

*SAAPS 2013 Regional Colloquium
The African Union : Quo Vadis – the next
50 years*

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IDRA	Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa
IGD	Institute for Global Dialogue
IJCAR	International Journal of Commerce and Accounting Research
MGI	Midrand Graduate Institute
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SAAPS	South African Association of Political Studies
SACSA	South African Council of Space Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNISA	University of South Africa

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE SPEAKERS

Panel 1: The AU and peace and security

- **Dr Ntandazo Sifolo**

Dr Ntandazo Sifolo holds a PhD Degree in Political Science from the University of KwaZulu Natal. He also holds a Master of Social Science Degree (Political Science) from the then University of Natal. He is an independent Researcher and a Political Analyst. He specialises in African Union (AU) particularly African Peace and Security matters. Dr Sifolo is currently a Director of Isisele Confidential Consultancy which offers strategic political advice in the South African political context and the African continent in general. Dr Sifolo has worked as a Research Assistant in the then University of Natal. He has also worked in the then Department of Foreign Affairs and he served as a Second Secretary (Political) at the South African Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2006 to 2010. His passion is the development of the African continent to the level where it is respected as an important global player.

- **Tunamsifu Shirambere Philippe**

Philippe is a LLD Student in the College of Law at UNISA, MA in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes from the UN affiliated University for Peace (Costa Rica 2011) and a Licence (Honours) in Public International Law from the Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL-Goma 2005). He is also a lecture of law at the ULPGL-Goma/ DRC and author of two books [Le règlement pacifique des conflits armés africains: cas de la collaboration entre l'ONU et l'UA dans la crise au Darfour (Soudan), EUE, UK, 2011 ; and Méthodologie juridique: notes des cours à l'usage des étudiants et chercheurs en droit, Palloti Presse, Kigali, 2013] and a number of articles.

- **Miss Faith Mabera**

Faith Mabera is a Masters student of International Relations at the University of Pretoria, where she is also the administrative assistant for the Master of Diplomatic Studies (MDIPS) Programme. Originally from Kenya, Faith obtained both her undergraduate (BPolSci) and Honours (International Relations) from the University of Pretoria. Faith's presentation entitled 'The AU The African Union and the Responsibility to Protect: Lessons learnt from the 2011 United Nations Security Council intervention in Libya' is based on the findings of her Masters' dissertation, which will be submitted in November 2013.

Panel 2: Africa Agency in World Politics

- **Dr Roseline Achieng**

Dr. Roseline M. Achieng' is a sociologist associated with the Thabo Mbeki Leadership Institute and the South Africa Institute of International Affairs. She is the author of a book, Kenya Reconstructing? and the co-editor of an edited book on Global Gender Perspectives. Dr. Achieng' has written significantly on political sociology, sociology of development, post-colonial feminist epistemologies.

- **Dr Jo-Ansie van Wyk**

Dr Jo-Ansie van Wyk lectures International Politics in the Department of Political Science of the University of South Africa (Unisa), Pretoria, South Africa. She has published, amongst others, on South Africa's nuclear diplomacy and foreign policy. She is a member of the Council of the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) and an advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry through the South African Council of Space Affairs (SACSA).

Panel 3: Africa and World politics

- **Dr Costa André Georghiou**

Dr Costa Georghiou completed his doctoral degree in International Relations in October 2010 at the University of South Africa (UNISA) where he researched the work of Samuel Huntington. He also holds an MA degree in International Politics and a BA (Honours) degree in Political Science and International Politics from the University of Pretoria. The topic of his MA dissertation was: "The notion of society in world politics: A comparative analysis of the perspectives of Hedley Bull and John W Burton". Dr Georghiou was previously in the diplomatic service and represented the RSA in the 1990's as Counsellor, at the SA Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, as First Secretary, SA Embassy, Athens, Greece, and as Vice-Consul, SA Consulate-General, Hong Kong in the 1980s. Before his departure from the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1998, he held the position of Acting- Director of the UN Desk, dealing with the UNGA. He has been lecturing International Relations and Political Science since 2002 to First, Second, Third Year and Honours students at UJ in the following subjects: Methodology, Conflict Resolution, Comparative Political Change and International Political Theory, IPE (3rd year & Honours); Political Institutions, including SA political institutions (1st year); Methodology and International Political Theory (Honours). The latter subject is his main research interest. He is often also a guest lecturer at the University of Pretoria to Masters students in Diplomacy and at the Midrand Graduate Institute (MGI) in Midrand. Dr Georghiou has presented papers at SAAPS and IPSA in Durban and two years ago in Santiago, Chile. He also presented a paper last month at the 8th Pan-European Conference on IR held in Warsaw, Poland.

