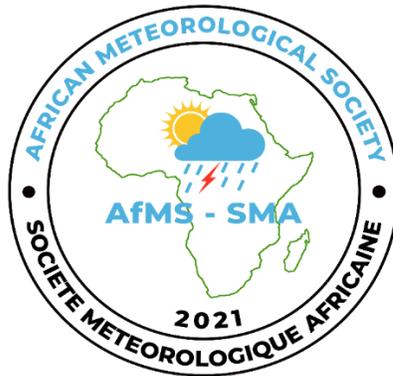


GET TO KNOW YOUR SOCIETY – A DOCUMENT TO INTRODUCE AfMS



INTRODUCING AfMS

Version 03

NMSocs, RMSs, and IFMS are a means of achieving collaboration at all levels to make the whole much bigger than the sum of its parts!



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ACRONYMS

ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
ACMAD	African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development
AfDB	African Development Bank
AfMS	African Meteorological Society
AMS	American Meteorological Society
AU	African Union
CMS	Chinese Meteorological Society
E&T	Education and Training
EMS	European Meteorological Society
EWS	Early Warning System
FLISMET	Federation of Latin American and Liberian Meteorological Societies
GW&CC	Global Warming and Climate Change
GA	General Assembly
GWE	Global Weather Enterprise
ICPAC	IGADD Climate Prediction, Application Centre
IFMS	International Forum of Meteorological Societies
IGADD	Inter-Governmental Authority on. Drought and Development
IMS	India Meteorological Society
MSJ	Meteorological Society of Japan
NMHS	National Meteorological/Hydrological Service:
NMSoc	National Meteorological Society
RMS	Regional Meteorological Society
RMetS	Royal Meteorological Society
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WB	World Bank

1 INTRODUCTION

Global Warming and Climate Change (**GW&CC**) are already causing weather related disasters more frequently than in the past. This has been caused by advanced nations and very large nations. Whereas, the contribution of all of Africa to this problem is 3 to 5%, this continent is liable to suffer most because of being unprepared to handle resulting disasters. The frequency and intensity of weather-related disasters is expected to increase in the future. Africa, with 34 least developed countries and remaining as developing countries, needs a lot of capacity building in terms of knowledge, infrastructure and Institutional and Societal capacity to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens.

Africa also needs tools and services as well as Early Warning Systems (**EWS**) to forecast occurrence of weather phenomena. It is the role of WMO to assist in Capacity Building and that of the World Bank to finance infrastructure of deserving countries. However, both of them having defined budgets and salary-based employees, their resources are limited. On the other hand, there are a lot of retired professionals and African diaspora members who are professors and researcher outside Africa but have a desire to help their continent/country and, of course, there are a lot of active professionals in public, private and university sectors as well as “Friends of Africa” who would also like to do such philanthropic work and help Africa in building capacity. We define “Friends of Africa” as all those people who are not Africans but are interested in assisting in building capacity in Africa. All these professionals are always looking for some organization(s) through which they can fulfill their desire to contribute to the capacity building in Africa. The National Meteorological Society (**NMSoc**) provides such an organization. The activities of NMSocs are tailored to provide a mechanism for collaboration, and professional development through Education and Training (**E&T**), Conferences, Collaboration in Science and Technology (**S&T**), and other opportunities for learning and publishing.

It is also known that not all NMSocs can fulfill this role on their own; they need external assistance. There is great power in collaboration and if NMSocs in the continent can collaborate and share various administrative procedures and knowledge, together, they can go much further. The Regional Meteorological Societies (**RMSs**) provide such an opportunity to collaborate and spread knowledge. Certain activities which individual NMSoc might find difficult, e.g., conducting regular conferences, publishing a Journal, certification of professionals, etc. can be achieved better at the Continental level. **We have created the African Meteorological Society (AfMS) to facilitate collaboration in all the above areas.** European Meteorological Society (**EMS**) is a great example of such a Society. Another example is the Federation of Latin American and Liberian Meteorological Societies (**FLISMET**) in South America.

Some NMSocs in various continents are quite strong and are prepared to provide assistance to the developing NMSocs, they can help in strengthening them to build capacity in all continents. For creating cooperation worldwide between all NMSocs, the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (**IFMS**) (www.ifms.org) was created.

