



2nd RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

HIGH LEVEL POLICY ROUND TABLE: BUILDING AFRICA'S HUMAN CAPITAL TO UNDERPIN ITS 21ST CENTURY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

Date: 13th August 2024 **Time:** 08:30-12:40 CAT

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Room Omatako 2

Registration Link:

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BACKGROUND

In February, 2024, The [African Union Second 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063](#), (STYIP) was launched. The implementation plan leverages earlier investments to create prospects for the “The Africa We Want.” Goal two of STYIP aims to deliver, “well-educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation (STI)”. The STYIP aims to produce 100,000 African PhDs, a fifth of whom will be in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. While enrolment in higher/tertiary education has tripled over the past two decades across Africa, asymmetry in performance across different regions especially in PhD level training persists. Indeed, 2000 and 2019 PhD enrolments, increased from 9% to 34%, but with 4 out of 10 students (40%) registered in South Africa¹. To be sure, the number of PhD Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) per 100,000 of agricultural populations remains low, less than 7 FTEs, compared to Brazil that has 31 PhD FTEs². This limits SSA’s ability for STI to underpin science led growth of the continent’s agriculture sector.

What then must be done during this second decade of Agenda 2063 implementation? The STYIP provides the strategic direction that necessitates a balanced education systems that increases SSA ability to unlock opportunity for its young talent resident in the youth. To achieve the STYIP aspirations for a diverse continent that has varied capacities and challenges, requires that Africa leverage its resident capacities, continent-wide frameworks and flagship projects. Such investments should be informed by the AUC, African-Governments, Regional Economic Communities, the African Development Bank, Agriculture and related discipline Apex organs and Development Partners engagements for cost leverage opportunities. To ensure collated planning and outcomes, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Africa (RUFORUM) now proposes to

¹ Van Schalkwyk, F. Cloete, N., Milandr . V-L 2021. Brain circuitry: The case of South Africa as a hub for doctoral education. South African Journal of Science. 117. 10.17159/sajs.2021/10674.

² Jayne, T.S. Zingore, S., Ibra Niang, I.A., Palm, C., Shah, S., Sanchez, P. 2023. Building twenty-first century agricultural research and extension capacity in Africa. *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 50, (5) 1824–1846 <https://doi.org/10.1093/erae/jbad028>.

Co-organisers:





contribute to the development of a continental framework for skilling in agriculture and related STEM disciplines for Africa.

ABOUT THE CONVENERS

RUFORUM: The RUFORUM is a pan-African network of 170 predominantly agriculture teaching and research universities found in 40 countries of the continent that was established 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 enhance 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).

African Union Commission. Given the need to work across agriculture, STI and education subsectors of the economy, the AUC will provide leadership via The Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) Department and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE). More details about AUC departments and its operations across Africa can be found at (<https://au.int/en/>)

MEETING PURPOSE

This policy round-table aims to create convergence on the design-to-implementation imperatives for developing a continental framework to guide strategic investments in developing human capital for Africa's agriculture and related disciplines for 21st Century. Senior Leaders of the agricultural education and development ecosystems will be able to use it as a forum to plan and collaborate on initiatives that will help draw in funding to expand Africa's tertiary education sector and deliver the necessary human capital.

ROUND TABLE OBJECTIVES

The Senior Leaders attending will deliberate on imperatives for road-map needed to design and for delivery of transformative education required to underpin science led economic growth. The meeting will be framed by two specific objectives:

1. Receive, consider, and provide guidance for creation of an AUC led Technical Working Group that will champion development of the road map for HC4A and related processes.
2. Identify key deliverables including but not limited to
 - a. Drafting of the Issue Paper and its elements including the drafting teams.
 - b. Engagement strategy for soliciting participation of key stakeholders and partners.
 - c. The resourcing strategy.
 - d. Events planning road map including the planning for AUC's Specialized Technical Working Committees.

APPROACH

To create convergence, lead presentations will be made to guide discussions. Moderated discussions will subsequently be used to deepen understanding and generate engagement of participants. Subsequently, participants will engage in deliberation that will agree on the major actions and next steps to be taken.

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PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will involve key stakeholders of the agriculture and related sectors of Africa's economy and education ecosystem. Key stakeholders include: AUC Departments (ESTI, ARBE); African Government, Higher Education Agencies/networks- AAU, IUCEA; Un agencies- UNESCO, FAO, ILO; Development Banks-AfDB, Badea, World Bank; Apex agriculture agencies- FARA, SROs; RECs-SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, EAC, IGAD; Development Partners- Private Philanthropy and official development assistance agencies; Education agencies- Agrinatura, International Universities- WUR, One CGIAR, and RUFORUM network leaders (Vice chancellors from Fragile countries and the representatives of the RUFORUM Board).

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

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

- a) The Technical Working Group established along with preliminary Terms of Reference to be developed subsequently.
- b) Key deliverables leading up to development of the HC4A road map and the requisite processes and actions identified and the next action areas prioritized.
- c) Requisite institutions engaged to inform, enrich, support and implement the HC4D

MEETING VENUE

The meeting will be held on, 13th August 2024 at the Mercure Hotel, Room Omatako 2, Windhoek, Namibia. The meeting will be held in French and English.

Co-organisers:





PROGRAMME

Session Rapporteurs: RUFORUM

Time	Agenda item	Responsible party
08:30-08:40	Arrival and registration	Local Organizing Committee
Session Chair: Prof Aldo Stroebel, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Innovation and Internationalisation, University of Mpumalanga, South Africa		
08:40-08:50	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM- Board Chair and Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda
08:50- 09:00	Welcome Remarks	Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Namibia
09:00-09:10	Remarks from Government of Malawi	Hon. Madalitso Wirima Kambauwa, Minister of Education, Malawi
09:10-09:20	Remarks from Government of Uganda	Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Musingo, Minister of State for Higher Education, Uganda
09:20-09:30	Remarks from FAO Regional Office for Africa	Prof. Abebe Haile-Gabriel
09:30-10:00	Lead paper: Rebuilding Africa's human capital: The need for a rebalancing Africa's human resource pyramid for inclusive, effective and impactful development	H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner – Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
10:00-10:30	HEALTH BREAK	
10:30-11:00	Lead Paper: Human capital for agricultural innovation and impact in Africa: What are the gaps and opportunities	Dr. Simeon Ehui, Regional Director, Continental Africa CGIAR and DG IITA
11:00-11:20	Fire-side chart: Human Capacities for Agriculture, Science, Technology and Innovation: Experiences from the Regional Economic Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Elias M. Magosi, Executive Secretary, SADC • H.E Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, Secretary General, COMESA • H.E Bertin Somé, Acting Secretary General, ECOWAS • H.E Ms. Veronica Mueni Nduva, Secretary General, EAC 	Moderator: Prof Aldo Stroebel
11:20-12:00	Fire-side chart: Investments, partnerships and implementation frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina Muparadzi, Mastercard Foundation • Roberta Malee Bassett, World Bank • Dr Babatunde Olumide Omilola, African Development Bank 	Moderator: Prof Aldo Stroebel

Co-organisers:





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincenzo LORUSSO, European Commission • US Agency for International Development • Carnegie Cooperation of New York 	
12:00-12:30	<p>Director ESTI, AUC processes: Presentation AUC processes for development of continental initiatives</p> <p>Discussions and implementation imperatives</p>	Prof Aldo Stroebel
12:30-12:40	Meeting closure and Health Break	All

Co-organisers:

