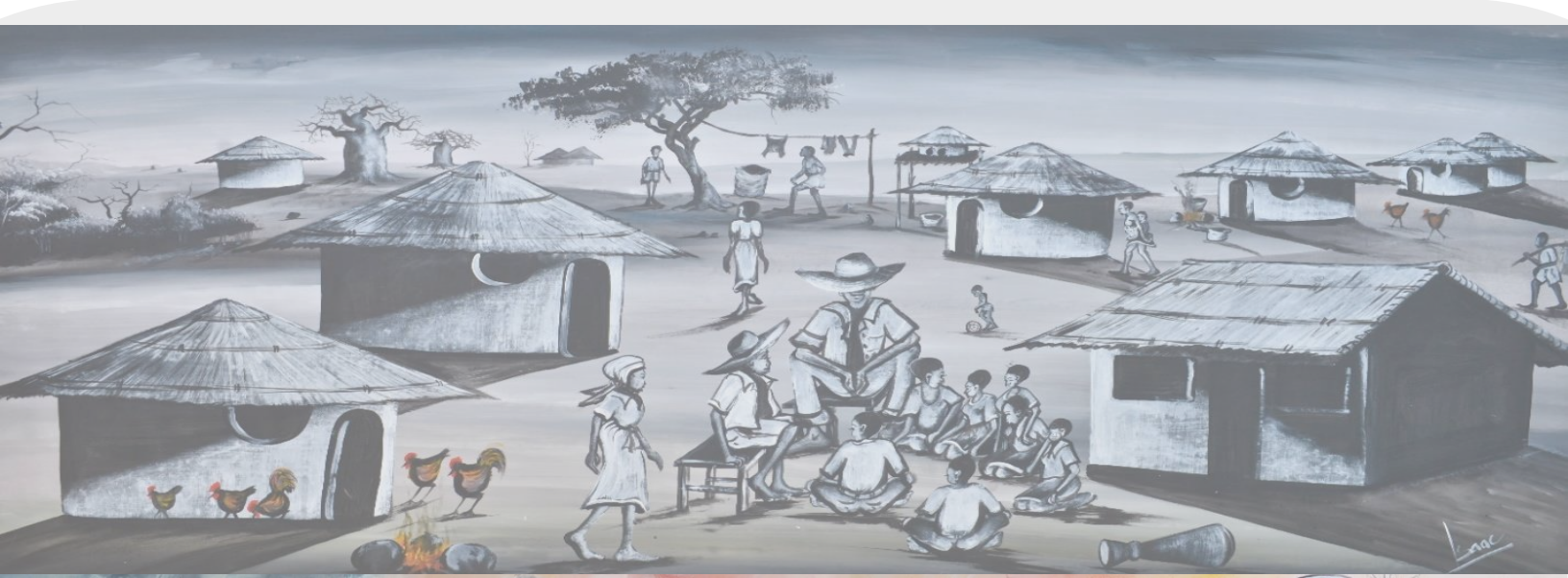# INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS-BASED DIGITIZATION FOR A UNESCO CATEGORY II AFRICAN INSTITUTE IN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (AIIKS): REVISIONING OF THE KNOWLEDGE LIFE-CYCLE

Postgraduate Students, Early Career Knowledge Workers and Knowledge Managers in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

1. **Background**

On the 29th January 2021, a consortium of more than 20 Heads of African Higher Education and autonomous Research institutions from Francophone, Anglophone, and Lusophone African countries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a UNESCO Category II African Institute in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIIKS), with its hub as the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The vision of AIIKS is to become an African Indigenous Knowledge (AIKS) Hub for the Advancement of African Scholarship and Restoration of African Dignity. Its mission is to promote and support the contribution of African Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the global pool of knowledge for epistemic justice. It facilitates the integration of holism, complementarity and multi-disciplinary nature of the IKS-Based Knowledge Lifecycle (in terms of knowledge production, management, preservation and protection) into diverse social practices and disciplines of competence.

The consortium:

- provides a cross-cultural, multi-linguistic and international platform for research, human capital development, knowledge brokerage, networking and community engagement;
- brings together postgraduate students, researchers, early career knowledge workers and managers from across disciplines, cultures and regions, including the public and private sectors, involved in African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS) for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- promotes the use of ICTs in harnessing African indigenous languages and philosophies as repositories of knowledge, innovation and technology systems in research and scholarship;
- contributes to systematization of AIKS as a knowledge domain in its own merit to generate unique products, services and impacts for uptake by public and private sectors, including, international organizations and development agencies;
- advances a new paradigm shift on importance of complementarity and democracy of knowledge systems in the global knowledge economy in the search for sustainable solutions to global challenges and epistemic justice.

The Institute recognizes that in an increasingly digitalized world, where the plurality of knowledge systems is being afforded greater recognition, there is a growing demand for young professionals who have the capabilities to interface ICTs with Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS). It is on the basis of this consideration that the AIIKS consortium would like to invite postgraduate students and early career knowledge workers and managers to participate and integrate their ICT knowledge and skills in the activities of its continental and international activities.

2. **Activities for Postgraduate Students and Early Career Knowledge Workers and Managers in Information and Communication Technologies for IKS Development**

- Digital Arts and Animation for Education, Communication, Marketing and Networking;
- IKS-based Databases: Big Data Management and Sovereignty
- Natural language processing (developing indigenous language glossaries across cultures, social practices and disciplines of competence as metadata for online processing of language content, automatic linguistic processing and machine translation),
- Communication and marketing tools (digital content management, social media platforms and forums),
- Software and application development (Events management, Learning management systems, E-Commerce System),
- Network and partnerships development (virtual and physical networking engagement platform),

3. **Who Should Apply?**
- Postgraduates Students with IT qualifications (MA, MSocSci, MSc, PhD);
- Proficiency in digital software programmes e.g. Adobe Creative suite;
- Knowledge practitioners involved in production, preservation and promotion of knowledge;
- Preference would be given to candidates not more than 35 years of age; female;
- Added advantage would include prior experience working with local communities

4. **Requisite Application Documents:**
- Curriculum Vitae reflecting your academic background and work experience;
- Recommendation Letter from mentor at host institution;
- Portfolio of evidence with prior digitization outputs and experience

5. **Deadline for Applications:**
- 14 May 2021 by 12:00 (midday) Central African Time (CAT)
- Completed online application form https://forms.gle/uGM9skcZz7qLQ7FDA and requisite attachments

6. **Contact:**
   For any further enquiries, you may contact:
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