



Call For Abstracts

IGU Commission on African Studies Annual Conference

Theme: *What is Africa's response to global challenges: Understanding drivers of poverty and pathways to reduce inequality II?*

Date: 10 - 12 June 2026

Venue: University of Namibia, Namibia

BACKGROUND

The inaugural conference of the International Geographical Union (IGU), Commission on African Studies, was held at the University of Namibia (UNAM) on 17-18 May 2018 under the theme *What is Africa's response to global challenges: Understanding drivers of poverty and reducing inequality?* Building on this inaugural conference and several others that have been held in countries like Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda, The University of Namibia (UNAM) and IGU Commission on African Studies invite proposals which will deepen discussions on recent global developments ranging from climate change, geography of fake news, migration and mobility, inequality, poverty and hunger inter alia, which all call for a (re)consideration and/or response, hence the original question "What is Africa's response to global challenges?" still lingers. In this respect, the theme of the conference is: What is Africa's Response to Global Challenges: Understanding drivers of poverty and reducing inequality II?

UNAM and IGU hope delegates will be enthused to converge in 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 in planning and achievement of national development plans, the UN's 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 to and interrogate, but are not limited to, the following:

- Biotechnology, Agro-processing and food security
- Climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience

- Economic and political integration of Africa
- Energy transitions and just sustainability
- Environmental geographies
- Future geographies
- Geography of Fake News
- GIS and Remote Sensing
- Higher education and mobility
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems and decolonial futures
- Marginality and migration
- Oceans and economic development
- Post-development geographies
- Rural and Urban Poverty reduction
- Sustainable development and investment
- Technology and innovation diffusion

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:

The Conference will be composed of paper sessions as well as organized 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 using the link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtUftrHyTpSLhi8MEL27DF4nryyXCdx-AOgXNgkDnw-Xm4Qw/viewform?usp=header>

For more information, email: hamunyelae@unam.na and ccminnoxa.m@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for abstract submission:	15 January 2026
Notification of abstract acceptance:	30 January 2026
Deadline for submission of full papers:	30 March 2026
Payment confirmation deadline:	30 March 2026
Conference date & field trip:	10-12 June 2026

REGISTRATION FEES:

Post graduate students:	N\$1500.0
Standard:	N\$4500.00
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)