

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES OF AFRICA TITLED  
"SUBSOIL OF AFRICA"  
("SUBSOIL OF AFRICA" CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES)**

St Petersburg

July 26, 2023

**International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO** established on the basis of the **Empress Catherine II Saint Petersburg Mining University**, represented by the Chairman of the Board of Governors Professor Vladimir Litvinenko, *on the one hand*, and

**The Initiative Group of Delegated Representatives of African Countries**, *on the other hand*, which comprises the following:

- **Authorized representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe** represented by the Director of the Center for Education, Innovation and Research Development **Prof. Desmond Manatsa**;

- **Authorized representative of the Republic of South Africa**, represented by the Deputy Chairman of the National Council of Provinces **Hon. Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas**;

- **Authorized representative of the Republic of Ghana** represented by The First Municipal Chief Executive of the Municipal Assembly Korle Clotti **Hon. Samuel James Nii Adjei Tawiah**;

- **Authorized representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria** represented by the Secretary General of the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities **Hon. Yakubu Aboki O**;

- **Authorized representative of the Republic of Zambia** represented by Vice-Chancellor of Copperbelt University **Prof. Paul Chisale**;

- **Authorized representative of the Republic of Namibia** represented by the Chairman of the Kavango Institute of Engineering, Mining & Agriculture, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources **Hon. Tweya Tjekero**;

- **Authorized representative of the Republic of Mali** represented by the Vice-President of GEOPRIM - the Association of Professionals in the Geological industry **Mr. Hadi Ly**;

jointly referred to hereinafter as "**Initiative Group of Representatives**",

**have entered into this Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU")**

**on the basis of** friendly ties between the Russian Federation and the African States, the rich experience of multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation that meets national interests, and voluntarily agreeing

**with commitment to** the fundamental principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including those stipulated in Article I of the Charter: "The purpose of the organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting educational, scientific and cultural cooperation among the peoples of the world," the norms of international law, and noting the need for their strict observance by all States,

**convinced that** mineral resources are the basis of human existence, largely determining the future of civilization, and noting the multipolarity of the world order based on the principles of sustainable development of the mineral complex,

**recognising that** higher education and science are among the basic system-forming institutions of society, which should be aimed at the development of knowledge, values, attitudes and skills, and the empowerment of Russia and African countries to achieve political and economic sovereignty

**expressing** firm intention in the developing of relations and creating an independent and effective system of higher education, developing common approaches to the legal regulation of the field of science and higher education.

**This MoU** is a formal document aimed at ensuring joint efforts and assistance to each other in the implementation of the following:

### **1. The subject of the MoU:**

**1.1. This MoU aims to establish a Public Professional Association of universities offering degrees in mining and mineral resources engineering titled "Subsoil of Africa" ("Subsoil of Africa" Consortium of Universities, hereinafter referred to as the Consortium).** The Consortium is created in the interests of promoting interaction, development, and coordination of Russian-African cooperation in the field of higher technical education and science. It should be noted that the Consortium does not form a legal entity.

**1.2. Consortium** is a voluntary association of higher education institutions, state authorities at different levels (municipal, regional, etc.), public organisations, other associations and unions regardless of their organisational and legal status, sharing the goals and objectives of the association, officially expressing the desire to become a member of the association and joining on terms of equal participation.



**1.3. The purpose of the Consortium** is to promote sustainable development in accordance with the UN principles and strategy on the basis of formation of sovereign identity of African peoples and economic development under the umbrella of the multipolarity of African countries by forming a common approach to training of highly qualified specialists for the mineral and raw materials complex with critical thinking skills, interaction in a multinational environment, high culture, citizenship, Educated with high morals, committed to the enrichment and renewal of knowledge, modern economic thinking, responsible scientific, technical and social management, and a driving force for structural economic transformation, industrialisation in African States and industrial capacity-building necessary for economic diversification.

**1.4. The Consortium is characterized by** a transparent administrative system aimed at resolving the issues of all members of the Association and for this purpose has **two main offices in Russia and Africa.**

In order to create equal conditions for all Initiative Group Representatives, the chairmanship and **office location in African countries** shall be held on a rotational basis by common decision of all members of the association for at least one calendar year. **For the period 2023-2024, the African office of the Consortium is located at the Copperbelt University, Kitwe, Zambia.**

**The Russian office of the Consortium,** acting as an objective and independent partner for coordination of Consortium's activities, is located at the premises of the Autonomous non-profit organization "International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education" under the auspices of UNESCO, established on the basis of the Empress Catherine II Saint Petersburg Mining University, acting as an objective and independent partner in coordinating the activities of the Consortium.

