

# FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT / RAPPORT TECHNIQUE FINAL

## FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT : MASTERCLASS 2021

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## **Final Technical Report: Masterclass 2021**

**Theme: ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Venue: Zoom**

## 1.0 Background

The SGCI convenes an annual Masterclass that brings together all the 15 participating Science Granting Councils (SGCs) and other Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) stakeholders around the world to deliberate and share experiences around strategic issues in the STI domain. The Masterclasses are designed to support and strengthen the voice and views of Councils; and contribute to key STI policy debates at national, regional and continental levels. To facilitate sharing of lessons and good practices, the SGCI commissions a state-of-the-art paper on topics/themes of interest for Africa's development. The theme for the 2021 **virtual Masterclass** held on **30 March 2021** was tagged "*Ethics and Integrity in Research and Innovation*"

Aligned with the roles of the SGCs, the Masterclass 2021 considered (amongst other issues):

- Do the Councils have ethical and integrity guidelines for their grantees? Are these guidelines aligned with national research and STI policies?
- Are there specific ethics and integrity issues that arise from collaborative research (involving other Councils and the private sector)? How are these issues managed?
- In a multi-funder initiative such as the SGCI, how are the different ethics and integrity requirements of different partners handled?
- What are the practical experiences of research managers, technology transfer officers and grant managers?
- How do the ethical and integrity issues affect the promotions and career opportunities; freedoms and choices on publications, innovation, networks of individual researchers?
- Are there any new lessons that can be gleaned from funding research during the Covid-19 pandemic?
- What are the gender perspectives and other marginalized/excluded groups? What strategies have worked/ not worked in different contexts?

## 2.0 Objectives of the 2021 Masterclass.

The overall objective of the Masterclass is to support and enhance the voices and views of the SGCs and other STI stakeholders in thematic STI debates. The Masterclass provides a platform for achieving this and had the following specific objectives:

- i. Explore the guidelines for ethics and integrity in research and innovation and their alignment with national research and STI policies?
- ii. Share lessons, experiences and good practices from STI stakeholders including research managers, technology transfer officers and grant managers on how institutional policies facilitate or hinder practical requirements of ethics and integrity
- iii. Suggest recommendations to improve the guidelines and practice of ethics and integrity in research and innovation

## 3.0 Methodology and Approach

Within the context of COVID-19 and its attendant disruptions, the 2021 Masterclass was held virtually via a zoom platform. It featured a keynote presentation from the lead author of the commissioned paper, followed by discussants offering alternative perspectives from regional and global experiences. A panel of selected SGCs and other actors offered practical, African experiences on ethics and

integrity. Participants were then be engaged in a moderated question and answer (Q&A) session. The Masterclass concluded with a summary of the main issues and suggestions for a way forward.

#### **4.0 The Participants**

The virtual 2021 Masterclass brought together about participants from a broad representation of the SGC Stakeholders, including: (i) representatives from the Science Granting Council (ii) SGCI's funders (iii) Scientists from different disciplines (iv) Ministry officials with line responsibility for Science and Technology as well as Education (v) Partners in SGCI programme (vi) Implementing partners

#### **5.0 Key outputs of the Masterclass**

The Masterclass resulted in the following outputs:

- (i) Virtual masterclass workshop report (*shared/uploaded separately*)  
[https://connect.idrc.ca/Central\\_Outputs/109388-001/Virtual%20Masterclass%20Workshop%202021%20Report.pdf](https://connect.idrc.ca/Central_Outputs/109388-001/Virtual%20Masterclass%20Workshop%202021%20Report.pdf)
- (ii) Masterclass summary report (*shared/uploaded separately*)  
[https://connect.idrc.ca/Central\\_Outputs/109388-001/Summary%20report%20%20Masterclass%202021.pdf](https://connect.idrc.ca/Central_Outputs/109388-001/Summary%20report%20%20Masterclass%202021.pdf)

#### **6.0 Outcomes of the 2021 Masterclass**

The 2021 Masterclass resulted in:

- a) Enhanced awareness of the potential conflicts between national and institutional policies on ethics and integrity in research and innovation and their practical applications
- b) Improved capacities of the SGCs in research ethics and integrity
- c) Lessons, experiences and best practices from STI stakeholders shared widely
- d) Recommendations for improving the policy environment for improved application of research ethics and integrity