

3rd Africa-UniNet General Assembly

14 September, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

14:30–17:00, OeAW, 1st floor, Sitzungssaal

Resolution minutes: Regina Kamauf

Agenda

Opening remarks

Statutes of the Austria Africa UniNet – excerpts

New member institutions | presentation and official acceptance

Active member institutions and membership fees

Projects and project budgets

Financial issues of General Assembly Meetings

Strategic discussion and way forward

Any other business

Opening Remarks

Africa-UniNet President Hubert Hasenauer (BOKU) and
Vice-President Nzula Kitaka (Egerton University)

The Statutes of Africa-UniNet

General Assembly and Country Representatives

- Each Africa-UniNet member institution is represented by one person (Africa-UniNet Representative)
- Africa-UniNet Representatives from the same country elect a Country Representative and a Deputy
- All members entitled to attend the General Assembly can be elected
- Only the Country Representatives have the voting right for the Board

Tasks of the General Assembly (examples)

- Monitoring the compliance with the Africa-UniNet statutes and adapting them as necessary
- Defining the network's strategic direction and an annual work program
- Deciding on the admission of new members
- Taking cognizance of the annual budgets and the annual account, taking cognizance of the annual report
- Deciding on other matters or activities presented to the General Assembly in the agenda that is sent out
- Resolution about the discontinuation of the Network, deciding on the amount of membership fees based on a proposal from the Board

Africa-UniNet Board

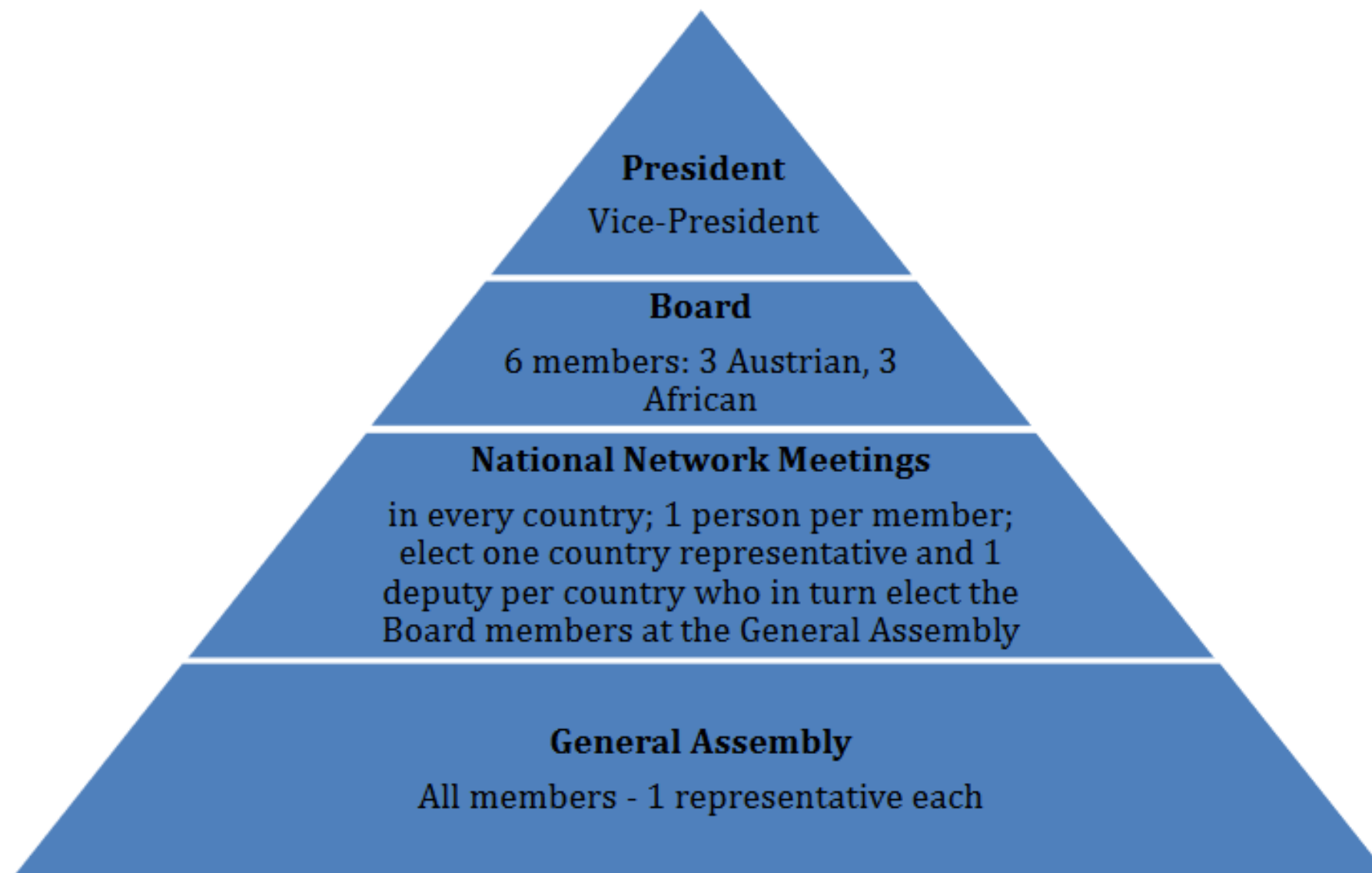
- The Board consists of 6 members of the General Assembly who are elected for a period of 3 years by the Country Representatives in the General Assembly
- Diversity (gender) and geographical balance (eastern, western and southern Africa) shall be ensured
- As the Network is funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), 3 Board members are elected among the Austrian members
- Board meetings can also be held online / as a video conference.