The goal of all these organizations is to support and foster a spirit of unity among professionals and their Societies and to develop and strengthen professional relationships. They all promote cooperation in areas such as training and scientific development and they encourage the development of technologies to do better forecasting to improve their national economy and fight GW&CC. They also support participation in events at International Institutions and they advocate for meteorology professionals. By making these institutions very strong, we can promote the development of meteorology on all continents.

2 CREATION OF AfMS

The International Forum of Meteorological Societies (**IFMS**) felt the need for assisting the World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) and the World Bank (**WB**) in building capacity in Africa which is in dire need for assistance. With this idea in mind, IFMS with its dedicated African Council Members launched the effort to re-create AfMS that had existed in the 80s. With the very strong support of many African meteorological professionals and a lot of groundwork and preparation by IFMS, we declared AfMS created on February 10, 2021. Its registration was completed on March 1, 2022.

3 OBJECTIVE OF AfMS

The objective of establishing AfMS is to unite the NMSocs of Africa to create capacity in Africa through the following activities:

1. Organizing scientific Meetings and Lecture series;
2. Supporting scientific publications and research for the public welfare;
3. Publishing its own Scientific Journal, when feasible; this will generate pride of publishing in their own Journal of high quality;
4. When circumstances allow, holding Africa-wide Conference in one of the member countries or through on-line means or a combination of both to maximize participation;
5. Looking into the feasibility of Certification of professionals. If found important and feasible, it will be implemented; it will ensure high and uniform standard of professionals.
6. Assisting in Educational Programs by holding Webinars and online Training Programs and also, if feasible, by developing its own training programs specific to Africa's climatic conditions. This will be to supplement the existing Programs by various organizations and coordinate all of them;
7. Cooperating with the National Meteorological Services of Africa and with IFMS and other Regional Meteorological Societies (e.g., EMS and FLISMET) for the benefit of strengthening Global Weather Enterprise (GWE);
8. Instituting Recognition and Awards Program for Professionals both young and matured to encourage S&T development as well as recognizing the assistance of NMSocs to the AfMS development;
9. Promoting cooperation between Public, Private and Academic Sectors; and
10. Strengthening existing Meteorological Societies and creating new ones in those countries where no such society exists.

4 CONSTITUTION OF AfMS

After deciding to create the AfMS, we started working on the Constitution of the AfMS which was approved by potential member societies on February 10, 2021, the day we declared AfMS created. Since we had decided to have AfMS head office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where WMO's Regional Office for Africa (RA-1) is located, we decided to register AfMS in Ethiopia. In order to meet the requirements of the Ethiopian Registration Authority, the constitution had to be amended and was approved on March 1, 2022 by the Registration Authority. The Constitution also describes procedure to amend it and we amended it to clarify some matters in the Constitution. The current Constitution is available on the AfMS website.

5 AfMS MEMBERSHIP

It is to be noted that only NMSocs can become member of the AfMS. Therefore, it is important to have an NMSoc in your country to take advantage of the activities of the AfMS.

5.1 Existing NMSocs

There are 12 existing NMSocs from the following countries: Cameroon, Djibouti, **Egypt**, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, **Mauritius**, Nigeria, **South Africa**, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Those shown in green colour have already become members of AfMS and IFMS and those in red colour are yet to become members. Those who have not yet completed their membership forms are urged to do so on the following link:

Link: <https://forms.gle/7199YAFmZdcWVTzu6>

5.2 Countries where NMSoc does not Exist

The Value Proposition of AfMS is very strong, but the most benefits will go to the countries which are members of AfMS and IFMS. In order to be a member of AfMS and IFMS, you must have an NMSoc in your country. Therefore, all African countries which do not have an NMSoc are urged to create one.

The size of your NMSoc can depend upon the population size and the number of professionals in your country. We will help you in tailoring your NMSoc to fit these criteria.

We have done a couple of Webinars on creating an NMSoc. As a result of that, the following countries requested us to assist them in creating their society: Cameroon, Ghana, Gabon, Gambia, Comoros, South Africa, Lesotho, Republic of Central Africa, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire.

We have provided them the procedure to create an NMSoc and typical constitutions and have told them to contact us for any specific help. Thanks to their PR Mr Simplicie TCHINDA TAZO, Cameroon has already succeeded in creating an NMSoc in their country. They are now representing the Central Africa on the AfMS Board.

We are ready to assist other countries listed above to make their dream of having an NMSoc come true. We will also be giving Webinars again on how to create an NMSoc.

Please request assistance for creating your NMSoc through the following link:

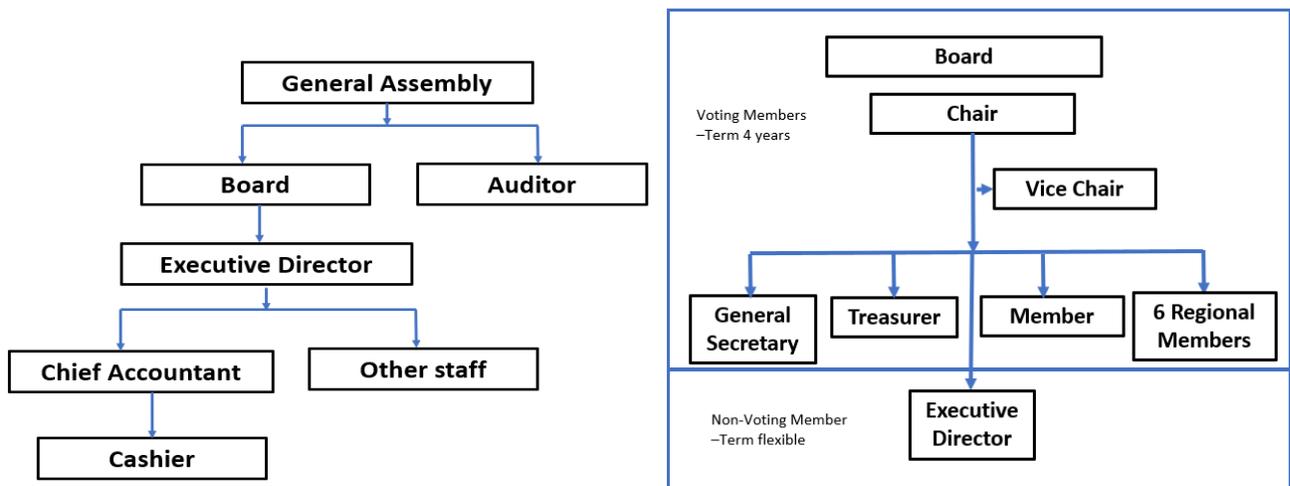
Link: <https://forms.gle/trsTPVNqKvKwRW7T9>

6 AfMS ORGANIZATION

The approved Constitution provides the following structure:

- General Assembly: Consists of all full Members as Voting Members and all associate Members as Observers. Associate members being those organizations which are not an NMSoc but they deal with meteorology.
- Auditor who reports to the General Assembly.
- Board with 11 members.
- Executive Director and other staff.

6.1 AfMS Overall Structure



6.2 Board Members as per AfMS Constitution

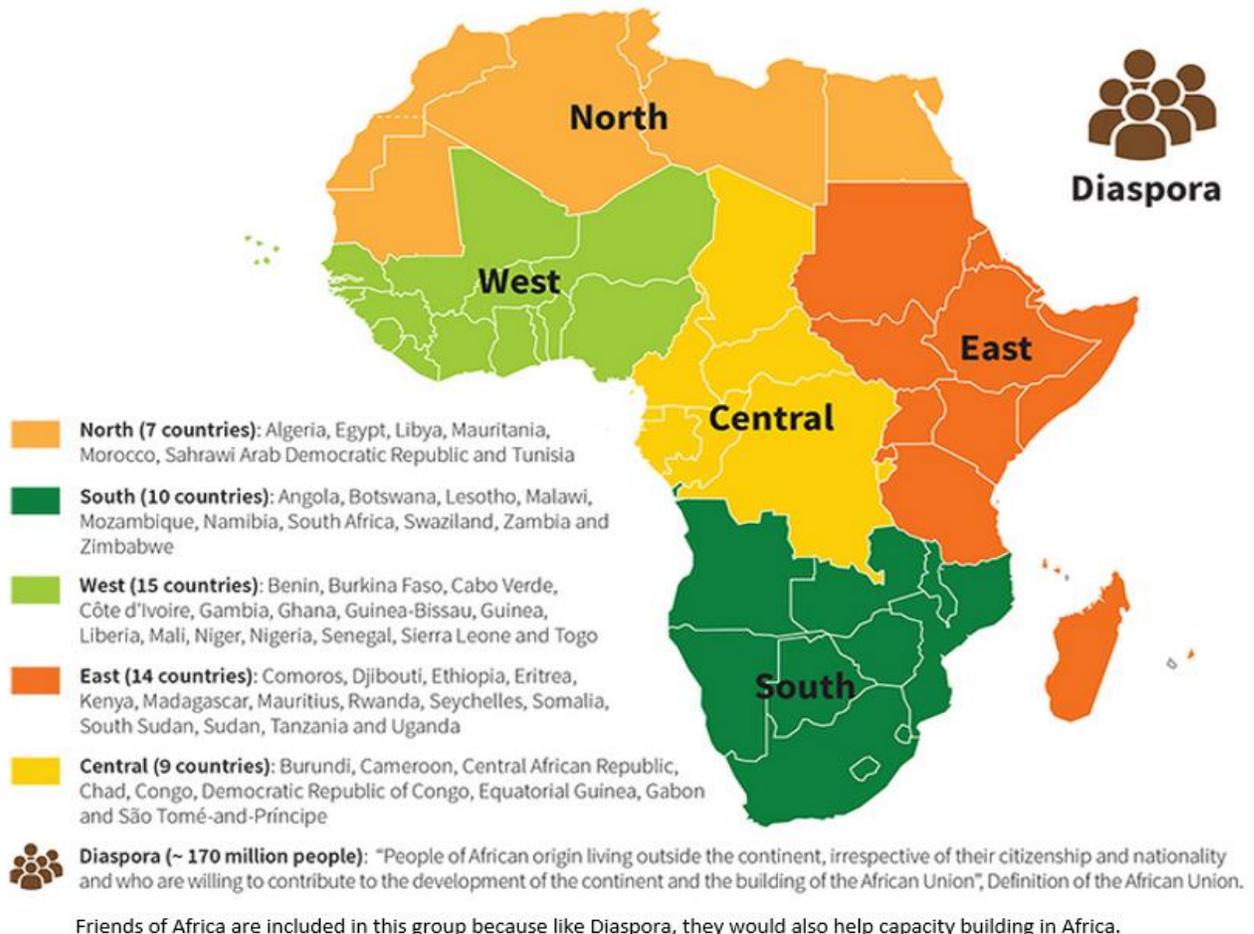
As per the Constitution, there are 11 Board Members which are as follows:

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and 7 other members including 6 Regional Members.

6.3 Regional Members

As per the following schematic diagram, there are six regions of Africa.

THE SIX REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION



6.4 Current Assignments Based on the above

All these positions listed in the previous section are elected positions. However, in order to formulate the organization and kick-start it, we have appointed an interim Board which will be in effect till we elect the first Board in late 2023 for which the procedure will be defined and agreed upon in a subsequent General Assembly.

In the Interim Board, all positions except for the representative from Northern and Southern Regions have been filled and are shown in the following Figure. The following two NMSocs exist in the Northern and Southern Regions, respectively:

1. [Egyptian Meteorological Society](#)
2. [South African Society of Atmospheric Sciences \(SASAS\)](#).

However, despite multiple reminders and great advantages available through AfMS and IFMS, they have not opted to become members of these organizations yet. We hope that soon they will realize the utility of being a member of the AfMS and IFMS fraternity and take advantage of our activities and services. Another NMSoc which has also not yet become a member is [Mauritius Meteorological Society](#). We also urge them to become a member and not deprive their Society members of the benefits provided by AfMS and IFMS.

The following figure shows the current Board of AfMS.

AfMS BOARD MEMBERS

					Vacant Egypt eligible but not yet a member of AfMS
Dr. Buruhani Nyenzi Chair	Mr. Workneh Degefu Vice Chair	Dr. Godwin Ayesiga General Secre	Ms Hidayat Senga Dr. Richard Damoah asurer	Mr. Kidanu Woldemedhin Member at Large	XYZ Rep Northern Region
Photo			Vacant South Africa eligible but not yet a member of AfMS		
Dr. Hassan Addoma Rep Eastern Region	Prof. Debo Adeyewa Rep West Region	MOLOU Emmanuel Rep Central Region	XYZ Rep. Southern Region	Dr. Richard Damoah rep. diaspora	Tafesse Gurmu Executive Director

Please note that only those NMSocs which have become Members of AfMS can apply for Board Membership.

7 OPERATIONALIZING AfMS

In order to operationalize AfMS, we have created Committees to work on its various activities.

