

Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations

Formal Launch

09.30 – 13.30, Wed 5 July 2023 in conjunction with COREVIP 2023
Windhoek Country Club Hotel, Namibia

Charter Launch website: tinyurl.com/Afr1caCharter

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ymsuzh2x> (Meeting ID: 851 7906 5281 / Passcode: 934510)

BACKGROUND– THE CHARTER INITIATIVE

In a joint endeavour, Africa’s major higher education bodies and networks, including the Association of African Universities (AAU), the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), the Inter-University Council for Eastern Africa (IUCEA), the Association of West African Universities (AWAU), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the International Network for Higher Education in Africa (INHEA) – have developed a Charter for transformative research collaborations with Africa that will serve to advance and uphold the continent’s contribution to the global production of knowledge.

The initiative is facilitated by the Perivoli Africa Research Centre (PARC), University of Bristol, in partnership with the University of South Africa Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair and the University of Cape Town Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA).

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AFRICA CHARTER FOR TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Drawing on African intellectual thought, analyses of extant global scientific and equitable partnerships efforts, and dialogue with key HE and research actors in Europe, North America and others across the globe, the Charter articulates:

- 1) **Key Principles** on how research collaborations need to be configured to redress the multi-layered power imbalances in the global North-Africa production of scientific knowledge and
- 2) **Key Aspirations** for policy change - by individual higher education institutions (HEI), HE networks, funders, science governance bodies, publishers and governments - to ensure that such a transformative collaboration mode is established as best and standard practice.

The Charter asserts that such change is imperative for advancing a more just and richer, pluriversal global scientific effort - across formal, natural, social sciences, arts and humanities - in which Africa takes its rightful place.

A wider programme of work and engagement will develop targeted implementation frameworks and expand intellectual reflection, further inquiry and exchange to ensure that the Charter principles and ambitions are realised in practice.

THE LAUNCH

The formal launch of the Charter will bring together high-level representatives of major higher education and research institutes, networks, and funding and policy bodies in Africa, Europe and beyond. Through expert analyses, reflection and exchange by foremost scholars and policy leaders in the field, the launch will explore and affirm the case for, as well as the meaning, vision and potential, of the Charter.

Through the signing of a concluding declaration of endorsement of the Charter, key delegates will form an initial coalition of major, forward-thinking actors committed to advancing a genuine rebalancing of Africa-global North research relations - in pursuit of a richer, more just science future for the continent and globally.

AGENDA

PART 1 SETTING THE SCENE

09.30 – 09.40 **Opening Musical Performance**

09.40 – 09.55 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

- Prof. Olusola Oyewole, Secretary General, Association of African Universities
- Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Secretary General, African Research Universities Alliance
- H.E. Prof Mohammed Belhocine, African Union, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

09.55– 10.00 **Introduction of Programme**

- Moderator: Prof. Ambreena Manji, Dean of International for Africa, Cardiff University

10.00 – 10.25 **The Charter Initiative: meaning, vision, potential**

- Prof. Sue Harrison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town
- Prof. Puleng LenkaBula, Vice-Chancellor, University of South Africa
- Prof. Evelyn Welch, Vice-Chancellor, University of Bristol
- Mr. James Alexandroff, Perivoli Foundation ([PI](#))

PART 2 THE CASE

10.25 – 11.00 **Africa and Global Scientific Knowledge Production: the imperative of advancing transformative research collaborations**

Presentation and moderated plenary discussion

11.00 – 11.20 *Coffee/Tea break*

11.20 – 12.10 **Importance of a Charter Framework to advance Transformative Research Collaborations**

Panel and moderated plenary discussion

- Moderator: Prof. Wisdom Tettey, Vice President University of Toronto, Principal University of Toronto, Scarborough
- Panellists:
 - Dr. Fonteh Akum, Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa
 - Dr. Julien Bobinaeu, Chair, Development Cooperation Working Group, The Coimbra Group
 - Prof. Adenike Temidayo Oladiji, Secretary General, Association of West African Universities
 - Dr. Nokuthula Mchunu, Deputy Director, Africa Open Science Platform

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PART 3 PRESENTING AND ENDORSING THE CHARTER

12.10 – 12.40 **The Charter and Roadmap for its Implementation**

Presentation and Q&A

12.40– 13.10 **Endorsement of Charter**

Representatives of relevant institutions and bodies sign (in person and video recordings) declaration endorsing Charter principles and aspirations, and expressing support for wider initiative to realise them.

13.10– 13.20 **Concluding remarks**

- Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia; President, Council of the Pan African University

13.20 – 13.30 **Closing Musical Performance**

13.30 – 14.30 *Lunch*