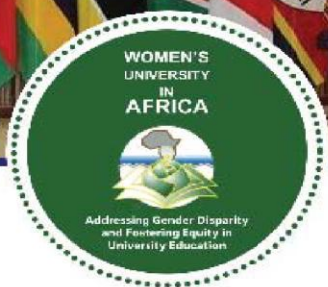


# ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES (AAU)



# The Association of African Universities (AAU)

## 1.0 About the AAU

The Association of African Universities (AAU) was established in November 1967 as the initiative of African higher education leaders, with the cardinal function of coordinating and networking Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) at the continental level and providing leadership in developing and promoting a common vision for African higher education. The Association with its headquarters in Accra, Ghana has grown from the initial membership of 34 public universities to now 450 member HEIs from 48 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

The AAU is the only HEI association with a continent-wide scope that embraces all forms of disciplinary orientation. Its broad-based nature, inclusiveness and capacity have made AAU the main advocate for and convener of all stakeholders on general Higher Education (HE) matters in Africa. AAU commissions strategic research to generate evidence for advocacy and inform continental higher education policies and practices and serves as the intelligence arm of HE in Africa. Given the experience, expertise and scope of operation, the African Union Commission (AUC) has entrusted AAU with the coordination of the Higher Education Cluster of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).



## **Vision**

Être le principal défenseur de l'enseignement supérieur en Afrique, avec la capacité de fournir un soutien à ses institutions membres pour répondre aux besoins nationaux, continentaux et mondiaux.

## **Mission**

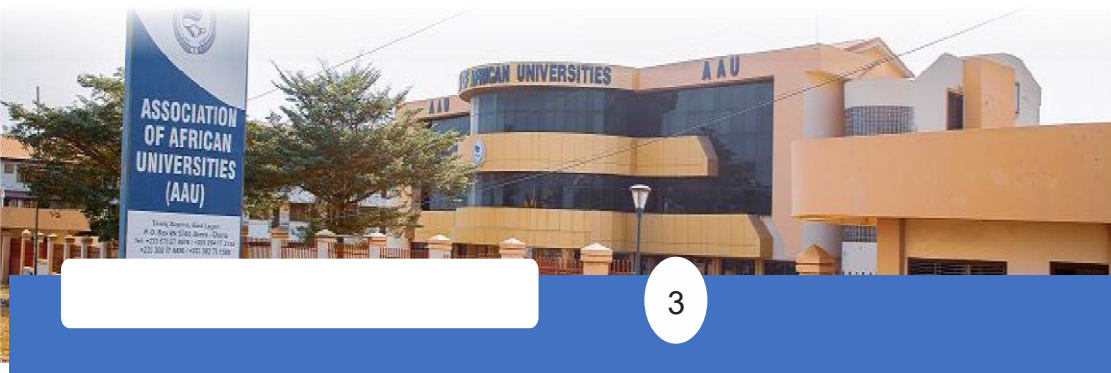
Améliorer la qualité et la pertinence de l'enseignement supérieur en Afrique et renforcer sa contribution au développement de l'Afrique.

## **Vision**

To be the leading advocate for higher education in Africa, with the capacity to provide support for its member institutions in meeting national, continental and global needs.

## **Mission**

To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education in Africa and strengthen its contribution to Africa's development.





Professor Olusola Oyewole

Secretary-General of the Association  
of African Universities (AAU)

