



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



Prepared by: SANORD Central Office

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1. REPORTING PERIOD

This report covers the period 1 January 2022– 30 November 2022. The report gives a detailed description of the activities of the SANORD Central Office (SCO) in terms of its office operations, Secretariat function, Research Working Group and the vital input from our Contact Persons at each member institution in the SANORD network.

2. GOVERNANCE

2.1 The Council

The Council is the total membership in SANORD and comprises a well-represented cohort of 32 Southern African institutions and 24 Nordic member institutions. The Central office and the invaluable willingness and efforts of its members direct the organisation. Members' volunteer their time to serve on various committees to support the Central Office in achieving SANORD's focused goals.

The Council elects a Vice Chairperson bi-annually on a rotation basis for a two-year term. Articles of our Statutes refer to the Vice Chancellor/Principals or their respective proxy's as representatives as Council members of SANORD. The Council members have been instrumental in the development of policy and strategies related to the Central office and its activities, as well as to innovative initiatives for SANORD research, collaboration and programme of development.

The SANORD Council gathers once a year in conjunction with our annual conference. The 2021 Council meeting took place online at the SANORD Annual Conference in Bergen.

2.2 Executive members

SANORD Chairperson

At the Virtual Council meeting in Bergen 2022, the University of Bergen (UiB), and the Western Norway University of Science and Technology (HVL), Prof Gro Anita Flaten, HVL represented SANORD as the chair.

In accordance with the SANORD Statute, Art. V, 4; the clause requires the rotation of the Chairperson between the Southern African and Nordic regions applicable. It meant that the current Vice-Chairperson, Durban University of Technology (DUT) automatically becomes the new Chairperson for the period 1 January 2023–31 December 2023.

- **Chair:** Durban University of Technology, represented by: Dr Lavern Samuels

According to the SANORD Statute, **Art, V, 4** the SANORD Council elects a new Vice-chairperson bi-annually. At the Council meeting on 6 December 2022, the Council announces the proposal for election of the new Vice chair for the period 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023. The incoming Chair and Vice Chairperson was:

- **Vice-chairperson** – to be elected in January 2023

2.3 Board members

The Board members are elected based on nominations by the Council members to serve a two-year office term. The SANORD Council Chair and Vice-chair are also the Chair and Vice- chair of the Board. According to the Statutes, Art. V1, 2, three institutions in the southern African and three in the Nordic region are elected to serve on the Board. The following Board members were elected at the Council meeting on 9 September 2021 at University of Bergen, Norway to assume duties from 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023.

Board members for the period 2021-2022 comprised:

	INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVE	REGION
1	Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL), Norway	Pro Rector Gro Anita Flaten Chairperson	Nordic
2	Durban University of Technology (DUT) South Africa	Lavern Samuels Vice-chairperson	South
3	Lund University, Sweden	Lena Eskilsson	Nordic
4	Malmö University, (MAH), Sweden	Cecilia Christersson (2021-2022) Rebecka Lettevall (2023)	Nordic
5	Tampere University, Finland	Sami Pirkola Supported by: Kaisa Karki	Nordic
6	Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique	Orlando Quilambo (2022) Manuel Guilherme Junior (2023)	South
7	University of Pretoria, South Africa	Setsipane Mokoduwe	South
8	University of Namibia UNAM Namibia	Kenneth Kamwi Matengu	South
9	SANORD Central Office, Cape Town, South Africa	Umesh Bawa Kelly Cyster Secretariat	SCO

Council members since 2021-2022:

Nordic Region - 24 Member Institutions		
No.	Institutions	Countries

1	Aarhus University	Denmark
2	Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences	Norway
3	Karlstad University	Sweden
4	Linköping University	Sweden
5	Linnaeus University	Sweden
6	Lund University	Sweden
7	Malmö University	Sweden
8	Nordic Africa Institute	Sweden
9	Nord University	Norway
10	The Arctic University of Norway	Norway
11	University of Bergen	Norway
12	University of Eastern Finland	Finland
13	University of Gothenburg	Sweden
14	University of Iceland	Iceland
15	University of Jyväskylä	Finland
16	University of Southeast Norway	Norway
17	University of Tampere	Finland
18	University of Turku	Finland
19	University West	Sweden
20	Uppsala University	Sweden
21	VID Specialized University	Norway
22	Western Norway University of Applied Sciences	Norway
23	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Norway
24	University of Oulu	Norway
Southern African Region -32 Member Institutions		
1	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	South Africa
2	Central University of Technology	South Africa
3	Chinhoyi University of Technology	Zimbabwe
4	Durban University of Technology	South Africa
5	Eduardo Mondlane University	Mozambique
6	Great Zimbabwe University	Zimbabwe
7	Lupane State University	Zimbabwe
8	Namibia University of Science and Technology	Namibia

