



# The African Women for Biosciences (AWfB)

## Background:

The African Women for Biosciences (AWfB) is a network of women with interest and passion for Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I). Women professionals, exploring the role of Biosciences in building a vibrant Bioeconomy, initiated the network in 2017 at a forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The network aims to play a significant role in empowering the African woman as a voice to impact policy and advocate for investments in biosciences for a healthy and prosperous society. Membership comprises the academia, researchers, farmer associations, private sector service providers, the media and professional groups that support gender equity.

**Vision:** Transformed lives through Biosciences

**Mission:** To empower the African woman as a voice that advocates and impacts policy for public and private sector investment in biosciences for a healthy and prosperous society

## General Objective

AWfB aims to strengthen the capacity of African women to engage and participate in biosciences and policy dialogue for sustainable livelihoods.

## Specific Objectives

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To provide a platform for professional women to engage the public on bioscience issues

3

To advocate for investment in innovations that promote bio-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods

2

To facilitate participation of women in biosciences policy dialogue

4

To facilitate mentorship for upcoming professionals in support of an inclusive scientific workforce.

# Challenges facing Women in Biosciences

The majority of women in biosciences have limited capacity in science communication and negotiation skills.

Women in ST&I continue to be underrepresented in leadership and decision-making, at less than 20%. Their participation in National Development has remained persistently minimal.

Despite existence of several women initiatives in ST&I, their efforts are disjointed due to few networking opportunities.

Mechanisms for technology transfer and commercialization of bioscience products from research are weak and some incompatible to women's needs.



# Opportunities in joining AWfB

Access to a one-stop profiled portal on biosciences research in the region for fostering potential collaboration and partnerships.

The network will advocate for alignment of African governments' policies that ensure women in biosciences are in leadership and decision-making levels including creation of a science diplomacy desk.

Members will have a strong voice to engage in policy dialogue resulting from capacity building efforts and mentorship.

Heightened visibility of members from an all-inclusive membership and networking opportunities.





Linkages will be created between women researchers and industry to ensure transfer of cutting-edge technology products from biosciences.



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Membership	Registration fee (KES)	Annual subscription fee (KES)
 <p><b>Individual membership:</b> Women over 18 years possessing a degree/diploma in biosciences-related disciplines from recognized institutions and those with passion for biosciences</p>	3,000	3,000
 <p><b>Student membership:</b> Women currently enrolled in a college or university and have interest in biosciences</p>	1,000	1,000
 <p><b>Associate membership:</b> Affiliate members are encouraged to join the network</p>	2,000	2,000
 <p><b>Corporate/ Institutional membership:</b> Corporate organizations and institutions that support gender equity</p>	50,000	50,000

### Contact details

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