Professor Olusola Oyewole is the Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities (AAU) based in Accra, Ghana. He holds the position of Professor of Food Science and Technology, specializing in Food Microbiology and Biotechnology, at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria, where he is currently on sabbatical leave. Previously, he served as Vice Chancellor of the University from May 2012 to May 2017. With over thirty-six years of experience in African higher education, Professor Oyewole has authored over one hundred scholarly publications. His career spans significant roles such as Senior Expert at the African Union Commission in Ethiopia, focusing on Quality Assurance, Mobility, and Scholarships. He also coordinated the British Government-sponsored project at AAU, promoting regional initiatives for higher education revitalization from 2007 to 2009. Professor Oyewole's contributions extend to international platforms, including his role as Project Officer for the World Bank's "Quality Assurance for African Higher Education Systems" from 2006 to 2009. He has a strong background in coordinating multinational research and development programs and advocating for research funding. At the African Union, he oversees the Mwalimu Nyerere Scheme, encompassing initiatives like the African Quality Rating Mechanisms (AQRM), Mwalimu Nyerere Scholarship program, and the African-EU-ACP Mobility scheme. He currently serves on the Advisory Group of the OECD Programme on Innovation, Higher Education, and Research for Development, and as sub-cluster coordinator for the African Union Commission's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) on Research and Graduate Studies. Professor Olusola Oyewole's professional interests include quality assurance, leadership, and management in African higher education systems, as well as research system development.



# AAUSAROBoard

2024 - 2028



AAUSARO





Professor Sunungurai Dominica Chingarande  
AAU SARO Board & Head of Secretariat  
Women's University in Africa (WUA)

Sunungurai Chingarande is a Professor of Sociology who holds a PhD in Sociology, a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Anthropology and a BSc Honors in Sociology from the University of Zimbabwe. She is the Women's University in Africa Vice Chancellor since 2021. When she joined Women's University in Africa, she was coming from Zimbabwe Ezekiel Gu University where she was the Vice Chancellor of the institution. Professor Chingarande also served as the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University and a lecturer and head of the Sociology Department at the University of Zimbabwe. She is Zimbabwe's representative on the African Vice Chancellors' Forum, a member of the International Association of Universities board, representing Africa, a member of the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE) council, a board member of the Centre for Zimbabwean Studies at Rhodes University, a board member for the Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe (FAWEZI), a member of the SAFAIDS regional advisory group, a gender equality expert for the African Group of Negotiators, a think tank of experts and practitioners that provides evidence based technical support to African governments for effective engagement in the international and national climate change policy formulation; She is a focal person for Zimbabwe for the Resilient Africa Network (RAN), a USAID funded project working with over 100 Universities in East, West and Southern Africa; she is a focal person for Zimbabwe for the USAID Funded Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) Partner University Led Solutions Engine (PULSE) working with Purdue University, Makerere University and Catholic Relief Services. She has won several awards for her outstanding performance as an educationalist and administrator.



Professor Erolod Naomab  
AAU SARO Chairman  
Namibia University of Science  
and Technology (NUST)

Vice -Chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). Previously served as Assistant Vice Chancellor at the University of Namibia (UNAM). Holds a PHD from the University of Nottingham (UK) obtained with distinction a Master of Research in Strategic Resource Management from Nottingham Trent University (UK), a Master of Science from UNAM, also passed cum -laude and was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for overall best student. Prof Naomab has received several Professional and Technical Awards in Higher Education Leadership, Innovation and Strategy. These were obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Leibniz Institute for New Materials in (INM) Germany, and the University of Namibia. He has authored several publications and holds an internationally registered (WIPO) IP from his research work. He has a wealth of experience in the governance of higher education institutions, having provided more than 20 years of service in the higher education sector. He has an extensive background in developing and implementing strategies, operational plans, policies and procedures, setting budgets, and monitoring operating and financial performance. He has roles relating to Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) diplomacy at the regional levels (SADC) and internationally at conventions and meetings. He has served as a technical advisor for SADC countries during negotiations for the access benefit and sharing (ABS) protocol linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Japan. His experience includes preparing an STI framework for African Heads of State at an AU Summit. He served as founding member and an executive board member of the Sustainable Futures Academy (SFA), a global institution based in Salzburg, Austria.



