**1 October 2026**

# UCT, Unisa and Bristol University in tripartite collaboration to promote academic cooperation

**Thursday, 1 October 2026 | 14:30– 18:00 | HUMA Seminar Room, Humanities Building, Upper Campus, UCT**

The University of Cape Town (UCT), the University of South Africa (Unisa) and the University of Bristol (UoB) will launch the Africa Charter Forum on 1 October 2026.

The launch follows the signing of a tripartite collaboration on 30 September 2026 to promote academic cooperation through an initiative they collectively facilitate called the Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations.

Furthermore, UCT and Unisa signed a bilateral agreement on the same occasion to promote and strengthen a strategic higher education collaboration for training, science, research and innovation.

This collaboration will work to redress unjust power imbalances in global knowledge production, advance intellectual leadership and scholarship and implement and centre the Africa Charter as a transformative instrument for international academic, cultural and educational research collaborations globally.

The Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations, launched in July 2023 during the African Association of Universities' Biennial Conference of Rectors and Vice-Chancellors in Namibia, was established by these three strategic institutions through the Perivoli Africa Research Centre at UoB, Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair at Unisa, and the Institute for the Humanities in Africa at UCT.

This significant initiative aims at advancing a more equitable and just global scientific effort as well as create and develop transformative research collaborations that will serve to advance a more just and richer pluriversal global scientific effort across the formal, natural and social sciences, as well as the arts and humanities, in which Africa takes its rightful place. It further emphasises the need to redress power imbalances in the global production of scientific knowledge.

This programme has since been endorsed by numerous science actors, including the African and European university networks, learned societies and higher education institutions

worldwide. The charter's principles and aspirations include creating a new approach to research collaboration that champions equitable partnerships as standard practice.

The charter articulates principles and aspirations for policy change, emphasising the need for research collaborations to address the multi-layered power imbalances in the global-Africa production of scientific knowledge. It has been endorsed by around 130 signatories and is based on a novel intellectual and moral argument that draws on a long history of African and global South scholarship.

The parties wish to formalise their ties for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding, including academic, cultural and educational exchange; and to provide intellectual leadership and drive for the evolving initiative to advance the implementation of The Africa Charter globally with the aim to:

- provide shared institutional support to the work of the Steering Group for The Africa Charter and any other organs that may be established to advance charter;
- actively uphold, mainstream and pursue the implementation of The Africa Charter within their respective institutions together with efforts to distill learnings on good practice approaches, improving collaboration among the three universities to initiate, design and lead research projects and stakeholder engagement that help to advance the aspirations and principles of The Africa Charter; and
- adopt a common communication strategy to raise awareness and foster wide and active engagement with The Africa Charter in academic sectors and beyond.

Members of the media are invited to attend this significant academic collaboration.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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