

FOUNDING AGREEMENT
on the establishment of the Subsoil of Africa Public Professional Association
of Technical Universities in Africa
(the Subsoil of Africa Consortium of Universities)

December 13, 2023

Saint Petersburg, Russia

The International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO, created on the basis of Empress Catherine II Saint Petersburg Mining University, hereinafter referred to as **the UNESCO International Centre**, represented by the Chairman of the Governing Board, Professor **Vladimir Stefanovich Litvinenko**, acting on the basis of the Charter, as the First Party, and **Professor Paul Omojo Omaji**, acting on behalf of and in the interests of **the initiative group of delegated representatives of African countries** on the basis of the Agreement of Intent on the establishment of the Subsoil of Africa Public Professional Association of Technical Universities in Africa, signed on July 26, 2023, in Saint Petersburg, Russia, as the Second Party, collectively hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

considering the UN General Assembly Resolution on the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources,

expressing our determination to forever take into our own hands and accept full responsibility for the efficient development and use of African natural resources and the delivery on Africa's truly limitless potential in the field of mineral resource use,

realizing that sustainable development, national sovereignty, and the very independent existence of African countries in the era of transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy directly depends on the efficiency of using and managing raw materials,

based on the declaration made by the participants of the Africa Seeks Solutions International Congress and the decision of the initiative group adopted at the Founding Convention within the framework of the Congress, as well as on friendly relations between the Russian Federation and African countries and on the vast experience of multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership work that meets national interests, and expressing voluntary consent, have entered into this Founding Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement) as follows:

1. The subject of the Agreement is the establishment of **the Subsoil of Africa Public Professional Association of Technical Universities in Africa** (the Subsoil of Africa Consortium of Universities) (hereinafter referred to as *the Consortium*) **without forming a legal entity**, in the interests of interaction, development, and coordination of Russian-African cooperation in the field of higher technical education and science **based on the International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO**.

2. The goal of establishing the Consortium is to assure the sovereignty of African countries in areas such as staffing, technology, and governance by means of consolidating and coordinating the intellectual, information, and other resources of African universities and relevant organizations **on the basis of pan-African network interaction** in the following domains: providing basic higher education, providing additional qualifications, teaching academic staff, and teaching researchers.

3. The key objectives of the Consortium are:

- producing highly qualified engineering professionals by means of providing **basic higher education** for the mineral resources sectors of African countries in the era of transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy in order to improve the efficiency of the use of raw materials and their management, taking into account the fact that solving national problems within the context of industrial requirements and intra-continental integration processes necessitates being mobile and united;

- producing qualified professionals for particular jobs by means of providing **special higher education** programs, or second degrees, with a study period of one to three years to address the complex nature of work in the mineral resources sector;

- **training academic staff** for African higher educational institutions and qualified professionals for relevant industries;

- creating a mechanism for increasing the competence of teaching staff using the world's best educational technologies;

- providing research and engineering support for the development of the mineral resources sectors of African countries;

- consolidating intellectual, human, information, and other resources for the design of public policy in education systems and managing the resource potential of African countries;

- promoting engineering education and fostering the demand for degrees in mining and related careers among young people;

- expanding the expert community and involving international thought leaders from various social and ethnic groups of the African continent in the activities of the Consortium.

4. The Consortium is based on the following principles:

- openness: the opportunity for various higher education institutions, government authorities at various levels, public organizations, and other associations to join the Consortium;

- equality: equal rights of all participants of the Consortium, who are independent and equal in relation to each other;

- interaction of all participants involved in joint activities;

- respect for national legislation, procedures, and working methods adopted in each country.

Other general principles underlying the operation of the Consortium, conditions, key areas of cooperation between the Consortium Participants, and other legal and regulatory

conditions governing the activities of the Consortium are outlined in the Charter of the Consortium.

5. Management of the Consortium, rights of its participants, are managed in accordance with this Agreement and determined based on the Charter of the Consortium.

6. **The members of the Consortium are** universities, public organizations, professional organizations, and mining companies, as well as other institutions of interested countries that share the goals and objectives of the Consortium.

7. Participants join the Consortium **based on a decision made by the Academic Board** (Senate) of the relevant organization **and permission (approval) from the founder.**

8. This agreement does not impose any property or financial obligations on the Consortium participants, and nor does it establish any restrictions on their independence and autonomy in carrying out their statutory activities. The Consortium is not liable for the obligations of the Participant(s) of the Consortium.

9. **The list of the Consortium Participants** shall be compiled on the basis of the documents submitted **before February 15, 2024**, specified in Clause 7 of this Agreement, and approved together with the Charter of the Consortium at **the first meeting of the Consortium**, which shall take place before **March 1, 2024.**

10. This Agreement comes into force upon signing by the Parties and remains in force until terminated at any time by either Party upon a written notice sent to the other Party ninety (90) calendar days prior. Unless otherwise agreed, termination of this Agreement shall not affect the operation or duration of projects under this Agreement commenced prior to such termination. This Agreement may be amended only by written agreement of the Parties.