



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND
DISTANCE EDUCATION

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Prof Moeketsi Letseka
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Dear Prof Moeketsi Letseka

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

This letter serves as the ICDE Executive Committee'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.

We are therefore expressing our support for the proposed initiative.

Yours sincerely



Prof Mandla S Makhanya
Principal and Vice-Chancellor: University of South Africa
President of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE)



Mr Gard Titlestad
Secretary General of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE)