



SADC@30: The Past, Present and the Future

The Call for Abstracts and Papers

On the occasion of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) turning 30, the African Association of Political Science (AAPS) together with the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) and University of Johannesburg's Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPAC) hereby invite you to participate in a hybrid Regional Colloquium planned for September 2022 by submitting your paper abstract or panel proposal. Abstracts of up to 300 words indicating a sub-theme the proposed paper will fall under must reach us before 10 April 2022 and will be responded to by 20 April 2022. Since this Colloquium will lead to the publication of an accredited monograph or a special journal edition, the papers of 4000 to 6 000 words length are due by 31 July 2022 (Use the APA referencing and citation style). Proposals of panels (3 or 4 papers on the same theme) or roundtables (presentations on the same broad questions) are also welcome and they must reach us on 10 April 2022 too. To submit your abstracts or proposals, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/oYiBU3hnMP4f37me6>. **Queries (not submissions) can be sent to africanpolitics2019@gmail.com.**

Sub-Themes of the Regional Colloquium

As SADC reaches 30, the reasons for its existence, which include ending external domination, ending poverty, ending uneven development in Southern Africa, ending conflict, ending the marginalisation of the region; and building a regionness come under sharp scrutiny. The extent to which this region has succeeded in these aims is debated because of signs that many of the problems it has been hoping to solve remain. Poverty and underdevelopment is rife as evidence in levels of destitution, food insecurity, disease and vulnerabilities. While peace advances are known, the region is facing violent conflict of various kinds from state clampdown on political opposition to political assassinations to coups, crime, and terrorism. The region continues to witness signs of

democratic reversals in some cases manifest in erosion of human rights including socio-economic rights, manipulation of constitutions, political intolerance, marginalisation of communities from political processes and declining trust in electoral processes. Uneven development manifests in the dominance of the South African economy, for instance, and an unchanged number of least developed countries in the region in the past three decades begs the question whether regional integration has produced the dividends for less developed countries. The role of external actors in the region from the old former colonial empires that remain major providers of aid and budget support, while also involved in political developments in some cases to new emerging powers that made forays into economies and security situations in the region are matters of concern. This push back is taking place against the AU's commitment to enhance regional integration and development, by moving towards a "borderless" Africa with seamless intracontinental migration as stated in the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (2018). More than a decade after the adoption of a comprehensive socio-economic plan of the region, the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan (RISDP), the region remains conspicuous for high levels of inequality and inequity affecting women, children, youth and people with disability most acutely. The outcomes of the implementation of Regional Indicative Plan for the Organ of Politics, Defence Cooperation and Security are hard to find. The alignment or misalignment between these plans, national plans and AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals may be poorly understood. The promise of digital technologies, growing enrollment in education, growing capacities in health care provision, growth in small business enterprises, new resources attracted, institutional reforms, new sectoral plans, new consensuses and new liberating discourses remain unfulfilled.

The liberation movement led governments in the region [South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia] have largely failed to transform the politically liberated countries into inclusive regimes that locate citizens at the heart of security provision, democracy building and development. Interstate tensions between Malawi and Tanzania continue to fester. Intra-state conflict in Mozambique threatens to suck in the entire region and disrupt trade routes. Demands for democracy in Eswatini have revealed the inability of SADC to exercise its Responsibility to Protect citizens as mandated by the African Union. South Africa is once witnessing violence against immigrants most of which are from the region. Under these conditions, the ability of the region to build resilience against crises and to harness opportunities that come with new technologies to improve the quality of citizens' lives in the region becomes impossible. There have been calls within SADC itself for a reform of how the institution functions.

Contributions to understanding these and other developments in Southern Africa should belong to one of the indicative sessions below:

Planned sub-thematic sessions

1. Region-building and regional integration
2. Democracy, governance, and human rights
3. Economy, political economy and livelihoods (including climate change)
4. Peace, stability, and security
5. Agency: states, citizens, women, youth, and organisations
6. Science, technologies, and society
7. Health, education, and social policies
8. External actors, partnerships, and linkages
9. Proposed new thematic session

Local organising committee

Annie Chikwanha (co-chair)
Siphamandla Zondi (co-chair)
Hlengiwe Phetha
Siphumelele Duma
Dominic Maphaka
Noluthando Phungula
Naledi Ramontja
Rich Mashimbye
Tshepiso Mabeya (marketing)

Khabele Matlosa (Advisor)
Gwinyayi Dzinesa (advisor)