Joint declaration by the participating universities in the South African Sweden University Forum (SASUF)

The South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) fosters collaboration and networking in research and education to jointly tackle some of the intractable challenges faced by South Africa and Sweden defined by the United Nations Agenda 2030. All universities taking part in this unique forum endorse the conviction that working multilaterally will achieve better results than working unilaterally. Our collaboration can generate innovative approaches, solutions and results society wide that otherwise would not be possible making cooperation between Sweden and South Africa a local and global catalyst for sustainable development. The strong relations between South Africa and Sweden today are built on a foundation of mutual trust, cooperation and exchange. As two countries on the opposite ends of the globe, we realize that cooperation is key to our future prosperity as countries.

The 2nd South Africa – Sweden Research & Innovation Week within SASUF has brought together more than 1000 researchers, students and other participants from both countries in 52 workshops, seminars and events to discuss mutual solutions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is evident from the activities during the week that collaboration in research and education between Sweden and South Africa has grown to become exceptionally strong, with researchers in both countries committed to initiate and sustain partnerships including an active student participation as well as engaging with surrounding communities (locally, regionally and globally). To maintain this momentum and fulfil the potential of these collaborations, it is vital that this commitment is reflected in the national priorities and policies for the collaboration in research and education between South Africa and Sweden, as well as the priorities of the participating universities.

On the occasion of the 2nd South Africa – Sweden Research & Innovation Week, taking place from the 6-10th of May 2019, the Vice Chancellors/representatives of the 36 universities in SASUF agree to the following joint statement directed at governments in both countries.

The universities participating in SASUF call on their respective government to promote collaboration and networking linked to the United Nations Agenda 2030 through research and educational cooperation between South Africa and Sweden by facilitating the following:

- To support flexible mobility of academic staff, students encompassing under-graduate, post-graduate, and doctoral students as well as post docs and provide for exchange opportunities for administrative officials – by strengthening existing funding structures and creating new ones where gaps exist.
- To facilitate the development of early career academics - through the initiation of grant programmes to enhance collaboration and networking between South Africa and Sweden.
- To ensure appropriate flexible funding schemes to facilitate partnerships in research and education between South Africa and Sweden.
Follow-up summit

The 3rd South Africa – Sweden Research & Innovation Week will take place in Sweden during May 4-8 2020. It is the suggestion of the Vice-Chancellors to hold a follow-up meeting in Uppsala on May 7 2020.

Done in Stellenbosch, May 10 2019

Signatures on behalf of the SASUF consortium

Marshall Shelden, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Innovation and Technology
Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Henk de Jager, Vice-Chancellor and Principal
Central University of Technology

Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation & Engagement
Durban University of Technology

Thomas Blom, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Karlstad University

KI - Karolinska Institutet

Sigbritt Karlsson, Vice-Chancellor
KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Peter Värbrand, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Linköping University

Andrew Leitch, Deputy Vice-Chancellor:
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Per Hillbr, Pro-Rector
Malmö University

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