

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AFRICA

Minutes of the CSSR4Africa Team Meeting

Date and Time:

Venue: Room No. C210.

Status: Draft.

Participants

Prof. Assane Gueye

Birhanu Shimelis Girma

Clifford Onyonka

Deogratius Kiggude

Muhammed Danso, Chairman

Muhirwa Richard

Tsegazeab Tefferi

Yohannes Haile

Apologies

Ibrahim Jimoh

Julius Kanneh

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The participants reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2025/09/22 and approved them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Update the installation manual

Action: Carried forward, Ibrahim who is in charge of this action item was absent.

Demo the improved XTTS to the team and Prof. Assane after the lab tour demo by Tsegazeab

Action: Done. The demo has been done today on 29th September.

Demo for navigation

Action: Done. The demo has been done today on 29th September.

Request for 5 adapters for use by the lab

Action: Carried forward, as the process of aggregating finances for this is still ongoing.

Check finances regarding the purchase of the microphones

Action: Carried forward, as the process of aggregating finances for this is still ongoing.

Add author to the book list

Action: Done, an Excel sheet with a list of books and their authors has already been distributed to the team.

3. Matters arising from progress reports

Muhirwa had issues (access to NVIDIA GPUs) with ROS Noetic on Ubuntu 20, but he was able to use Windows Subsystem for Linux to resolve these issues.

Tsegazeab proposed a list of possible solutions for detecting completion of Pepper's speech utterances. The first solution, which he suggests would be the best approach, is for the textToSpeech ROS node to use ROS actions that can then be monitored by the behaviourController to check if the utterance is complete. The second solution involves migration of the blocking logic from the behaviourController to the textToSpeech ROS node. Muhirwa said that he will use ROS actions.

4. Status of tasks, deliverables, and software

The ROS node that implements actuator and sensor tests has been updated, and it is currently in the process of being integrated. Yohannes will send the updated software to the system integrator within the week.

AnimateBehaviour ROS node will be assigned to one of the team members to manage its migration to ROS 2, and also update existing bugs.

5. Status of milestones

Only one milestone remains, as per to the current milestones document. Danso, the current project manager, will update the document to include necessary milestones for ROS 2 integration, system enhancements, and submission of papers to conferences and journals.

The milestone for demonstrating the full demonstration will also be moved to Friday 3rd October to allow for sufficient testing of the system first.

6. Software migration to ROS 2

New standards that align with ROS 2 will be developed to aid the migration process. During the migration process, the ROS 1 version of CSSR4Africa will not be replaced, both ROS 1 and ROS 2 CSSR4Africa versions will be maintained in parallel. Their source codes will reside on separate GitHub repositories to allow for this.

Some of the demo laptops in the AI and Robotics lab will be used during the development of the CSSR4Africa ROS 2 version, while the team maintains the current laptops that they are currently using for ROS 1 development.

A meeting will be held on 29th September to determine whether to use Ubuntu 2022 or Ubuntu 2024 for the ROS 2 version of the CSSR4Africa system.

7. Any Other Business

Visit to IRCAD

Madam Nancy has arranged a visit to IRCAD, and between 20 to 25 people have been invited. Since the team is made up of only 8 members, students will be contacted so that those who wish to observe medical robots up close can join. The visit is set for Thursday 2nd October.

8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 6th October 2025 at 10:00AM.

End of the Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Action items following the meeting of the CSSR4Africa project

Action n	Action description	Responsible	Completion date
1	Full integrated demo	Team	03/10/2025
2	Update the milestone document	M. Danso	03/10/2025
3	Update D6.1 with new enhancements	M. Danso	03/10/2025
4	Assign animateBehaviour to one of the team members	M. Danso	03/10/2025
4	Decide on whether to use Ubuntu 22 or Ubuntu 24 for ROS 2	Team	29/09/2025

5	Request for transport to IRCAD from Aline	B. Girma	29/09/2025
6	Get a list of students who'll join the trip to IRCAD	B. Girma	29/09/2025

Table 1: Action Items