



Concept Paper

Pan African Synergy: Bridging Continents for Unity, Action, and Prosperity

Introduction

The 2024 Pan African Synergy Conference, themed "Pan African Synergy: Bridging Continents for Unity, Action, and Prosperity," is a collaborative event organized by the Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS), University of Nairobi, and the Center for Pan African Affairs (CPAA). This conference will bring together African scholars, practitioners, policymakers, students, and members of the global African diaspora to engage in meaningful dialogue on critical issues surrounding Pan-Africanism, African development, and diaspora contributions.

More than a gathering of thought leaders, this conference will serve as a foundational event for the establishment of the Centre for Pan-African Studies (CP-AS) at DDIS, University of Nairobi. The Centre for Pan-African Studies will emerge as a long-term outcome of the 2024 Pan African Synergy Conference, establishing a research and policy hub dedicated to promoting Pan-Africanism, diaspora studies, and African unity through academic excellence and leadership training.

Purpose of the Conference

The 2024 Pan African Synergy Conference is designed to fulfill the following objectives:

- a) **Engage Thought Leaders and Policymakers:** Convene scholars, students, practitioners, policymakers, and leaders to discuss contemporary Pan-African issues and identify actionable strategies for advancing African unity, development, and the role of the African diaspora.
- b) **Foster Collaboration and Networking:** Create a platform for meaningful exchange between African governments, regional bodies, and the African diaspora to strengthen partnerships for Africa's socio-economic development.
- c) **Lay the Foundation for the Centre for Pan-African Studies (CP-AS):** Use the conference as a launching pad for the establishment of CP-AS, which will serve as a leading research and policy center focused on Pan-Africanism and diaspora studies.



- d) **Develop Actionable Outcomes:** Generate key takeaways, policy recommendations, and frameworks that will shape the future of Pan-Africanism and inform the structure and programs of the Centre for Pan-African Studies.

Key Conference Themes

The conference will be structured around the following key themes:

a) **Education and the Future of Pan-Africanism**

Explore the role of education in cultivating a new generation of Pan-African leaders and thinkers, and the integration of Pan-African ideals into curriculums across Africa and the diaspora.

b) **Commerce, Technology, and the Development of Africa**

Examine how commerce and technology can drive Africa's economic growth and regional integration, while fostering collaboration between the continent and the African diaspora.

c) **Centering Pan-Africanism on the People – Local and International Cooperation**

Discuss the importance of centering Pan-Africanism on grassroots communities and fostering international cooperation between African countries and the diaspora.

d) **Culture and the Advancement of Pan-Africanism**

Highlight the role of African cultural heritage and identity in sustaining Pan-African unity and promoting global African solidarity.

e) **Leadership and Governance in Africa**

Analyze African leadership models, governance systems, and the role of effective governance in achieving Pan-African ideals.

Foundation for the Centre for Pan-African Studies (CP-AS)

The establishment of the Centre for Pan-African Studies (CP-AS) will be a key outcome of the 2024 Pan African Synergy Conference. CP-AS will be housed at the Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS), University of Nairobi, and will serve as a research and policy hub dedicated to promoting Pan-Africanism and diaspora studies. The Centre will focus on interdisciplinary research, leadership development, and public dialogue, providing a platform for African scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and students to collaborate on advancing Pan-African ideals.

Objectives of the Centre for Pan-African Studies

a) **Research and Policy Development**

Conduct cutting-edge research on Pan-Africanism, diaspora studies, African unity, and regional integration, producing policy briefs and recommendations for African governments and regional organizations.

b) **Leadership Training and Capacity Building**

Offer training programs for African leaders, policymakers, and students on governance, Pan-African diplomacy, and leadership grounded in Pan African values.

c) **Public Dialogue and Engagement**

Convene symposia, conferences, and public forums that bring together African scholars, students, and policymakers to engage in dialogue on critical Pan-African issues.

d) **Collaboration and Networking**

Build partnerships with regional bodies such as the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC), and diaspora organizations to foster collaboration on Pan-African development.

Conference Logistics

Date and Venue

The conference will take place on November 28-29, 2024, with Day 1 hosted at the Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS), University of Nairobi. Day 2 will focus on courtesy visits for international guests and a networking dinner.

Participants

The conference will attract approximately 150 participants, including scholars, students, policymakers, practitioners, members of regional bodies, and representatives from the African diaspora.

Speakers and Presenters

Speakers will include academic experts from DDIS, CPAA representatives, regional policymakers, African business leaders, and experts in Pan-Africanism and Pan-African studies.

Media and Publicity

The conference will be promoted through traditional media outlets, digital platforms, and social media campaigns to ensure broad engagement and participation. Media partners will be invited to cover the event.

Partnership and Collaboration

The Conference will mark the beginning of a long-term partnership between DDIS and CPAA. Both institutions will collaborate on the planning and execution of the event, as well as the future establishment of the Centre for Pan-African Studies (CP-AS). This partnership will focus on advancing Pan-Africanism through joint research, training programs, and public dialogue, with the 2024 Pan African Synergy Conference serving as a foundational milestone.

Expected Outcomes

a) Foundation for the Centre for Pan-African Studies (CP-AS)

The 2024 Pan African Synergy Conference will lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Centre, with formal announcements and discussions on the structure and objectives of CP-AS.

b) Actionable Policy Recommendations

The conference will produce policy briefs and recommendations that will inform African governments, regional bodies, and diaspora organizations on advancing Pan-Africanism.

c) Strengthened Collaboration

The conference will foster new partnerships between African scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and the African diaspora, creating pathways for collaboration on regional integration, leadership, and governance.

d) Engaged African Youth and Scholars

Through active student participation and engagement, the conference will inspire young African scholars to contribute to the future of Pan-Africanism.