The UNITAFRICA Alliance Charter

The UNITAFRICA Alliance is a community of universities from Italy and African countries committed to advancing higher education, research and academic dialogue through equitable partnership, mutual learning and the co-creation of knowledge.
The Alliance affirms the role of universities as independent communities of learning, innovation and public responsibility, committed to advancing human dignity, a peaceful and sustainable development and the common good.

The Alliance builds upon the experience and values developed within the **Italian University Network for Development Cooperation (CUCS)**, whose longstanding commitment to international academic cooperation inspired the UNITAFRICA Project (2024–2026). Through that shared experience, universities from Italy and eighteen African countries established relationships founded on trust, reciprocity and scientific collaboration, creating the basis for a lasting academic partnership.

The UNITAFRICA Alliance recognises that today's global challenges require universities to work not as providers and recipients of knowledge, but as **peer institutions** that learn from one another, share responsibility and jointly generate knowledge, innovation and educational opportunities. The diversity of academic traditions, cultural and religious perspectives and institutional experiences is regarded as a source of strength that enriches research, teaching and engagement with society.

Members of the Alliance share the commitment to:

- foster equitable and enduring partnerships among universities in Italy and African countries;
- promote the co-creation and exchange of knowledge through research, education and innovation based on a mutual learning approach;
- strengthen opportunities for students, researchers and academic and professional staff to learn, teach and collaborate across institutions and countries, favoring the circulation of brains and talents;
- encourage the development of joint educational programmes, research initiatives and centres of excellence responding to shared local and global challenges;
- support academic environments that value inclusiveness, scientific integrity, freedom of inquiry and mutual respect;
- contribute, through higher education and research, to sustainable human development and the wellbeing of present and future generations, integrating science and indigenous knowledge systems.

The Alliance provides a framework through which its members can develop joint initiatives, exchange experience and build new opportunities for collaboration. It encourages both in-person and digital interaction, building on the experience of the **Platform for Innovative Teaching (PIT)** and on other shared tools that facilitate dialogue, learning and academic cooperation. Regular annual meetings and thematic working groups will sustain the exchange of ideas and promote the development of new collaborative initiatives.

Membership of the UNITAFRICA Alliance is open to universities and higher education or research institutions in Italy and African countries, with a solid and acknowledged background and experience in international development cooperation, that embrace the principles and values expressed in this Charter. Membership is voluntary and entails no financial obligation. It becomes effective upon formal endorsement of the Charter by the Rector, or the Rector's delegated representative, of the adhering institution.
This Charter expresses the shared identity and long-term commitment of the UNITAFRICA Alliance. It is adopted for an initial period of five years and may be renewed by mutual agreement of the member institutions. The modalities of collaboration will be defined collectively and reviewed periodically. Any matters arising from the interpretation of this Charter shall be addressed through dialogue and amicable resolution, in keeping with the spirit of partnership that inspires the Alliance.