Tasks of the Africa-UniNet Board

- Election of the Africa-UniNet President and confirmation of the Africa-UniNet Vice-President by the Board members
- Advising the President
- Preparing the decisions for the General Assembly; e. g. on the admission of new network members or changes in the amount of the membership fees. The Board decides on the use of the membership fees.
- Preparing proposals for the network strategy and the annual work programs
- Submission of proposals for the network's thematic orientation as well as special network activities according to the funding guideline of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

Tasks of the President and Vice President

- Official representative of Africa-UniNet
- Coordination of the network in technical and strategic terms
- Chairing the board and the General Assembly
- Strategic planning and coordination of the public image
- Preparing proposals for the network strategy and for the annual work program in consultation with the Board
- Contacts and coordination with other relevant networks
- Submission of proposals for the network's thematic orientation with the Board and within the limits of available resources and funding



Elected Board Members of Africa-UniNet (2023-2026)

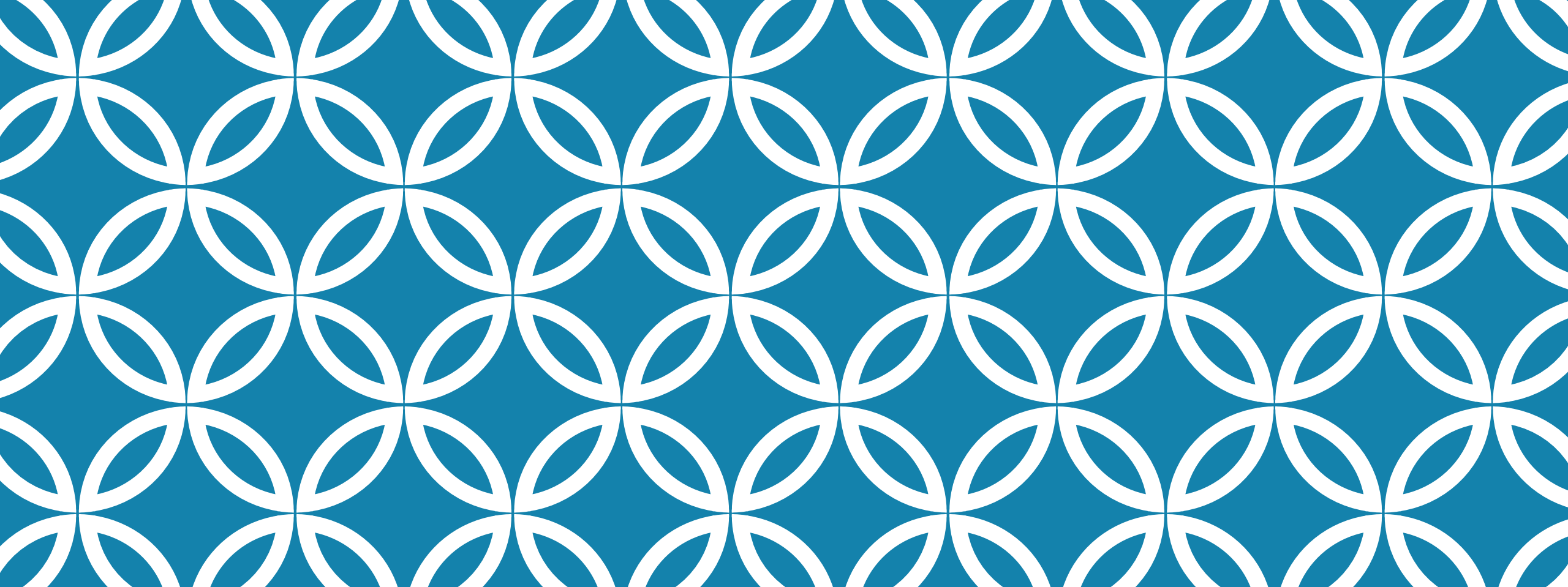
- Univ.-Prof. Hubert Hasenauer (BOKU, Vienna, Austria), President
- Prof. Nzula Kitaka (Egerton University, Kenya), Vice-President
- Dr. Zena M. Mabeyo (Institute of Social Work, Tanzania)
- Prof. Christian Anieke (Godfrey Okoye University, Nigeria)
- Prof. Dr. Belachew Gebrewold (Management Center Innsbruck, Austria)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anke Bockreis (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

New member institutions

Presentation and official acceptance of new member institutions

Prof. Hyacinth Ichoku, Veritas University

Dr. Kahsa Tadel Gebre, Mekelle University



ABOUT VERITAS UNIVERSITY, ABUJA

*A brief description of Veritas
University, Abuja*

ABOUT US..

Veritas University, Abuja is a faith based university owned by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN)

Established in 2007 when it obtained a temporary license from the regulatory body for tertiary institutions in Nigeria - the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC). It later obtained its permanent license from the NUC in 2015.

The vision of the Veritas University is to create a dynamic Catholic University for academic and moral excellence and to advance the truth to every generation.

Commenced operations fully at its take-off campus located in Obehie, Abia State in the 2008/2009 academic session with nine academic programmes across two Colleges (now Faculties)- the College of Management, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities (MSAT) and the College of Natural and Applied Sciences (NAS)

Produced its first set of graduates in 2012 and has since graduated ten sets with the eleventh graduation ceremony expected to take place on the 3rd of December, 2022.

Relocated to its main campus in Bwari Area Council, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, in 2014.

The main campus spans an area of about 200 hectares surrounded by hills and valleys and is fully residential for all undergraduate students.

Presently offers over 56 academic undergraduate as well as postgraduate programmes across eight faculties namely: Faculty of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Management Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Engineering, Pharmacy, and Faculty of Health Sciences

Currently has a student population of about 4200 undergraduate and postgraduate students; and also has a staff strength of about 600 academic and non-teaching staff.

Campus comprises of several academic blocks, an administrative building, library, a Chapel, a Medical Centre, several food courts, student hostels, a 500 capacity multipurpose hall, a 500 capacity auditorium, two football fields, two basketball courts, two lawn tennis courts, two volleyball courts and gym equipment.

Currently one of the top ranked private universities in Nigeria.



Briefs on Current Status of Mekelle University

September 2023

Presentation Layout

1. Background- establishment, pre-war and current status

2. Why we are interested to join the Network?

3. Acknowledgements

1. Background: establishment

Established as Mekelle University (MU) in may 2000

We started under Momona /Faidherbia albida/ tree

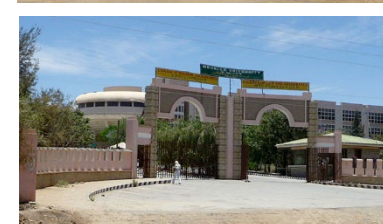
Now MU has

- 7 colleges and 11 Institutes in 5 campuses
- 395 Academic Programs:
 - Undergraduate (122),
 - Second degree (204),
 - PhD (53),
 - Specialty (14) and Postgraduate diploma (3)

28 center of excellences

14 Journals: 2 accredited by MoE: One indexed in Scopus/web of science

Designated as research intensive University (2019/20)



1. Background: Pre-war status (2019/20)

- **Students**
 - 17,822 students enrolled in Regular Degree program
 - 4,694 2nd Degree
 - 377 PhD
 - 212 Specialist programs
- **Academic staff**
 - 2,998 Academic
 - 45 Expatriates
- **Support Staff**
 - Regular: 3,277;
 - ACSH: 230 technical & 1,174 support staffs
 - Outsourced services:
 - Guards,
 - Student service: Cafeteria, proctors,
 - Cleaning

1. Background: International Relation



- | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Angola | Botswana | France | Ireland | Namibia | Somaliland | Sweden | Turkey |
| Austria | Brazil | Germany | Italy | Nigeria | South Africa | Switzerland | Uganda |
| Australia | Burkinafaso | Ghana | Japan | Norway | South Korea | Tanzania | UK |
| Belgium | Canada | Hungary | Kenya | Poland | Spain | Togo | USA |
| Benin | DRC | India | Mozambique | Senegal | Sudan | Netherlands | Zimbabwe |

1. Background: Post-war status

- The Unfortunate two years war in Tigray (Nov 2020- end of 2022)
 - Human losses
 - psychosocial and economic crises
 - Damage and loss of University properties
- Post Pretoria Peace Talk a number of initiatives ongoing for resumption
 - Maintenance of student facilities
 - Resumed academic programs in selected campuses:
 - Graduating undergraduate (2200 plus) and PhD and MSc students
 - Signs of resumption of research: external projects
 - Challenge:
 - Limited budget and depleted resources
 - Working with traumatized staff and students

2. Why are interested we to join the Network?

- We want to join the network for
 - For partnership and collaboration (i.e.).
 - connecting our university with other African and Austrian universities --- **strengthening existing and building new partnership**
 - submitting joint projects with African and Austrian universities
 - Capacity building opportunities for our staff and students
 - To ensure global visibility and networking
 - This network will contribute to our post-war resumption, recovery, and reconstruction initiatives.

3. Acknowledgements

- Prof. Johann Sölkner - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria
- Mekelle University management –working hard to join this network
- Tigray Diaspora Community-MU GoFundMe
 - Covered annual membership fee
- Africa-Uninet staff

