

The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

The 17th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting/Business Meeting

Venue: Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin

Date: 10 December 2021

Time: 0830-1400 WAT (GMT +1)

Link: <https://bit.ly/39FKdAF>

Concept Note

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) established in 2004 by Vice Chancellors of the then ten¹ member Universities in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zimbabwe is today a Consortium of 129 African universities in 38 countries spanning the African continent. The Network envisions '*vibrant, transformative universities to catalyse sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa*'. The Network has several unique features for building Africa's innovation capacity and for engaging universities in development process and practice; i) It is owned and managed by Africans; ii) It derives its agenda largely from the continent wide policy frameworks especially of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the New Partnership for African Development's (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024, Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025, the Sub regional Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programmes, National Strategy Papers of the Member States and Governments and constant review of global trends and foresight planning to ensure Africa has the required capacity for global competitiveness; and iii) it allows for joint action by

¹The constituent universities included Africa University (Zimbabwe), Bunda College of Agriculture (Malawi), Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), Makerere University (Uganda), Moi University (Kenya), Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), Egerton University (Kenya), University of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe), University of Nairobi (Kenya).



the member universities and stakeholders in higher education and agricultural sectors.

RUFORUM's vibrancy stems from its own character, which a) allows for ownership and direction of network activities by member universities, b) allows for identification of priorities from national level to inform regional thrusts, c) ensures broad consultation and consensus on regional level activities by members, and d) promotes sharing of resources, rather than competition, across the network for capacity building in agriculture and the broader Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) provides a forum for RUFORUM member universities to share and learn from key stakeholders in higher education and agricultural development who are normally invited to attend as observers or partners. The AGM has since served as a springboard for leveraging resources and has fostered mutually beneficial partnerships between and among universities in and outside the Network. Although a number of activities are associated with the AGM, the actual AGM is a one-day convening organized as a Business Meeting which this year will be held physically and online on 10th December, 2021 at the **Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin.**

Purpose and Objectives of the RUFORUM Business Meeting

- The 16th RUFORUM Business Meeting shall:
- i. Review and approve minutes of the 16th AGM, held virtually on 20th November 2020
 - ii. Receive and approve reports for the activity year July 2020 – June 2021 and work plan and Budget proposal for the Activity Year July 2021 – June 2022;
 - iii. Consider and approve the 2020/2021 External Audit report
 - iv. Appoint the External Auditor for FY 2021/20212
 - v. Receive updates on preparations for the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting to be hosted by Zimbabwe
 - vi. Consider requests for membership from universities that wish to be part of the RUFORUM network;

Approach and Methodology

The Business Meeting will be held under the Chairmanship of the Board Chair, Prof. George Kanyama-Phiri, the Outgoing Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The event is organized in collaboration with University of Abomey-Calavi, the University of Parakou, National University of Agriculture and the RUFORUM Network. The meeting will follow procedures in the RUFORUM Constitution but also discuss other issues as outlined in the Table below

CO-ORGANISERS:



Venue and Participants

The Business Meeting will be held on Friday, 10th December, 2021 at Palais des Congres, Cotonou, Benin. Approximately 400 participants are expected to attend the Business meeting physically and virtually and will include Vice-Chancellors/ Presidents/ Rectors and University Principals/ Deans from member universities and other invited stakeholders.

Event Organizers and Contact

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
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Draft Programme for the 17th RUFORUM Annual Business Meeting, 10th December 2021

SESSION 1: RUFORUM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (AGM)	
Venue: Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin	
Session Chair: Prof. George Kanyama-Phiri, RUFORUM Board Chair & Outgoing Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR)	
Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Waswa Moses, Dr Symphorien Agbahoungba & Dr Eric Agoyi	
0830-0940	Part I: Opening session
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Welcome Remarks by Prof. Avlessi Felicien, Vice Chancellor, University of Abomey Calavi 2) Remarks by Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM 3) Remarks by the Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Dr Yemi Akinbamijo 4) Key Note Address by the FAO Assistant Director General for Africa, Prof Abebe Haile-Gabriel: Moving forward the United Nations Food Systems Summit Decisions in Africa 5) Remarks by Hon. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, Deputy Minister of Education, Sierra Leone 6) Remarks by Hon Josephine Joseph Lagu Yanga, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Republic of South Sudan 7) Official Opening Address by Hon Gaston Cossi Dossouhoui, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Republic of Benin
0940-1010	HEALTH BREAK
1010-1050	Part II: Constitution of the RUFORUM Annual General Business Meeting (AGM)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Record of members present and apologies 2) Adoption of the Agenda 3) Communication from the Chair 4) Minutes and Actions from the 16th Annual General Meeting



1050-1100	SHORT DOCUMENTARY
1100-1340	Part III: RUFORUM Annual General Business Meeting (AGM)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Presentation of Annual Report by the RUFORUM Secretariat: Dr. Florence Nakayiwa Mayega, Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Planning, Resource Mobilization & Management, RUFORUM Secretariat 2) Presentation of the 2020/2021 Financial Report and 2021/2022 Budget Proposal: Ms. Judith Nakyobe, Finance & Administration Manager, RUFORUM Secretariat 3) Discussion on the Secretariat reports 4) Report by the External Auditor: PKF 5) Discussion on External Audit Report 6) Appointment of 2021/2022 External Auditor 7) Updates on preparation for the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting planned for 10-14 December 2022 in Zimbabwe 8) Business from the Board: Formal Admission of New Member Universities 9) Statement by Prof. Stephen Onakuse, President AGRINATURA 10) Vote of Thanks: Prof. Address Malata, Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology 11) Closing Remarks by the new RUFORUM Board Chair

