



## Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference

**Venue:** Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)  
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### **Session Name: Converging the power of investment in Higher Education to transform Africa**

**Date:** Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

**Time:** 10:30 – 13:00

**Room:** Aberdares

**Venue:** Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC) - Nairobi, Kenya

### **Background**

African Union Agenda 2063 which African Union member States endorsed in 2014, aspires for a prosperous Africa based on inclusive and sustainable growth and development, driven by Science, Technology and Innovation by 2063. Achieving this dream among others requires; a critical mass of well-educated citizens with requisite skills to revolutionise production and delivery of goods and services, heavy investment in research, and a favourable policy environment for generation of technologies and innovations for the good of society and national economic development. Africa, however, faces shortage of high level skills and the impact is reflected in the low scientific research and innovation outputs. According to the UNESCO Science Report of 2015, by 2014, Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) contributed only 1% of global researchers, had between 50,000 to 80,000 researchers, which was between 70 to 90 researchers per million inhabitants (0.009% of its population). The Report farther notes that by 2014, SSA had only 233 patents recorded with United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a mere 0.1% of the global registered patents and only 1.5% of the patents from South Korea alone. The African Capacity Building Foundation in its assessment of the capacities required for the implementation of Agenda 2063, showed that Africa is short of 4.3 million engineers and 1.6 million agricultural scientists and researchers (ACBF, 2017). The situation presented by these figures requires urgent action to increase investment in higher education and research amidst challenges such as rapid expansion of higher education sector, competing priorities at national level and declining economic situation in Africa. Without intervention in financing higher education Africa's political leadership's commitment in Agenda 2063 may not be achieved.

Higher education institutions (HEIs) especially at post graduate level play a critical role in training the required critical mass of human resources required to deploy STI. African higher education institutions, however, face challenges of financing training and research. While strides have been made by African Governments in financing undergraduate training, post graduate training is largely funded by development partners, yet has great potential to yield requisite skills and





innovations for economic transformation. While this is so for most African countries, a few have developed financing models, deliberately invested in higher education especially at graduate level and have reaped returns in economic transformation. Models such as students' loans, local public-private partnerships, Government loans for research and training projects, cost sharing with development partners are some of the models of sustaining quality higher education. For aggregated economic impact from higher education at continental level, sustainable funding models and their impact on the economies at country level should be widely disseminated across the continent and countries adapt them to suit local conditions. In addition, a collective continental level mechanism for sustainably financing higher education at graduate level needs developed and owned by African Governments learning from the past. For success and sustainability, a coordination mechanism for such a continental initiative should be developed to ensure that commitments made are fulfilled, success stories, and challenges are shared and mechanisms for addressing such challenges collectively developed and deployed.

### **Session aim:**

The aim of this session is to provide a platform for policy makers and experts in African higher education to share successful higher education financing models and their returns. The lessons will be shared widely for the rest of Africa to learn from. The members will propose a mechanism for converging higher education financing mechanisms at continental level for maximum returns, and a coordination and monitoring mechanism for success and sustainability.

### **Specifically, the session will provide a platform for:**

- Sharing experiences on models for financing/investment in higher education, evidence of returns, challenges and opportunities
- Proposition for national level financing models that the African countries can adopt and adapt
- Propose a mechanism for converging investment in higher education at continental level with specifics on coordination, monitoring and sustainability

### **Session contributions:**

#### **Moderator: Nancy Kachungira, BBC World Service**

- Very briefly introduce the topic and the presenters (5 Minutes)
- Ensure that speakers keep to their allocated time of 10 minutes
- Ask follow up questions to Panellists on issues and guide discussions
- Facilitate audience participation during the discussion session and ensure short questions for presenters rather than long statements (50 Minutes)
- Provide an opportunity for all presenters to participate in answering questions
- Direct questions to a particular presenter rather than allowing each one to answer each question, unless a question has been addressed to a specific presenter





- Present a brief summary of salient points including needed actions at the end of the discussion and close the session

**Lead Speaker: Prof. Tolly Mbwette, former President, Pan African University**

- Provide an overview of the role of higher education in national development and why national Governments should invest in higher education
- Highlight aggregate returns to investment from Africa's continental initiatives
- Provide a continental synopsis of successful financing models of higher education and returns to investments

**Panellists and topics:**

1. **Hon. Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education, Ghana.** Ghana's higher education financing models, its returns and contribution to the country's current economic status.
2. **Dr. Eugenio Adolfo Alves da Silva, Secretary of State for Higher Education, Angola –** Government investment in higher education, returns, and challenges encountered: Experiences from Angola.
3. **Dr. Molapo Qhobela, Executive Officer, National Research Foundation, South Africa.** Financing graduate higher education and research: South Africa's Government experience that the rest of African can learn from.
4. **Hon. Ajedra Gabriel Gadison Aridru, MP, State Minister of Finance, Planning & Economic Development (General duties), Uganda.** Financing a rapidly expanding higher education sector. Experiences from Uganda.
5. **Prof Bakayoko Ly Ramata, Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children, Cote D'Ivoire.** Financing female higher education in Cote d'Ivoire. Challenges and emerging lessons for the African continent.
6. **Mr. Henry Rotich, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kenya.** Balancing the need for higher education and declining budget allocation due to competing priorities.

**Discussions:** (*Q&A with the audience*)

**Rapporteur:** (*Mr. Emmanuel Okalany*)

**Mode of session contributions:**

- You will be seated at the front of the room. A power point presentation is not preferred
- You will discuss and provide your perspectives as regards to the theme of the session (10 minutes)
- Keep your answers to the questions from the audience short to the point





Proposed session line up: (*This is your mini-session program. Please break down the time into detail*)

Time	Activity
10.30 -10.35:	<b>Ms. Nancy Kachungira</b> - Moderator introduces the session
10:35 - 10:50	<b>Lead speaker - Prof. Tolly Mbwette</b> , former President, Pan African University
10:50 - 11:00	<b>Hon. Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education, Ghana.</b> Ghana's education financing models, its returns and contribution to the country's current economic status
11:00 - 11:10	<b>Dr Eugenio Adolfo Alves da Silva, Secretary of State for Higher Education, Angola</b> – Government commitment and overcoming challenges to increased national Government investment in higher education: Experiences from Angola
11:10 - 11:20	<b>Dr Molapo Qhobela, Executive Officer, National Research Foundation, South Africa.</b> Financing graduate higher education and research: South Africa's Government experience that the rest of African can learn from
11:20 - 11:30	<b>Hon. Ajedra Gabriel Gadison Aridru, MP, Minister of State General Duties</b> - Minister of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Uganda. Financing a rapidly expanding higher education sector. Experiences from Uganda.
11:30 – 11:40	<b>Prof. Bakayoko Ly Ramata, Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children, Cote D'Ivoire.</b> Financing female higher education in Cote d'Ivoire. Challenges and emerging lessons for the African continent
11:40 – 11:50	<b>Mr. Henry Rotich, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kenya.</b> Balancing the need for higher education and declining budget allocation due to competing priorities
11:50 – 12:10	Plenary discussions of the presented cases and distillation of those which could be scaled out to the wider continent
12:10 - 12:30	Plenary discussions of a joint mechanism for investment in higher education in Africa including coordination, monitoring and sustainability
12:30 – 12:50	Take away messages and closure

**Expected take away messages:** (*What you expect out of the discussion*)





- Summary description of successful national Government higher education funding models that could be adopted and adapted by other African countries
- A joint mechanism for investing in and monitoring returns to investment in Africa's higher education sector to the continental's economy
- A coordination and monitoring mechanism for the joint mechanism for financing higher education in Africa

