

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: 2027 CIDRA CONFERENCE

Enablers and Impediments to Regional Integrations in Africa and Europe



CIDRA
EUROPE AFRICA
DIALOGUE



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On behalf of CIDRA, the Faculty of Humanities and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa, invites scholars, researchers and practitioners to submit abstracts for an international conference themed **Enablers and Impediments to Regional Integrations in Africa and Europe**, to be held as follows:

Venue: University of Johannesburg, Auckland Park, South Africa

Abstracts Deadline: 30 October 2026

Conference Dates: 1 and 2 April 2027

BACKGROUND

For decades, leaders and societies in both Africa and Europe have pursued regional integration to foster peace, stability, economic growth, and shared prosperity. Europe has made notable strides through the European Union, creating deep levels of economic, political, and social cooperation. In Africa, ambitious efforts continue through the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), yet meaningful progress has often been slow and uneven. Despite these long-standing commitments, both continents continue to face significant enablers and impediments to deeper integration. In Africa, challenges such as economic disparities, infrastructure gaps, overlapping regional institutions, and complex security dynamics have slowed advancement. In Europe, recent years have tested the integration project through economic divergences, migration pressures, rising nationalism, and geopolitical uncertainties. These obstacles are rooted in

historical legacies, differing national interests, and are often compounded by intertwined economic, security, diplomatic, policy, and legal factors. This conference provides a platform to examine these dynamics through a comparative lens, with the aim of generating fresh insights and practical recommendations for advancing regional integration in both Africa and Europe.

KEY THEMES

The conference invites contributions that examine **enablers and impediments** across the following key dimensions of regional integration in Africa and Europe:

- Economic
- Security
- Policy
- Legal and Regulatory frameworks
- Diplomatic
- Geopolitical
- Leadership
- Technology and Innovation
- Socio-Cultural and People-to-people relations

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- Abstracts should ideally provide an original and clear research question, methods used, findings made, and contribution to literature.
- Abstracts should **not be more than 500 words long**.
- Abstract Deadline: **30 October 2026**. Full papers are expected within one month after the conference (**3 May 2027**). Selected papers of high quality will be considered for publication in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal.

Abstracts and full papers should be submitted via this portal:

<https://forms.gle/Jssw5ZULHB8DiHis5>. For queries, please contact the organisers Prof Bhaso Ndzendze, Prof Siphamandla Zondi and Prof Elias Phaahla via email at: 4DPRU@uj.ac.za.