Thank you Very Much

**TOGETHER
WE CAN
WIN**



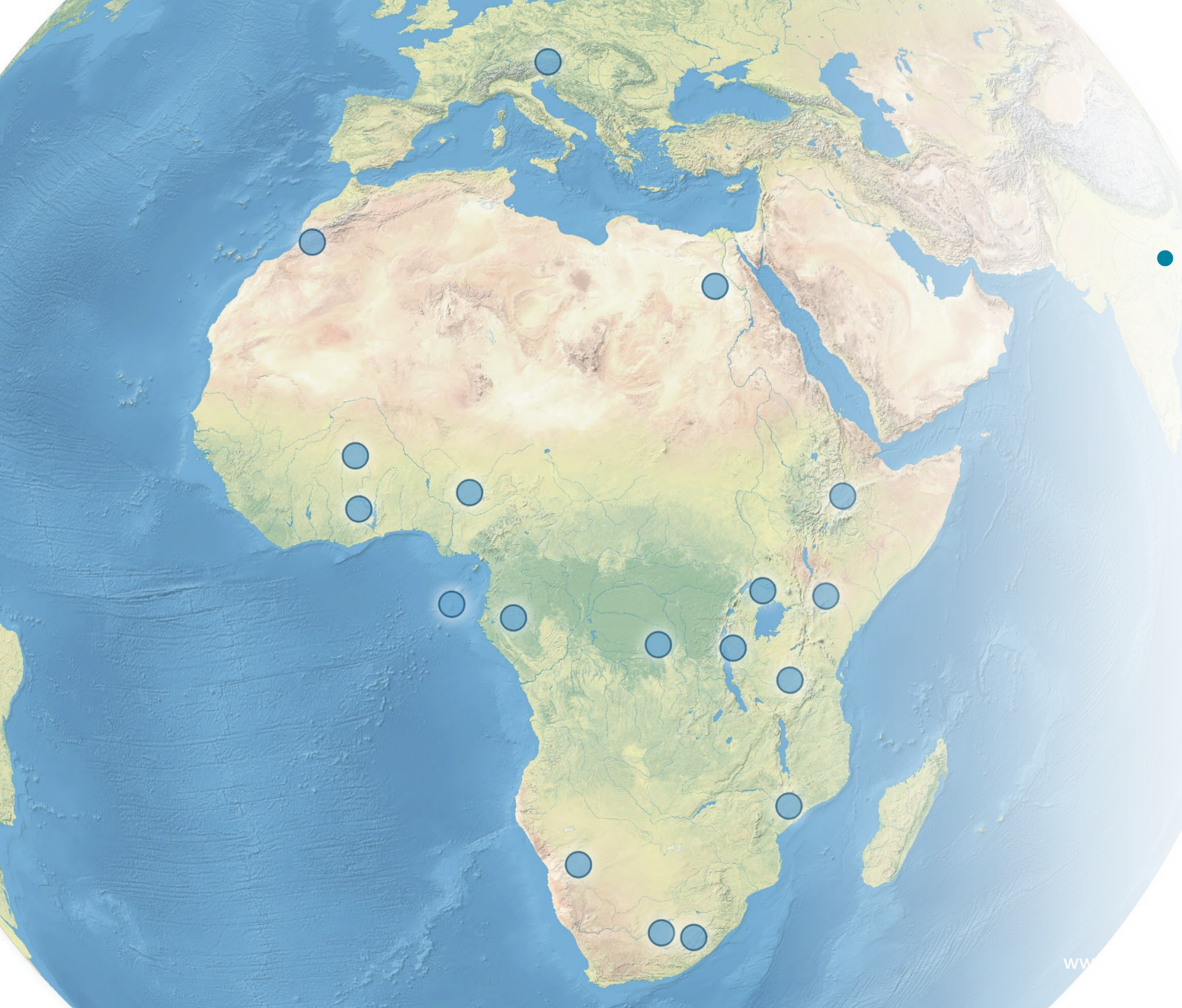
**YES
WE
CAN**



Decision on new member institutions

- Veritas University was accepted via online resolution
- Official acceptance of Mekelle University by the General Assembly

Active member institutions | membership fees



Member institutions

• 67 member institutions, 26 in Austria and 41 in 17 countries in Africa (data as of 8 Aug 2023)

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Burkina Faso 1 | Lesotho 1 |
| Burundi 1 | Marocco 1 |
| DR Congo 1 | Mozambique 1 |
| Egypt 1 | Namibia 1 |
| Ethiopia 4 | Nigeria 9 |
| Gabon 1 | São Tomé and Príncipe 1 |
| Ghana 2 | South Africa 1 |
| Kenya 7 | Tanzania 1 |
| | Uganda 7 |

Annual Membership Fees

African Institution 500 Euro, 1500 Euro Austrian Partners

	2020	2021	2022	2023 preliminary*	Total
Membership fees	42.750,33 €	48.617,22 €	56.721,63 €	59.775,69 €	207.864,87 €
Honoraria + travel + staff	-11.916,00 €	-5.706,18 €	-5.900,00 €	-39.970,55 €	-63.492,73 €
total					144.372,14 €

