



AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY

Leading Nephrology in Africa

AFRAN Board Meeting Minutes

4 February 2026

17h00 GMT / 19h00 SAST

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81428978780?pwd=LgTyr3G9ANMGyVg14mIPLcvOYLhzTy.1>

Attendees:

Abdou Niang	AN
Facial Jarraya	FJ
Rasha Darwish	RD
Nihal Bashir	NB
Gordana Cavric	GC
Sampson Antwi	SA
Wesam Ismail	WI
Khalida Soki	KS
Yannick Nlandu	YL
Paschal Joseph Ruggajo	PJR
Razeen Davids	RD
Ayman Refaie	AR

The AFRAN board meeting focused on several key initiatives including the upcoming 2027 Congress in Tanzania, where PJR reported significant progress with venue arrangements and local support. The board discussed collaboration with IFPNA, with SA emphasizing the importance of paediatric nephrology representation in future Congresses. AR presented plans for a new scientific writing course led by Professor Ahmed Shokeir, while RD highlighted the need for AFRAN to support the African Journal of Nephrology's migration to a professional hosting platform at a cost of \$2,700 annually. The meeting also covered updates on the ISGD MOU for pathology training across Africa, and NB raised concerns about Web and Media Committee engagement and requested support for promoting AFRAN activities across social media platforms.

Action Points:

- PJR (Tanzania LOC): Inform Francis Fredericks and other local paediatric nephrologists about collaboration with AFRAN and AFRNA for 2027 Congress.
- WI and RG: Form a working group (3-4 people) to plan ISGD training project for pathology/nephrology.
- NB: Update and upload AFRAN webinars to YouTube channel.

- NB: Coordinate with committee chairs to assign dedicated social media correspondents from each committee.
- Regional representatives: Collect and submit contact information and data for all national nephrology societies in their regions.
- FJ: Organize executive committee meeting by end of February to discuss African Journal of Nephrology funding.
- RD: Send updated funding request letter for journal migration costs before executive committee meeting.
- Newsletter team: Write and submit content for 2027 Congress, ASGT collaboration, Impact Africa Summit, and other requested sections by next Sunday.
- AR - Research Committee: Launch scientific writing course by April 2026.
- AFRAN Board: Review and approve \$2,700 annual funding for journal hosting costs at executive committee meeting.
- PJR (Tanzania LOC): Deliver sample paraphernalia (flyers, banners) for WCN 2026 to KS.
- KS: Create advertisement for AFRAN members attending WCN to join Global Village booth activities.
- Web and Media Committee: Update AFRAN website with 2026 welcome message and remove outdated 2025 content.
- FJ: Contact pharmaceutical companies to seek funding support for African Journal of Nephrology.
- AFRAN Board: Discuss AFRAN Awards implementation at the next ExCo meeting.
- AFRAN Transplantation Committee: Submit summary of main projects (transplant course, guidelines, *Noxut* group) for next newsletter.

AFRAN Project and Collaboration Updates

The meeting opened with greetings and updates from various participants, including FJ, who outlined the agenda for the meeting. Key topics included updates on the AFRAN project, collaboration with AFTA, and participation in the Impact Africa Summit. FJ also mentioned the signing of a pre-MOU with RD and updates on Glomcom. The meeting was set to cover the World Kidney Congress, membership updates, AFRAN Awards confirmation, and contributions from board members and regional representatives. There was a request to send a meeting link to NB via WhatsApp due to connection issues. The conversation ended with plans to discuss the second newsletter and closing remarks.

AFRAN 2027 Preparation Update

Pascal provided an update on the preparations for AFRAN 2027, including ongoing local organizing committee meetings, website updates, and plans to meet with the Ministry of Health in February. He mentioned efforts to design advertisements, reach out to local sponsors, and prepare materials for the World Congress of Nephrology 2026. The team is also working on finalizing venue details, including the number of halls needed, and seeking guidance on expected numbers and sponsorships. Prof emphasized the importance of regular updates and timelines for the preparation process, while RD highlighted the need to improve collaboration with the International Federation of Pediatric Nephrology Associations (IFPNA) after previous difficulties.

AFRAN-AFNA Paediatric Nephrology Collaboration

The meeting discussed collaboration between AFRAN and AFNA, with SA explaining the paediatric nephrology perspective and historical context of their partnership. The group agreed that paediatric nephrology should be integrated into AFRAN's activities, with SA emphasizing the need for formal documentation of their collaboration. Lenovo highlighted past challenges between paediatric and adult nephrologists, while suggesting that the 2027 Congress could be an opportunity to formalize their partnership through a MOU.

