



02ND RUFORUM
Triennial Conference
12-16 August 2024
Namibia



2nd RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

BUILDING AFRICA'S HUMAN CAPITAL TO UNDERPIN ITS 21ST CENTURY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

Date: 14th August 2024 **Time:** 08:30-12:30 SAT

Venue: **Mercure Hotel Room TBC**, Windhoek, Namibia

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3UNg3Tj>

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BACKGROUND

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a pan-African network of predominantly agriculture teaching and research universities that was established by its Vice Chancellors in 2004 to meet three basic objectives:

1. Provide a **platform for training quality graduates** to support research, development processes, and training future generations once they graduate, in Africa.
2. Provide a platform for **networking, resource mobilization, and advocacy** for implementing training, research, and development agenda for the continent.
3. **Rationalize resource** use and enhance economies of scale and scope to create value for money invested in higher education as a vehicle for delivering development impact.

More details about RUFORUM and its operations across Africa can be found at www.ruforum.org.

In February, 2024, The [African Union Second 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063](#), (STYIP) also dubbed as the decade of acceleration (2024-2033), was launched. The decade of acceleration sets the basis for subsequent decades characterized by increased impact, stability, and influence, culminating in “The Africa We Want.” Goal two of STYP aspires to deliver, “well-educated citizens, and a skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation”. The STYIP recognizes the pivotal role of strategic partnerships and alliances, and outlines proven enablers such as coordination, communication, and advocacy as well as financing, among others for its success. The recognition by RUFORUM and the broader higher education ecosystem of Africa, of the need to move beyond convergence to acceleration of outcome delivery, calls for concerted efforts that are informed by practice and evidence.

Co-organisers





The recent Ministerial meetings held by RUFORUM in Cameroon (2023), Zimbabwe (2022) and earlier in Benin (2021) called for a transformation of Africa's higher education system. To generate development impact and wealth, the Cameroon 2023 Policy Action Plan specifies four sectors that are critical for the intensification and deepening of investments in higher agricultural and tertiary education, and agricultural development. The four emerging areas are:

1. Reforming Africa's training agenda to meet its development needs.
2. Strengthening research for development and wealth creation.
3. Strengthening entrepreneurship with a focus on business incubation to create jobs and wealth.
4. Leveraging and enhancement of partnerships for scaling out impact.

These action areas require convergence of policy and investments to ensure that the national and continental education ecosystems function effectively. To agree on the areas of convergence among countries that it operates in, RUFORUM has organized a round table policy dialogue during the 2nd Triennial Conference in Windhoek, Namibia.

MEETING PURPOSE

This policy roundtable aims to create convergence on the implementation imperatives for transforming Africa's Higher Education Sector. It will provide a platform for Senior Government Leaders to co-create actions that enable deeper engagement of Africa's universities and tertiary education institutions in the production of well-rounded human capital for the continent's growth and development.

ROUND TABLE OBJECTIVES

The Senior Government Leaders attending will deliberate on imperatives for developing and delivering transformative education required to underpin science led economic growth. The specific objectives to be achieved in the round table meeting include:

1. Receive, consider, and provide recommendations on next steps for operationalizing a transformed, inclusive, and integrated higher and tertiary agricultural education agenda that addresses Africa's future labour and wealth creation demands.
2. Identify major implementation areas that will help to shape the development of transformative education initiatives and investments across the individual countries and the continent.
3. Explore avenues for endorsement of the RUFORUM Charter and its implementation at country level to intensify engagement of African universities in national development processes.

APPROACH

To provide a broad background to the meeting, lead presentations will be made to guide discussions. Fire-side chats (moderated discussions) will be used to deepen understanding and engagement of participants. Subsequently, the Senior Leaders and selected participants will engage in deliberation that will agree on the major actions and next steps to be taken.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The following outputs are expected to be produced from the Senior Governments meeting.

- a) A common position and roadmap for delivering a transformative higher agriculture education that creates highly skilled and entrepreneurial human resources. The roadmap will focus on how to balance the human resources pyramid in Africa by integrating university education with Technical and Vocational Education and Training to skill youths.
- b) A roadmap with clear steps for endorsement of the RUFORUM Charter in line with procedures of different governments.

VENUE, DATE AND LANGUAGES

The meeting will be held on 14th August 2024 at the Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia. It will be delivered in English, French and Portuguese.

PROGRAMME

Session Rapporteurs: RUFORUM

Time	Agenda item	Responsible party
08:30 - 08:40	Arrival and registration Online Registration Link https://bit.ly/3UNg3Tj	Local Organizing Committee
Session Chair: Dr Alfred Van Kent Executive Director, Ministry of Higher Education, Training, and Innovation		
08:40 - 08:50	Welcome Remarks from RUFORUM	Dr David Nielsen RUFORUM- IAP Chair
08:50 - 09:00	Welcome Remarks from Session Chair	Dr Alfred Van Kent, Executive Director, Ministry of Higher Education, Training, and Innovation)
09:00 - 09:20	Lead paper: Transformative higher agricultural education and research for in Africa: What have we learned?	RUFORUM
09:20 -10:20	Case study- (Fire-side chat) Training the next generation of young engaged and productive Africans. Moderator: Prof Peter Mbat	Gulu, Chinoyi, Egerton and Ashesi Universities, UM6P,
10:20 -10:50	Health Break	
10:50 - 11:10	Lead Paper. What have we learned working from country to continental level?	Dr Tina Muparadzi, Mastercard Foundation
11:10 - 12:20	Policy implications: Identification of main policy imperatives for scaling-out transformative education across Africa Moderator: Prof Peter Mbat	RUFORUM
12:20 -12:50	Key messages to be included in communique, policy brief and action plan. Moderator: Prof Peter Mbat	RUFORUM
12:50 -13:00	Meeting closure	All
13:00-	Health and Lunch Break	

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