



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS AFRICAINES
اتحاد الجامعات الافريقيه



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
AND
THE UBUNTUNET ALLIANCE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is executed between two parties who are both actively interested in promoting and securing research and education networking throughout Africa: The Association of African Universities (hereafter referred to as AAU) and the UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networking (hereafter referred to as UbuntuNet) this 1st day of October 2008.

Background:

- i. The AAU, through its Research and Education Networking Unit, has the objective of acting as a continental policy level focal point in relation to the many ICT initiatives in research and education networking with specific emphasis on: facilitating national research and education networking; supporting collective action especially in relation to increased access to cheaper connectivity; playing an advocacy role among institutional leaders, policy-makers, donors, and NGOs; and participating in effective advocacy and policy development by and on behalf of African knowledge institutions.
- ii. UbuntuNet has the objective of creating a dedicated research and education network in Eastern and Southern Africa that offers sufficient and affordable bandwidth (intra-African and global) to its member national research and education networks (NRENs) and, in collaboration with similar initiatives in other parts of Africa, achieving continental coverage of research and education networking.

The parties therefore agree to work together to promote research and education networking in Africa based on optical fibre and any alternative access technology.

MoU between AAU and UA

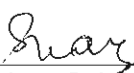
Specifically, the parties agree as follows:

- i. As per Article 8.1 of the UbuntuNet Articles of Association, AAU will establish and run a process in which the AAU, and such regional associations of universities as the Council of Members of UbuntuNet may determine, shall jointly nominate the Chairperson of the UbuntuNet Alliance.
- ii. The AAU will act as the point of contact and recipient of funding support for research and education networking from those agencies that require an organisation with continental level political recognition.
- iii. The AAU recognises UbuntuNet as a regional REN in Eastern and Southern Africa and will engage UbuntuNet as an implementing agency for the AAU within this region.
- iv. The AAU will enable meetings of Vice Chancellors and other stakeholders in those countries within Eastern and Southern Africa where there is no REN activity, leading to national forums that will discuss and result in the formation of NRENs.
- v. UbuntuNet will provide the experience and expertise of its members to the AAU in promoting and supporting the growth of NRENs as well as Regional RENs in other African regions.
- vi. To give full disclosure to each other where plans or specific initiatives involve or assume the involvement of the other party.
- vii. To treat as confidential any information that any of the parties wants to share on the basis of confidentiality, provided neither party uses this to suppress information that should normally be in the public domain.


Administrative Issues

- i. This MoU will run for a period of two years and may be renewed through the mutual consent of the parties.
- ii. This MoU may be modified at any time through the mutual consent of the parties.
- iii. In the event of termination confidentiality requirements as agreed shall survive the termination.

Signed by the Parties to the MOU:

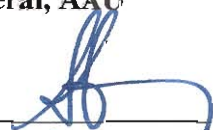


Prof Goolam G. Mohamedbhai
Secretary General, AAU



Prof Zimani D. Kadzamira
Chairman, UbuntuNet Alliance

Witnesses:



Boubakar Barry



Jerrard Kambwaje