



## **Supporting National Young Academies & Senior Academies' Synergies for Strengthening Capacity and Competence Building in Africa**

### **Preamble**

The present statement draws upon the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Young Academies Regional Conference, held in Mauritius from 24-26 October 2016. The Global Young Academy (GYA), the voice of young scientists around the world, representing over 200 members, and around 60 alumni from over 60 countries will continue to work closely and organically with its international and African partners in order to strengthen science and the research environments in Africa and help facilitate efforts towards capacity and competence building of young scientists. Aware of the role young African scientists can play to enhance Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) and drive the continent toward a knowledge-based economy, the GYA remains an active facilitator and supporter of its African partners and members to materialize three main objectives.

### **1. Supporting the establishment & synergizing of National Young Academies**

Supporting the establishment and coordination of National Young Academies around the world, in general, and in Africa, in specific, and accelerating synergies between existing Senior Academies and new-born Young Academies have always been one of the focuses of the GYA since its founding in 2010. During the past five years, the GYA has helped to establish NYAs in Egypt, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia and currently Mauritius. The GYA will continue in this direction by strengthening African Science Academies, empowering the advisory role of the NASAC network, enhancing NASAC's intergenerational and international cooperation, and providing access to networks and experts.

### **2. Capacity and competence building in Africa**

The GYA is further committed in allocating continuous attention and efforts to provide capacity and competence building opportunities to young African Scientists through the co-organization of workshops, conferences and leadership trainings. Hence, as a convener of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Young Academies Regional Conference, the GYA together with the National Young Academy of Egypt will help organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Meeting of NYAs in October 2018 in Cairo. It will also work together with the South African Young Academy (SAYAS) to facilitate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Meeting (WWM) of Young Academies in August 2017 in South Africa. Furthermore, the GYA in collaboration with the University of Pretoria will continue the running and strengthening of the African Science Leadership Program (ASLP).

### **3. Leveraging Science Policy in Africa**

It is the uncompromising belief of the GYA that leveraging science for evidence-based policymaking promises to deliver tangible outcomes on the livelihood of societies and efficiency in problem solving. On this basis, the GYA will continue encouraging and supporting African young researchers to be involved in continental as well as international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational research dialogues and undertakings, especially in cross-cutting edge issues such as: women in science; promoting the diaspora engagement in Africa-related research; climate change and energy; and enforcing synergies between young scientists and policy-makers, among others. The GYA will, thus, continue monitoring the GloSYS Africa Project, currently being managed and implemented by a team of African GYA members, and which promises to deliver invaluable insights on the state of young scientists in the continent and beyond.