



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### CONCEPT NOTE

### VICE CHANCELLORS FORUM

## Round Table Discussion on Strengthening Resourcing for African University Mission Fulfilment

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 10.30-16:10 CAT

**Venue:** Hilton Hotel, Room KUISEB1, Windhoek, Namibia

**Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/3V6N6mF>

**Contact:** Prof. Patrick Okori, [p.okori@ruforum.org](mailto:p.okori@ruforum.org)

### INTRODUCTION

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a 170-member pan African organisation that was founded in 2004 by Vice Chancellors. RUFORUM has membership in 40 countries (for details see [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)). Over the years, the organisation has received strategic guidance and policy advice from its Board Members and leaders, the Vice Chancellors, which has helped it become a leader in higher agricultural education.

During RUFORUM convenings, Vice Chancellors also find opportunity to learn from each other, and build strategic alliances to support their respective universities' missions. RUFORUM has embarked on a process to support its Vice Chancellors and their respective university management efforts to implement transformative actions to improve mission delivery. These efforts are designed to scale-out innovative learning from within the network in two broad areas; i) transformative education, and ii) university led science for development agenda. The Vice Chancellors Forum of 2023 initiated a discussion on "Positioning African Universities to promote inclusive and sustainable development on the continent". The focus was on gender, diversity and inclusion, world of work for graduates, and integrated research. Based on the discussions held in 2023 in Yaoundé, the RUFORUM Secretariat initiated activities to operationalise recommendations made by the Vice Chancellors. During the 2024 Principals and Deans Forum, mechanisms for operationalising and scaling out safeguarding, inclusion, and diversity across the RUFORUM Network will be refined.

This year, RUFORUM will hold its Triennial Conference, under the main theme "***Operationalising Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialisation and Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action.***" It is a response to the urgent needs for the African governments, development partners, private sector, and citizenry to act and invest in higher education to underpin the continent's urgent development needs in an inclusive and sustainable way. For this to be achieved, there must be an alignment between the expectations from the university and the national, regional, and global development agenda. RUFORUM notes

Co-organisers





that delivery of respective University missions, there is need to strengthen resourcing capacity. Accordingly, it is proposed that during the 2024 Triennial Vice Chancellors Forum, the roundtable will focus strengthening African University resource mobilization capacity for mission fulfilment.

## PURPOSE OF THE ROUNDTABLE

The purpose of the roundtable is to discuss and evaluate best practices for improving resource mobilization in universities to meet their main mission areas of training, research, and impact delivery. This year's Vice Chancellor Forum aims to implement the Yaoundé Ministerial Action Point Number Four (4) i.e., "leveraging and enhancing partnerships for scaling out and impact delivery." The meeting will involve Vice Chancellors and invited speakers.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ROUNDTABLE

1. Identify opportunities and strategies for strengthening resource mobilization for higher education, research, and development.
2. Develop mechanisms for post conference mutual support and engagements in resource mobilization for higher education research and development.

## APPROACH

The Vice Chancellors Forum will be held in person and virtually ([Registration Linkxxxxx](#)). Discussion will be held in three key sub-themes; i) packaging university missions for large scale investment; ii) managing for results and impact delivery; and iii) putting collective knowledge into action. To stimulate discussion, lead papers will be presented, followed by panel discussions by experts, practitioners, and university leaders. The wider audience will then be engaged through a moderated discussion to further interrogate the submissions made through the lead papers and panel discussions to generate actions to be implemented.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The following outputs are expected to be produced from the Vice Chancellors' Forum

- a) Practical mechanisms for packaging universities as destinations for large scale investments for training, research and innovation, and enterprise development.
- b) Partnerships and approaches for operationalising collective knowledge from universities into development action.
- c) Mechanisms for effectively managing universities for results and development impact.

## MEETING VENUE, DATE AND LANGUAGE

The meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the Hilton Garden Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia. The meeting will be held in Arabic, English, French, and Portuguese.



## PROGRAMME

**Session Rapporteurs:** Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Mr. David Ekepu and **Representative from LOC**

**Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/3V6N6mF>

Time	Activity
<b>Session 1: Opening and Setting the Scene</b>	
10:15 – 10:30	Arrival and registration
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome remarks on behalf of local hosts: Prof. Osmund D. Mwandemele, Vice-Chancellor, International University of Management, Namibia
10:45 – 11:00	Opening remarks: Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice-Chancellor University of Bamenda, Cameroon
<b>Session 2: Packaging University Missions for Large Scale Investment – Resourcing</b>	
<b>Session Moderator:</b> Prof Aldo Stroebel, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Internationalisation, University of Mpumalanga, South Africa.	
11:00 – 11:40	<b>Lead Paper 1:</b> Positioning African Universities to close large strategic investment deals: Dr. Obed Kabanda. Organizational Learning and Leadership, Washington, USA.  <b>Lead Paper 2:</b> Strengthening Resourcing for University missions: Experiences from Development Partners and Governments. Prof. Elly Katunguka-Rwakishaya, Vice-Chancellor, Kyambogo University, Uganda
11:40 – 12:20	<b>Discussant 1:</b> Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor, Africa University, Zimbabwe
	<b>Discussant 2:</b> Prof Francis W. Petersen, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Free State
	<b>Discussant 3:</b> Prof. Ndèye Coumba Touré Kane, Rector, El-hadj Ibrahima NIASS University of Sine, Saloum (USSEIN), Senegal
12:20-12:40	<b>Discussion and concluding: Session moderator</b>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Session 3: Managing for results and impact</b>	
<b>Session Moderator:</b> Prof. Georgewill Owunari, Vice-Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Lead Paper:</b> Learning for Change and Impact. Dr Leonard O. Oruko, Assessment Expert.
14:20 – 15:00	<b>Discussant 1:</b> Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda, Vice-Chancellor Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
	<b>Discussant 2:</b> Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi.
	<b>Discussant 3:</b> Prof. Themba Mosia, Interim Vice-Chancellor and Principal University of Pretoria, South Africa.
	<b>Discussant 4:</b> Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University, Uganda.
15:00 – 15:20	<b>Discussion and concluding remarks by Session moderator</b>
<b>Session 4: Putting collective knowledge into action</b>	
<b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Peter Matengu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Namibia	
15:20 – 15:50	<b>Pooling for collective action:</b> Opportunities for post roundtable actions: Working groups and functional teams. Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice-Chancellor University of Bamenda



15:50 – 16:10	<b>Discussion and concluding remarks by Session moderator</b>
16:10	<b>Health Break and Departures</b>

