MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Office of the Vice Chancellor

10th October, 2019

The IUC Programme Manager
VLIR-OUS Platform
Belgium

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL UNIVERSITY COOPERATION 2022 PROGRAMME PROPOSAL BY MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Reference is made to the grant application to VLIR-UOS Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) call made by Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). The IUC Programme proposal titled ***"University as a Facet for Community Based Sustainable Solutions to Demographic Challenges in South Western Uganda (UCoBS)" is*** led by Associate Professor Charles Tushaboomwe-Kazooba as our Local Programme Coordinator working with a multidisciplinary team from different University Faculties and Centres. Namely: Assoc. Prof. Grace Kagoro, Dr. Imelda Kemeza, Faculty of Science; Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko, Mr. Tom Ogwang, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies; Dr. Joseph Ngonzi, Dr. Gad Ruzaaza, Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Johnes Obulongoch, Faculty Applied Science and Technology; Ms. Sheila Niinye Olivia, International Relations Office, Central Administration; Dr. Manasseh Tumuhimbise, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences and Mr. Rogers Mwavu, Mr. Amos Byaryashaba, Mr. Richard Kimera, Dr. John Businge, Faculty of Computing and Informatics. The team is also working closely with the Flemish Partners led by the Vrijie Universitet Brussels (VUB) that coordinates other Universities in Belgium in the development of this proposal. MUST already have a Memorandum of Understanding with VUB and have been working together on a number of collaborative projects. This previous cordial relationship with Belgium promoters creates a leverage ground to scale-up more partnerships and collaborations under the IUC programme.

As MUST, we have been keen in the development of this proposal and are fully aware of this proposed programme that envisages a strengthened MUST Community outreach programme for sustainable demographic dividends in the communities we work with. This will be achieved under key six thematic areas that include; improved conservation practices of the environment and natural resources, improved reproductive health by reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, increased youth employability through skilling, experiential learning and agricultural innovations, increased access and utilization of affordable energy technologies and improved community information access and uptake. The attainment of this grant will be a big contribution of the University's mission and vision.

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Mbarara University is a public university that was established in 1989 with a strong community orientation. Since its inception, community engagement has been and is MUST's flagship. MUST is privately funded by the Government of Uganda but it was established as an independent corporate entity, it mobilizes and implements projects through the MUST grants office. The grants office was established and approved by the university council about 10 years ago and manages all private grants by researchers and directly accounts to the donors on the funds given without any government intervention. I therefore confirm that the University has the authority to apply for, receive and manage the programme or project funds.

We also confirm that the University management will lead the overall implementation of the programme with all the managerial and technical guidance and support. I look forward to consideration of this application.

Yours sincerely

Vice Chancellor's Office
Mbarara University of Science & Technology
10 OCT 2019
P.O. Box 1410, Mbarara

Professor Celestino Obua
VICE CHANCELLOR

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