

Ladies and Gentleman,

It could have been considered an honor for me to take the floor, but it is more of a responsibility to represent the rector of the Afro American University of Central Africa, at this first conference on Leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area for Higher Education Integration and to show the Bi-regional experiences in Europe, Latin America and Africa.

Today, we stand at a remarkable crossroad, a confluence of vision and opportunity as we convene for this pivotal conference. This gathering is not merely a procedural meeting, a routine Exchange of information. It is a testament to our collective aspirations, a tangible manifestation of our shared belief in the transformative power of education to shape brighter futures, to foster lasting unity, and to unlock the vast potential that resides within the heart of Africa. This is a moment to recognize the vital role universities play in driving progress and building a more interconnected and prosperous future for our continent.

At the very heart of this ambitious endeavor, and indeed at the center of my presentation today, lies the AAUCA- an institution that represents more than just classrooms and research laboratories, more than just a place to learn. The Afro-American University is a living embodiment of a dream, a beacon of hope meticulously crafted from the enduring vision of His Excellency, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, a true panafrikan leader, whose unwavering commitment to the progress and unity of our continent has served as the guiding star for this creation and continued development. His profound belief in the power of education to uplift communities, to empower individuals, and to bridge divides has been the driving force behind AAUCA's inception and its continued growth.

Since its operational launch in the significant year of 2019, AAUCA has been animated by a clear, compelling and deeply resonant mission : « serve as a central and dynamic pillar in the vital and ongoing work of promoting genuine Pan-African unity, fostering a profound shared sense of purpose, collective identity, and intertwined destiny across our diverse and vibrant nations. Furthermore, we harbor the ambitious yet deeply held aspiration to position our cherished Equatorial Guinée as a vibrant and welcoming gateway, a crucial intellectual, cultural and economic bridge seamlessly connecting the resource-rich heartland of Central Africa to the vast opportunities, interconnectedness, and global collaborations of the broader international community.

Chers participants,

En nous alignant sans réserve au message général de cette conférence, message délivré par monsieur le Président de l'Association des Universités Africaines, le Professeur USMAN BAKRI ; et relayé jusque là par les précédents intervenants, la AAUCA par ma voix voudrait exprimer son vœux ardent de se joindre formellement à cette grande famille des Universités africaines. A cet effet, exprime-t-elle formellement le souhait d'héberger certaines activités ou projets ou réflexions de ce type, initiés par des partenaires comme ceux qui nous ont permis de nous retrouver ici aujourd'hui (Université Pan africaine, Obreal Global et bien sûr l'Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun qui nous accueille) dans le cadre des coopérations avec des institutions universitaires africaines. Ainsi, ne serait-il pas opportun de s'intéresser particulièrement à ceux relatifs à l'agriculture et au développement local.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we enthusiastically embark on this ambitious journey, we recognize the importance of looking ahead and establishing meaningful connections. AAUCA is actively working to establish agreements with other academic institutions, fostering exchange programs for students and faculty, and promoting collaboration in research.

Then, it is with immense enthusiasm a deep sense of shared purpose, and a spirit of determined and unwavering collaboration that we express our profound and earnest interest in fostering enduring and mutually beneficial partnership with the distinguished academic institutions so well-represented at this First Conference on Leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area for the Integration of Higher Education. Your invaluable guidance, your vast wealth of experience, and your demonstrated willingness to join us in this transformative endeavor will be absolutely instrumental as we work together to strengthen the very fabric of higher education across the diverse and promising African continent and empower the next generation of visionary leaders.

Thank you most sincerely for your invitation to participate at this event, thank for your thoughtful consideration, and your shared commitment to the advancement of African higher education. We eagerly anticipate the fruitful discussions and the strong partnerships that will undoubtedly emerge from this significant conference.