

Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the world and has sent a shock wave globally with a greater impact on the governments and populace. It is evidently clear that the global spread of COVID-19 has been hard, particularly on America, Italy, Spain, and some other countries in Europe, but the infection rate has been generally quite low in Africa, a fact that could be attributed to the low testing capacity of most African nations, or to other factors yet to be determined. The relatively lower infection rates in Africa should be seen as a good opportunity for the nations to prepare well for the pandemic. In order to be proactive in its response, ASRIC has urgently assembled some eminent scientists and professionals to help Africa tackle the effects of the pandemic.

Knowing fully well that COVID-19 presently has no cure, treatment or vaccine for now, the entire continent is applying the non-pharmaceutical interventions that include (self-isolation when sick, social distancing, hand washing hygiene improvements, working from home, and closing schools, and/or national lockdown) for containment of the disease which also has negative consequences.

The ASRIC's intervention in tackling COVID-19 is through the formation of the following:

1. ASRIC Advisory Board on STI Intervention for COVID-19

This Board is to advise and guide ASRIC's intervention in the pandemic through formulating policies/guidelines, research and development plans and activities with emphasis on getting the right diagnosis, therapy, and vaccines among others. They are also looking at the needs of hospitals in terms of **development or improvement** of equipment like testing kits, ventilators, protective gears and other equipment that can be acquired.

2. Working Group to Study the Impact of COVID-19 on Africa's Food and Nutritional Security

The objective of this working group is to develop a guided response that will minimize the impact of Covid-19 on Africa's Food and Nutrition Security in order to ensure the wellbeing of Africa's citizens.

3. Working Group to Study the Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 on Africa

This objective of this working group is to develop, guide and advice on how to ameliorate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic (e.g. the results of some of

the containment measures like social distancing, lockdowns, etc., on the lives of people already burdened with other diseases and living on a less than a dollar per day). The group will also work out/help on the development of a non-pharmaceutical intervention measures that is driven by Africa's culture and the realities on the ground.

4. Working Group on Africa's Indigenous Knowledge to Preventing and Controlling Emerging Infectious Diseases on the Continent like COVID-19: Utilizing an Afro-centric Response

This working group has the objective to develop and implement Afro-centric response to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases building on the Africa's abundant indigenous knowledge rooted in Africa's ethno geographical and cultural characteristics through an R&D comprehensive programme. This programme aimed at the development of traditional medicine intervention to the pandemic; and posting community prevention measures.

ASRIC acknowledges what is going on globally in terms of race and competition in the aforementioned areas above, hence we are doing our outmost possible best in utilizing the available resource at our disposal to safeguard and protect the continent against COVID-19 pandemic.

Africa is calling upon

African Scientific Community to hands for Africa and take up this responsibility, embark more on cooperative research and stand firm to abate the pandemic.

Africans must learn to "stay safe" and follow all the measures, injunctions, and interventions made or issued by their respective nations.

African Venture Capitalist Research and Development is the only way to help the continent to survive; we urge all who are willing and able to come and invest with us.

Yes, We are AFRICAN

AFRICA is Calling!!!!

Come and join us in our Research and Development efforts.

Together We Can!

27th April, 2020