9	National University of Science and Technology	Zimbabwe
10	Nelson Mandela University	South Africa
11	North-West University	South Africa
12	Rhodes University	South Africa
13	Vaal University of Technology	South Africa
14	University of Botswana	Botswana
15	University of Cape Town	South Africa
16	University of Eswatini	Swaziland
17	University of Free State	South Africa
18	University of Johannesburg	South Africa
19	University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa
20	University of Limpopo	South Africa
21	University of Lusaka	Zambia
22	University of Malawi	Malawi
23	University of Mpumalanga	South Africa
24	University of Namibia	Namibia
25	University of Pretoria	South Africa
26	University of Stellenbosch	South Africa
27	University of the Western Cape	South Africa
28	University of Zambia	Zambia
29	University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
30	University of Zululand	South Africa
31	Mzuzu University	Malawi
32	University of Venda	South Africa

2.4 Nominations Committee

A new expanded Nominations Committee comprising the following was accepted by the Board. The committee has powers of co-option to meet the task completion needs

Nominations Committee members 2021-2022:

Institutions in Nordic Region		Institutions in Southern African Region	
1.	University of Turku , Finland Pia le Grand; Irinja Parkinen	Cape Peninsula Univ. Tech. South Africa Judy Peter	

2.	Aarhus University Bjarke Paarup	Rhodes University, South Africa Orla Quinlan
3.	Lund University Pär Svensson	University of the Western Cape Jose Frantz
4.	University of Eastern Finland Roseanna Avento	National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe Yogi Naik

The duties of the Nominations committee include:

- i.** Evaluating all new applications for membership and make a recommendation to the Board
- ii.** Assisting in the development of guidelines for:
 - New membership applications
 - Theme group projects research seed funding calls,
 - Brian O’Connell scholarships criteria and call
 - Student Interns criteria and call for application
- iii.** Evaluating and making recommendations to the Board concerning applications for Theme Group Projects funding support in collaboration with the Research Working group, and the Brian O’Connell Scholarship applications;
- iv.** Coordinating the Council and Board elections and prepare recommendations to the Council
- v.** Undertaking any other task as deemed needed by the Board.

2.5 Contact Persons (CPs)

Each member institution appoints a Contact Person who is the communication link between the SANORD Central Office (SCO) and the member institution. CPs play a pivotal role in circulating information through the member institutions’ communication channels. They are the key channels and instrumental in keeping their institutions up to date with all the latest news, announcements and relevant matters of SANORD. CPs meet at least three a year to discuss matters of interest and to keep in touch with the activities in the network. CPs are also valuable in tracking colleagues from neighbouring institutions where necessary.

3. Membership

Since 2022 to date the membership have increased to 32 members in the Southern African region across the following seven countries such as (Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and 24 in the Nordic region across 5 Countries such as (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) This brought the total of membership in SANORD at fifty-six (56) members

3.1 Membership Fees:

SANORD, being a non-profitable organization, is dependent on the payment of membership fees by the members.

Since 2019, the membership fees were fixed until further notice at:

- R30 000 for Southern African members
- EUR 4500 for Nordic members

Members are levied to pay their membership fees by the end of March each year to ensure that full membership remains active. At most 80% of the members honour their membership fees payments while 20% of the members.

4. SANORD Central Office (SCO)

The SCO, is admirably supported by Kelly Cyster, Zenande Magida and Ali Ridha Khan have successfully delivered on all the goals and objectives for this year despite the challenges presented by Covid-19 previously. The challenges though many on a personal and international front, have led to an opportunity for us to work more collectively and with compassion and solidarity. SANORD remains a network of committed, socially conscious institutions that focus on the public good in its vision and mission. The SCO remains committed to supporting the delivery of this endeavour.

