

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> South Africa – Sweden Research & Innovation Week, taking place from the 6-10<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



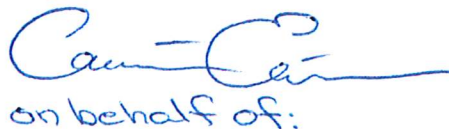
Marshall Sheldon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Research Innovation and Technology  
Cape Peninsula University of Technology



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

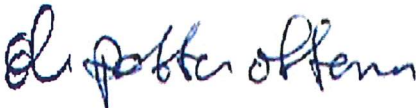


Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research,  
Innovation & Engagement  
Durban University of Technology



on behalf of:

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



Lund University



Per Hillbur, Pro-Rector  
Malmö University



Andrew Leitch, Deputy Vice-Chancellor:  
Research and Engagement  
Nelson Mandela University

Stephanie Burton, Vice Principal  
University of Pretoria

Therijwe Meyiwa  
Vice-Principal, Research, Postgraduate  
Studies, Innovation and  
Commercialisation  
University of South Africa

University of the Free State  
RC Witthuhn, DVC, Research

University of the Western Cape

Segun Obadire, Acting Director, International  
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University of Venda

Zebulon Vilakazi, Deputy Vice-chancellor for  
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University of Witwatersrand

Prof NBW Mliwa  
University of Zululand

Jan Theliander, Pro-Vice Chancellor  
University West

Eva Åkesson, Vice-Chancellor  
Uppsala University

Vaal University of Technology

Victor Mtetwa, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for  
Academic Affairs and Research  
Walter Sisulu University

Åke Strid, Pro-Vice Chancellor  
Örebro University

North West University

Rhodes University

Yunus Ballim, Vice-Chancellor & Principal  
Sol Plaatje University

Stellenbosch University

Clas Hättestrand, Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Stockholm University

Iva Hillbur, Pro Vice-Chancellor  
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Thandi Mgwebi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor:  
Research, Innovation & Engagement  
Tshwane University of Technology

Hans Adolfsson, Vice-Chancellor  
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pp.

Lis Lange, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Prof A. D. Okeah  
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Mattias Goksör, Pro Vice-Chancellor  
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DERESH RAMJUGERNATH

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR : RESEARCH

Nonceba Mbambo-Kekana, International Affairs  
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