



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023



Prepared by: SANORD Central Office

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### 1. REPORTING PERIOD

This report covers the period 1 December 2022– 10 September 2023. The report gives a detailed description of the SANORD Central Office's (SCO) activities 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 33 Southern African and 24 Nordic member institutions. The Central office and its members' invaluable willingness and efforts 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 proxies as representatives as Council members of SANORD. The Council members have been instrumental in developing 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 2022 Council meeting took place at the Ranch in Limpopo at the SANORD Annual Conference.

#### 2.2 Executive members

##### SANORD Chairperson

Per 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 2024.

- **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 announced the proposal for the 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.

##### 2.4

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 the University of Bergen, Norway to assume duties from 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023.

**Board members for the period 2021-2022 comprised:**

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

**Council members since 2022-2023:**

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
<b>Southern African Region -33 Member Institutions</b>		
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
33	Tshwane University of Technology,	South Africa

## 2.4 Nominations Committee

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

### Nominations Committee members 2023-2025:

	Institutions in Nordic Region	Institutions in Southern African Region
1.	University of Bergen Kristin Svartveit	Durban University of Technology Divinia Jithoo
2.	Innland University of Applied Science Gerd Wikan	Eduardo Mondlane University Emílio Tostão
3.	Linnaeus University Lena Kulmala	University of the Western Cape Tracy Beckett
4.		

### **The duties of the Nominations committee include:**

- i.** Evaluating all new applications for membership and making 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 scholarship criteria and call
  - Student Intern's 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 preparing 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 has increased to 33 members in the Southern African region across the following seven countries such as (Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and 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-seven (57) 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 fee payments while 20% of the members do not.

### **4. SANORD Central Office (SCO)**

The SCO is supported by Kelly Cyster and Nicole Umwizerwa and has successfully delivered on all the goals and objectives for this year. 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.

The following operational activities illustrate the major activities that the SCO were actively involved with from January 2023-10 September 2023; supported by the Nominations Committee, Conference committee members and the Contact Person at each institution.

#### 4.1 Webinars: SANORD hosted two webinars thus far to encourage scholarly engagement

##### *Trends in Internationalisation: A Critical Perspective from the South (30 May 2023)*

The webinar was hosted by Mr. Umesh Bawa. Internationalisation remains an important element of higher education collaboration. It is motivated by a variety of political, economic, sociocultural, and intellectual factors. It has transformed from a minor activity to a crucial component of the transformation agenda. There was very good participation and engagement around academic freedom and scholarly autonomy, despite the numerous technological challenges. It is hoped that this topic be discussed at SANORD 2023 if there is space on the programme.

##### *SANORD 3MT- Webinar Series 2023 (20 July 2023)*

The webinar was hosted by SANORD and facilitated by colleagues from Rhodes University: Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Prof Sioux McKenna and Ms Asiphe Mxalisa. The webinar was focused on various aspects of 3MT.

Several partners visited the SCO and networking across the SANORD strategic goals was successful.

#### 4.2 Brian O’Connell (BOC) Scholarship Programme

In 2022 only two applications were received for the BOC scholarship from Lorensa Naidoo MSc student at Stellenbosch University and Thandwayo Mbambo a master’s student at the University of KwaZulu Natal.

The 2023 BOC call was opened and has subsequently closed with 6 applications received for 2023. The Nominations Committee will deliberate and give feedback to the applicants in mid-December 2023.

Name	University	Name of Host Institution	Email
Lorensa Naidoo	University of Stellenbosch	University of Bergen	<a href="mailto:19668791@sun.ac.za">19668791@sun.ac.za</a>
Sibonokuhle Thandwayo Mbambo	University of KwaZulu Natal	Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences	<a href="mailto:thandwayombambo@gmail.com">thandwayombambo@gmail.com</a>

##### 4.2.1 Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)

The 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) is a research communication competition that challenges students to communicate the significance of their projects without the use of props or industry jargon, in just three minutes. This year the interest has improved compared to last year, and we anticipate greater participation next year. We intend to streamline the process better and do more promotions to encourage greater participation from both regions.



### 3 MT Competition Candidates for SANORD Conference 2023

Name and Surname	University	Title of presentation	Email address
<b>Ms Lindokuhle Nene</b>	Rhodes University (South)	The power of sound for cancer treatment	<a href="mailto:lindokuhlecindy@gmail.com">lindokuhlecindy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Tjeerd Fokkens</b>	University of Gothenburg (North)	Understanding our Thinking	
<b>Mr Julian Nwodo</b>	Central University of Technology (South)	Re-engineering of Existing Wastewater Stabilisation Ponds for Improved Contaminant Removal	<a href="mailto:jnwodo@cut.ac.za">jnwodo@cut.ac.za</a>
<b>Mr Albert Bellmunt Gil</b>	University Turku (North)	<a href="https://youtu.be/6q5xmRm3Mxw">https://youtu.be/6q5xmRm3Mxw</a> Losing control-stuck in the game	<a href="mailto:abegil@utu.fi">abegil@utu.fi</a>
<b>Ms Charlise Basson</b>	University of Pretoria (South)	Mastering the Metastatic Mystery with Multifaceted Manoeuvres: Melanoma, Mathematics and Metastasis	<a href="mailto:charlise.basson@gmail.com">charlise.basson@gmail.com</a>

#### 4.2.2 Brian O'Connell Scholarship (BOC) 2023

The BOC call for 2022 was postponed, due to the previous recipients not being able to take up the scholarship due to a lack of mobility due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Current research projects and BOC scholarship awardees (from our 2022 grants) have received their funding.

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#### 4.2.3 Conference Delegate Support (CDS) 2023

SANORD Central Office opened up applications for conference delegation support for individuals' students and staff who have abstracts accepted for the conference.