- **Dr Lesley Masters**

Lesley Masters completed her PhD at the University of Leicester with her undergraduate studies at the University of Pretoria. She is currently a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue responsible for the management of projects on South Africa's foreign policy, diplomacy as well as research on natural resource governance in international affairs.

- **Dr Hailay Gebretinsae Beyene**

Is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa (IDRA), University of South Africa (UNISA). Experience includes - Associate professor in Mekelle University and has served as Head for the Center for Micro-Institutions and Entrepreneurship Development, at Mekelle University. Member of the Editorial Board and Reviewer for the International Journal of Commerce and Accounting Research (IJCAR) and Vice Chairman of the Board of the Mekelle Branch of the International Alumni Association having branches in North America, Europe, Ethiopia since 2008.

1. INTRODUCTION

On the 04th of October 2013, the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD) and the Department of Political Sciences UNISA hosted the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) regional colloquium under the theme the Africa Union: Quo Vadis- the next 50 years. This colloquium was aimed at exploring the position of the African Union within the three pragmatic areas of the AU peace and security, Africa Agency in World politics and Africa and World politics in the next 50 years or Agenda 2063. The colloquium was attended by over 40 participants from academic, the diplomatic corps and the research community.

2. OPENING STATEMENT



Prof. John Tesha

Opening statement Professor John Tesha, the Executive Secretary of the Africa Forum:

Professor Clive Napier, President of the South African Association of Political Science, Distinguished members of the South African Association of Political Science, The organizers of this important event Members of the Academic Community present, Your Excellencies members of the Diplomatic Corps present, Distinguished Guests and Ladies and Gentlemen

As I begin my presentation I must admit that the most arduous and yet noble task facing Africa today is to review its historical past, and to identify its mistakes, drawbacks, challenges and accomplishments of the past 50 years. We should be cognizant of the famous African proverb which reminds us that until the rhinos and the rest of the endangered animals can tell their stories, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter. It is imperative that we learn to tell our own story otherwise history will always glorify the story tellers from outside the continent.

This has been the unfortunate tragedy of the African history as narrated by non-Africans. The theme of the South African Association of Political Science (SAAPS) 2013 Regional Colloquium raises the important question about what kind of African Union (AU) we aspire to become in the next 50 years.

It is my submission that Africa's roadmap for the next 50 years will only be meaningful if it is guided by the history of the continent over the past 50 years. Obviously, he who does not know where he is going cannot say he is lost. But to know where one is going one must know where one is coming from. The first issue of interrogation and for which we must provide our own narrative is what it would require to accelerate action on the ultimate establishment of a united and integrated Africa. To this end, how do we ensure the implementation of a common continent governance, democracy and human rights framework? How can we move speedily towards the integration and merger of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the building blocks of a fully-fledged AU?

We must also look at the lessons learned and ask what we can do better in a global digital system characterized by structural inequalities, asymmetries and by definition tarnished by perpetual conflicts over power and resources. This is often illustrated by persistent but cryptic policies of regime change that are driven by individual notational interests and which often perpetuate rather than end what may be conceived as internal conflict. We have often heard claims by those with military might of being in possession of mythical weapons of mass destruction, as well as claims of serious violations of human rights, yet the facts have remained elusive. The plundering of the continent's resources has continued unabated by those who have the means to do so. Massive transfers of resources have been made using the unfortunate phenomenon of the digital-divide with nomenclature such as the "Rich and the Poor", the "Developed and the Developing", and the "North and the South". My submission is that as we contemplate on the Africa we want to become in the next 50 years we should take these global dynamics into account and we should ask why Africa is considered the richest continent while it remains the poorest.

