

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2023 CONFERENCE ON LAND POLICY IN AFRICA

# Promoting Sustainable Land Governance in Africa for Accelerated implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area

21 - 24 November 2023

Africa Union-Headquarters,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) is organised biennially by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank. The goal is to deepen capacity for land policy in Africa through improved access to knowledge and information on land policymaking and implementation. In particular, the CLPA is a platform for presenting research findings and focusing the attention of a comprehensive range of stakeholders on the issues and status of land policy development, implementation and monitoring in Africa. The CLPA also provides a unique opportunity to showcase emerging and promising practices and facilitate networking. Conference participants include researchers, academicians, governments (including parliamentarians), women and youth organisations, traditional authorities, farmers, civil society, private sector, land practitioners and development partners. The CLPA was first held in November 2014, focusing on land, investment and agriculture. A second edition of CLPA was held in November 2017 under a theme targeting youth, land and employment. A third edition was held in 2019 CLPA focused on winning the fight against corruption in the land sector. As a result of COVID-19, the fourth CLPA which took place on November 2-4, 2021, was hybrid with the physical component held in Kigali, Rwanda. The Conference theme was “*Land governance for safeguarding art, culture and heritage towards the Africa We Want*”.

### **The 2023 Conference Theme**

From November 21 to 24, 2023, the tripartite consortium consisting of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will be holding the Fifth Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) in the context of the ‘*Year of AfCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation*’, which is the AU Theme of the year.

The adoption as theme of the year is expected to generate greater political commitment and accelerate the effective implementation of the AfCFTA to fully benefit the African citizenry and achieve the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063. The yearlong activities will enhance the existing collaboration among the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU institutions, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders, to mobilize and implement actions that boost intra-Africa trade, particularly trade in value-added production and trade across all sectors of Africa’s economy. Land is one of the key resources and enablers in the implementation of the AfCFTA and produces a significant percentage of the agricultural commodities that are envisioned to be traded. It is also a source of Africa’s mineral wealth and other commodities. In addition, manufacturing processes take place on land. The creation of a single market under the AfCFTA provides opportunities for both economic growth and the creation of new as well as innovative networks for those operating in sectors such as mining, manufacturing, services, agriculture and agro-processing. The issue of inclusive land governance therefore becomes critical for the achievement of the AfCFTA objectives.

In view of the above-mentioned, experts interested to participate in the Conference are invited to respond to the Call for Abstracts for papers, master classes, side events and other forms of in person and online participation in the Conference. Abstracts for papers and other forms of participation in the Conference can be submitted as follows:

1. Abstracts for the AfCFTA and cross-border trade related to Africa's inclusive land governance and policy.
2. Abstracts for papers, master classes, side events and other forms of in person and online participation in the Conference, to be submitted under the following event categories and sub-themes:

**Event category for Scientific Submissions:**

- i. Conference paper (in-person or online)
- ii. Pre-event
- iii. Physical/Online Master class, among others
- iv. Side event
- v. Poster
- vi. Booth/Exhibition

**Core sub-themes:**

1. Best practices in developing responsive, responsible land policies for improved cross-border trade in Africa
2. Inclusive and transparent land governance practices and building effective land administration institutions
3. Monitoring and evaluation of land governance

***Cross - cutting: Youth, Indigenous people, gender, water, climate change, food, cross-border trade***

**Sub-Themes**

- Inclusive land governance for enhanced intra- Africa trade, food security and sustainable food systems
- Regional integration, migration, intra-Africa trade and land use and sustainability
- Innovative geospatial data, and digitalization technologies, including blockchain, for land administration and trade in Africa
- Implementation of the AfCFTA: Breaking investment and trade - land related barriers for inclusion of African women, pastoralists and youth
- Best practices in documenting customary and statutory land access, control and ownership in Africa
- Spatial planning, infrastructure, and transport planning for improved trade in Africa
- The confluence of the environment, (including climate change) agriculture and cross-border trade in the context of AfCFTA

Abstracts should incorporate any of the following considerations:

- i. Gender and youth
- ii. Water
- iii. Land laws and policies
- iv. Land-based investments
- v. Climate Change impacts
- vi. AfCFTA/cross-border trade

Abstracts should be between 700 - 1000 words, written in English or French, and submitted online in Microsoft Word format before **29 July 2023**. Abstracts that are more than 1000 words will not be considered for review. To submit an abstract, please use the following link: <https://www.conftool.org/africalandconference2023/> and choose the submission type or a track of interest out of the 7 available options. Kindly pick only one track per submission.

## Further information

### Why should you consider submitting an abstract?

The Land Policy Conference is the premier land policy event in Africa. The platform provides presenters with an opportunity to:

- i. Share and showcase research findings linking land policy and governance, cultural dimensions, creative industry products, enterprises and practices for trade integration with experts, innovators and practitioners in Africa and beyond
- ii. Deepen knowledge and capacity development on key aspects and cultural dimensions of land policy development and implementation that contribute to trade integration in Africa
- iii. Develop or deepen land related networks at personal and institutional levels
- iv. Contribute to solidarity for improved land governance in Africa

### How abstracts will be selected

The organizers envisage a tremendous level of interest in the Conference, and that more abstracts will be received than can be accommodated. The selection of abstracts for papers, posters and side events for consideration at the Conference will therefore be conducted by a Scientific Committee appointed by the African Land Policy Centre. The Committee consists of highly respected African land policy and trade experts in the various sub-thematic areas of the Conference.

Selection of abstracts will be in accordance with the following process:

- i. Initial Selection
- ii. The Scientific Committee will shortlist and select abstracts based on the following criteria:
  - ✓ Quality and clarity of content and presentation;
  - ✓ Originality, evidence-based and innovation;
  - ✓ Compliance with and relevance to identified Conference thematic areas;
  - ✓ Significance of the research findings for land policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, as well as Accelerating the Implementation of the AfCFTA;
  - ✓ Preference will be to African and African-based authors/presenters, and organizations; and
  - ✓ Geographic coverage.

Acceptance of selected abstracts and invitations for submission of papers will be communicated two weeks after the deadline for submitting abstracts on **15 August 2023**. Full papers must be submitted for inclusion of the conference programme by **15 September 2023**. All correspondences will be conducted by e-mail.

### **Final selection**

Based on the extended submissions, final selections will be made by the Scientific Committee. However, the Scientific Committee cannot guarantee that the presentation type of choice will be granted to authors/presenters. The decision of the Scientific Committee is final, and no correspondence will be entered.

For more information on the 2023 Conference on Land Policy in Africa please visit: <https://www.uneca.org/clpa2023>

### **General Information**

- i. Authors who submit abstracts are not automatically registered for the 2023 Conference on Land Policy in Africa. In order to participate and present, authors must register for the Conference **on or before 5 October 2023**. Registration is made through the link: <https://www.conftool.org/africalandconference2023/>
- ii. There is no fee for submission of abstracts.
- iii. All submitting authors/presenters will be required to confirm the following:
  - Agreement to the organizers' Terms and Conditions
  - Intent to present the product at the November 2023 Conference on Land Policy in person or online by the author or a listed co-author
- iv. Authors/presenters wishing to withdraw their papers are requested to do so by **30 September 2023**.

### **Publication of Papers/ Performances/Presentations:**

The Scientific Committee will select some papers from those presented at the Conference with an added scientific, professional and institutional values to be published in the African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences ([ISSN2657-2664](https://www.africanjournal.com/)) in the issues of November 2023 and January 2024 as may be arranged by the organizers of the Conference. The Scientific Committee will provide authors of peer-reviewed papers with editorial recommendations and formatting to refine and standardize for publication purposes.