



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

### 5-6 MAY 2026

**Venue:** University of Sousse, Tunisia

5th May – ROOM 1	
<b>Link for Room 1:</b>	
09h30-10h00	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vice-Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko</li><li>• Coordinator of the Center for African Studies of Porto University (CEAUP), Prof. Maciel Santos</li><li>• Coordinator of Groupe de Recherch Universitaire sur les Mutations en Afrique Contemporaine, Prof. Emmanuel Tchumtchoua</li><li>• President of the University of Sousse, Prof. Lotfi Belkacem</li><li>• Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Sousse, Prof. Asma Ben Abdallah</li><li>• Director of the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Sousse, Prof. Karim Chayata</li></ul>

<b>Panel 1 – Session 1</b>			
<b>State-building and nation-building: historical processes in Africa</b>			
Panel Chair: Prof. Jamil Sayah			
10h00-10h15	Tamara Andreeva	Institut d'études africaines de l'Académie des sciences de Russie; Institut d'études orientales de l'Académie des sciences de Russie	Inventer l'unité : mythe national et nation-building au Mali
10h15-10h30	Dmitri Bondarenko	Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia	Nation Building and Neotraditionalism in Postcolonial States
10h30-10h45	Nadezhda Khokholkova	Institute for African Studies of Russian Academy of Sciences	The Role of Historical and Cultural Heritage in Shaping National Identity in Post-Colonial African Countries
10h45-11h00	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Panel 1 – Session 2</b>			
<b>State-building and nation-building: historical processes in Africa</b>			
Panel Chair: Prof. Karim Chayata			
11h00-11h15	Néjiba Ben Hassine	FDSPS Université de Sousse/ Tunisie	La souveraineté de l'Etat en Afrique à l'épreuve de l'ingérence étrangère
11h15-11h30	Jamil Sayah	Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Politiques de Grenoble	La théorie de l'Etat à l'épreuve du contexte
11h30-11h45	Aaron Tesfaye	Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto	State Building in Africa: Ethiopia's Shift from Warrior Culture to Civic Political Order
11h45-12h00	Micah Y. B. Zing	HSE University, Moscow	Transformation of Narrative Representation of Russia among Youth in West Africa: Societal Narratives Insights from Western Media Sources
12h00-12h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
12h15-12h30	<b>Coffee-break</b>		
<b>Panel 2</b>			
<b>Resistance to decentralisation of power and its consequences in Africa</b>			
Panel Chair: Prof. Emmanuel Tchumtchoua			
12h30-12h45	Hela Ladhari	University of Sousse	Governmentality, Resistance and the Representations of the Central Government in Selected Works by Chimamanda Ngozi

			Adichie
12h45-13h00	Elena E. Samoilova	The Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences	The Muslim Brotherhood in Upper Egypt: Local Networks and Discursive Strategies of Survival (2013–2025)
13h00-13h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
	<b>Lunch</b>		

<b>Panel 3</b>			
<b>Central power, regions and autonomy in Africa</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Aaron Tesfaye</b>			
14h30-14h45	Daria Dronova; Marina Butovskaya	Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology RAS. Russia, Moscow	Local agricultural systems as forms of de facto decentralized governance
14h45-15h00	Alexey V. Kuznetsov	Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INION)	The Competition Between Two or Three Leading Cities in the Economic Development of Large African States
15h00-15h15	Maria A. Volodina	Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences	The Western Sahara Factor in Morocco's Regional Economic Policy
15h15-15h30	Lotfi Tarchouna	FDSPS Université de Sousse/ Tunisie	La production du local en Tunisie: discours fondateur et construction institutionnelle
15h30-15h45	Abdessalem Fatnassi	FDSPS Université de Sousse/ Tunisie	L'appréhension du local en Tunisie entre perception contrastée et équilibre introuvable
15h45-16h00	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Panel 4</b>			
<b>Difficulties of decentralisation in federal systems in Africa</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Maciel Santos</b>			
16h00-16h15	Adel ben Youssef	FDSPS Université de Sousse/ Tunisie	La décentralisation de l'éducation et du savoir en Afrique depuis les années 1990: d'après les rapports officiels de l'Association pour le développement de l'éducation en Afrique (ADEA) et de l'Union

