

# SANORD

Southern African-Nordic Centre



## SANORD STRATEGY 2023



Southern African-Nordic Centre

The Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) was launched in December 2006 and officially established in January 2007 by seven founding members. SANORD is a non-profit university network committed to provide a forum to advance academic collaboration between the Nordic and the southern African regions. The SANORD network seeks to address sustainable development and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals through joint activities of research, education and other activities relevant for the member institutions. The SANORD activities are based on academic quality, academic freedom and fundamental values of democracy, human rights, equity and diversity.





# SANORD Strategy 2023

Adopted by the SANORD Council on 6 December 2022.

## Vision

The Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD) is a well-established and relevant network with accountable impact on global sustainable development through mutual partnership and academic exchange between higher education institutions in the Southern African and Nordic regions.

## Mission

The Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD) is a non-profit university network committed to provide a forum to advance academic collaboration between the Nordic and the southern African regions. The SANORD network seeks to address sustainable development and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals through joint activities of research, education and other activities relevant for the member institutions. The SANORD activities are based on academic quality, academic freedom and fundamental values of democracy, human rights, equity and diversity.

## Goals

1. Provide a forum for members and other partners
2. Promote collaboration between southern African and Nordic higher education institutions
3. Address regional and global challenges of research, innovation and development
4. Promote academic quality, academic freedom and joint values





## Actions for Goal 1

### Provide a forum for members and other partners

- Arrange the annual SANORD conference, every two years in the south and every other year in the north.  
**Responsible party:** Board, SANORD Central Office (SCO), the local organizing committee (LOC).
- Arrange calls for proposals on SANORD Special Interest Groups for scholars at SANORD institutions within a specific thematic field of study or an administrative field of work, with the purpose to offer a platform for collaboration, meetings and arranging seminars/parallel sessions at the annual SANORD conferences.  
**Responsible party:** SCO and LOC.
- Invite funders and other relevant partners to the annual SANORD conference and other SANORD activities.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, LOC with the support from SANORD member institutions.
- Invite institutional leaders and staff to promote and participate in the annual SANORD conference and other SANORD activities.  
**Responsible party:** SANORD member institutions, SCO.
- Engage with governments and relevant governmental structures such as SADC to garner support for SANORD activities.
- Explore engagement with other networks and entities to create new opportunities for members.



## Actions for Goal 2

### Promote collaboration between southern African and Nordic higher education institutions

- Arrange calls for, and award, SANORD Theme Group planning grants with the purpose to host academic and research related workshops, conferences and discussions.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, Nominations Committee (NC).
- Arrange calls for, and award partial scholarship funding for master students' visit from a southern SANORD member institution to a Nordic SANORD member institution through the Brian O'Connell scholarship programme.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, NC.
- Invite members to arrange workshops and abstract sessions for PhD-candidates, administrative staff, scholars and institutional leaders, at the annual conference and other activities.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, LOC, SANORD member institutions.
- Invite members to participate in externally funded projects.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, SANORD member institutions.
- Promote joint publications between north and south institutions in relation to SANORD activities.  
**Responsible party:** Board, SCO, SANORD member institutions.
- Promote Virtual Engagement between Southern African and Nordic Higher Education Institutions such as COIL, Virtual Exchange and joint lectures and seminar series.



## Actions for Goal 3

### Address regional and global challenges through research, innovation and development

- Set up relevant themes and subthemes for conferences and workshops.  
**Responsible party:** Board, SCO, LOC, SANORD member institutions.
- Invite members to arrange SANORD events such as conferences, seminars, lectures or similar, that profiles work related to the north-south cooperation.  
**Responsible party:** Board, SCO, SANORD member institutions.
- Request and promote dissemination of results from SANORD activities such as theme groups and interest groups at SANORD conferences and symposia, and to external stakeholders.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, SANORD member institution.
- Arrange and promote a process to stimulate collaboration with governments, private sector or civil society.  
**Responsible party:** Board, SCO, SANORD member institutions.
- Identify and approach stakeholders that will add value to the SANORD mission  
**Responsible party:** SCO, SANORD member institutions.
- Embed the United Nations SDG's and Africa Agenda 2063 goals into the activities of SANORD in a deliberate and purposeful way.



## Actions for Goal 4

### Promote academic quality assurance, academic freedom and joint values

- Invite expert members to arrange activities related to academic quality promotion and assurance at the annual conference and other SANORD activities  
**Responsible party:** SCO, LOC, SANORD member institutions.
- Encourage participants in the annual SANORD conference and in other funded SANORD activities to visit member institutions with the purpose to hold lectures, workshops or other activities to discuss and strengthen academic quality promotion and assurance practices.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, SANORD member institutions.
- Highlight the requirement of female participation in all SANORD activities such as the annual conference and funded activities.  
**Responsible party:** Board, SCO, LOC, NC, SANORD member institutions.
- In each call for applications for the Brian O´Connell Scholarships, ensure that at least 50% of the scholarships are awarded to female MSc-students.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, NC.
- Inform specifically that SANORD welcomes participation of underrepresented minority groups and people with disabilities in the annual conference and other activities.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, LOC, SANORD member institutions.
- Contribute to the ongoing debate, arrange specific session, and promote related academic activities on academic freedom.  
**Responsible party:** SCO, LOC, SANORD member institutions.







## Southern African-Nordic Centre

A university network committed to provide a forum to advance academic collaboration between the Nordic and the southern African regions. Activities are based on academic quality, academic freedom and fundamental values of democracy, human rights, equity and diversity.

### Contact

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