Professor Stephen Simukanga

AAU SARO Board

Executive Director:

Southern African Regional Universities'

Association (SARUA)

He holds a PhD in Process Metallurgy from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and Chartered Engineer of the Engineering Council of the United Kingdom. Served as Director General of the Higher Education Authority in Zambia for 8 years till December, 2023. He served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia from July 2007 to June 2015; He is also a Fellow of both the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Engineering Institution of Zambia. He was conferred with a distinguished title of FELLOW of THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (TWAS) in 2018. Stephen has been Chairperson of the Ubuntu Net Alliance from 2018 to 2023, a regional organization that provides internet bandwidth to higher education institutions in the East and Southern Africa. He has served the University of Zambia for 23 years, before July 2007, when he became Vice Chancellor of the same university, as a lecturer/Researcher in the School of Mines where he rose to the position of Professor in Metallurgy and Mineral Processing. He has served as visiting lecturer at the University of Cape Town and University of Zimbabwe. Stephen sits on various Boards both local and international of which he chairs some.





Professor Romeela Mohee

AAU SARO Board

Commissioner Higher  
Education Commission  
Mauritius

Prof Romeela Mohee is currently the Higher Education Commissioner of Mauritius, whereby she is responsible for regulating all public and private universities in Mauritius. She was a former Higher Education specialist, Commonwealth Learning, Canada. She was also the Vice Chancellor at the University of Mauritius (2013-2016), and a Professor in Chemical and Environmental Engineering. She is an inspirational leader in tertiary education, leading higher education learning policies in 53 countries of the Commonwealth, a pioneer in research in sustainable development, a role model and strong advocate of women in science and engineering, a driver of change in strategic management, first woman Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius's Commission of Higher Education Commission, she is actively engaged in the accreditation of courses, including engineering and the recognition of qualifications. Her role involves ensuring that the educational programs meet established standards of quality and rigor, thereby upholding the integrity of higher education in Mauritius.



Mrs. Daisy Mmabatho Molefhi  
AAU SARO Board  
ABM University College, Botswana

Equipped with a lot of experience in the education sector particularly tertiary education sector and a qualification of Masters in Strategic Management. She has more than three decades experience both at management and leadership levels having founded the institution ABM University Collegian institution of higher learning duly registered with the Botswana Qualification Authority which is the tertiary education regulatory body in 1989 and grew it over 35 years making ABM University College the oldest private tertiary education in Botswana. To date the institution has significantly impacted the nation, region and the globe in various ways and the region. She has been instrumental in the development and evolution of the Botswana education policy mostly in the tertiary education space. Founding President of the Botswana Association of Private Education Providers, an organization that was founded in 1998 to drive the mandate of developing private sector driven tertiary education 1998-2010. Former Chairperson of the Education Sector for Business Botswana formerly known as Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower, (this is the Botswana Chamber of Commerce) position she held for four years representing this sector. A Council member of the Chamber of Commerce representing the Education Sector. Elected Vice President of the Botswana Chamber of Commerce a position she used to significantly influence the higher education agenda as the position enabled her to engage with the office of the Minister of Higher Education directly to engage on issues pertaining to higher education using both her office of Chairperson of the Education Sector and Vice Presidency of the Chamber of Commerce but also provided opportunity to articulate issues at a higher level where the chair of the National Business conference is the State President. Her strong advocacy on the need to fast track the legislation for the establishment of the Botswana Qualifications Authority which had taken very long is one of the initiatives where I believe I made significant impact. Served in several tertiary education related national boards and committees. Served as Board member and in two committees of the then Botswana College of Distance Education now Botswana Open University: two terms of 3 years each. Board member then Botswana Training Authority now Botswana Qualifications Authority, served in the Academic Planning and Development Committee of the then Tertiary Education Council now Botswana Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) whose role was to advise the Tertiary Education Council on Council on academic planning and development for national human resource requirements. Served 2 terms in the Botswana Examination Council Board.



