



RUFORUM 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

International Advisory Panel Meeting



THEME

Positioning Africa's Universities and the Higher Education Sector to effectively impact development processes on the continent

Hosts:

The Government of Botswana and
RUFORUM member Universities in Botswana led by Botswana University of
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Venue:

Board Room

Date: 28th November 2025

Time: 14:30-16:30 Central African Time (CAT)

Contact: Professor Patrick Okori (p.okori@ruforum.org)

Background

The International Advisory Panel (IAP) is one of RUFORUM's Governance organs created to provide the extra eye for foresight, review and strategic guidance to strengthen the organisation's role in the continent in agricultural higher education. The IAP provides advice to the RUFORUM Board and its Secretariat on a wide range of issues, such as the international funding context and opportunities, strategic priorities and strategic partnerships, mobilizing international support, and strengthening secretariat management among others. Statutory, the RUFORUM's International Advisory Panel (IAP) should meet at least once annually, either through in-person event or virtual / blended meetings.

This year, the IAP has held so far two (2) meetings. One was held on 24th June virtually and the second on the 5th September at Hilton Garden Inn Kampala Hotel in a blended mode. The upcoming meeting is the 3rd meeting that will take place on 28th November 2025 as part of the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Network.

Purpose

The overall goal of this IAP meeting is to offer a platform for RUFORUM IAP members to reflect on what transpired at the Secretariat during the year and/ or since the last meeting, and building on that, provide strategic guidance to the Secretariat.

Specific objectives

This IAP meeting will focus on discussions around the following:

1. Strengthening RUFORUM’s Resource Mobilization
2. Instituting regional learning seminars to service member universities as possible entry points for operationalizing regional nodes
3. RUFORUM strategic engagement in bi-continental initiatives through the AU-EU partnership on FNSSA.
4. The RUFORUM weekly digest survey report

Expected Outcomes

1. Minutes of the last IAP meeting held on 5th September 2025, Hilton Garden Inn Kampala Hotel approved.

Venue: Board Room
Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/4ooVzOn>
Session Chair: David Nelson
Rapporteurs: Dr. Sokona

2. Guidance on the RUFORUM resource Mobilization Strategy
3. Guidance on the Secretariat instituting regional learning seminars to service member universities as possible entry points for operationalizing regional nodes
4. Guidance on the RUFORUM strategic engagement in bi-continental initiatives through the AU-EU partnership on FNSSA
5. Guidance on the recommendations of the RUFORUM weekly digest survey report

Participants

Approximately 15 participants are expected to attend the IAP meeting. They include IAP members, Secretariat staff. Other network /governance organ members may attend.

Time	Activity	Responsible person
14:30 – 14:35	Opening Prayer	Appointed Member
14:35 – 14:45	Communication from the Chair	Chairperson
14:45 – 15:00	Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous IAP Meeting (5 Sept 2025, Hilton Garden Inn Kampala Hotel)	Chairperson and Members
15:00 – 16:15	Secretariat Briefing and Guidance on Key Issues: • Strengthening RUFORUM’s Resource Mobilization Strategy • Instituting Regional Learning Seminars for Member Universities • Strategic Engagement in AU-EU FNSSA Bi-Continental Initiatives • RUFORUM Weekly Digest Survey Report	Prof Okori Patrick
16:15 – 16:30	Adjourn Meeting	Chairperson