**MEARIM IV Resolution on the African Astronomical Society**

The Fourth Middle East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting (MEARIM IV),

Recognising

1. That at a workshop in Ouagadougou in 2010, an interim working group was established to consult widely and lead a process towards the establishment of an African Astronomical Society (AfAS),
2. That at the second Middle East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting (MEARIM II), held in 2011 in Cape Town, executive officers for AfAS were nominated and endorsed by MEARIM II participants,
3. That AfAS was launched at a side event of MEARIM II in Cape Town in April 2011,
4. That since its launch in 2011, AfAS’ activities have been generally unsatisfactory, and AfAS has not lived up to the high expectations that were created at MEARIM II,
5. That communication regarding AfAS has been poor, resulting in many stakeholders being of the impression that AfAS is not in existence anymore,
6. That the founding president of AfAS, Emeritus Prof. P.N. Okeke, has indicated in his written message to MEARIM IV on 24th May 2017, that he wishes to nominate an interim President and Secretary,
7. That the spirit in which AfAS was formed, and the bold objectives that it set itself, are still very much as relevant as they were at MEARIM II,
8. That MEARIM IV is not empowered to take any decisions on behalf of AfAS,

Resolves

1. That a group of nominated individuals, selected at MEARIM IV, engage with any remaining AfAS officers, and consult any relevant documentation such as the AfAS constitution, in order to confirm the status of AfAS, and to discuss possibilities for its future,
2. That this group includes **Solomon Tessema, Simon Anguma, Lerothodi Leeuw, Jamal Mimouni, Zacharie Kam, Mirjana Povic, Esther Hanson and Etsegenet Getachew**, and should be supported by the regional coordinators of the three African Regional Offices of Astronomy for Development (ROADs),
3. That this group of nominated individuals should report back to the participants of MEARIM IV through a statement on “the status and future of AfAS” by 31st August 2017
4. That this statement should be made publicly available by 30th September 2017.