Agenda | Tana Forum Vice Chancellors' Dialogue
Friday 23 October 2025
Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
02:00 – 05:00 PM EAT/ GMT+3

From Knowledge Consumers to Knowledge Producers: The Role of African Universities in Shaping Africa's Future

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Arrival, Registration, and Seating	Bahir Dar University and Tana Forum Secretariat
2:00 – 2:15 pm	Opening and Welcoming Remarks	**Dr. Mengesha Ayene**, President of the Bahir Dar University
2:15 – 3:30 pm	Panel Discussion: "From Knowledge Consumers to Knowledge Producers: The Role of African Universities in Shaping Africa's Future"	**Panelists**: ▪ Prof. Khabele Matlosa, Chairman of Council, National University of Lesotho (NUL); Executive Director, Strategic Institute for Research and Dialogue (SIRD), Lesotho ▪ Prof. Said Ali Hamad Vuai, Vice-Chancellor, State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Tanzania ▪ Prof. John O. Gyapong, Secretary-General, African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), University of Ghana ▪ Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Sulub, President, University of Hargeisa, Somaliland ▪ Dr. Dereje Engida, President, Jimma University, Ethiopia ▪ Prof. Worash Getaneh, Research and Innovation Vice-President, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia **Moderator:** ▪ **Dr. Mengesha Ayene**
3:30 – 4:50 pm	Q&A	Participant and Panelist Reflections
4:50 – 5:00 pm	Closing Remarks	**Ms. Lettie T. Longwe**, Director, Africa Peace and Security Programme, IPSS and Head of Tana Forum Secretariat

MC: Dr. Manendante Mulugeta, Director of External Relations and Partnership, Bahir Dar University

Recommended Panel Methodology

To make the discussion substantive and manageable, I recommend the following format:

- Six panelists, one moderator: All six panelists respond to common guiding questions prepared by Dr. Mengesha.
- No rigid allocation of separate topics: The questions should invite complementary perspectives rather than six separate presentations.
- Concise opening responses: Allow approximately 3–4 minutes per panelist for initial responses to each major question, followed by moderated interaction.
- Cross-panel exchange: The moderator invites panelists to respond to, challenge, or build on one another's contributions.
- Action-oriented conclusion: Focus the discussion on recommendations, possible institutional commitments, and practical mechanisms for follow-up.