

## Appendix H

### SWOT Analysis of the ASADI Process

At a Washington summit meeting in August 2014, ASADI participants were asked to carry out a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the ASADI experience. Respondents included both the intense ASADI partner academies as well as those that received more limited support. These are their responses, lightly edited for clarity

#### Strengths

The annual meeting  
Evidence-based policy discussion  
Its governance  
Wide variety of approaches adopted  
Access to expertise  
Links to funders  
Support to secretariat  
Helping with credibility  
Door to collaboration  
Technical report writing  
Shared responsibility to the community  
Workshops  
Links to young people  
Strengthening membership and visibility  
Studies carried out  
Confidence-building workshops and meetings  
Valuable experience  
Potential role for NASAC if ASADI reports, lessons and network potential can be used to develop and connect with young academies globally and with the senior academies of the ASADI network  
Supporting young academies  
Enabling and empowering  
Training members and staff  
Linking with other academies  
Focus on the purpose of the Academy  
Appropriate and timely  
Bottom-up  
Availability of publications  
ASADI has helped academy transformation from honorific to advisory

#### Weaknesses

Stratification into partnerships of different strengths  
HR capacity development  
Physical infrastructure development  
Funding  
Lack of coordinated mechanism for partnership with African academies  
Bias to health  
Not enough African academies benefited directly  
Not enough support for equipment, training etc  
Absence of strategy for sustainability of ASADI  
Little partnership in problem solving  
Measures of success not clear  
No clear, innovative means of public engagement  
Not enough staff for implementing projects

Not enough interactions between projects  
Reports and outputs were not disseminated to all NASAC members  
Many issues still not addressed eg energy, climate, poverty  
Too much control of ASADI-organized meetings – “This is how we do it, so be it”  
Reports only in English  
Short-lived

### Opportunities

Develop demand for evidence based policy  
More partnerships  
Economic growth in Africa  
Relevance and influence to Africa  
Global diplomacy  
Experience sharing  
Appointment to boards in Africa and USA  
Grow understanding of African problems  
Consolidating and extending partnerships  
Diversifying work  
Better focused studies  
Solving serious basic problems by sharing study findings  
Being emulated  
Catalyse development  
Institutional support  
Supporting young academies  
Greater and more diversified impact  
Wider reach globally  
The world is one  
Access to more global intelligence  
Better relations with US as a nation

### Threats

Sustainability of partnerships  
Human capacity turnover  
Political stability  
Lack of recognition in own country  
Resources  
Legal establishment for academies  
Lobbyists  
Quality control in report reviewing  
Corruption  
Conflicts  
Lack of balance of language and geography (N and W Africa)  
Lack of political, financial and institutional support  
Losing US NAS as partner  
Apathy from members  
Lack of internal African coordination between Academies  
Isolation  
Threats to liberty and suppression of freedom of speech and democracy  
Rivalry within academies  
Lack of any, or strong, strategic plan