Professor Sola Fajana

AAU SARO Board

National University of Lesotho (NUL)

Professor Sola Fajana holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial Relations from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, 1991. He was a visiting scholar at the University of Sussex, Brighton, between 1987 and 1988 and at Harvard University, Boston, in 2004. He joined the University of Lagos in 1982 as Assistant Lecturer and rose through the ranks to become Professor in 2002. Prof. Fajana has done extensive consultancy work with the International Labor Organization (ILO). He is on the Executive Committee of the International Labor and Employment Relations Association (ILERA), based at the International Labor Office in Geneva. Prof Fajana was Vice Chancellor at the Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Nigeria, from 2011 to 2018. He is currently the Vice Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho, Southern Africa. He was the Chairman, Planning and Implementation Committee of Vision University, Ikogbo Igbesa, Nigeria. A globally cited scholar, Fajana is extensively involved in programmed and institutional accreditation for the Ghana Accreditation Board and the National Universities Commission in Nigeria.



Dr. Ignatius Nzero

AAU SARO Board

Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU)

Dr Nzero holds a Doctor of Laws, Bachelor of Laws and Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education. Currently Dean of Law at the Zimbabwe Open University having served as Chairperson for the Department of Accounting Sciences and Finance at Chinhoyi University of Technology and Lecturer at Great Zimbabwe University's Faculty of Law. He has combined more than 10 years' experience in higher education. Currently holds the position of Dean of Law at the Zimbabwe Open University. As Dean, he is member of various committees of the university including the university senate and boards. He has also served as university legal proctor. He is currently a member of the Women's University in Africa Council. A member of the WUA Human Resources Committee and the Building Committee. He has also participated in formulating the gender policy and student disciplinary ordinance. A member of the Academic Society of Competition Lawyers (International) and the Southern Africa Insolvency Law Society and as an executive member of the Zimbabwe Law Teachers Association. He is an admitted legal practitioner and member of the Law Society of Zimbabwe.



Professor Emmanuel K. Kaunda  
AAU SARO Board  
Lilongwe University of Agriculture &  
Natural Resources, Malawi (LUANAR)

Professor Emmanuel has over 10 years' experience as an academic leader, first as Head of Department (2013-2014), then as Vice Principal (2004-2006) of Bunda College, University of Malawi and as Deputy Vice Chancellor and then Acting Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) (2013-2017). While serving as DVC, Professor Kaunda facilitated the rolling out of the Michigan State University (MSU) -LUANAR Innovation Scholar Programme including identification of needs of the university community, and implementation of the academic and administrative leaders' tracks. Professor Emmanuel Kaunda is a Fisheries Ecologist who obtained his PhD in Fisheries Science from Rhodes University in 2001 where he got the Best PhD Seminar Award. He has, and is still supervising more than 30 MSc, PhD students at LUANAR) and has close to 70 publications in refereed journals and conference proceedings. Within the region, he has contributed immensely to the development of the African Union Pan African Fisheries Reform Strategy (PAFRS) having coordinated the Aquaculture Working Group of the NEPAD Pan African Fisheries project (PAF) which generated knowledge for the PAFRS. Professor Emmanuel Kaunda has received three notable awards in recognition of his contribution to Aquaculture development and Science in general. In 2013, he received the Impact Research and Science in Africa (IMPRESSA) Award by the Regional Universities Forum for Agriculture Research (RUFORUM). In 2012 he received a certificate of Recognition by LUANAR for significant contribution to Research & Outreach to LUANAR and in 2011, he was the Aquaculturist of the Year by the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa (AASA). Currently, he is the Leader of the World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence (ACE) in Aquaculture Fisheries (AQUAFISH), Technical Coordinator of the NEPAD Regional Fish Node- SANBio, and a Coordinator of Afri-Fishnet, a network of African Fisheries Experts in Africa at LUANAR. He is also the President of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association (PAFFA) and has recently in 2019 been awarded the Robin Welcome Fellowship at MSU.





