the continent for development and socio-economic transformation through evidence based policies and decision-making.
- 1.7** Nomination forms for the presidential candidates must be signed by at least five (5) AAS Fellows from different AAS regions but only one of whom may be from the Diaspora, OR four (4) AAS Fellows from different AAS regions within Africa and one Associate Fellow. Endorsement that reflects gender balance is strongly encouraged.
- 1.8** The Presidential nominee must provide his/her signature for inclusion in the submission by the Lead nominator, to signify that he/she agrees to be nominated for the position.
- 1.9** The nominees for the position of President have to provide a 2-page motivation and vision statement on how they will advance the goals of the AAS if elected AAS President.
- 1.10** If there are more than two candidates for the position of President, a first round of voting may be done to get the top two candidates, unless one candidate gets an overwhelming majority of more than 50%, in the first round of voting.

- 1.11 No two nominators of candidates for position of President shall be residents in the same AAS region.
- 1.12 Lead Nominators for the positions of President must be AAS Fellows.
- 1.13 Lead Nominators shall provide signed recent (2020) CV of their respective nominees.
- 1.14 The Lead Nominator for a Presidential candidate shall provide a two paragraph (max. 300 words) justification for nominating the candidate.

It is desirable that Presidential candidates are fluent in at least two of the working languages of the African Union (AU).

2. Nomination and Election of Secretary General; Treasurer; and Regional Vice-Presidents *(Also refer to the detailed criteria in respective Nomination Forms):*

- 2.1 The election of the Secretary General, Treasurer, and Vice Presidents will be done simultaneously with that of the President.
- 2.2 Lead Nominators for positions of Secretary General, Treasurer and Vice President have to provide one paragraph (max 200 words) justification for nominating their respective candidates.
- 2.3 Lead Nominators have to provide signed recent (2020) CV of their respective nominees.
- 2.4 Each nominee must provide his/her signature for inclusion in the nomination submission by the Lead nominator, to signify that he/she agrees to be nominated for the respective position.

2.5 For the position of Secretary General:

- 2.5.1 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must be Fellows of integrity and in good financial standing with the AAS.
- 2.5.2 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must have a good track record in playing similar roles in national science academies or similar institutions.
- 2.5.3 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must have management experience and good interpersonal skills.
- 2.5.4 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must have the capacity to provide adequate support to the AAS President.
- 2.5.5 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must have experience in developing meeting agendas and ensuring that the Executive Director implements Governing Council resolutions and decisions.
- 2.5.6 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must have demonstrable capability and experience in strategic thinking and policy.
- 2.5.7 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must have the ability to work closely with others within existing structures, and to respect the opinions of others.
- 2.5.8 Nominees for the position of Secretary General must be available to effectively participate in Governing Council Meetings.
- 2.5.9 The nominee for the position of Secretary General must be resident in Africa and must have become an AAS Fellow at least three years before these 2020 elections, viz. in 2017 or earlier.
- 2.5.10 Forms for Nomination of AAS Fellows for the position of Secretary General must be signed by at least three (3) AAS Fellows from

different AAS regions within Africa, OR two (2) AAS Fellows from different AAS regions within Africa and one Associate Fellow.

2.5.11 The Secretary General must get a clear majority of votes, viz. more than 50%.

2.6 For the position of Treasurer:

2.6.1 The nominee for the position of Treasurer must be resident in Nairobi, Kenya, and must have become an AAS Fellow at least three years before these 2020 elections, viz. in 2017 or earlier.

2.6.2 Nominees for the position of Treasurer must be Fellows of integrity and in good financial standing with the AAS.

2.6.3 Nominees for the position of Treasurer must have exemplary financial management track record.

2.6.4 Nominees for the position of Treasurer must have demonstrable capability and experience in financial and auditing systems compliance with Kenyan Law.

2.6.5 Nominees for the position of Treasurer must have management experience and good interpersonal skills.

2.6.6 Nominees for the position of Treasurer must have the ability to work closely with others within existing structures and to respect the opinions of others.

2.6.7 Nominees for the position of Treasurer must be available to effectively participate in Governing Council Meetings.

2.6.8 Nomination forms for the candidates for the position of Treasurer must be signed by at least two (2) AAS Fellows from different AAS regions within Africa, OR one (1) AAS Fellow from any AAS region within Africa and one (1) Associate Fellow.

2.6.9 The Lead Nominator for the position of Treasurer must be an AAS Fellow.

2.6.10 The candidate for the position of Treasurer with a simple majority, viz. highest number of votes but not necessarily more than 50%, will be declared the successful candidate.

2.7 For the positions of Vice Presidents:

2.7.1 There shall be no Vice President from countries providing a President, Secretary General and Treasurer of AAS.

2.7.2 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must be Fellows of integrity and in good financial standing with the AAS.

2.7.3 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must be resident in the region of AAS which they wish to represent during their tenure.

2.7.4 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must have been elected AAS Fellows at least three years before these 2020 elections, viz. in 2017 or earlier.

2.7.5 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must have good interpersonal skills.

2.7.6 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must be willing to build and strengthen the AAS in the region they are representing as well as on the continent.

2.7.7 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must be able to host the AAS office in their Institution during their term of office.

- 2.7.8 Nominees for the positions of Vice Presidents must be available to effectively participate in Governing Council meetings face to face or electronically.
- 2.7.9 Both Nominees and Nominators for the positions of Vice Presidents must be from within the respective regions.
- 2.7.10 Nomination forms for the candidates for the position of Vice President must be signed by at least two (2) AAS Fellows from the region they are being nominated to represent, OR one (1) AAS Fellow in the region they are being nominated to represent and one (1) Associate Fellow.

3. Conflict of Interest / Non Accumulation of Positions

The President, Secretary General, and Treasurer of AAS may not hold a leadership position (President, Secretary General, Treasurer or Executive Director) in another local science academy; or another pan-African academy body nor any political position.

4. Dispute Resolution

In case of any dispute, the matter can be brought to an Election Disputes Committee (EDC) established by the Governing Council.

Nomination forms accompanied by related documents shall be filled and submitted **online** by the **Lead Nominator** through the link <https://www.aasciences.africa/AASNominations>



Prof. Burton LM Mwamila
Chairperson, AAS-NEC