



Frequently Asked Questions

ASRA has decided to transition the ownership and management of our assets, activities, and operations to others who share our purpose and can build on what we have achieved over the past two years. This FAQ document is intended to provide clarity about what this transition means, why it is happening, and how it will unfold. We hope it answers common questions and offers reassurance during this period of change. If you have additional questions, please write to hello@asranetwork.org.

1. Why is this happening?

We have been given a generous transition grant to handover the leadership and management of ASRA's assets, activities, and operations from the UNF / Secretariat to others who share our purpose and can build on what we have achieved. After sustained and active exploration of multiple funding scenarios, it became clear that long-term, unrestricted support for small, specialist nonprofits such as ASRA is increasingly difficult to secure, especially in an increasingly challenging funding environment and changing world. We have decided that the responsible thing to do is to actively transition ASRA's work to others, rather than face a potentially abrupt end.

2. What exactly is changing?

Over the next two years, the Secretariat will continue all operations while actively implementing a robust plan for a handover of ASRA's functions, assets, and workstreams to others. The Secretariat will remain fully committed and resourced to continue all core activities—annual network members in-person meetings, working groups, research and communications, and partner projects. By September 2027, the Secretariat will step down, our relationship with the UN Foundation as fiscal sponsor will end, and ASRA's work will evolve into its next form, the form and function of which remains open.

3. Is ASRA stopping any activities?

No. All current activities and committed projects continue to be fully resourced. We will continue all core activities: our annual network members in-person meetings, working groups, research and communications, and partner projects. For network members, this means continuity to participate, collaborate, and engage with ASRA throughout the transition period.

4. How does this affect existing partnerships or projects? What happens if other projects or partnerships come up?

All existing partnerships and projects will continue as planned and with full support from the Secretariat until September 2027. We won't be actively fundraising or pursuing new project funding ourselves. However, if relevant, time-bound opportunities arise, we may flag them to members or explore them in ways that don't create commitments for the core team beyond 2027.

5. How much time will members be expected to contribute to the transition?

Members can contribute as much or as little as capacity allows. Members won't be asked for extra time commitment for this. We'll keep engagement focused, optional, and designed to fit around our existing work and structures (e.g., town halls, members' meeting, working groups, etc.).

6. What is the transition timeline?

We are developing a detailed roadmap, but at a high level the work will unfold in phases between now and autumn 2027. These phases will include early outreach to gather input from members and key stakeholders; periodic convenings to advance core work and create space for reflection on options for the next phase; and an ongoing, structured process to explore scenarios, stewardship options, and emerging possibilities. In the final phase, we will focus on completing transition and implementation details.

7. What is the process?

The Secretariat will lead a structured, transparent transition process, moving through phases of discovery, option development, and implementation. The process will include research, stakeholder engagement, consideration of governance and operational factors, and regular communication and feedback. Throughout, we will monitor risks, adapt as needed, and ensure continuity of core work.

8. What will happen to materials and assets such as STEER (Systemic Tool to Explore and Evaluate Risk)?

It is our aim to see ASRA's assets, activities, and operations transferred to a single or multiple entities, as appropriate, by autumn 2027. During the transition, in consultation with others, we will determine which organizations or groups are best placed to steward different assets. Nothing will be moved or reassigned quickly. The goal is continuity and continued relevance.

9. What impact does this have on ASRA's level of ambition?

This transition doesn't lessen ASRA's ambition. Our mission continues at full strength through 2027, backed by stable funding. We remain committed to mainstreaming our work—proactively pushing this agenda to September 2027 while doing the complex work of determining options and setting up systems for others to carry the work forward.

10. What if no perfect model emerges?

We don't yet know exactly what the outcomes of this transition will look like, and that uncertainty is part of the opportunity! We are working hard to surface various scenarios and anticipate a set of viable options which may include a single or portfolio of steward(s) that carry the work forward in creative and sustainable ways. While we remain open to all possibilities, we aim to meet this moment with intention, courage, and creativity.

11. Will ASRA be able to reverse this decision if an offer of core funding is made?

By accepting this grant, we have committed to stewarding ASRA through a planned transition to its next form. That means honouring the lifecycle of the current model, tending to what needs to be completed, and creating the conditions for something new to emerge. However, we remain open to possibilities; nothing prevents future / potential funders from supporting the next version of ASRA, whatever structure emerges over the next two years.

12. Who can I talk to about concerns or ideas?

For network members, regular ASRA work continues throughout the next two years, and participation of members in transition conversations is optional. However, if you have particular questions or concerns, please contact: Hanna, Director of Network Facilitation, hasipovich@asranetwork.org. For partnership or collaboration enquiries or opportunities, please write to hello@asranetwork.org.