

Vote of Thanks

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

RUFORUM Business Meeting

Held online on 20th November 2020

Distinguished guests of the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting of 2020, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a privilege and a great joy for me to extend gratitude to all of you for contributing to the success of the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting and its associated activities.

Allow me to extend special thanks to our host, **Hicham EL HABTI**, the President of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. Sir, we appreciate UM6P for remaining committed to its offer to host the RUFORUM 2020 Annual General Meeting at its Campus in Ben Guerir, Morocco, but due to COVID-19, this has been done virtually. Nevertheless, it has measured to our expectations, and yesterday's event during Morocco Day gave us opportunity to learn about Morocco, its people, agriculture and the education sector. This is what RUFORUM is all about: creating opportunity for

knowing our continent better and promoting Intra-Africa collaboration in the field of Higher education in Africa

Let me also extend gratitude to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations for its partnership with RUFORUM, and to the Regional Director **Prof Abebe Haile-Gabriel** for his commitment and support, and participation at today's RUFORUM Annual General Meeting.

Your Excellency, **Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor**, the Commissioner for Human Resources and Science and Technology at the African Union Commission, allow me to extend special gratitude to you for gracing this occasion and for always supporting the RUFORUM Network and its endeavors. We humbly request that the African Union champions the five continental initiatives agreed by African Ministers in Ghana in December 2019 so as to enable African Universities more effectively contribute towards realisation of Africa Agenda 2063.

Allow me to thank the **Chief Executive Officer of Kellogg Foundation, La June Montgomery Tabro** for honouring our invitation to address our Annual General

Meeting of African Universities. We appreciate learning about Kellogg Foundation work and plead that WKK Kellogg Foundation gives special attention to Africa, as we work towards addressing the education divide, extending opportunities to marginalized and disadvantaged communities, and supporting skill development for African Youth. I confirm and assure you that RUFORUM is ready to join efforts with you in these endeavors.

Professor José A. Zaglul, the President of Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for the Agricultural and Life Sciences we greatly appreciate your participation, and insights on the needed transformations for enhancing relevance of university education, and the call for Transformative leaderships from our Vice Chancellors/ Rectors.

To our Governments and funding Partners: Thank you very much for supporting RUFORUM activities. Please help us to scale up our work.

To all the Participants that have attended the AGM Business Meeting and other AGM activities including the Webinars, I thank you very much. **I hereby invite all of you to**

the Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference which will be held 6-10 December 2021 in Cotonou, Benin.

Finally, I recognise and thank the **RUFORUM Board, its Committees and the regional Secretariat** for the excellent work in ensuring not only the success of the 2020 Annual General Meeting, but in all matters related to the successful operation of the Network and the positive impact of our universities on the economic development of the African continent through human capital development and innovation.