



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

### CONCEPT NOTE

### 24<sup>TH</sup> TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 14:00 – 16:30 SAT

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

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### INTRODUCTION

The Technical Committee is one of RUFORUM's governance bodies whose role is to provide guidance on the technical operations of the organisation. The Technical Committee is one of RUFORUM's oldest oversight bodies created at its inception 20 years ago. Since then, RUFORUM has grown into a continental body focusing on the broader agricultural sector. This includes other allied sections of the economy such as health, environment, and entrepreneurship among others. The primary oversight role of the Technical Committee includes among others grant development, oversight of competitive granting process, advice on regional training needs and programmes and backstop monitoring of training and research programmes.

RUFORUM has started implementing its second phase of the eight-year strategy with a refreshed Operational Plan that runs from 2024 to 2028. In order to deliver on the Operation Plan, we have reorganized the operation units into four programmatic areas. Two of the programmatic areas were derived from amalgamations and or reassignment of programmes and key output areas. (See Box 1 for details). In order to inform the content and strategic thrusts of these four programme areas, we are requesting the Technical Committee to guide the Secretariat on topical issues that will help the organisation deliver on its mission.

### Box 1. RUFORUM's new focus programmatic areas





***Skilling, Engagement and Community Development (SECD).*** It is a modification of the old Training and Community Development Programme. SECD aims to ensure that Higher Agricultural Education institutions produce learning products, services, and processes that meet the needs and aspirations of agri-food system actors;

***Research, Innovation and Development (RID).*** Is an amalgam of two flagship programmes in the just ended OP- Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence (CREATE) and Regional Anchor Universities for Higher Agricultural Education (RANCH). It aims to strengthen the capacity of RUFORUM's member universities to conduct original and impactful research that can drive Africa's agricultural development. It also oversees RUFORUM's graduate and other senior capacity strengthening initiatives;

***Strategic Partnerships.*** This is a new programme that aims to build and nurture the RUFORUM network by increasing visibility, fostering dynamic alumni communities, building strategic partnerships, and leading resource mobilization for mission implementation;

***Strategic Knowledge Management.*** This Programme continues the work of K-Hub aiming to strengthen the capacity of universities to curate, package, and disseminate knowledge across Africa's HAE and Science Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystems

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this Technical Committee Meeting is to provide strategic guidance to RUFORUM on core technical issues that affect delivery of the [RUFORUM Vision 2030](#) by its programmes. This is particularly important as the organisation starts its third decade under the newly launched operation plan.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

During this session of the Technical Committee we would like to seek guidance on critical issue around a core component of teaching, learning and research within the cluster areas indicated below:

1. **Strengthening the contribution of African science (R4D)** – Guidance for creating agenda research programmes at universities.
2. **Centres of Excellence:** Equity, quality and sustainability - Guidance for review and planning.
3. **Impact oriented research:** Reviews from R4D agenda by programmes. A new spot-lighted is the agri-food systems and entrepreneurship centers at universities.

## PARTICIPANTS



The participants to the TC meeting will be the seven TC members, the RUFORUM Secretariat executive staff, and any other RUFORUM staff designated by the Executive Secretary as necessary. Representatives of the RUFORUM Board may attend the TC meeting.

### DATE, VENUE AND LANGUAGES

The 24<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting will take place on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia; from 14:00 – 16:30 SAT. The meeting will be held at a University in Namibia, which will be confirmed in due course. It will be delivered in English, French and Portuguese.

### METHODOLOGY

Briefing notes will be shared well in advance. The TC meeting will take place in plenary and blended mode. There will be PowerPoint Presentations followed by discussions, and deliberations. Breakout sessions can be used if deemed necessary by the TC members to address issues raised under the objective section of this concept note.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- a. Minutes from last meeting reviewed and approved
- b. Strategic guidance to RUFORUM Programmes on both emerging and operational issues.
- c. Clarified role and an agreed action plan for the TC over the next six months informed by action undertaken post Yaoundé 2023.

## PROGRAMME

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Session Rapporteurs: Secretariat

Time SAT	Agenda item	Responsible party
13:30-14:00	Arrival and registration	Secretariat
14:00-14:05	Welcome remarks, introduction, presentation and adoption of the agenda, quorum verification	Chair, TC
14:05-14:10	Welcome remarks from RUFORUM Secretariat	Secretariat- ES
14:10-14:30	Review, discussions and matters arising from the previous minutes and previous minute approval	TC Members
	<b>Programme reports by the Secretariat</b>	
14:30-14:35	Research, Innovation and Development.	Prof Majaliwa
14:35-14:45	Skilling, Engagement and Community Development.	Prof Egeru
14:45-15:00	Strategic Partnerships.	Dr Sokona
15:00-15:15	Strategic Knowledge Management	David A. Martin
15:15-15:30	Strategic areas: RUFORUM Executive Secretary	Prof Patrick Okori
15:30-15:50	General discussions and guidance	All
15:50-16:10	Updates from TC members (2 min per member)	TC Members
16:10-16:30	General Discussions and Resolutions	All
16:30-16:40	Any Other Business	All
16:40	End of the meeting	TC Chair

Co-organisers:

