

## 18<sup>TH</sup> RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

### 20<sup>th</sup> Principals and Deans Committee Business Meeting

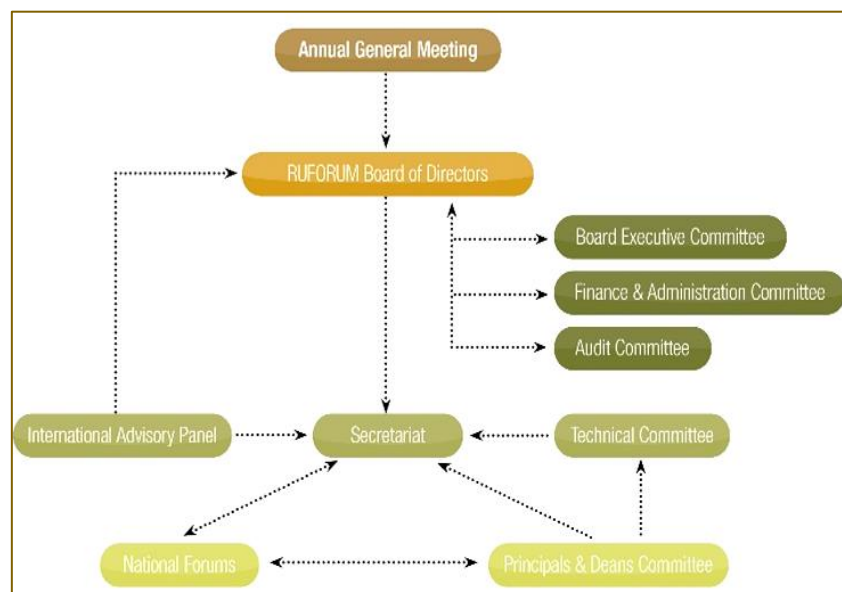
**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Time: 15:00 -1830 EAT**

**Venue: Zoom (Register [here](#))**

#### Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a Network of 150 African universities in 38 African Countries with the vision of *vibrant, transformative universities catalysing sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa*. RUFORUM has eight (8) main Governance Organs designed to promote ownership of the organization by the member universities while at the same time ensuring good international practices and quality. Each of these organs has distinct responsibilities that are interlinked or feed into each other.



**THE RUFORUM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

The Principals and Deans Committee is one of RUFORUM’s Governance Organs. The Committee consists of Deans and Principals of participating faculties and meets at least once a year. Its functions include:

- Review and feedback on the Outcome Evaluation of the First Operational Plan (2018-2022) of the RUFORUM Vision 2030 Strategy
- Review of issues from the National Forums and Regional Thematic Groups and feedback of information to the Secretariat and Technical Committee; and,

**CO-ORGANISERS:**



- Advice to the RUFORUM Secretariat on activity progress and issues emerging at individual university and country levels.
- Elections of new Committee Members

A sub Committee of the Principals and Deans Committee serves to follow up on actions and issues from the main Committee. It meets at least twice a year and consists of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Principal and Deans Committee and four others constituted to ensure there is regional and female representation.

The Principals and Deans Committee met on 5th December 2022 in Cotonou Benin to deliberate on among other things; operationalising Problem-Based Learning in agricultural education and training, promoting e-Learning in African universities, envisioning for the future of RUFORUM, focus areas and activities for 2022. The meeting identified the following areas of focus for the year 2022: 1) signing of the RUFORUM Charter by member countries; 2) review of the GTA programme; and, 3) operationalize National Forums. In addition RUFORUM commissioned an outcome evaluation to assess the overall progress in the implementation of the First Operational Plan (2018-2022) for the RUFORUM Vision 2030 Strategy. The meeting will therefore explore key emerging issues and lessons for designing the Second Operational Plan (2023-2027).

On the signing of the Charter, currently 12 RUFORUM member countries have signed the Charter (see Table 1). This implies that these countries have endorsed RUFORUM's role and mandate as an agency for strengthening agriculture, science, technology and innovation education and training in the respective member States. Further, the African Member States by entering into the Charter have agreed to fund activities of RUFORUM in line with the Member States procedures and priorities to support operations of the Secretariat to implement activities in the Member States and regionally.

**Table 1: List of RUFORUM Member Countries that have so far signed the RUFORUM Charter as of August 2022**

No	Country	Region	Date of Signing
1	Benin	West Africa	04 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
2	Cameroon	Central Africa	04 <sup>th</sup> Match 2021
3	Democratic Republic of Congo	Central Africa	01 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
4	eSwatini	Southern Africa	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2019
5	Ghana	West Africa	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019
6	Liberia	West Africa	04 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
7	Malawi	Southern Africa	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021
8	Mali	West Africa	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
9	Sierra Leone	West Africa	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019
10	South Sudan	East Africa	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
11	Sudan	East Africa	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
12	Zimbabwe	Southern Africa	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2020

During the year 2022, the following is an update on Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) Programme implementation in RUFORUM member Universities:

- 17 new GTA graduates bringing the total to 40 graduates since 2015;
- 23 additional GTA students placed in host universities bringing the total to 213 under training;
- Number of hosting universities increased by 11 universities bringing the total to 40;
- Number of sending universities increased by three (Chuka University (Kenya), Midlands State University (Zimbabwe) and Ndejje University (Uganda)) bringing the total to 46 sending universities;
- Six (6) progress meetings held with GTAs, their supervisors in both sending & hosting universities, senior academic staff and RUFORUM Postdoctoral Fellows;
- Awarded additional 82 research grants with a new grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York bringing the total of supported GTAs to 124; and,
- A total of 64 publications from GTA research projects as of August 2022.

### Meeting Objectives and Approach

The 20<sup>th</sup> RUFORUM Principals and Deans Committee has been scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> RUFORUM Pre-AGM events. The meeting will be held virtually using the Zoom audio and video conferencing platform from 15:00 to 18:30 EAT (Register [here](#)). The meeting will deliberate on the following among other issues;

1. Update on 2022 RUFORUM Programme Implementation and resource mobilisation;
2. Updates from respective member countries on progress with signing of the RUFORUM Charter;
3. Review of the First Operational Plan Outcome Evaluation;
4. Update on establishing the RUFORUM Regional Node and implication of future RUFORUM Modality;
5. Progress on the implementation of the National Forums from respective member countries; and,
6. Update on arrangement for the 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 RUFORUM AGM in Harare, Zimbabwe

#### CO-ORGANISERS:

