



**International Geographical Union (IGU) 2015 Regional Conference, Moscow, Russia:
“Regional integration in Southern Africa, changing socioeconomic balances in Africa
and prospects for continental integration”**

Call for Abstracts

17-21 August 2015, Lomonosov Moscow State University (LMSU)

In 1991, the African Union (AU) through the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) made a commitment towards integrating the African continent. In the AU's integration agenda, the establishment of the AEC, is the ultimate expression and manifestation of the integration of the African continent. This integration is to be founded on eight regional economic communities (RECs) of which the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is one. Ideally, successful integration in and of the respective RECs should translate into the success of the continental integration agenda. Africa on the other hand has in the past two decades experienced renewed growth, acquiring tags such as the *rising sun*. Therefore, this session proposes to discuss the challenges, prospects and opportunities that SADC has against its objective of an integrated southern Africa. As one of the pillars of the proposed AEC, what are the economic, social, cultural and environmental challenges and trajectories of integration at the regional level in southern Africa? For example, given the increasing levels of migration and the corresponding desire by some states to tighten cross border movement, is the idea of integration feasible, let alone sustainable? Is a completely or partially integrated SADC region even possible? What can SADC learn from the other regional economic communities on the African continent and other parts of the world? What issues does the SADC region need to address in order to enhance integration? How and does SADC relate with other RECs in Africa and outside in view of the continental integration agenda? What can other RECs in Africa and other parts of the world learn from the SADC experience? What can SADC learn from other regions?

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES: Interested authors should **register** and **submit abstracts** (200-250 words) via **the MOSCOW IGU Regional Conference website** in the link provided below by selecting **“Regional integration in Southern Africa: Changing socioeconomic balances in Africa and prospects for continental integration”** under the **“Session”** drop down menu.

WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION: <http://www.igu2015.ru/instruction-abstract-submission>

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS: 31 January 2015

NOTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE ABSTRACT REVIEW: 1 March 2015

For further information please contact:

Dr. Christopher C. Nshimbi
Research Fellow

Center for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn)
Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria
Tel: +27 12 420 4152
Email: christopher.nshimbi@up.ac.za

Or

Mr. Inocent Moyo
Research Fellow
Department of Geography
UNISA, Florida Campus
Tel: +27 72 106 2632
Email: minnoxa@yahoo.com