

PREPARATORY MEETING LILONGWE

• Participants:

- Strong support from the FIS (currently ISF)
- National Seed Trade Associations, Research Institutions, NGOs, development partners, international seed organizations; etc.;
- 74 participants of whom 39 seed companies and seed associations from 16 African countries;

Objectives of the preparatory meeting

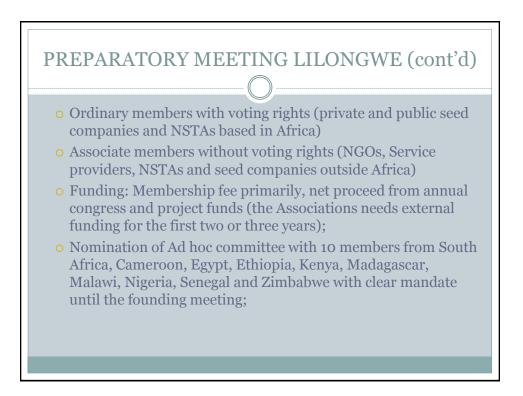
- To know whether or not the African seed industry needs a regional seed association;
- Definition of the mission of the forthcoming regional association;
- Geographical coverage;
- Membership categories;



- Source of funds for the regional seed association;
- Nomination of Ad hoc committee to continue the work after the Lilongwe meeting;
- Timing for the execution of the tasks after Lilongwe;
- Founding Congress/General Assembly

• Outcome of the preparatory meeting in Lilongwe

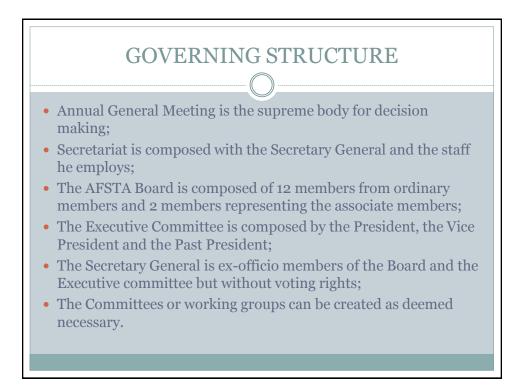
- Participants unanimously agreed to set up AFSTA;
- Mission and objectives of AFSTA well defined;
- One Association for the continent because the African seed market was too small to be divided into smaller sub-regions;



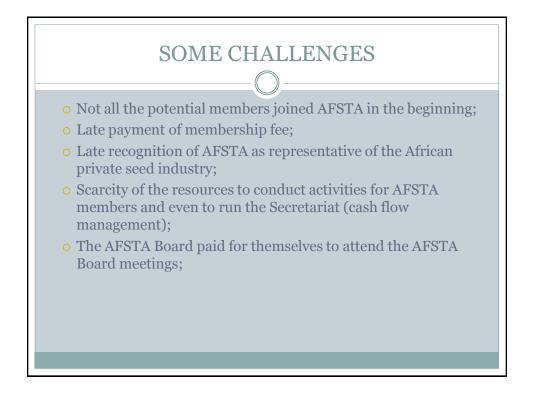




- The Constituion and Bylaws with the objectives and mission and the governance structure were adopted;
- 42 AFSTA founding members were elected (9 NSTAs, 25 seed companies and 8 NGOs and service providers) and 34 confirmed their membership after the congress 2000;
- The initial budget of US\$105,000 to run the Secretariat was adopted by the General Assembly;
- Kenya was elected to host the AFSTA Secretariat and the Seed Trade Association of Kenya was the interim Secretariat until 15th September 2000 when the Secretary General reported;
- The President, the Vice President, and the Past President together with the other Board members were elected for two years.









- Setting up an association needs to have enough members who are motivated and convinced that the association is important;
- The Association requires external financial support at its inception for two or three years;
- The country that hosts the Secretariat needs to give strong support to the regional association until it is up and running;
- The voice of the African private seed industry was better heard through advocacy of AFSTA.