

18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

CREATING CONVERGENCE OF INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA FOR GREATER IMPACT

Date: Wednesday 14th December 2022

Time: 14:00 – 19:30

Venue: Harare International Conference Centre

Mode: Blended

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3utFE7s>

Concept Note

Contact: Professor Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary

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Background

Although significant strides have been made in the higher education sector in Africa over the past fifty years, the continent continues to lag behind the rest of the world in almost all metrics. For example, the gross enrolment ratio is still low at 8.9% compared to the global average 38%, Africa contributes only 6.6% of the total global higher education enrollment; GDP expenditure on research and development in Africa according to the UNESCO science report increased only marginally from 0.49 in 2014 to 0.51% in 2018, compared to the African Union Commitment of 1% and the global GDP R&D expenditure growth of 14.8%; and, Africa has the least number of scientific publications, researchers per million inhabitants and exhibits as high rate of co-authorship in scientific publications. These challenges are a manifestation of systemic capacity and financial inadequacies that demonstrate dependency and limitations in competitiveness. According to the 2021 [UNESCO Science Report](#), inadequate investment in ST&I for research and development implies that countries continue as net importers of basic goods and services including scientific expertise and technology.

The Vice Chancellors independent dialogue to the 2021 UN [Food Systems Summit](#) which largely tracked progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals targets accepted that Africa's universities must provide leadership for the transformation and the Global 2030 Agenda. Coming

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at the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vice Chancellors recognized the urgent need to define new approaches to leverage resources to meet the expectations of the youth bulge estimated at 2.5 billion equivalent to 25.5% of the world’s population by 2050. Universities have to build on the successes, take advantage of the opportunities and lesson learn for them to be able to make a significant contribution Africa’s development and economic transformation. Universities agreed to explore alternative mechanism to ensure that the continent has the requisite human capital and ST&I framework to facilitate development.

For this to be effective however, there has to be an alignment between the expectations from the university, to the national, regional and global agendas. Public sector, private sectors, non-governmental organizations and the international community have to put in place an investment framework to create a human capacity foundation that will be used to grow quality knowledge at local level. At the same time universities must ensure good governance practices that promote effective functioning and the quality of teaching, research, knowledge generation, transfer and utilization.

The 2022 Vice Chancellors Forum will evaluate the frameworks that have been put in place for human capital development. It will explore how local capacity can be enhanced through investment partnerships between public, private and other sectors. Specifically:

- i) The Progress to date and lessons learnt by African Universities to build capacity for the continent while enhancing development relevance
- ii) The strategies, priority actions and targets that ensure that human capital development takes center stage in national investment frameworks;
- iii) Partnerships for co-designing and co-owning the interventions with local, national and international partners and civil society, is necessary while keeping in mind the need for global competitiveness; and,
- iv) What needs to be done to ensure that universities produce quality graduates and take leadership to harness ST&I for the benefit improved livelihoods and transformation

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Draft Programme

Chair: Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor University of Bamenda, Cameroon

Time	Activity
Session 1: Opening and Setting the Scene	
14:00 – 14:15	Arrival and light refreshments
14:15 – 14:25	Welcome Remarks: Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor University of Bamenda, Cameroon
14:25 – 14:35	Welcome Remarks: Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor, Africa University, Zimbabwe
14:35 – 15:00	Keynote Address: Prof. Tawana Kupe, Vice Chancellor, University of Pretoria, South Africa
15:00 – 15:10	Respondent 1: Prof. Teresa A. O. Akenga, Vice Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Kenya
15:10 – 15:20	Respondent 2: Prof. Bruno Djossa, Rector, National University of Agriculture, Benin
Session 2: Investments to enhance reach and quality of Higher Education in Africa	
15:20 – 15:35	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM - RUFORUM efforts to date and Future Thrusts,
15:35 – 15:50	Progress and Lessons Learnt from Haramaya University, Ethiopia, Prof. Jemal Yousuf, President
15:50 – 16:05	Progress and Lessons Learnt from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi, Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda, Vice Chancellor
16:05 – 16:20	Progress and Lessons Learnt from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya, Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi, Vice Chancellor
16:20 – 16:35	Progress and Lessons Learnt from University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, Prof. Georgewill Owunari, Vice Chancellor
16:35 – 16:55	Discussion
16:55 – 17:20	Health Break
Session 3: Other Initiatives for Human Capital Development in Africa	
Moderator: Prof. Félicien Avlessi, Rector, University of Abomey Calavi, Benin	
17:20 – 17:35	The case of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), Morocco, Mr. Hicham El Habti, General Secretary and President
17:35 – 17:50	Gender Mainstreaming in Higher Education: The case of Makerere University, Uganda, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor
17:50 – 18:10	Discussion
Feedback from RUFORUM Alumni	
18:10 – 18:17	Dr. Bintu Ndusha, Evangelical University in Africa, DR Congo (PhD from University of Nairobi, Kenya)

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18:17 – 18:24	Dr. Joyful Rugare, University of Zimbabwe (PhD from University of Stellenbosch, South Africa)
18:24 – 18:31	Dr. Ulemu Msiska, Mzuzu University, Malawi (PhD from Makerere University, Uganda)
18:31 – 18:38	Dr. Marius Affonfere, Director BCOF Limited (PhD from University of Abomey Calavi, Benin)
18:38 – 19:00	Discussion
19:00 – 19:10	Key Messages and Recommendations: Prof. Frans Swanepoel, University of Pretoria, South Africa
19:10 – 19:20	Closing Remarks by the Sessions Chair, Prof. Félicien Avlessi, Rector, University of Abomey Calavi, Benin
19:30 – 22:00	Dinner

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