

CALL FOR PAPERS

AFRICA'S FUTURE CONFERENCE 2026

FACULTY OF COMMERCE,
MANAGEMENT AND LAW
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA



DATES: 01 - 02 October 2026

VENUE: Arebbusch Travel Lodge, Windhoek

"The Future of Business, Governance and Law in Africa: Digital Transformation, Sustainability and Inclusive Development"

1. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The world has changed. The Africa of the yesteryears is gone. Undoubtedly, the realities of the twenty-first century are upon us. Following Africa's independence from the 1960s onwards, there has been a consciousness for a united Africa earmarked by sustained economic development. That this has been a sustained ambition for the continent is understandable. Patent by years of colonial rule most of Africa remain poor factored mainly by uneven economic leverage and fiscal and structural adjustment programmes suited and reflective of the developmental agenda of the developed countries. Although many African States gradually began to experience investment booms, particularly from the 1990s onwards, these gains were not guaranteed. New policy approaches became imminent, drawing on the experience of both post-colonial and adjustment periods.

To this end, and as a means to leverage economic competitiveness aimed at ensuring sustained development and safeguarding their economic interests while at the same time encouraging foreign investments, African constitutions in one form or the other incorporated State policy directives, including foreign policies, aimed at economic development. Governance systems were introduced to strengthen peace, the rule of law and inclusive development. Moreover, the inclusion of socio-economic rights in some African Constitutions also raised state obligations for the realisation of these rights. This renewed culture and

consciousness of sustained economic development has been transplanted and reflected in bilateral and multilateral engagements by African States, both locally and beyond.

Despite these efforts Africa's developmental future remains charged. The effects of globalisation, embedded amongst others in populism, emerging technologies and AI poses both challenges and opportunities that can reshape the Africa we want and by extension the Namibia we aspire to in line with international, regional and domestic goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 20263. With over 1.4 billion people and representing the world's youngest population, Africa's trajectory will significantly impact global development patterns with the impact and influence of its youth. The African continent stands at a pivotal juncture in its developmental trajectory.

As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, Africa faces unprecedented opportunities to leapfrog traditional development paradigms through innovative approaches to business, governance, and legal frameworks. The African Futures Conference 2026 aims to convene leading scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and thought leaders to examine how digital transformation, sustainability imperatives, good governance and inclusive economic development principles can reshape the African landscape.

Given the above, the Conference Scientific Committee encourages the submission of proposals for papers and panels on topics of interest in all fields relating to business, governance and law with a keen focus on digital transformation, sustainability and inclusive development. Papers with international, regional, country specific, industry case study based and comparative aspects relating to the overall theme of the Conference are welcome. Without necessarily excluding proposals



on other related tracks, the Committee welcomes proposals for papers, panels and posters on one or more of the following thematic themes:

- **Theme 1: Sustainable Business, Governance and Developmental Models and Practices**
- **Theme 2: Digital Governance, Transformation and Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Theme 3: Public-Private Partnerships, Governance and Accountability in the Digital Age**
- **Theme 4: The Rule and Role of Law in Inclusive Development and Sustainability**
- **Theme 5: Regional Integration, Multilateralism, Continental Trade and Economic Development**
- **Theme 6: Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution, Peace, and Security in the Digital Era**

Accepted conference papers will be considered for publication in an edited volume.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Abstract Submission Opens:** 22 June 2026
- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 31 August 2026
- **Abstract Review Period deadline:** All abstract submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the Scientific Committee until the date of deadline.
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** 22 September 2026. Final papers should be between 6,000-8,000 words (including references), aligned to the Chicago or APA referencing style guide

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION LINK:

<https://forms.office.com/r/e08bnkJOx5>

or alternatively via email:

fcmlconference@unam.na

REGISTRATION FEE:

- **International participants:** N\$ 1000 (US\$62)
- **Local Participants:** N\$ 700 (US\$44)
- **Students:** N\$ 200 (US\$14)

Bank Details: First National Bank (FNB)

Account Name: The University of Namibia

Account Number: 62260241395

Account type: Corporate Cheque Account

Branch code: 281872

Swift/BIC: FIRNNANX

Reference: FC00/2853 (Your Surname)

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