

10 January 2019

Mr. Robert-Jan Smits
Open Access Envoy
The European Commission

Dear Commissioner Smits,

The African Academy of Sciences is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that leads the Continent in funding, advocacy for and recognizing excellence in science in Africa. It represents all fields of research and all countries across the Continent. The goal of the AAS is to enable science in Africa to thrive for the benefit of the African people and people everywhere in the world. The Academy seeks to shift the center of gravity for African science to Africa herself.

We write to register our support of Plan-S of the European Commission. We believe that researchers, funders, institutions, journalists and the public must demand that research output be made fully accessible in order to enable research to advance responsibly, transparently and in the interest of science itself. Plan-S stands as a model to advance science globally.

We believe that Africa is specially positioned to help lead the world in establishing a mode of research communication that is designed to serve the common good, not the interests of science publishers. For this reason, we recently launched [AAS Open Research](#): to enable AAS-affiliated scientists and others to share their work in a manner that is immediate, transparent, open, accessible and that minimizes the bias that persists, especially against researchers outside the most developed world, in the traditional publishing industry.

We commend your courage and that of your colleagues in offering a vision for the world in which research results are distributed to be built upon for the benefit of humankind. Please reach out to us where there is an opportunity to work with you to promote open science.

Sincerely yours,



Felix Dapare Dakora, Ph.D.
President