4.1 Appointment of a Nordic Coordinator.

SANORD membership has healthily increased from seven founding members to the current 56 members. This requires a greater depth and breadth of administrative and scholarly engagement. Given the increased funding opportunities from Brussels for North- South collaborations and an Africa focus, the SANORD consortium is well placed to leverage this engagement. The request is for the Coordinator to engage and communicate with Nordic members, recruit other Nordic members and work strategically in establishing funding from EU and other organs among other roles for SANORD as a whole.

To support the vision of the Board to increase engagements across and within member institutions within the organisation, it is recommended that:

- The Council considered the Board proposal to establish the position of a Nordic Coordinator, who would coordinate the engagements of Nordic members, as well as support the members activities.
- A funding model to be developed by the Nordic VC's to finance this position from the Nordic institutions.
- It will not be funded by membership subscriptions.
- The SANORD Executive structures and the SANORD director of the SANORD Central Office will delineate roles and responsibilities.
- The Nordic Coordinator will report to the SANORD Board and SANORD Director.

The following operational activities illustrate the major activities that the SCO were actively involved with from October 2021-31 December 2022; ably supported by the the Nominations committee, 2022 Strategy Group, Conference committee members and the Contact Person at each institution.

- Webinars: SANORD hosted various webinars in partnership with FAPI, SAFINET, the University of Limpopo and other SANORD members. Scholarly engagement was encouraged.
- Several partners visited the SCO and networking across the SANORD strategic goals was successful.

4.2 Funding Support:

4.2.1 Brian O'Connell Scholarship (BOC) 2022

THE BOC call for 2022 was postponed, due to the previous recipients not being able to take up the scholarship due to shutdown and a lack of mobility due to the Covid pandemic. Current research projects and BOC scholarship awardees (from our 2022 grants) will still be able complete their mobility once in 2023 due to the travel restrictions from the aftermath of COVID-19. The BOC call will be launched again in 2023.

4.2.2 Theme Group Projects 2022

The TGP call was postponed to 2023 to allow the outstanding Covid-affected research projects to be extended and completed. The allocated resources for the TGP were redirected to the 2022 Conference Delegate Support at the University of Limpopo. 58 delegates were sponsored to participate at the SANORD 2022 conference.

4.2.4 Conference Delegate Support (CDS) 2022

SANORD sponsored 58 delegates from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the 2022 Conference in Limpopo, South Africa with a female participation of 40%. A CDS budget of R600000 (six-hundred thousand rands) was used to support all those who applied for funding with the approval of the Executive Board. The budget was allocated as follows:

Conference Delegates Support (CDS) 2022 Budget		
Approved delegates	58	
Accepted delegates	38	
Total funds allocated to CDS	R 600 00.00	
Delegates' Affiliation	Country	Number of Delegates
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	South Africa	1
Great Zimbabwe University	Zimbabwe	3
Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	2
Namibia University of Science and Technology	Namibia	6
National University of Science and Technology	Zimbabwe	3
Nelson Mandela University	South Africa	3
University of Botswana	Botswana	1
University of Cape Town	South Africa	2
University of Free State	South Africa	1
University of Johannesburg	South Africa	1
University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa	3
University of Pretoria	South Africa	1
University of the Western Cape	South Africa	3
University of Zambia	Zambia	1
Total		31

4.3 Internships 2022

During 2020, the new intern, Ada Kauranen arrived at the beginning of March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic she was recalled to her country to return home due to the pandemic since all international student mobility programmes were stopped.

The 2022 call for internships were postponed to 2023.

4.4 Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)

SANORD Central Office (SCO) actively posts all news related articles on their Facebook page. All the Calls for the various funding opportunities, visitors to the centre, announcements, scholarships etc. are posted regularly. The link to the Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/Southern-African-Nordic-Centre-1432449170309379/.

