

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between

The Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA)

and

Mtandao, the Africa Social Work Development Network (ASWDNET)

### **1. Preamble**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA) and Mtandao, the Africa Social Work Development Network (ASWDNET), hereafter collectively referred to as “the Parties.”

The ASSWA aims to advance social work education in Africa. The association strives to uphold the social work values, principles and human rights of all people and social justice.

Mtandao creates, aggregates and disseminates information and resources, mainly digitally, to facilitate Social Work and Development on the African continent. Mtandao believes in African knowledges, often termed indigenous knowledges and recognise their roles in building an African social and development work knowledge base that emancipates social work students, academics, practitioners, librarians, publishers, leaders, communities and researchers. At the centre of this facilitation is use of African languages and values such as those espoused in Ubuntu. The Network values and recognises African histories, philosophies, practices, founders, writers, languages and literature, and hopes you, the reader and user of our information, will do the same.

Recognising their shared commitment to strengthening social work education, professional development, and community-focused initiatives across Africa, the Parties enter this MoU to formalise their collaboration in convening joint events that advance the values of social justice, Ubuntu, and social development.

### **2. Purpose of the MoU**

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between ASSWA and ASWDNET in jointly organising and implementing annual regional or continental and global events, including but not limited to:

- Ubuntu Master Class in the first quarter of the year
- Africa Day Indaba in the second quarter of the year
- Wazee Day for Older Persons in the third or fourth quarter of the year
- Ubuntu Annual Lecture/Fundo yaUbuntu in the fourth quarter of the year

### **3. Scope of Collaboration**

The collaboration will include:

- a. Co-designing event themes, programmes, and capacity-building activities.
- b. Joint mobilisation of participants, speakers, and facilitators.
- c. Promotion of the events through each Party's networks and communication channels.
- d. Resource sharing where possible, including expertise, knowledge, and administrative support.
- e. Monitoring and evaluating the success and impact of jointly organised events.
- f. Resource generation, including making some of the events fee payable.

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

##### 4.1 Responsibilities of ASSWA:

- a. Lead in the conceptualisation, planning, and implementation of the annual Wazee Day for Older Persons.
- b. Support Ubuntu Masterclass, Ubuntu Annual Lecture/Fundo yaUbuntu and Africa Day Indaba.
- c. Mobilise member schools of social work and academic partners.
- d. Provide technical expertise in social work education and research.
- e. Contribute to event documentation, reporting, and dissemination.

##### 4.2 Responsibilities of ASWDNET:

- a. Lead in the conceptualisation, planning, and implementation of the Ubuntu Masterclass, Ubuntu Annual Lecture/Fundo yaUbuntu and Africa Day Indaba.
- b. Co-organise and support logistics and programme development for Wazee Day.
- c. Provide expertise in community engagement and professional development.
- d. Assist ASSWA in implementing Wazee Day and other joint activities.
- e. Support media, advocacy, and communication efforts.

##### 4.3 Joint Responsibilities:

- a. Develop annual joint work plans for the events.
- b. Identify partners and sponsors.

- c. Produce joint reports and communication materials.
- d. Uphold principles of Ubuntu, collaboration, and respect.

### **5. Governance and Coordination Mechanism**

- a. A Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) shall be established, with at least two representatives from each Party.
- b. The JCC shall meet at least twice a year.
- c. Decisions shall be made by consensus, and minutes recorded and shared.

### **6. Financial Arrangements**

- a. Each Party is responsible for its own operational costs unless mutually agreed otherwise.
- b. Cost-sharing arrangements for joint events will be agreed in writing.
- c. Jointly acquired funds shall be transparently managed and reported.

### **7. Duration and Review of the MoU**

- a. This MoU is valid for three (3) years from the date of signing.
- b. It may be reviewed at any time upon written request by either Party.

### **8. Amendment and Termination**

- a. Amendments must be made in writing and signed by both Parties.
- b. Either Party may terminate the MoU with 90 days' written notice.

### **9. Non-Binding Nature**

This MoU reflects the intent to collaborate but is not legally binding.

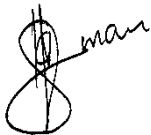
### **10. Signatures**

For the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA):

Name: Dr. Kgomotso Jongman

Title: President

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kgomotso Jongman', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Date: 20 November 2025

For Mtandao, the Africa Social Work Development Network (ASWDNET):

Name: Rugare Mugumbate

Title: Convenor

Signature: 

Date: 9 February 2026