We are told that Africa's growth rate is unprecedented but no significant change has been discernible at the level of the people. In my view Africa is caught in a "global-cage". The next 50 years must see the development of a vision based on determination and commitment to break out of the global-cage. It is time to work towards a strategy of de-linking and/or de-coupling. This does not necessarily mean a state of autarky but it does mean that Africa must become a continent that is willing and able to determine its own destiny. The 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on 26 May 2013 at the celebrations to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) established in the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 1963, declared that Africa was determined to take responsibility for Africa's destiny and pledged to foster self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

In this regard, the African leaders undertook to:

- i. Take ownership of African issues and provide African solutions to African problems;
- ii. Mobilize Africa's domestic resources, on a predictable and sustainable basis to strengthen institutions and advance Africa's continental agenda;
- iii. Take all necessary measures, using Africa's rich natural endowments and human resources, to transform Africa and make it a leading continent in the area of innovation and creativity. These are important commitments and with determination and political will could be realized with the framework of Vision 2063. Africa needs to move resolutely to implement these measures which will go a long way toward addressing the paradox of a rich and yet poor continent.

Your Excellencies
Members of the SAAPS 2013 Regional Colloquium
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Judging from the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, there is a renewed commitment to provide a new vision to guide the African continent over the next 50 years. The envisaged position will ensure Africa's place and enable it to claim the 21st century as Africa's Century. There are those who have expressed doubt whether Africa can realize its Agenda 2063 based on a shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development. I share the view that Africa has the capability to implement its Vision 2063 especially when one takes into account the history of the liberation struggle and decolonisation. It is important for Africa to remain united and commit itself to the social and economic transformation of the continent based on its past history of resilience and commitment to the liberation struggle.

We all know that the political landscape of Africa has changed. Africa has embraced multiparty democracy and has witnessed the end of one-party states which characterized African politics during the early years of the post-independence period. We are also witnessing a considerable decline in inter-state conflicts which characterized the same period. The phenomenon of coups d'état which was prevalent in the post-independence period is also a thing of the past even though there are a few points of protracted conflict in some countries on the continent. Unfortunately, we are also witnessing the resurgence of intra-state conflicts but there is greater determination and commitment on the part of the AU member states to address such conflicts. On the economic front, Africa is on the move with some countries growing at an unprecedented rate.

We all know that the year 2013 marks the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the OAU in 1963, and we are currently commemorating 50 years of achievement of both the OAU and the AU. Significantly, the establishment of the AU in 2002 was essentially informed by the realization that the original mandate of the OAU, namely, to rid the continent of colonisation, had been accomplished most successfully. Consequently, there was an imperative need to initiate a strategic shift from the decolonisation agenda to economic and social emancipation. It was in this context that during the celebrations marking the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU, the African leaders adopted the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration in which they recognized the relentless efforts made by the OAU/AU towards decolonisation of the continent.

The 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration provided guidelines for the AU Agenda 2063. In that Declaration the African leaders, while acknowledging past successes and challenges, made a commitment to address the multiple social and economic challenges facing the continent. They took a decision and made a commitment that Agenda 2063 would focus on the following eight (8) key areas:

1. African Identity and Renaissance;
2. Struggle against colonialism and the right to self-determination of people still under colonial rule;
3. Integration Agenda;
4. Agenda for Social and Economic Development;
5. Agenda for Peace and Security;
6. Democratic Governance;
7. Determining Africa's Destiny; and
8. Africa's Place in the World.

In each of the eight strategic focus areas the leaders made specific pledges. For example, on the struggle against colonialism, the African leaders reaffirmed the call to end expeditiously the unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, the Comorian Island of Mayotte as well as the right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, with a view to enable these countries and peoples, to effectively exercise sovereignty over their respective territories. On the integration agenda, they agreed to accelerate action on the ultimate establishment of a united and integrated Africa, through the implementation of common continental governance, democracy and human rights frameworks. They committed themselves during the next 50 years to move speedily towards the integration and merger of the RECs as the building blocks of the AU.

It is important to note that on the agenda for social and economic development they agreed to focus on the development of human capital as Africa's most important resource, through education and training, especially in science, technology and innovation and ensure that Africa takes its place and makes a contribution to humanity, including in the field of space sciences and exploration. In order to accelerate the integration agenda it will also be necessary to accelerate Africa's infrastructural development; to link African peoples, countries and economies; and to help drive social, cultural and economic development. Additionally, the leaders recognized the need to take ownership of the use and development of Africa's natural endowments and resources, through value addition as the basis for industrialization; and to promote inter-Africa trade and tourism, in order to foster economic integration, development, employment and inclusive growth for the benefit of African peoples. It is also clear that the AU will take seriously the issue of peace and security as an important element of Vision 2063.

