



**Statement of the Executive Committee of the African Mathematical Union (AMU)  
Addressed to the Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Union (IMU)**

The Executive Committee of the African Mathematical Union (AMU) wishes to express its deep concern regarding the difficulties faced by many African mathematicians in participating in the forthcoming International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), to be held in Philadelphia, United States.

Following a rigorous, transparent, and widely praised selection process, nearly two hundred (200) young African mathematicians holding academic positions at African universities were awarded generous travel grants provided by the Simons Foundation. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of them will be unable to attend this major international scientific event, the principal reason being their inability to obtain entry visas to the United States.

In addition, several other African mathematicians who had successfully secured financial support from other organizations or from their own institutions are facing the same administrative obstacles.

This situation will inevitably result in a very limited African representation at the ICM. Such an outcome is particularly regrettable for an event that embodies the universal values of science, founded on openness, international cooperation, and inclusiveness. We further understand that researchers from other regions of the world are also encountering similar visa-related difficulties.

The Executive Committee of the AMU believes that, in the future, the International Mathematical Union should include among the essential criteria for awarding the organization of an International Congress of Mathematicians the host country's demonstrated ability to guarantee effective access for all participants, without discrimination arising from visa procedures. The universality of mathematics can only be fully realized if all mathematicians have a genuine opportunity to participate in this flagship event.

Furthermore, the Executive Committee of the AMU respectfully calls upon the Executive Committee of the IMU to strengthen the scientific representation of Africa among the Invited Speakers at future editions of the ICM. The African continent is now home to many internationally recognized mathematicians whose research is of the highest scientific standard. Consulting African mathematical societies, the AMU, and African research institutions would readily identify several outstanding candidates who fully meet the highest scientific criteria.

The African Mathematical Union reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the values of scientific excellence, equity, and inclusion that underpin the international mathematical community. It remains fully committed to working closely with the IMU to promote truly global participation in future editions of the International Congress of Mathematicians.

Please accept, Members of the Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Union, the assurances of our highest consideration.

**This text was adopted by the General Assembly of the African Mathematical Union (AMU), held on Sunday, 29 June 2026.**