Members are encouraged to post any SANORD related events, thought pieces or publications on the SANORD FB page. Alternatively, we urge our members to send any news, announcements, events and achievements for posting on our Facebook page. The impact of these actions depends heavily on the postings by our members. We encourage our members to “like” the FB site and post any SANORD related information on both. We also have a twitter account [@SANORD_CO](https://twitter.com/SANORD_CO)

5. Publications

At the Council meeting on 17 August 2018, the Council accepted and duly agreed with the recommendations from the Contact Persons meeting not to continue printing hard copies, however, to go digital with e-publications and publish in reputable journals.

The reasons were based on the financial benefit and accessibility for students in a digital academic world, exposure and prominence for SANORD and the entire network of institutions. The digital book would also ensure that SANORD interacts more freely with all committees and affected parties.

The hosting institution is required to produce a conference proceeding as an output of the conference. The proceedings of the 2021 SANORD Conference are on the SANORD website.

6. Academic Events:

6.1 SANORD 2021 Conference at Western Norway University of Applied Science

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway would have been the proud host of our 2020 conference during 5-7 September 2020 in Norway. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the conference was postponed until 2021.

The conference was co-hosted by Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) and University of Bergen (UIB) during the 7-10 September 2021. In the Board meeting of 14 December 2020 the Board decided that the 2021 SANORD conference be organized as a digital event. The Board further decided that the conference registration would be free for all members since there will be no travel and the Travel Grant budget will be allocated to the digital cost for the conference.

Theme and sub themes were:

“Vitalizing partnerships – moving towards a sustainable future”

- Climate and climate impacts on humans
- Higher education: Shaping the SDG curriculum
- Health: Addressing complexity in health
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Epistemic challenges, intellectual labour, and South-North partnerships
- Moving forward: Music and arts

Programme

A full conference programme is available online: <https://sanord.uwc.ac.za/news/sanord-conference-programme-2022/>

See also the conference website: <https://www.hvl.no/en/research/conference/sanord-2021/>

6.2 2022 Conference at the University of Limpopo

After a successful pitch that positioned the University of Limpopo (UL) as a research-oriented and destination of choice, the institution was the host of the 2022 Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) Annual Scientific Conference during 5-7 December 2022. The theme of the conference was **"Finding Solutions: The Nexus between SDGs and South-North Partnerships – Challenges and successes during the covid-19 era."**

The Sub Themes are:

- Healthcare & Education
- Re-imagining North-South collaborations in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Higher Education solutions for global change
- Teacher Education: Towards generation 4.0
- Innovation and commercialisation
- Indigenous knowledge systems: merging epistemologies

Programme

A full conference programme is available online: https://www.ul.ac.za/sanord2022/application/downloads/Sanord_programme_conferece_2022.pdf

See also the conference website: <https://www.ul.ac.za/sanord2022/>

7. SANORD 2022 Strategy Plan

Process towards SANORD Strategy 2023-2025:

Following the Board Strategic Planning Session, the recommendation to begin a process of revitalising through Board and organic consultation with members, in order to revitalise the process to develop the next SANORD Strategy 2023-2025 is underway. Dr Lavern Samuel is coordinating the Strategy Working Group (SWG) with inputs from members being collated by SCO. The SWG reports regularly to the Board and the Contact Persons.

- Request the working group to report any progress to the Board, Contact persons and wider membership through its established structures.
- The draft strategy will serve at the next Council meeting in 2022.

8. Board Strategic Workshop Feedback

The progress on the strategy for widening access and resource mobilisation for SANORD has continued in 2022. The idea of grant funding and third stream income for the organisation is currently a focussed priority in 2022-2023.

Conclusion – Chairperson

The world has been an inhospitable and sometimes cruel place in 2022. With war, famine, climate change and food insecurity exacerbating the daily life challenges for the majority in our contexts, the importance of solidarity, equity and collaboration has been highlighted. This has presented SANORD as a collegial, principled and empowered organisation with an opportunity to live its values of social justice and diversity in service of humanity. It again emphasises the need for international cooperation to solve our common challenges. The SANORD community has continued to thrive, with the intentional participation of young scholars and students, a welcome signal of renewal in SANORD. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the whole SANORD network for the continued effort to work together to strengthen and further develop the network, and we wish you all the best for future endeavours to continue fruitful partnerships and collaboration across the Southern African and Nordic regions.

The SANORD Director wishes all SANORD members and our collective constituencies all the best for future engagements in 2023.

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