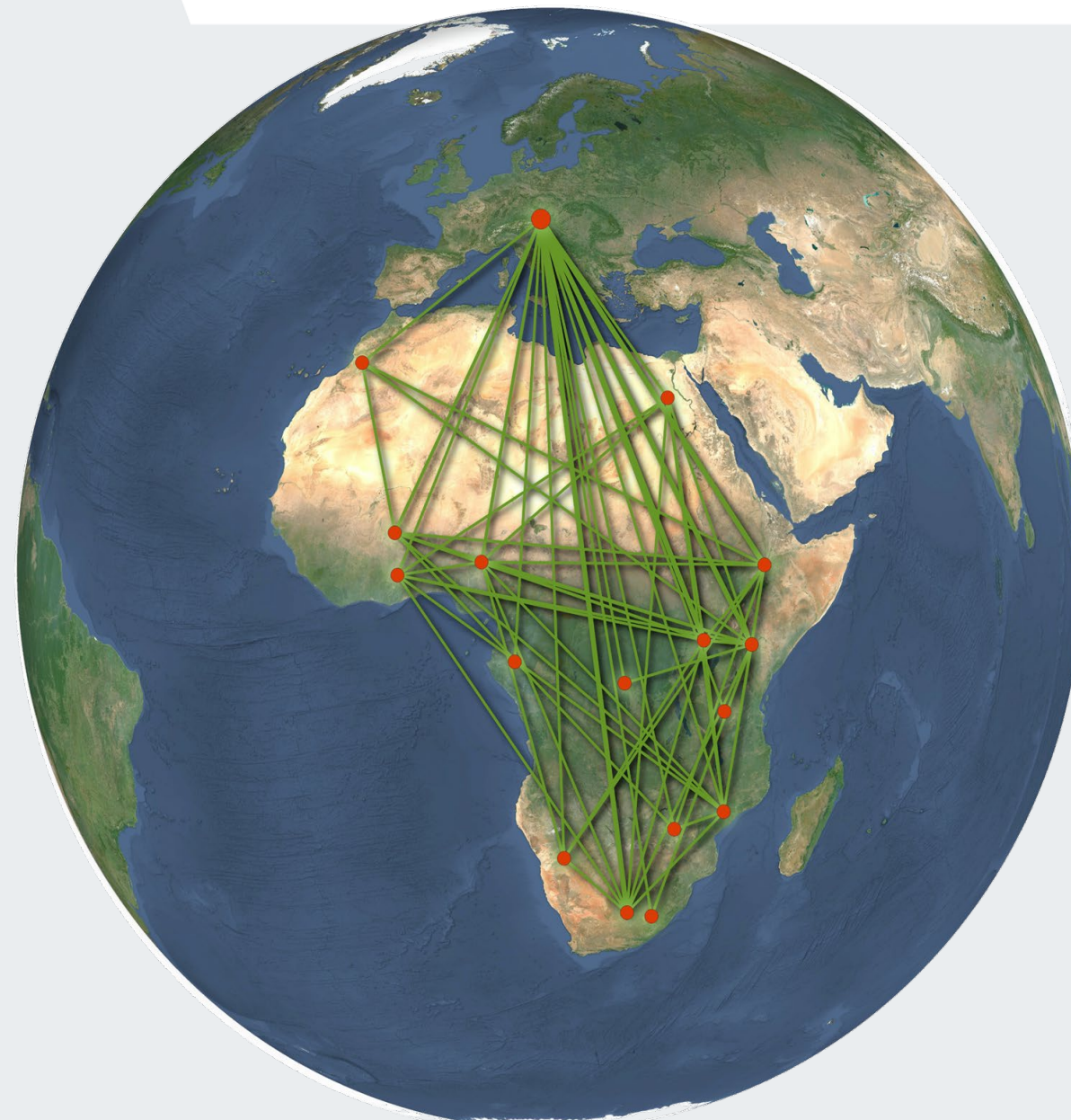
* Not including expenses from September to December 2023 (for staff and part of General Assembly)

Projects and budget

Africa-UniNet | Projects

- 61 projects between institutions in Austria and 16 countries in Africa
- 1.5 million euros by the BMBWF

Countries	Projects
Burkina Faso	6
DR Congo	3
Egypt	1
Ethiopia	16
Gabon	3
Ghana	2
Kenya	16
Lesotho	2
Morocco	1
Mozambique	3
Namibia	5
Nigeria	10
South Africa	11
Tanzania	1
Uganda	17
Zimbabwe	1



4th Africa-UniNet call

- Open from 1. Sep – 30. Nov 2023
- Active member institutions are eligible to apply
- International research cooperation: travel costs (very limited material costs)
- Project duration: 1-2 years
- Max 60.000 euros
- 500.000 euros in total, financed by the BMBWF

Financial issues of General Assembly Meetings

2nd General Assembly 2022 & Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar



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More than 130 representatives of universities and higher education institutions from Austria and 16 countries in Africa met from 17-19 October at Egerton University in Kenya for the 2nd Africa-UniNet General Assembly and Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar.

Download area Africa-UniNet

- 📄 Africa-UniNet 2nd General Assembly (2,0 MB)
- 📄 Africa-UniNet status quo 17.10.22 (5,5 MB)
- 📄 Africa-UniNet info folder (5,6 MB)
- 📄 Africa-UniNet statutes (291,0 KB)
- 📄 Programme booklet (2,0 MB)

Download area Erasmus+

- 📄 Erasmus Capacity Building in Higher Education.pdf (186,0 KB)
- 📄 Erasmus International Credit Mobility KA171.pdf (931,7 KB)
- 📄 Final Compendium with Institutional Profiles.pdf (2,0 MB)
- 📄 Final IPs all.pdf (6,3 MB)

Download area thematic inputs

- 📄 James Jowi keynote address.pdf

More than 130 representatives of universities and higher education institutions from Austria and 16 countries in Africa

[Africa-UniNet annual report 2022](#)

<https://africa-uninet.at/en/activities/the-2nd-general-assembly-2022>

2nd Africa-UniNet General Assembly | Expenses

2nd Africa-UniNet General Assembly Expenses	
Description	Expenses
Egerton University	19.016,40
Flights	45.598,87
Accommodation	8.535,01
Transport	4.101,98
Printing and Materials	1.746,14
Video conferencing and photography	1.969,78
COVID-19 Protocols	118,00
Alumni	1.001,81
Other costs	106,31
GRAND TOTAL	82.194,30

3rd General Assembly 2023



The 3rd General Assembly will take place from **13-15 September 2023** at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) in Vienna.