AFRAN-AFRNA Collaboration Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on formalizing collaboration between AFRAN and AFRNA, with an emphasis on including paediatric nephrologists in the 2027 Congress. SA suggested involving Francis Frederick from Tanzania as a local catalyst for this collaboration, and the group agreed on the need for an MOU to clearly define responsibilities. Dr. Rasha highlighted the financial challenges of supporting paediatric nephrologists at AFRAN Congresses, suggesting that EPNA contact pharmaceutical companies for sponsorship. The group also discussed the Impact Africa Summit and a recent MOU with the International Society of Glomerular Diseases (ISGD) to support pathology training in Africa.

Improving Renal Pathology Services in Africa

The meeting focused on planning a project to improve renal pathology services in Africa. Wesam proposed forming a small committee to develop a prototype training program in countries with established nephrology practices, starting with Rwanda. The group agreed to create a working group including members from AFRAN and ISG to continue planning. Faisal highlighted the importance of including francophone countries and countries without established transplantation programs. The group also discussed the need to recognize outstanding contributions to African nephrology through awards, with Fatu suggesting that AFRAN should confer lifetime achievement awards at its congresses.

World Congress and Member Honors

The meeting discussed two main topics: honouring distinguished members and participation in the upcoming World Congress in Yokohama, Japan. For the first topic, the group agreed to invite Sarala to discuss proposals for honouring members, with the next executive meeting set to address this. Regarding the World Congress, KS and RD outlined plans for the AFRAN booth in the Global Village, including displaying newsletters, pins, and promotional materials, with NB suggesting the creation of a video featuring committee chairs. The group also discussed the need for volunteers to staff the booth during the Congress, with YN offering support from YNC members.

AFRAN Membership and Collaboration Update

The meeting focused on AFRAN membership renewal and regional collaboration. AFRAN reported that 35 members had paid their fees, with 861 members in total being followed up, and discussed the importance of aggressive reminders for renewals, particularly for board members and committee members by March. The group also addressed the need for regional representatives to establish connections with local nephrology societies, with Lenovo emphasizing the importance of collecting and sharing country data on the AFRAN website to improve collaboration and communication.

AFRAN Board Initiatives and Updates

The AFRAN board meeting covered several key initiatives and updates. MD reported progress on contacting country executives in Southern Africa, with only a few societies actively functioning. NB highlighted challenges with the Web and Media Committee's social media engagement and proposed having dedicated representatives from each committee to support their promotional efforts. AR announced new initiatives for the Research and Ethics Committee, including a scientific writing course led by Prof Ahmed Shokeir and plans for awards to recognize distinguished scientific publications. The board discussed the need to migrate the African Journal of Nephrology to a

more robust hosting platform, with RD requesting AFRAN's support to cover the \$2,700 annual hosting fee. The executive committee will meet to further discuss journal funding and migration plans.

Notes

Date: January 2026

Platform: Virtual (Online)

Minutes Prepared By: LH (Turners Secretariat)

1. Opening and Welcome

AN welcomed all Board Members to the first AFRAN Board Meeting of 2026.

The President extended New Year greetings and expressed appreciation for the continued dedication and contributions of Board Members toward advancing AFRAN's strategic objectives. He emphasized that 2026 would be a pivotal preparatory year leading up to the AFRAN 2027 Congress.

2. Attendance

Members Present:

3. Adoption of Agenda

The General Secretary, FJ presented the proposed agenda, which was adopted without objection.

4. AFRAN 2027 Congress – Tanzania Update

PR presented a comprehensive progress report on preparations for the AFRAN 2027 Congress scheduled for 22–25 June 2027 in Tanzania.

4.1 Local Organising Committee (LOC)

Weekly LOC meetings are taking place.

Sub-committees have been formed to manage logistics, sponsorship, scientific programme, and communications.

Structured timelines are being implemented.

4.2 Government Engagement

An official appointment has been secured with the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health.

Efforts are underway to secure endorsement from the Minister of Health.

Government support is being pursued to enhance national visibility and potential funding.

4.3 Venue and Logistics

Discussions with the Convention Centre are ongoing.

Attendance is projected at approximately 800 delegates.

Hall configurations are being assessed to optimize cost efficiency.

Consideration is being given to larger halls for opening/closing ceremonies and smaller parallel session rooms.

4.4 Promotion and Marketing

The official website is under revision and will soon display AFRAN 2027 materials.

Congress promotion is being conducted during national CMEs.

