



19th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 19TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Date and Time: 30th October 2023 (11:00-13:00 GMT+1)

Venue: Inaugural Hall, Palais des Congrès, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3DRfC28>

Concept Note

Contact: Prof. Patrick Okori, RUFORUM Executive Secretary

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Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of 163 universities in 40 African countries will hold its 19th Annual General Meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 28th October to 2nd November 2023. This is the first time the AGM is being held in Central Africa and provides an opportunity for stakeholders in agriculture and higher education to share experiences and chart a way forward for transforming higher agricultural and tertiary education to contribute to sustainable development in Africa. The overall theme of the 19th RUFORUM AGM is to deliberate on **“Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa”**.

The meeting will bring together over 600 delegates from across Africa and beyond, under the patronage of His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, Ministers, African Union Commission, Development Partners, University leaders, students, private sector leaders; farmers and farmer representatives; emerging and early career researchers other key stakeholders.

Several key sessions will be held pre-and during this year’s AGM. However, the official opening ceremony is slated for the morning of 30th October 2023. The AGM provides a forum for engaging the Higher Education Sector Ecosystem Partners, Governments, Continental and other Apex Bodies, Development Partners to dialogue, review and forge strategic directions necessary for transforming the higher education sector.

Specifically, the objectives of the opening ceremony are to:

1. Deliberate on key strategies for transforming higher agricultural and tertiary education to contribute to national, continental and global development.
2. Build consensus among key stakeholders in agriculture and higher education on the actions required to strengthen the role and/or integration of universities in agricultural and national development processes in line with the aspirations of the [African Union Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want'](#).

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Co-organized by:





Meeting Approach

In this meeting, key higher education leaders, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Cameroon, Ministers, and Development partners will give keynote addresses highlighting needed actions to strengthen the role of universities to contribute to socio-economic development in Africa. This will be followed by the recognition Award to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Cameroon. His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon is expected to grace the official opening of the AGM and receive his recognition Award. The Draft programme for the official opening ceremony of the 2023 AGM and scientific Conference is as shown below.

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Programme

Official Opening Ceremony for 19 th Annual General Meeting	
Session Chair: His Excellency, Prof. Jacques FAME NDONGO, Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Cameroon	
Master of Ceremonies: TBC by LOC	
Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Okalany Emmanuel, Mr. Yamungu Alongo, Mr. Waswa Moses, Representative from the LOC TBC	
10:30-11:00	Arrival of Guests /Entertainment by Cameroon Universities
Conference Welcome Remarks	
11:00-11:15	Cameroon National Anthem & AU Anthem
11:15-11:25	Welcome Remarks by the Session Chair, His Excellency, Prof. Jacques FAME NDONGO, Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Cameroon
11:25-11:30-	Remarks by Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda
11:30-11:35	Remarks by Prof. Patrick Okori, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
Conference Address	
11:35-11:45	Remarks by H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission
11:45-11:55	Remarks by representative of visiting Ministers: Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Namibia
11:55-12:10	Keynote Address by H.E Dr. Akin Adesina, President, African Development Bank
12:10-12:15	RUFORUM Documentary
Official Opening of AGM Address	
12:15-12:30	Citation and introduction of the Guest of Honour by His Excellency, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon
12:30-12:50	Official AGM Opening Address: H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon
12:50-12:55	Vote of Thanks by His Excellency Felix Mbayu, Minister of External Relations in Charge of Common Wealth, Cameroon
12:55-13:00	Cameroon National Anthem
13:00-13:30	Official viewing of the posters/exhibitions led by His Excellency, the President and invited Dignitaries
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:00	Poster/exhibition viewing by all participants

15:00-16:30

Transformative Education: Preparing young people for the workforce

Additional contacts

RUFORUM Secretariat

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Local Organising Committee

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