

Office of the Rector | Bureau du Recteur

Our Ref: 074-171.rec

27 April 2017

Prof Moeketsi Letseka
Project Leader and Initiator
Department of Educational Studies
College of Education

Dear Prof Moeketsi Letseka

RE: Request for ICDE Executive Committee's support of the proposed UNITWIN/UNESCO/UNISA Chair of Open Distance Learning (ODL)

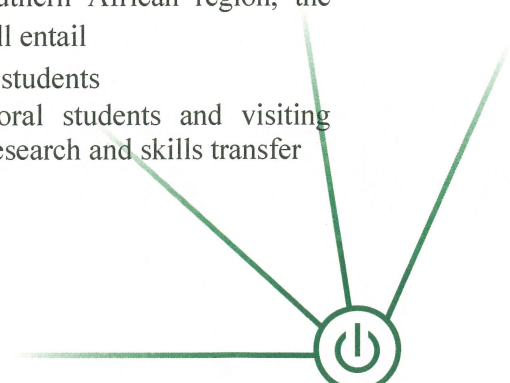
This letter serves as the African Virtual University (AVU)'s support for the proposed revival of the five-year University of South Africa (UNISA)'s UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair of Open Distance Learning (ODL).

The aims of the proposed Chair are to produce ODL research:

- That is responsive to UNISA's vision to be "*the African university shaping futures in the service of humanity*";
- That contributes to capacity building and transfer of knowledge for delivery of quality and impactful higher education through the open and distance learning mode;
- That is responsive to the country and the Southern African region's redress agenda to increase access with success to higher education opportunities through open distance learning, and
- That corresponds to the UNITWIN/UNESCO Africa priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The proposed UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair seeks to harness institutional, national, regional and global research expertise within the framework of the UNITWIN/UNESCO programme with a view to framing and galvanising a high level ODL research agenda that will inform policy in South Africa and the Southern Africa region. Pursuant of this goal, we shall forge high level collaborative and mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral partnerships with willing ODL practitioner institutions in South Africa, the Southern African region, the African continent, and globally. The collaborative partnerships will entail

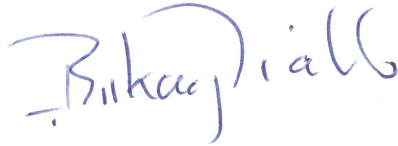
- Co-supervision of ODL masters and doctoral postgraduate students
- Exchange programmes for research fellows, post-doctoral students and visiting professors for purposes of information sharing, teaching, research and skills transfer



- Networking and sharing of knowledge through production and dissemination of research
- Joint organisation and facilitation of national, regional and international ODL seminars, workshops and conferences.

The African Virtual University therefore expresses its support for proposed initiative and willingness to enter into collaborative and mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral partnerships with the University of South Africa (UNISA)'s chair of ODL.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bakary Diallo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'B'.

Bakary Diallo, PhD
The Rector