Promotional flyers and congress cards are being prepared for distribution at international meetings.

Sponsorship discussions with local pharmaceutical companies have commenced.

4.5 Board Discussion

The President emphasized:

Strict adherence to timelines.

Structured communication (First Announcement, Second Announcement, Call for Abstracts).

Regular reporting to the Board.

The Board unanimously reaffirmed its full support for the Tanzania LOC.

5. Collaboration with IFPNA

AN provided an update on discussions with the new leadership of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association.

5.1 Background

Previous joint congresses between AFRAN and IFPNA had been successful.

Operational challenges were experienced during the Abidjan Congress.

The Tunisia Congress was independently organized by AFRAN.

5.2 Recent Developments

A constructive meeting was held with the newly appointed IFPNA President.

Both organizations expressed willingness to re-establish collaboration.

A mutual understanding was reached that future partnerships must:

Clearly define roles and responsibilities.

Establish financial transparency.

Ensure balanced scientific representation.

5.3 Board Input

SA highlighted:

The importance of paediatric nephrology representation.

The overlap between adult and paediatric nephrology practice in Africa.

The need to integrate paediatric content within the core scientific programme.

The importance of paediatric representation on the LOC.

The Board agreed in principle to pursue collaboration, subject to a structured agreement.

6. Impact Africa Summit

Feedback was shared regarding AFRAN's engagement with the Impact Africa Summit.

Key points included:

Increased visibility for AFRAN.

Opportunities for partnerships.

Potential funding and advocacy collaborations.

The Board encouraged sustained engagement in high-profile continental platforms.

7. ESGD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

An update was provided regarding the ESGD MOU.

The draft agreement has been reviewed.

Minor amendments are being finalized.

Formal signing is anticipated at an upcoming AFRAN meeting.

The Board approved continued negotiations to conclude the agreement.

8. GlomCon Collaboration

The Board discussed the ongoing relationship with GlomCon.

Key areas of collaboration:

Educational webinars.

Shared academic programming.

Cross-promotion of nephrology education initiatives.

The Board acknowledged the value of digital academic collaboration in expanding reach across Africa.

9. World Kidney Congress Participation

AFRAN plans to participate in the Global Village at the upcoming World Kidney Congress.

Objectives:

Promote AFRAN 2027.

Increase membership.

Strengthen global partnerships.

Distribute promotional materials.

Preparations are underway for branded materials and delegate engagement strategies.

10. Membership Update

An update was provided on membership growth and engagement.

Discussion points included:

Regional recruitment efforts.

Engagement of early-career nephrologists.

Improved membership communication.

Ensuring accurate and updated membership records.

The Board encouraged regional representatives to actively support membership drives.

11. AFRAN Awards

The Board confirmed continuation of the AFRAN Awards.

Key considerations:

Transparent nomination process.

Defined award categories.

Regional representation.

Timely announcement prior to the 2027 Congress.

Further details will be circulated for Board approval.

12. Regional Representatives' Updates

Board members from various regions provided updates on:

National nephrology activities.

Training programmes.

Local conferences and CMEs.

Challenges in workforce capacity and infrastructure.

AN encouraged continued regional reporting to strengthen continental collaboration.

13. Communication Update

FJ addressed communication matters:

Improvement of mailing lists.

Website updates.

Increased social media engagement.

Consistent dissemination of official announcements.

The Board agreed on the importance of structured communication to maintain credibility and engagement.

14. Committee Updates

Committee leads provided brief updates on:

Scientific Committee planning.

Education initiatives.

Congress programme development.

Partnership engagement.

Members were reminded to submit written updates in advance of future meetings.

15. Newsletter Preparation

The Board agreed to proceed with the Second AFRAN Newsletter.

Content to include:

AFRAN 2027 updates.

Partnership highlights.

Educational initiatives.

Member achievements.

Upcoming events.

A timeline for submission of contributions was established.

16. Resolutions and Action Items

Tanzania LOC to continue weekly meetings and provide quarterly updates.

Structured collaboration framework to be developed with IFPNA.

ESGD MOU to be finalized and signed.

AFRAN to actively participate in the World Kidney Congress Global Village.

Membership recruitment strategies to be strengthened regionally.

AFRAN Awards framework to be finalized.

Second Newsletter to be published within the agreed timeframe.

17. Any Other Business

No additional matters were formally raised.

18. Closing

The President thanked all members for their active participation and reaffirmed the importance of unity, accountability, and strategic growth as AFRAN advances toward 2027.

The meeting was adjourned following completion of the agenda.