7.1 List of Committees to divide the Work

In order to divide the work, we have defined the following Committees:

1. Financing Committee.
2. Committee to Create NMSocs and liaison with existing NMSocs, RMSs and IFMS.
3. Committee for attracting Volunteers and assigning them to other Committees.
4. Committee for Education and Training and conducting Webinars.
5. Communications Committee – takes care of Website, Social-Media, Newsletter, etc.
6. Committee for S&T Collaboration.
7. Committee to organize Conferences.
8. Publication Committee.
9. Awards Selection Committee.
10. Diaspora and Friends of Africa Committee.

7.2 Status of Committee Creation

1. Committee Creation has already begun. We have recruited a number of expert-volunteers to assist us as a part of the above Committees.
2. Up to now, approximately 100 people have offered to be Expert-Volunteers. Many of these are African diaspora professors and researcher who would like to return the benefit of their success to their continent. Many others are non-Africans (who we call “Friends of Africa”) who would like to assist in the capacity building in Africa.

3. One important Committee is for Managing Volunteers and is called “Committee for attracting Volunteers and assigning them to other Committees”. We are looking for a person to lead that Committee because it will help us recruit more experts/volunteers.

4. We have been able to assign Chairs to 9 of the 10 Committees and we are in search We are requesting all professionals whether from within Africa or its diaspora or also individuals from outside Africa who are interested in helping us in creating capacity in Africa. Please register on the following link:

Link: <https://forms.gle/rUctErkqgDRGWDMY5>

AfMS COMMITTEES CHAIRS



Rebecca Manzou
C1: Financing



Stephen Magezi
C2: Creating Societies



XYZ
C3: Recruiting Volunteers



Prof. Debo Adeyewa
C4: Education/Training



Freedom Mukanga
C5: Communications



MOLOU Emmanuel
C6: S&T Collaboration



Dr. Bob Ogwang
C7: Organizing Conferences



Prof. G.C. Ufoegbune
C8: Publication Committee



Prof. Jimmy Adegoke
C9: Awards



Prof. Charles Ichoku
C10: Diaspora & FOA

8 Financing of AfMS

One of the most important issues to be resolved is that of financing required by AfMS.

8.1 Financing Requirements

AfMS requires finances for the following activities. This might have to be direct or indirect funding through IFMS.

1. Operation of a small Secretariat which is required for organizational operations and **continuity**. As far as possible, we plan to pay honorarium and not salaries.
2. Publication of Newsletter, Maintenance of Website and social media usage for communication purposes.
3. Financial assistance to developing societies, to arrange local training and educational Programs. This assistance will be on a Project-by-Project basis. The society will define a “Capacity Building through Training” project which will be evaluated by AfMS and if found meaningful and useful for capacity building, AfMS will present it to IFMS to finance it partially or fully depending upon the circumstances related to the quality of the project, capacity of the society, availability of funding from their own Governments and availability of funds with AfMS/IFMS.

4. Many countries do not have a National Hydro-Met Society. In this world with Global Warming and Climate Change (**GW&CC**) the importance of these Societies cannot be overstated for promoting the profession of hydro-meteorology and building capacity through collaboration, training, Webinars, and Conferences (now also possible through Video Conferencing to optimize cost and maximize participation). Therefore, we are also trying to create Societies in those least developed and developing countries where none exists. *A major impediment in creating these societies is the need for some initial funding to incorporate and start such a society. They need, not only mentoring but also some financial assistance from an organization like AfMS/IFMS.*
5. Limited Travel expenses of delegates of LDCs who cannot afford to pay for the travel for their participation in important Meetings of the AfMS and some travel of the Secretariat personnel and Board Members for very essential business,
6. Running Training Programs through Webinars and in person – the latter, especially during our AfMS Conferences.

8.2 Potential Sources of Funding

Following are some sources of funding AfMS will look into:

- 1) Dues from member societies – both full members and associate members.
- 2) Any financial assistance and in-kind assistance from NMHSs.
- 3) Corporate support through sponsorships.
- 4) Individuals who care about international cooperation in science might be persuaded to provide small donations toward the operations of AfMS which is trying to develop capacity for all African nations. We need to make a convincing Value Proposition to achieve this.
- 5) AfMS being a Society from which WMO and World Bank can get maximum benefits, they should be able to support it financially.
- 6) African Development Bank and other Africa-wide institutions responsible for capacity building.
- 7) National Aid Agencies of developed countries such as the US, Canada, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, etc. can assist IFMS which can in turn assist AfMS and any other Societies.
- 8) Project-based grants from organizations to be identified.
- 9) Philanthropic grants. There are philanthropic foundations that provide grants to support non-profits that are doing good work. These grants sometimes have very few constraints and can be used to cover normal operating expenses that help ensure the success of the guarantee organization.