**Mrs Semukeliso Gono**

**Director: International Programmes & amp; Global Initiatives; Women's University in Africa (WUA)**

**Designate Officer; Association of African Universities Southern Africa Regional Office (AAU SARO) & Board Member**

Mrs Gono holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Change Leadership with the University of West England (UWE), 2022 and Master of Business Administration degree with Africa University (AU), 1999, Mutare in Zimbabwe, and Higher National Diploma in Business Administration with Masvingo Technical College, 1995.

Mrs Gono is the Director for International Programme and Global Initiatives since December 2023, a portfolio for internationalising the university in terms

of curriculum, teaching, research, student and staff exchange programmes and partnerships with a bid to produce a global graduate. She has increased partnerships with international universities and organisations. She has made inroads in physical penetration of the university in countries like Malawi. Mrs Gono is also the Designate Officer for the Association of African Universities Southern Africa Regional Office (AAU SARO) currently hosted by the Women's University in Africa since September 2023.

The Association of African Universities (AAU), is the voice of higher education in Africa and the implementing agent of the African Union on higher education issues. The AAU has established regional offices to widen its reach and enhance its impact across Africa. Mrs Gono has spearheaded the establishment of the governance structures for the AAU SARO Office to be all inclusive in tackling regional higher education issues. She provides secretariat services to the AAU SARO Board.

Mrs Gono was the Director for Marketing, Communications & Public Relations of the University since June 2017 to November 2023. She was the custodian of the WUA Brand. Her roles included media liaison, marketing, events management and 2 coordination, exhibitions, publications and digital marketing. She also coordinated Alumni activities and Community Engagement. The tasks which enhanced the university brand by increasing visibility and awareness. In this role, she played a critical part in information dissemination and business continuity during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

From May 2012 to May 2017, Mrs Gono was the University's Director for Resource Mobilisation and Marketing. She was responsible for growing the University partners and enrolment. She was also branding custodian and media liaison.

From November 2008 to May 2012. Mrs Gono was the Registrar/Director Strategic Business Development for the Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe. She was responsible for Marketing & Public Relations, IT, HR; Administration, Strategic Business Units which were channels for revenue diversification, Resource Mobilisation and Registry that incorporated student records, examinations, admissions and registration.

She worked at the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation as Head Finance and Administration from December 2002, regraded to Group Finance Director in December 2003 and re-graded to General Manager Finance and Corporate Affairs from December 2006 to June 2008. Prior to joining ZBC she was Chief Accountant in the Office of the President and Cabinet where she rose through civil service ranks to Under Secretary for Finance. She has 19 years of experience in government financial management and six years of experience in the parastatals as well as 15 years in the academia.

Mrs Gono has served in a number of Boards that include the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) 2003 to February 2011, the Well – Patsime NGO an organization which is integrating HIV/AIDs with permaculture targeting the infected and affected, the Parastatals Council of Zimbabwe from 2004 to 2008, Trustee of the Women in Agri-business in sub-Sahara Africa Alliance (WASAA) since 2012, a

nonprofit making institution to promote women in agri-business, the Institute of Child Resources in Zimbabwe (ICRZ) from 2008 to 2016.

In January 2012, Mrs Gono was appointed a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU) Reference Group on Higher Education focusing on Education for All (EFA) and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 for the period 2012 to 2015 as an Advisor, information sharing and recognition of EFA related activities undertaken by institutions of higher learning. She contributed in the 3 development and establishment of the Early Childhood Development Model Centers in the University to cater for female students and surrounding communities as well as practical lab for Education degree programmes.

Mrs Gono is currently serving in the World Technology Partners Board ;  
[www.worldtechnologypartners.org](http://www.worldtechnologypartners.org)

She has been nominated for various business accolades and awarded the Megafest 2014 Top 20 Outstanding Women in Business.

