

Press Release



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African Union Chairperson announces a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government to Champion Higher Education in Africa at the RUFORUM Conference in Cape Town

10th November, 2016
Cape Town, South Africa



Her Excellency Dr. Nkosasana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission at the fifth Biennial Conference and Higher Education Week in Cape Town, South Africa. Photo Credit: Aletta Harrison

Ten African Heads of State and Government have been constituted into a Committee to champion Higher Education, Science and Technology in Africa, as part of the efforts to strengthen the role of Science and Technology to enhance the realization of economic growth on the continent.

This announcement was made by Her Excellency, Dr. Nkosasana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission at the opening Ceremony of the Regional University Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Fifth Biennial Conference and African Higher Education Week, 2016. The event took place on the 18th October, 2016 at the Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Committee of 10, will support the implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa and ensure that Science, Technology and Innovation can be used to drive economic growth in Africa.

The Committee of 10 will be coordinated by the His Excellency Macky Sall, President of Senegal and include two Heads of State from each of the five African regions. Below is the list of the 10 Heads of State;

No.	Region	Country	Member
1.	West Africa	Senegal	President Macky Sall
2.		Sierra Leone	President Ernest Bai Karoma
3.	North Africa	Egypt	President Abdel Fattah El Sisi
4.		Tunisia	President Beji Caid Essebsi
5.	Southern Africa	Malawi	President Arthur Peter Mutharika
6.		Namibia	President Have Geingob
7.	Eastern Africa	Kenya	President Uhuru Kenyatta
8.		Mauritius	President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim
9.	Central Africa	Chad	President Idriss Deby Itno
10.		Gabon	President Bongo Odimba

The RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Prof. Mabel Imbuga thanked the African Union for putting in place the Committee of 10, which she heralded as a major milestone in the efforts to achieve *Agenda 2063 - Building the Africa We want*.

She confirmed the readiness of the RUFORUM Network to implement actions to strengthen Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) development in Africa.



Notes to Editors:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a network of 60 African Universities with mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established in 2004, with Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM signed MoU with the African Union and has mandate to support capacity building for science, research and technology development in Africa. RUFORUM has supported the training of over 1500 postgraduate students, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$70 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA) 2024: STISA was approved by African Heads of States in 2014 and aims to strengthen the role of science, technology and innovation as a means to ensure economic development in Africa. RUFORUM has developed a strategic framework for the implementation of Priority Area One of STISA (Eradication of Hunger and Achieving Food Security). This is part of its commitment under the MoU between RUFORUM and Africa Union Commission (AUC) signed in Mozambique during the RUFORUM Biennial Conference in July 2014. RUFORUM is also keen to ensure university contribution through postgraduate research that impacts directly on the society and across all the six STISA Priority areas. STISA 2024 provides an important mechanism for RUFORUM and African universities to contribute towards the Agenda 2063 “The Africa We Want”.

For additional information, photos and interviews with key delegates, contact Miss. Joan Apio, below.

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