9 INAUGURATION OF AfMS

The Inauguration of AfMS will be held on November 30, 2022.

9.1 Invitees

- 1) We will be doing a grand Virtual inauguration of AfMS because that will set tone for its future visibility which, in turn, will make it possible to look for the assistance of all kinds.
- 2) We are inviting all members of the Global Weather Enterprise to participate. That includes all PRs, all Presidents of NMSocs and RMSs, IFMS Council Members
- 3) Here is the list of people we have invited to speak:
 - a) The Chief Guest and the keynote speaker are: Mr. David Grimes – Immediate past President of WMO.
 - b) WMO (Rep will be Mr. Tatsuya Kimura – Director of OCP)
 - c) President of AMS Fr. Richard and Vice President of RMetS and Dr. Shanti Majithia EMS.
 - d) Some African heads of organizations.
 - e) Some institutions including the WB, AfDB and others
 - f) Etc.

9.2 Structure of the Inauguration Ceremony

- 1) Inauguration Ceremony will be of 3 hours duration
- 2) Some examples are of items to be included are:
 - a) *Introductory speeches by Organizers.*
 - b) *Speeches by high Profile people.*
 - c) *Opportunity for a short speech to the heads of organizations which commit to help in some important ways i.e., finances, E&T, etc.*
- 3) These speeches should be based on what the speaker's organization can do for the development of AfMS.
- 4) Inauguration is planned for some time in July, 2022 and the request to be invited can be registered on the following link:

Link: <https://forms.gle/rUctErkqgDRGWDMY5>

10 IN PERSON-CONFERENCES

- 1) In person Conferences should be held at least every other year in the beginning.
- 2) One year it can be in-person Conference and the other year it can be Virtual. Once we feel comfortable, annual in-person Conferences could be planned.
- 3) The first In-person conference should be held in the year 2024.

11 AfMS JOURNAL

One of the important activities of AfMS will be to have its own ***Journal of Meteorology and Hydrology***. We have a number of very capable people who have offered to be reviewers for submitted papers. Our aim is to have the Committee fully active latest by January 2023 and start advertising for the submission of papers.

12 CONCLUSIONS

- 1) AfMS' main objective is to assist WMO, NMHS and the WB in building capacity through the services of professionals from Africa and outside Africa - active and retired, diaspora and students.
- 2) Starting an organization is an important first step, but staffing it, financing it and planning its direction and operations are very critical steps which is what we are concentrating on.
- 3) We need to make a Strategic Plan and Operational Plan based on available examples. These Plans will set the long-term, medium-term and short-term goals of AfMS.
- 4) We will need dedicated volunteers and assistance of IFMS, EMS and also the assistance of strong NMSocs such as AMS, RMetS, IMS, CMS, MSJ, etc.
- 5) It will also require financing which we must start looking for immediately.
- 6) ***In order to spread the benefits of AfMS, we need to create an NMSoc in every African country. We urge all PRs of those countries which do not have an NMSoc, to help us start one in your country.***
- 7) A lot is dependent on commitment of promoters – we are fully committed to make this organization a strong catalyst for creating Capacity in Africa which needs it very badly to combat adverse effects of GW&CC and to improve its economy by creating capability for better forecasting.
- 8) We need to find committed experts and volunteers to help us in the development of capacity in Africa. We are grateful to all those who have already offered their services and request others to make their contribution.



9) Although AfMS is a volunteer-based organization, it does need some money to execute its activities. Therefore, we request all National Meteorological Services to contribute to the operations of AfMS both financially and in kind. ***Above all, please provide moral support.***

10) We request all African Professionals and friends of Africa to donate whatever amount they can.

Thanks to RMetS, with inputs also from IMS, the new Weather, and Climate Learning Portal for Africa <https://ifms.org/index.cfm/ifms/afms-learning-portal/> has been developed and provides a clear, single point of reference for people across Africa to access recommended courses and resources on weather and climate-related topics that have been subject to expert scrutiny.'

*Help us as volunteers - help us by donating money to build capacity
in Africa!*

Best wishes for a successful Inauguration on November 30, 2022