Venue:

Austrian Academy of Sciences

Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2

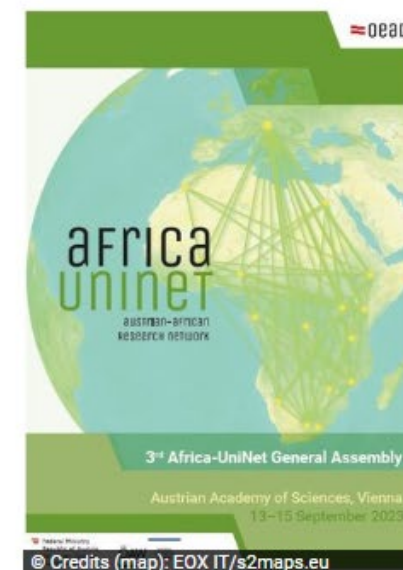
1010 Vienna

Programme

The aim of the 3rd General Assembly meeting is to deepen established partnerships between institutions in Austria and countries in Africa, to further strengthen Africa-UniNet and to strategically enhance its visibility and impact. The results of Africa-UniNet projects will be presented and discussed in scientific sessions. Questions on the decolonisation of knowledge and the interconnection between the academic world and social reality will be discussed. [📄 Programme](#).

Download area

- [📄 Programme \(466,3 KB\)](#)
- [📄 Programme and Directions \(3,4 MB\)](#)
- [📄 Directions \(617,1 KB\)](#)
- [📄 Programme booklet \(21,8 MB\)](#)



3rd General Assembly – Overview of estimated costs

Category	BMBWF	Membership fees	Total estimated costs
Flights (60 pax)	40.000	20.000	60.000
Accommodation (60 pax)	20.000		20.000
Transport	1.000	2.000	3.000
Catering	12.000		12.000
Printing and Materials	5.300		5.300
Photo and Video	4.000		4.000
On-site support, excursion, other costs	3.500	3.700	7.200
Contingency	4.400	1.300	5.700
Total	90.200	27.000	117.200

Strategic discussion and way forward

Role of the General Assembly

- The General Assembly will take place once a year, alternating between Austria and in Africa.
- Quorum: President or the Vice-President and at least 50% of the voting members are present.
- All members who have paid their annual membership fee are entitled to participate and vote.
- A vote may be transferred to another member by sending a written announcement of the proxy to the Africa-UniNet Office. A person cannot accept more than 1 vote transfer.
- Resolutions in the General Assembly shall be passed by a simple majority of votes. Exceptions are the amendment of the statutes and the discontinuation of the network, which require a two-thirds majority.

Points of Discussion

- Extensive budget for the meetings (inflation, expensive flight tickets)
- CO2 Emission
- More investment in content related activities, especially in young people
- Initiatives by member institutions

Results of the discussion in board

- The General Assembly will take place once a year:

Suggestions (requires a vote):

- **Change this to biennial (every other year) General Assembly in person**
- **Alternative activity: Summer school (about 1 - 2 weeks) in Africa, participation of institutions from African partner countries and Austria**
- **With local and regional activities organized by member institutions, with financial support of Africa-UniNet**

Strategic discussion and way forward II

- Responsibilities and contribution of member institutions in the efforts to broaden the network and enhance its impact
 - - raising financial support
 - Initiating regional project activities where the Africa UnNet helps or facilitates the partners
 - Enhanced impact of the network, tapping other funds, co-funding of larger scale projects, Africa-UniNet as contact point for initiatives financed by third parties

SASTE – Supporting African Science and Tertiary Education

- Post doc program from a private donor
- Up to 12 to 24 months research stay in Austria
- Agriculture Forestry, Water Management and Renewable Resources
- High impact in the region and to translate in new findings and products
- Preferred countries are from the Sub-Sahara Africa
- PhD earned outside Austria, age limit
- Applicants must hold a position at an African Institution
- 1400 Euro/month plus up to 450 Euro/month for housing
- 3 to 4 grants are foreseen, 1 is being implemented

Any other business

Thank you!

www.africa-uninet.at

africa-uninet@oead.at