



# CALL for Abstracts

## IGU COMMISSION ON AFRICAN STUDIES INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

*Theme: What is Africa's response on global challenges:  
Understanding drivers of poverty and reducing inequality?*

**Date:** 17 – 18 May 2018

**Venue:** University of Namibia, Namibia

### BACKGROUND

The International Geographical Union (IGU), recently approved the formation of the IGU Commission on African Studies, whose overarching aim is the promotion of African and Africanist scholarship on issues around and in Africa, ranging from social sciences to natural sciences, but informed in the main by geographical, multi and interdisciplinary perspectives. This materialises in the form of inter alia, Thematic Conferences run under the IGU Commission of African Studies. In pursuit of this mandate, the IGU and the University of Namibia (UNAM), therefore, brings you the Launch of the IGU's Commission on African Studies and the inaugural Conference in May 2018.

This means that the IGU Commission on African Studies will hold its first ever Annual Conference following a decision of the IGU to create a platform for African and experts on Africa to examine African challenges and attempt to provide African responses. This is pertinent given the recent global developments ranging from climate change, terrorism, migration and mobility, inequality, poverty and hunger as well as political upsurges and reconfigurations, which all call for a (re)consideration and/or response, hence the question "What is Africa's response to global challenges?" comes to the fore. In this respect, the theme of the conference is: What is Africa's Response to Global Challenges: Understanding drivers of poverty and reducing inequality?

UNAM and IGU hope delegates will be enthused to converge on Windhoek to explore and play a part in identifying how Africa can respond to global challenges now and in the future.

Consequently, the following are the objectives of the conference:

- To examine Africa's response to a myriad of challenges afflicting the continent
- To bridge the gap between research outputs and policy implementation
- To strengthen the partnership and scholarship between African geographers and scholars on Africa
- To explore the impact of geography and its role to planning and achievement of national development plans UNs SDGs
- To increase IGU research and scientific activities and programmes in Africa

In pursuit of these objectives, we therefore invite participants from all fields of geography and cognate disciplines to submit papers that respond and interrogate, but are not limited to the following:

- Sustainable development and investment
- Marginality and migration
- Higher education and mobility
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Technology and innovation diffusion
- Rural and Urban Poverty reduction
- Biotechnology, Agro-processing and food security
- Oceans and economic development
- Economic and political integration of Africa
- Future geographies

### SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:

The Conference will be composed of paper sessions as well as organised parallel sessions. Panel discussions can also be arranged. The format for paper presentations will be 15mins + 5mins for Q&A. Please submit an abstract of not more than 250 words to: [skamati@unam.na](mailto:skamati@unam.na) or [mekimaro@unam.na](mailto:mekimaro@unam.na)

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 January 2017

Notification of abstract acceptance: 30 January 2018

Deadline for submission of full papers: 30 March 2018

### REGISTRATION FEES:

Post graduate students:	N\$500.00
Standard:	N\$1500.00
Gala dinner:	N\$1000.00

**Your Abstract must follow the ensuing format:**

- Title
- Abstract (250 words)
- Key words (not more than 6)
- Full name(s) and institutional affiliations of the author(s)