43 delegates were successful in their application, in addition, 5 Three Minutes thesis candidates also received support in terms of conference delegate support. The CDS only covered conference registration fees and accommodation in Hamar. Due to the high exchange rate the Director had requested an increase in the amount made available for the CDS and his request was approved. A budget of 1 million (ZAR) was approved for the CDS, this also served to ensure a balanced participation from the Southern Africa and Nordic region.

SANORD sponsored 48 delegates from South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe for the 2023 Conference in Hamar, Norway. A CDS budget of 600,000 NOK 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) 2023 Budget

Approved delegates	45	
Accepted delegates	43	
Three Minutes Thesis	5	
<b>Total funds allocated to CDS</b>	<b>600 00.00 NOK</b>	
<b>Delegates' Affiliation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Delegates</b>
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	South Africa	1
Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	1
Durban University of Technology	South Africa	4
University of Cape Town	South Africa	4
Central University of Technology (1 is a 3MT candidate)	South Africa	2
University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa	3
University of Pretoria (3MT candidate)	South Africa	1
University of the Western Cape	South Africa	9
Eduardo Mondlane University	Mozambique	8
University of Swaziland	Swaziland	3
University of Limpopo	South Africa	1
University of Zambia	Zambia	8
Gothenburg University (3MT candidate)	Finland	1
Turku University (3MT candidate)	Finland	1
Rhodes University (3MT candidate)	South Africa	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

#### 4.2.4 SANORD DAY 19 April 2023

SANORD in association with UiB and HVL hosted a regional SANORD engagement on 19 April 2023 at UiB, Bergen Global, Jekteviksbakken 31, Bergen. Umesh Bawa, Director of SANORD was in attendance to promote collaboration and research opportunities within the network. A lively debate ensued, facilitated by Tor Halvorsen and with lovely presentations from other invited speakers. Thanks to Kristin Svartheit (UiB), Bergen Global, Gro Anita Flaten (Former Board Chair), Elin Kvaale who travelled sustainably by bicycle and other SANORD colleagues.

#### 4.2.5 SANORD and One Ocean expedition

SANORD members in and around Cape Town were invited to join the One Ocean expedition on 17 January for SANORD regional meeting and symbolic handover of the SANORD Chair on the magnificent ship. This was a joint event with the University of Bergen. The magnificent ship played host to the event and the captain and other partners from Norway were very complimentary of the focus. Special thanks to Board member Dr Setsipane Modukwe who travelled from Pretoria down to Cape to support and represent the Board.

Mr Bawa (on behalf of SANORD) was invited to an interview with Cape Talk Radio to speak on the involvement of SANORD in the One Ocean expedition. Erlend Eidsvik joined the interview from the airport where he was about to board his flight from Cape Town to Bergen, after a lovely engagement with the young learners involved in the project. They will journey with him to Bergen to welcome the ship when it returns.

#### **4.2.6 SANORD ONE OCEAN Beach Clean-up**

The SANORD Beach Clean-up in association with the University of the Western Cape, The Norwegian embassy, and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) took place on 14 January in honour of the work and research being done on the tall ship, Stadsraad Lehmkuhl. The venue for the beach clean was Black River Park which is a highly polluted area as tons of plastic and waste wash up on these shores. It was good for the community to support the One Ocean activity. Thanks to Gro Anita Flaten and Elin Kvaale among others who supported the activity in person.

#### **4.3 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/](https://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)

#### **4.4 SANORD information sessions**

SANORD central office, Kelly Cyster and Nicole Umwizerwa presented an information session at the International Education Association of South Africa conference in Durban from 22 August – 25 August 2023. The International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA), a non-profit organisation, was established as a result of the need for universities and universities of technology in South Africa to respond to international educational trends. SANORD member institutions representatives who were at the conference joined the session and provided valuable feedback for SANORD.

On 12 September 2023, SANORD was invited to present an information session at Nelson Mandela University during their research week for Early Career Researchers.

#### **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 University of Bergen and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences have published a digital copy of the 2021 SANORD Conference abstract book which can be found on the SANORD website.

The SANORD 2022 Conference host is required to publish an abstract Booklet for the 2022 SANORD Conference.

#### **6. Academic Events:**

## 6.1 [SANORD 2023 Conference at INN, Hamar, Norway](#)

The 15th SANORD International conference was hosted by INN Hamar, Norway.

The topic for this year's conference is "The role of higher education in contributing to just and sustainable futures." The world is facing several immense crises, and as part of our mission at INN University, we seek to contribute to solving some of these. We have excellent research communities working on topics such as education, health, natural resource management, agriculture and biotechnology, among others.

A changing world with increasing insecurity requires new solutions in many fields. In Hamar and the Inland region, we are actively taking part in the green shift, and our educational programmes and research reflect this need.

**The theme of the conference is the role of higher education in contributing to a just and sustainable future.**

**The Sub Themes were:**

- *Theme 1: Global perspectives and sustainability in teacher education*
- *Theme 2: Future-proofing agriculture within a sustainable social-ecological context*
- *Theme 3: Global and mental health research*
- *Theme 4: Artificial Intelligence and the future of society*
- *Theme 5: Crisis Management: Towards a Sustainable Future*
- *Theme 6: Digital Technologies in Educational Systems*

## **7. SANORD 2023 Strategy**

### **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, to revitalise the process to develop the next SANORD Strategy 2023-2025 is underway. Dr Lavern Samuel along with the Strategy Working Group (SWG) with inputs from members being collated by SCO

Have revised and updated the SANORD 2023 Strategy. 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 new strategy was ratified at the Council meeting in 2022 in Limpopo.

### **Conclusion – Chairperson/ Director**

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

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## Addendum 1 Financial Statement