

Strengthening the African knowledge society: towards more sustainable African-European university partnerships

A virtual conference organised by the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities

Date

Monday, 22 November 2021

Time

- 08:00 – 12:30 (Praia)
- 09:00 – 13:30 (Accra, London)
- 10:00 – 14:30 (Kinshasa, Brussels)
- 11:00 – 15:30 (Cairo, Bucharest)
- 12:00 – 16:30 (Addis Ababa)

Programme (Brussels time)

Speakers might be subject to change

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome and introduction

Ernest Aryeetey, Secretary-General, ARUA
Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General, The Guild

10:15 – 10:25 Opening address

Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, AU Commission

10:25 – 11:00 Keynote presentations | Africa's Research Capacity: performance and potential

Nico Cloete, Research Professor, Stellenbosch University and Guest Professor, University of Oslo
Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies, University of Oslo and Extraordinary Professor, Stellenbosch University
Jane Catherine Ngila, Acting Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences

11:00 – 12:00 Panel 1 | Universities and the Future: what role should higher education play in a post-pandemic AU-EU strategic relationship?

Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana
Adam Habib, Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University
Bernd Scholz-Reiter, Vice-President for International Affairs, German Rectors' Conference
Svein Stølen, Rector, University of Oslo
Moderated by **'Funmi Olonisakin**, Vice-President (Global Engagement), King's College London

12:00 – 12:25 **Break**

12:25 – 13:20 **Panel 2 | Strengthening African Knowledge Societies Through University Research: state-of-play and way forward**

Ama de-Graft Aikins, British Academy Global Professor, University College London
Murray Leibbrandt, Professor, University of Cape Town
Mwapatsa Mipando, Dean, University of Malawi
Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean, Makerere University
Moderated by **Paul Garside**, Dean for Global Engagement (Africa and the Middle East), University of Glasgow

13:20 – 14:15 **Panel 3 | Towards a New Research and Innovation Agenda: universities in AU-EU relations**

Souad Aden-Osman, Executive Director, Coalition for Dialogue on Africa
Carla Montesi, Director for Green Deal, Digital Agenda, Directorate-General International Partnerships, European Commission
Mahama Ouedraogo, Acting Director for Human Resources, Science & Technology, AU Commission
Maria Cristina Russo, Director Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission
Moderated by **Ernest Aryeetey**, Secretary-General, ARUA

14:15 – 14:30 **Closing remarks**

Slim Khalbous, Rector, Association of Francophone Universities
Njuguna Ndung'u, Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium
Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General, The Guild

About The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)

Composed of sixteen leading universities in Africa, ARUA aims to enhance research and graduate training in member universities through a number of channels, including the setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) at its member universities. Addressing key challenges of Africa's sustainable development, ARUA CoEs are intended to be focal points for aggregating world-class researchers from member universities and elsewhere to undertake collaborative research in priority thematic areas while providing opportunities for graduate students from the region and elsewhere to work with the researchers.

About The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities

Founded in 2016, The Guild comprises twenty-one of Europe's most distinguished research-intensive universities in sixteen countries and is dedicated to enhancing the voice of academic institutions, their researchers, and their students. The Guild is committed to the pursuit of excellence, the importance of truth-seeking and trust-building as the foundation of public life, and the creation of new knowledge for the benefit of society, culture, and economic growth.