			Africaine (UA)
16h15-16h30	René Monteh Ngek	HTTC-University of Yaoundé 1	Local Government and the Politics of Decentralization in Cameroon: the Case of Elak-Oku Municipality, 2007-17
16h30-16h45	Andrey Zakharov; Leonid Issaev	Russian State University for Humanities HSE University	The Paradoxes of African Decentralization: The Path to Unitarism
16h45-17h00	Emmanuel Tchomtchoua	Université de Yaoundé/ Cameroun	Le problème anglophone ou l'échec d'une décentralisation à minima
17h00-17h15	Nikolai Golovko	HSE University, Center for African Studies, Moscow	Zanzibar's External Relations: Paradiplomacy, Subnationalism, and International Organizations
17h15-17h30	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Closing of the 1st Day</b>			

## 5th May – ROOM 2

**Link for Room 2:**

### Panel 5 – Session 1

#### The Role of the Military in African States

**Panel Chair: Serge M. Njikam**

10h00-10h15	Basile Aniya Enyegue	Université d'Eboulawa-Cameroun	Le rôle du Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (BIR) dans la lutte contre la piraterie maritime au Cameroun : entre défense des intérêts stratégiques et sécurisation des côtes nationales
10h15-10h30	Reem M. Elbathy	HSE University, Moscow, Russian Federation	The Role of Military Backgrounds in the Liberation Movements of Middle Eastern Leaders: A Case Study of the Free Officers Movement in Egypt
10h30-10h45	Elena V. Kharitonova	Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences	The role of the armed forces in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East in the system of social representations of youth: factors and trends of regional development (based on field

			research).
10h45-11h00	Andrey Korotayev	HSE University – Moscow and Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences	The Role of the Military in Revolutionary Events in Upper Volta / Burkina Faso (1965-2022)
11h00-11h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
11h15-11h30	<b>Coffee-break</b>		
<b>Panel 5 – Session 2</b>			
<b>The Role of the Military in African States</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Andrey Korotayev</b>			
11h30-11h45	Sergey Kostelyanyets	Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences	From Political Arbiter to Wartime Faction: The Transformation of the Sudanese Army’s Role in the Post-Independence Era
11h45-12h00	Serge M. Njikam	Université de Yaoundé I - Cameroun	Construction et reconstruction des zones de conflits en Afrique centrale : l’engagement des forces de défense du Cameroun dans le développement socioéconomique
12h00-12h15	Sébastien T. R. Ombe; Serge M. Njikam	Université de Yaoundé I – Cameroun	La Marine Nationale camerounaise dans la sécurisation de l’espace maritime de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale (CEEAC)
12h15-12h30	<b>Discussion</b>		
	<b>Lunch</b>		

<b>Panel 6</b>			
<b>Foreign investment, income sharing: fiscal policies and local development</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Abdessalem Fatnassi</b>			
14h30-14h45	Edna Vanessa Alferes	Mozambique Women of Energy	The Judicialization of Local Content and the Drafting of Policies as a Bulwark of National Economic Security
14h45-15h00	Maciel Santos	Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto	Mining Capital in Africa and rent distribution – State, Regions and Society in three historical cases of Angola and

