

**THE EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT: BUILDING COMMUNITIES  
FOR RESILIENCE  
11 - 13 MARCH 2019  
VICE-CHANCELLORS' COMMUNIQUE**

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Makerere University (Mak) together with North Carolina State University (NC State) USA convened the East African Higher Education Summit: Building Communities for Resilience in Kampala, Uganda. The purpose for the Summit was to develop strategies to strengthen higher education in the East Africa region, which expands the partnership between Mak and NC State established in 2015.

Pursuant to the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, the partnership has been expanded to form a collaboration to include Gulu University (Uganda), Mount Kenya University (Kenya), and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda).

Specifically, the objectives of the Summit were to:

- i. provide a platform for the East African Universities to dialogue on the transformation of higher education to support research and economic development;
- ii. discuss regional capacity building in higher education through partnerships;
- iii. explore implementation frameworks at the regional level

**We**, the Vice-Chancellors and senior representatives of Universities assembled at this Summit express commitment to further deepen the strategic partnership between the collaborating institutions. We underscore the importance of multilateral collaboration as an instrument to address current and future global challenges namely food security, climate change and public health through community engagement.

As research-intensive universities, we have a collective responsibility of strengthening research that impacts on policy and practice. We, undertake to enhance collaboration based on the principles of complementarity, comparative advantage, and collective responsibility.

We, have reviewed the challenges to higher education and research in the region and agreed to jointly increase cooperation with respect to research and graduate training at PhD level.

As a way forward, we commit to:

1. Building capacity and pursuing excellence in research, teaching and scholarship.
2. Increasing mobility of staff and students and strengthen regional level training through;
  - a) leveraging joint graduate programs
  - b) developing and retaining quality faculty to conduct high-quality research, teaching and community engagement
  - c) international competitiveness of East African institutions of higher education,
  - d) assuring the quality of educational provision against agreed benchmarks of excellence.

**We**, agree to continue with the engagement until a final implementation strategy and framework is developed. At an agreed date, we shall convene to take stock of progress in the partnership between NC State and East African regional universities represented.

We, the undersigned sitting at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

1. Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University, Uganda  
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2. Dr. Bailian Li, Senior Vice Provost, Global Engagement, North Carolina State University, USA  
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3. Prof. George Ladaah Openjuru, Vice-Chancellor, Gulu University, Uganda  
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4. Prof. Peter Wanderi, Principal Corporate Services, Rep. Vice-Chancellor, Mount Kenya University, Kenya  
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5. Assoc. Prof. Gertrude Kiwanuka, Dean Faculty of Medicine, Rep. Vice-Chancellor, Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda  
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Makerere University

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019