

18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

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

Date: Wednesday 14th December 2022

Time: 14:30 – 19:30 CAT

Venue: Diamond Lecture Theatre, University of Zimbabwe

Mode: Blended

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

Concept Note

Contact: Professor Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary

e.adipala@ruforum.org

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 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

CO-ORGANISERS:



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

CO-ORGANISERS:



Programme

Master of ceremonies: Mr. Brian Banda, Great Zimbabwe University

Rapporteurs: Mr Moses Waswa, Dr Mensah Sylvanus, Prof Prisca Mugabe

Time	Activity
Session 1: Opening and Setting the Scene	
14:00 – 14:30	Arrival and light refreshments
14:30 – 14:40	Welcome Remarks: Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor, Africa University, Zimbabwe
14:40 – 14:50	Welcome Remarks: Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor University of Bamenda, Cameroon
Session Moderator: Prof Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Director of the African Research Universities Alliance Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS), University of Pretoria, South Africa	
14:50 – 15:10	Keynote Address: Prof. Tawana Kupe, Vice Chancellor, University of Pretoria, South Africa: Repositioning African Universities to Respond to Contemporary Opportunities and Challenges: What will it take?
15:10 – 15:20	Discussant 1: Prof. Teresa A. O. Akenga, Vice Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Kenya
15:20 – 15:30	Discussant 2: Prof. Bruno Djossa, Rector, National University of Agriculture, Benin
15:30 – 15:40	Discussant 3: Prof. Address Malata, Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology, Malawi
15:40 – 16:00	Discussion and concluding remarks by Session moderator
Session 2: Enhancing reach and quality of Higher Education in Africa Session Moderator: Prof Brice Sinsin, Former Rector of University of Abomey Calavi, Benin	
16:00 – 16:15	Lead Paper: Prof. Francis William Petersen, Rector and Vice Chancellor, University of Free State, South Africa: Creating Research and Development Oriented Universities in Africa
16:15 – 16:25	Discussant 1: Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda, Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi
16:25 – 16:35	Discussant 2: Prof. Roger TSAFACK-NANFOSSO, Rector, University of Dschang, Cameroon
16:35 – 16:45	Discussant 3: H.E. Prof. Intisar Soghayroun, former Minister, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudan
16:45 – 17:00	Discussion and concluding remarks by Session moderator
17:00 – 17:20	Health Break
Session 3: Investments in Higher Education in Africa Moderator: Patrick Edrin Kyamanywa, Vice Chancellor of Uganda Martyrs University	
17:20 – 17:35	Lead Paper, Dr Florence Nakayiwa Mayega, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM: Current Status of Investment in Higher Education in Africa and Impact

CO-ORGANISERS:



17:35 – 17:45	Discussant 1: Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Namibia
17:45 – 17:55	Discussant 2: Hon. Agnes NyaLonje, Minister of Education, Malawi
17:55 – 18:05	Discussant 3: Dr Ekua Nuama Bentil, Education Specialist, Education Global Practice, The World Bank
18:05– 18:20	Discussion and concluding remarks by Session moderator
Session 4: Feedback from RUFORUM Alumni	
Session Moderator: Dr Ssali Sarah, Dean School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University	
18:20 – 18:25	Dr. Bintu Ndusha, Evangelical University in Africa, DR Congo (PhD from University of Nairobi, Kenya)
18:25 – 18:30	Dr. Joyful Rugare, University of Zimbabwe (PhD from University of Stellenbosch, South Africa)
18:30 – 18:35	Dr. Ulemu Msiska, Mzuzu University, Malawi (PhD from Makerere University, Uganda)
18:35 – 18:40	Dr. Marius Affonfere, Director BCOF Limited, Benin (PhD from University of Abomey Calavi, Benin)
18:40 – 19:00	Discussion
19:00 – 19:10	Closing Remarks by the Session Moderator, Dr Ssali Sarah, Dean School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University
19:30 – 22:00	Dinner

CO-ORGANISERS:

