

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng,
Vice Chancellor
Private Bag X3
Rondebosch 7701
South Africa

Paris, May 3rd, 2021,

Dear Vice Chancellor Phakeng,

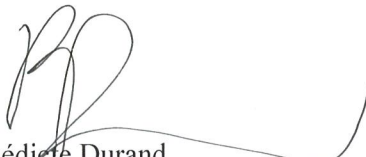
The fire tragedy at the bicentennial library of the University of Cape Town leaves many of us with the Sciences Po community in great shock and saddened. This is a terrible loss for UCT, for your country, for Africa and humanity's world heritage. Our warm thoughts also go to the students, professors and employees of the university who have been forced to abruptly leave the campus.

Please allow me to express our deepest support to you as well as the students' and academic community, in this natural disaster faced by your university. We may be far geographically but rest assured that we at Sciences Po are following very closely what our partner universities across the world are going through, and we are wholeheartedly with you.

We share the profound conviction that campuses are a place for imparting knowledge, for promoting peace and for defending the principles of freedom of thought, equality and diversity, and that libraries in particular are the beating hearts of our universities.

In these difficult circumstances, we would like to convey our best wishes to you, for the situation at UCT, to find the strength to rebuild under your leadership. Should there be any help we could provide, please let me know, as well as Vanessa Scherrer, our Vice President for International Affairs, who is in regular contact with Ms Newton regarding our U7+ Alliance initiatives in particular, and would be pleased to coordinate our support as needed.

With all our sincere regards to you and the whole UCT community.



Bénédicte Durand
President, Sciences Po

Cc: Dr Vanessa Scherrer
Vice President for International Affairs, Sciences Po