She was the designate Officer for Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings in the African Broadcast Media Partnership (ABMP) Against HIV/AIDs. She managed to coordinate the National selections for the Imagine Afrika reality show for 2007 where the Zimbabwe candidate was on the winning group which scooped US\$6000 each. The 2008 reality show, on the same programme, managed to have three Zimbabweans being in the top 30 of Africa select. This programme profiled young African Achievers matching their ingenuity and leadership in tackling challenges confronting

many poor communities across Africa such as HIV/AIDs, water & sanitation, training

and food supply. The show focused on themes including gender equality and equity, open communication about gender roles,

HIV/AIDs, stigma and HIV-testing. The campaign emphasised on personal action and urged all Africans to consider their role in realizing an HIV free generation under the tag line ‘Imagine the possibility of HIV-free generation: It begins with You.’

In her portfolio of community engagement at the Women’s University in Africa, she succeeded in bringing key research collaborations with the University College of London (UCL) on a project titled: Mapping risk and resilience to mental health consequences of child marriage in Zimbabwe. She also brought in the University of West England (UWE) collaboration in the delivery of the module titled Professional Practice in Change Leadership at post graduate level.

Mrs Gono has coordinated a lot of events that have impacted positively in the women empowerment agenda. These included public lecture series that focused on issues affecting women and children covering issues of gender-based violence, child marriages, human trafficking, and African Union agenda 2063 among others.

Mrs Gono was a volunteer of the 18 th ICASA (International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa Zimbabwe 2015).

## WUA PROFILE

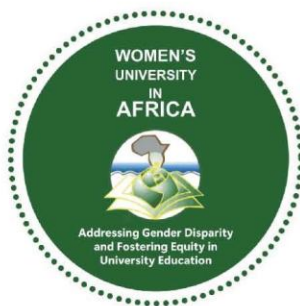
WUA is a private institution that was co-founded by two visionaries, Professor Hope Cynthia Sadza a former Public Service Commissioner, and Dr Fay King Chung the former Minister of Education in Zimbabwe. The institution was established through a Trust Deed MA692/2001 and granted authority to operate as a university by the Parliament of Zimbabwe through Statutory Instrument 130 of 2004. The University governance structures are provided for in the Trust Deed and the Charter. The Charter provides for a three-tier governance structure comprising the Board of Trustees (BoT), Council and Senate.

The University's main campus is located in Marondera town, 80km southeast of Harare. The University is currently operating from five campuses in Zimbabwe, namely the Harare campus, in Manresa Park, the Bulawayo campus at Charter House, the Kadoma campus, the Mutare campus and Marondera campus along Pine Street and at the Helianth Farm.

The University opened its doors to the public in 2002 with 145 students with a specific mandate to address gender disparity and foster equity in university education. Currently, the University has 5,583 students. Since its first graduation ceremony in 2005, the University has churned out 16 079 graduates of which 12 848 are females and 3 249 are males.

WUA focuses on problem of women's access to university education. Its enrolment policy of 85% women and 15% men is contributing towards the 50:50 gender participation ratio enunciated in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The University currently has three Faculties namely: Agricultural, Environmental and Health Sciences; Management and Entrepreneurial Sciences; and Social and Gender Transformative Sciences. WUA offers a flexible study timetable consisting of the blended approach to learning with online and face to-face teaching and learning adopted as a preventive measure against COVID-19 and regular day, weekend, block release and Open Distance Learning (ODL). WUA has students from other African countries and efforts are underway to increase enrolment of students from the SADC region through the University's ODL Programme.

# ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE (AAU SARO)



**AAU SARO is the regional voice of higher education through its Harare office. The main objectives are:**

- **Research;**
- **Higher education access and mobility;**
- **Responding to emerging issues;**
- **Capacity building and empowerment;**
- **Harmonising African Higher Education; and**
- **Advocacy, and platform for collaboration.**

Addressing Gender Disparity and Fostering  
Equity in University Education

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