



Remarks from Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, RUFORUM Deputy Executive Secretary, Planning, Resource Mobilisation and Management during Webinar VIII - *Entrepreneurship in a pandemic situation: taking opportunities and realigning for the future*. **21<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

Thank you Dr Maurice Bolo, CEO, Scinnovent, Kenya our Moderator for this Webinar.

To our distinguished Panelists and Participants who have joined this Webinar focusing on *Entrepreneurship in a pandemic situation: taking opportunities and realigning for the future* you are most welcome. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> in the series of webinars hosted by RUFORUM, a network of 128 Universities in 38 African countries.

As a network of Universities RUFORUM is passionate about the youth. Acknowledging that they define the network itself.

Thus, for us dialogue on entrepreneurship and opportunities for the future, is a key thrust and core to our primary stakeholders and partners alike. The primary aim of RUFORUM webinar series is to bring perspectives on the table and galvanise actors into action.



You will agree with me that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa as the most youthful continent was considered quite entrepreneurial. However, we also now that on account of the death rate of new enterprises, *at least in Uganda*, they need a lot of ingenuity and support to stay afloat. This has become more pertinent amidst the COVID pandemic. But we also recognize that plenty of opportunities have been created by the pandemic. We have to harness these. We should not waste this opportunity for entrepreneurship that has been presented by COVID.

We at RUFORUM believe that challenges on the continent can have Afro-centric solutions. How do we tap into the youth talent on the continent to improve livelihoods? How do we build capacity and resilience of African institutions to deal with the effects of COVID and cope with future pandemics?

Today we have a panel of experts from across the globe to give us insights on how we can align our inner and latent capacities to the external environment to create



enterprises that solve existing challenges but most importantly enhance our livelihoods.

It is my sincere hope that you will leave the webinar with ideas on how to address pertinent entrepreneurship issues. Please join the debate and join me to welcome our panelists for the day.

Thank you our panelists for agreeing to share your knowledge and wisdom with the participants. To all of you participants, we at RUFORUM thank you for honouring our invitation to participate in this webinar.

Moderator *asante sana*, we greatly appreciate your participation.

We look forward to hosting you again in - Please remember that the recordings for all Webinars are available on the RUFORUM Website.

I thank you.