

**ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES CONFERENCE ON:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
AN ABSTRACT ON:
THE CHALLENGES OF FINANCING RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA**

BY

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AN ABSTRACT

For sustainable development in Africa we need to generate new knowledge and ideas, we need to develop modern methods of production, cheaper methods of developing our infrastructure, newer and cheaper methods of constructing new houses, factories and other buildings. We need to develop residential and suitable methods of agriculture, agro industries etc. To do the above, we need to strengthen the research capabilities of our institutions of higher education in Africa. To strengthen these research capabilities, we need to generate adequate funds to support and sustain research. This paper seeks to establish the level of financing research in African Universities and whether the level is adequate or otherwise and whether the current level is sustainable.

The paper further seeks to assess the capacity of public sector to fund all research and will look at the balance between public sector funding and private sector. The paper will assess the possibility of public and private sector partnership which can be used to fund research. The paper starts with an assumption that, the current funding of research in most public universities in Africa is inadequate and hence can not sustain meaningful research to answer the myriad of questions and issues hindering development in Africa.

Given that there is adequate information on this matter the paper will concentrate mainly on secondary data obtainable from annual reports and budget statistics from the universities and the Ministries and donors.

The paper will assess the possibility of a new focus of sponsored earmarked research to seek solution to specific identified economic and developmental issues instead of concentrating on purely academic research. Sustainability of research in issues such as environmental degradation and the use of natural resources, renewable energy will be considered etc.

In order to undertake this type of research, we need to assess the financial gap: what types of resources are required? How can finance be used in the best interest of the economy and in the most cost-effective method? Who are willing and ready to fund? What are the pertinent issues to be dealt with in order to ensure sustainable development?