

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AFRICA

Minutes of the CSSR4Africa Team Meeting

Date and Time: 24 February 2026, at 11:00 am (CAT)
Venue: Room C210.
Status: Final.

Participants

Clifford Onyonka
Deogratius Kiggude
Muhammed Danso
Muhirwa Richard
Tsegazeab Tefferi, Chairman
Birhanu Shimelis Girma
Yohannes Haile
Moise Busogi

Guests

N/A

Apologies

Lenah Chacha

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The participants did not review the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th February 2026 and approved them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Action item 1: Hand over the source code for the automation script and most recent working demo to Yohannes Tsegazeab has done this.

Action item 2: Hand over the source for the last tested demo with English conversational pipeline integrated to Yohannes Danso will do this.

Action item 3: Upload the most recent version of the working source code to a branch of CSSR4Africa's GitHub repository
This has been done.

Action item 4: Remind Ibrahim to submit Automation script by Thursday.
This has been done.

Action item 5: Update Milestone for co-speech gesture generation
This is done.

Action item 6: Create a branch for demo with English conversational pipeline integrated.
This is done.

3. Matter arising from progress reports

No matters were raised from the progress reports.

4. Status of tasks, deliverables, and software

There is no software currently pending or going through QA.

5. Status of milestones

The milestones need to be updated to reflect the new dates for the navigation paper.

6. Progress on assessment of cultural behavior

Tsegazeab and Danso are working on this and hoping to have some documentation by next week.

7. Decision on Kinyarwanda support

Clifford argued that since there is no Kinyarwanda LLM that has been fine-tuned for instruction following, Kinyarwanda should be dropped from the conversation feature. The team agreed with this and thus the conversation feature will only support English. Muhirwa has received the latest TTS model from digital Umuganda and he is testing and comparing it with other models.

8. Selection of the next Project Manager

The team agreed that Yohannes will be the new project manager, taking over from Tsegazeab for the months of March and April.

9. Any Other Business

Prof. Moise encouraged the team members to voice any concerns or observations regarding how the team works together and the distribution of tasks and commitments. He highlighted he does not want to micromanage members and will not be coming to the lab to see who is on campus or not. However, he expects everyone to deliver on their tasks and get the project over the finishing line. Danso expressed that it might be important to evaluate the work remaining and distribute any tasks without owners currently, in-order to help the team refocus and complete the work in the short time remaining. The team agreed with Danso, and prof. Moise asked Yohannes to initiate this by Monday and take the lead as project manager.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 03, 2026, at 11:00am.

End of the Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 11:50 am.

Action items following the meeting of the CSSR4Africa project

Action	Action description	Responsible	Completion date
1	Update navigation paper milestone date	Tsegazeab	February 27, 2026
2	Push last tested demo with English conversational pipeline to GitHub	Danso	February 27, 2026