			Mozambique
15h00-15h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Panel 7</b> <b>State, minorities and instruments of political participation (parties and parliamentarianism, lobbying, grassroots communities, etc.).</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Hela Ladhari</b>			
15h15-15h30	Vlada Shalom	Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences,	The Memory of Apartheid among the 'Born-Free' Generation as an Instrument of Political Participation in South Africa
15h30-15h45	Ellie S. Paris	Wheaton College	Afro-Shentrepneurship: Rethinking Entrepreneurship, Social Capital, and Gender Politics for Women's Empowerment, Sociopolitical, and Economic Inclusion through the Literary Narratives of Paulina Chiziane's Niketche: Uma História de Poligamia
16h00-16h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Closing of the 1st Day</b>			

<b>6th May – ROOM 1</b>			
<b>Link for Room 1:</b>			
<b>Panel 8</b> <b>Nation-state and traditional authorities in Africa</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Dmitri Bondarenko</b>			
10h00-10h15	Evaristo Benyera	Department of Political Sciences, University of South Africa	Of Divided Loyalties and Contested Authority: Sub-National Identities and the Weakening of the Post-Colonial State in Africa
10h15-10h30	Diana Sfetlana Stoica	Timisoara Independent Researcher	Reflection on the role of the State's and Authority's discourse in shaping the African Philosophy of Movement

10h30-10h45	Ivan A. Zakharov	Institute for African Studies, RAS	Christian organizations as a mediator of Government-traditional societies relationships: evidence from South Ethiopia
10h45-11h00	Olga Zavyalova	Saint Petersburg State University	Traditional social organization of the Manden peoples
11h00-11h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
11h15-11h30	<b>Coffee-break</b>		
<b>Panel 9 – Session 1</b>			
<b>Regionalism, ethnic clanship, and political processes in African states</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Hans Peter Hahn</b>			
11h30-11h45	Valentina Burkova; Marina L. Butovskaya; Alexander Kavina	Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences	Family, Gender, and Fatherhood in the Perceptions of Contemporary Tanzanian Youth Compared to Global Indices
11h45-12h00	Marina L. Butovskaya	Russian State University for the Humanities; Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences	Respect to Elders in Traditional Ethnic Communities and Attitude towards Globalization in Tanzania
12h00-12h15	<b>Discussion</b>		
	<b>Lunch</b>		

<b>Panel 9 – Session 2</b>			
<b>Regionalism, ethnic clanship, and political processes in African states</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Lotfi Tarchouna</b>			
14h30-14h45	Natalia Krasovskaia; Micah Y. B. Zing	Centre for Public Diplomacy, Moscow, Russia HSE University, Moscow, Russia	Regionalism, ethnic clanship, and political processes in African states
14h45-15h00	Daria Sukhova	St. Petersburg State University	The genesis of collective identity among the Igbo of Nigeria
15h00-15h15	Alisa R. Shishkina; Máxima	The Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences	Conflict Resolution in Chieftaincy Conflicts in Northern Ghana: The Role of Traditional Mechanisms and Diaspora

	Wombeogo; Micah Y. B. Zing		Engagement
15h15-15h30	Hans Peter Hahn	Goethe University, Frankfurt / M., Germany	Perceptions of security, state interaction and the perspective from rural areas in Burkina Faso
15h30-15h45	<b>Discussion</b>		
15h45-16h00	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>Panel 10</b>			
<b>Languages, language policy and state integrity in Africa communities</b>			
<b>Panel Chair: Leonid Issaev</b>			
16h00-16h15	Grigorii Kaigorodov	Universität Hamburg	Les contacts linguistiques bambara-français: politique linguistique du Mali et contexte linguistique
16h15-16h30	David Nchinda Keming	Department of History, University of Yaoundé I	The Bilingualism Commission in Cameroon: an Antidote or a Miscarriage in a Shaky Statehood in the Context of the Anglophone Crisis?
16h30-16h45	<b>Discussion</b>		
16h45	<b>Reading the final report and closing of the Conference</b>		
<b>Closing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day</b>			

This work was supported by FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, I.P. by project reference UID/00495/2025 and DOI identifier [doi.org/10.54499/UID/00495/2025](https://doi.org/10.54499/UID/00495/2025).