**1.5. The Consortium is based on the following principles:**

- openness - opportunity for various higher education institutions, public authorities of various level, public organizations and other unions and associations to join the Consortium;
- equality - equal rights of all participants of the Consortium, who are individual, independent and equal in relation to each other;
- interaction of all participants, involved into joint activity;
- respect for national legislation, procedures and working methods adopted in each State.

**1.6. Hereby the Representatives of the initiative group express their intention to establish the Consortium and cooperate for the implementation of the following objectives:**

- identification of key trends related to the integration processes of African countries,



development of programmes of socio-cultural exchange between Russia and African countries, contributing to the creation of a favourable image of Russian-African interaction within the framework of promoting the idea of transforming natural capital into human, social and physical capital;

- improvement of quality of the higher and technical engineering education, scientific research considering the positive experience of Russia in accordance with specific requirements of the mineral resource sector of the African countries;

- consolidation of intellectual, human, information and other resources for the purposes of working out proposals for formation of state policies in the education systems of the African countries;

- development of a unified system for determining the levels of professional competences of specialists of the mineral resource complex;

- promotion of positive image and demand for mining engineering and other related specialties and directions for young people of African countries;

- coordination of standpoints and approaches to the development of educational projects in Russia and African countries, including at the level of individual African and/or regional governments;

- transfer and introduction of Russian experience and standards (industrial, educational, managerial) to the public, educational, industrial and state African organizations;

- localising skills, knowledge and production within Africa, promoting the industrialisation of African economies;

- increasing economic integration between Russia and African countries through transparent and mutually beneficial projects of industrial technology transfer;

- expanding channels of information exchange between Russia and African countries, strengthening the role of unifying elements;

- assistance for the intercultural dialogue and mutual enrichment of cultures and languages.

#### **1.7. Main prospects of the Consortium establishment are:**

- development of a consolidated position of the Consortium on key issues of interaction with the international scientific and educational community;

- improvement of quality of engineering education, scientific research, considering the positive experience of Russia in accordance with requirements of the industry and regional integration processes;

- development of a unified base of competencies for unification of educational standards;

- development of a unified system of international professional certification with

assignment of qualifications to specialists of the mining engineering profile and implementation of the project of qualification rating for specialists in the mineral resource sector;

- promoting engineering education and increasing the demand for mining engineering and other related specialties and courses among young people;
- development of methodological tools for transformation of educational systems;
- identification of general needs in technologies, devices and other systems related to mineral resources complex;
- creation of a unified scientific and educational environment, search for and support of talented young researchers from among students, postgraduates and teachers for the development of the mineral resource complex of Russia and African countries;
- development of a Human Resources Forecasting system for the mineral resources complex;
- development of a mechanism for continuous improvement of expertise of the academic staff using the world's best educational technologies;
- attracting the largest partner organisations of the Consortium participants operating in the real sector of the economy to solve the tasks and implement the ideas of the Consortium;
- expansion of the expert community, involvement of international experts from various social and ethnic groups of the African continent in the activities of the Consortium.

2. In order to develop cooperation and further implementation of this MoU, the representatives of the initiative group will prepare regulations, organisational structure and other specific regulatory documents on the Consortium's activities **by October 15, 2023**, which will be submitted for approval **at the first constituent meeting of the Consortium in St. Petersburg, Russia in November 2023**.

3. This MoU shall enter into force upon its signing and shall remain in force until a new agreement on the establishment of the Consortium is concluded. Early termination of this MoU is possible on the basis of the relevant decision of the Initiative Group Representatives.

This MoU may be amended and/or supplemented by mutual consent of the representatives of the initiative group. Amendments and additions shall be made in the form of separate protocols, shall be made in writing, signed by the authorized representatives, and shall be considered an integral part of the MoU.

4. This MoU is drawn up **in eight (8) copies** in the Russian and English languages, having equal legal force, one copy in Russian and one copy in English for each Representative of the initiative group.



## SIGNATES OF THE PARTIES

**Chairman of the Governing  
Board  
of the UNESCO Center**

**Vladimir Litvinenko**

**Authorized Representative of the  
Republic of Zimbabwe**

**Desmond Manatsa**

**Authorized Representative of the  
Republic of South Africa**

**Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas**

**Authorized Representative of the  
Republic of Ghana**

**Samuel James  
Nii Adjei Tawiah**

**Authorized Representative of the  
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Yakubu Aboki Ochefu**

**Authorized Representative of the  
Republic of Zambia**

**Paul Chisale**

**Authoritative Representative of  
the Republic of Namibia**

**Tjekero Tweya**

**Authorized Representative of the  
Republic of Mali**

**Hadi Ly**

*Witnessed by*

**Hon. Amon Murwira**

Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development,  
Zimbabwe

**Prof. Paul Omojo Omaji**

Vice-Chancellor of the Admiralty University of Nigeria