



THE SIXTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK AND RUFORUM BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, 22 – 26 October 2018

Theme: Aligning African Universities to Accelerate Attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063
Venue: Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya

Biennial Plenary session

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Session Name: Harnessing regional and global partnerships for higher education innovation in Africa

Date: Wednesday; 24 October, 2018

Time: 11:00 – 13.00

Room: (Lenana)

Background/ Introduction

The Africa Union's transformative Agenda 2063 aspires for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent whose citizens are critical players and active global players¹. The attainment of this Vision requires a shift toward the knowledge-based economy that has triggered an unprecedented momentum across sub-Saharan Africa to revitalize the continent's higher education infrastructure and to reposition knowledge as a critical tool for tackling the development challenges facing Africa. *"The university must become a primary tool for Africa's development in the new century. Universities can help develop African expertise; they can enhance the analysis of African problems; strengthen domestic institutions; serve as a model environment for the practice of good governance, conflict resolution and respect for human rights, and enable African academics to play an active part in the global community of scholars (Kofi Annan, quoted by Bloom, Canning and Chan, 2006)".*²

However African universities continue to encounter several challenges, particularly with growing societal demands. With few resources, inadequate capacity and a history of neglect,

¹ <http://archive.au.int/assets/images/agenda2063.pdf>

² <https://www.oecd.org/sti/Governance%20of%20higher%20education%20research%20and%20innovation%20in%20Ghana%20Kenya%20and%20Uganda.pdf>





the sector has been struggling over the years to respond to these increasing demands, leading to ongoing capacity gaps. Partnerships between African higher education institutions and public, civil society, and corporate sectors have been deemed important for revitalizing and strengthening Africa's knowledge capacities through building and expanding research networks and communities spanning across institutional, disciplinary, and national boundaries. The typology of partnerships and regional networks to support higher education in Africa at different levels range from the intergovernmental efforts to a growing profile of higher education partnership initiatives supported at the bilateral and inter-agency levels. These have played a key role in internationalization of university programmes and networks between African Universities and those in Europe and USA through research capacity and staff development at the graduate, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral levels. Further, regional bodies such as the RUFORUM, and AAU have defined the role of the university and its interface with the national development agendas as well as the regional aspirations of the Africa We Want that is espoused by Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals³.

Objective of the Session

This panel discussion will give stakeholders opportunities to ponder, share experiences, lessons and ideas on how to build fair and beneficial partnerships at all levels; partnerships that place Higher Education in Africa to its central place in achieving the *Africa We Want*.

Specifically, the session will:

- i. Provide the current partnerships landscape for Higher Education in Africa.
- ii. Obtain perspectives in terms of what has been done, what needs to be done and how to do it better from various parts of the World and different institutions
- iii. Formulate recommendations concerning how to build long lasting partnerships that enable Higher Education in Africa to contribute towards the attainment of Agenda 2063

Session contributions:

Moderator: Dr. Aldo Stroebe, National Research Foundation (NRF) (10 minutes)

- a) Engages panelists ahead of the actual session to ensure each understand their expectations in terms of content and time management.
- b) Provides a very brief overview of the session. Moderator does not have a formal speaking role.
- c) Has a key role to lead the Q&A session, and to encourage dynamic exchanges between the speakers and the audience.
- d) Provides a 3 minute summary of the session key issues and recommendations for actions

³ <https://blog.ruforum.org/2017/11/28/the-untapped-potential-of-regional-programmes-support-to-higher-education/>





Lead Speaker: Dr. Assia Bensalah Alaoui, Ambassador at large for His Majesty the King Mohamed VI, Morocco (20 minutes)

- a) Provides the current partnerships landscape for Higher Education in Africa
- b) Tease out some key questions that will support the discussions by Panelists

Panelists and suggested Topics: Speakers present key statistics/policy decisions/examples of best practice, results etc. relating and reflecting the topic of the session. Please keep to the time limit.

1. **Prof. Mostafa Mohamed Ali Elbala**, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudan (10 minutes)
Partnerships for knowledge-led economies: Policy and practice
2. **Dr. Stephen Onakuse**, Representative of AGRINATURA, University College Cork, Ireland (10 minutes)
Perspectives of AGRINATURA on effective approaches for harnessing regional and global partnerships for higher education innovation in Africa
3. **Prof. Ansu Dao Sonii, Sr**, Minister of Education, Liberia (10 minutes)
Role of African Universities networks in fostering Partnerships for impact in Higher education and informing policy
4. **Professor Mark Erbaugh**, Ohio State University/American Public and Land Universities (10 minutes)
Global Partnerships to Enhance the Contribution of African Agricultural Higher Education Institutions to Agricultural and National Development: Lesson Learned from the Past and Suggestions for the Future.
5. **Dr Gaspard Banyankimbona**, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Burundi (10 minutes)
Leveraging collaboration and partnership in a global arena
6. **Prof. Kihee Ryu**, Seoul National University, Korea (10 minutes)
Partnerships between universities, private sector, policy makers, and civil society – lessons and perspectives from Korea

Rapporteur (Mr. Waswa Moses) work with the Moderator to capture key points/recommendations for inclusion in the report of the session.

Discussions (30 min): (Q & A with the audience)





Session line up:

<u>Time:</u>	<u>Activity</u>
11:00-11:10	Dr. Aldo Stroebel Introduces the Session (<i>10 minutes</i>)
11:10-11:30	Dr. Assia Bensalah Alaoui , Ambassador at large for His Majesty the King Mohamed VI, Morocco (<i>20 minutes</i>)
11:30-11:40	Prof. Mostafa Mohamed Ali Elbala Permanent Secretary, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudan (<i>10 minutes</i>)
11:40-11:50	Dr. Stephen Onakuse , Representative of AGRINATURA, University College Cork, Ireland (<i>10 minutes</i>)
11:50-12:00	Prof. Ansu Dao Sonii, Sr , Minister of Education, Liberia (<i>10 minutes</i>)
12:00-12:10	Professor Mark Erbaugh , Ohio State University/American Public and Land Universities (<i>10 minutes</i>)
12:10-12:20	Dr Gaspard Banyankimbona , Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Burundi (<i>10 minutes</i>)
12:20-12:30	Prof. Kihee Ryu , Seoul National University, Korea (<i>10 minutes</i>)
12:30-01:00	Discussion (<i>30 minutes</i>)

Expected session Output: Policy recommendations from the talks concerning harnessing regional and global partnerships for higher education innovation in Africa

