



## **Global Research Council 2020 Annual Meeting Postponement**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. Who has made this decision and why now?**

The decision has been made by this year's GRC co-hosts, the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in consultation with the Governing Board of the GRC.

They have been closely monitoring developments since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and have taken the decision following its recent classification as a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

Registrations were due to open in early March, but this was delayed while events unfolded globally.

#### **2. When will the next GRC Annual Meeting be held?**

The Annual Meeting has been postponed until mid-2021. We will make further announcements on the new date in due course.

#### **3. Does the GRC have contingency plans should these situations occur more frequently?**

The GRC will be considered in its future approaches to monitoring challenges of a regional or global scale that impact on the research environment, as well as on the GRC's convenings, for proactive contingency arrangements.

#### **4. Will the GRC reimburse delegates and speakers if they have already booked and paid for travel and accommodation?**

The GRC has no central funds, and each participant organisation meets the costs of its own attendees. It is hoped that by delaying the registration process most participants will not have booked travel and accommodation.

#### **5. How will the important discussions that would have taken place at the Annual Meeting be taken forward?**

The GRC's preference at this stage is to hold the Annual Meeting next year to ensure good participation and lively discussions, continuing on its usual trajectory of engagement.



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### **Frequently Asked Questions continued**

**6. Will South Africa still be the location for the next Annual Meeting?**

At this stage our plan is to rearrange the meeting next year, in South Africa.

**7. Why can't the meeting be held virtually?**

The GRC conducts much of its business virtually. The value of a physical Annual Meeting is that it provides a forum around a wider programme of meetings, bilateral exchanges, and where networking can take place.

**8. How can GRC members work together to help research efforts to address COVID-19?**

We have made a statement calling for GRC participants and the global scientific research community to cooperate in the global fight against COVID-19.