It is the leaders' intention to work towards a conflict-free Africa and to end all wars in Africa by 2020. The intention is, therefore, to address the root causes of conflicts, including economic and social disparities; to put an end to impunity by strengthening national and continental judicial institutions; and to ensure accountability in line with collective responsibility to the principle of non-indifference. Three other issues are central to Vision 2063, namely: promoting democratic governance, determining Africa's Destiny, and ensuring Africa's Place in the World.

Your Excellencies Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen

There is no doubt that most of Africa is celebrating a half century of independence and the continent as I have indicated stands at the door of a new transition. We know that during the last 50 years, Africa has made the transition to respond to the exigencies of time. It is to be recalled that the OAU, while remaining committed to armed struggle as a means of fighting against colonialism and apartheid, made the strategic decision that it was nonetheless amenable to negotiation. In addition and in order to advance the agenda of economic emancipation and drawing lessons from the energy crisis of the 1970s, Africa again took the strategic decision to pursue continental integration as a strategy for economic development.

The various liberation and economic development strategies of the 1970s and 1980s, including the Lagos Plan of Action and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, have their genesis in that transition. It is important to remember that in 1990, after the end of cold war, the OAU adopted the Declaration of the Fundamental Changes in the World and Africa's Response. The 1990 Declaration encapsulated Africa's determination to tackle the peace and security challenges facing the continent including those within nations, to foster democracy and good governance as well as economic development through deepening integration of the continent. The transition to the AU and its institution, its continent Peace and Security mechanism and architecture, as well as the principles and declaration on democracy and good governance including those on elections that are in existence today had their genesis in the landmark 1990 Declaration.

In conclusion, I should like to suggest that the AU Agenda 2063 will provide the roadmap towards the Africa we want to become in the next 50 years. But, Africa will need to be vigilant and demonstrate, within the spirit of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, commitment to fully implementing all aspects of the AU Agenda 2063. Beyond the rhetoric of an AU Government we need to see a more robust AU Commission funded by African governments and not by the so-called strategic partners who often use the Commission to promote their agendas. We, therefore, need to regain ownership of our continental organization and provide it with the requisite resources to implement the declarations and strategies adopted by the African leaders. We will not be able to reclaim the next 50 years if we do not address the issue of finance both for our sub-regional and regional organizations and for development.

We need to strengthen the AU institutions and reclaim ownership of our organization. But, I will emphasize that in order for Africa to manage its transition over the next 50 years, it will need commitment, the right policies as indicated in the eight (8) priority areas, capable institutions, systems and resources. Unfortunately, the exigency of peace and security and the financial burdens it entails, has made the AU unacceptably dependent on external benefactors. As the adage goes, he who pays the piper calls the tune. The dependence of the AU Commission on external funding has made the organization vulnerable to competing influences which are inimical to Africa's interests. Vision 2063 will only become a reality when the AU is strengthened and the agenda of integration reclaimed. We need an African citizenship translated into an African passport and an African visionary thought leadership. It is possible and we must do it as an essential component of the Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance agenda.

THANK YOU



Prof. John Tesha

3. SUMMARY DISCUSSION

Panel 1: The AU and peace and security

The first session on African peace and security considered the prevalence of coups in Africa and noted that coups that are taking place in Africa are tests to the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC). The panel considered the importance of history and noted that a nation that ignores its history risks reliving it. Furthermore, the panel considered the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and noted that AU should take its own responsibility by sending African Experts in order to help the ICGLR to resolve the crisis as the mediator is no longer neutral. Lastly, The African Union and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) were discussed with reference to the Lessons learnt from the 2011 United Nations Security Council intervention in Libya.



Left to Right: Ms. Faith Mabera; Mr Tunamsifu Philippe, Prof Victor Ojaborotu and Prof. John Tesha

Panel 2: Africa Agency in world Politics

In the second panel on Africa Agency in World politics, the concept of “Agency” was considered and it was noted that African people are agents of change in all societal structures. The panel considered that Agenda 2063 and highlighted that it does not explore some of the major measures articulated in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). In addition, the panel concluded by questioning the role of Africa in the world by revisiting the Cairo Consensus which saw agreement that Africa should be a continent free of nuclear weapons. The session also raised questions on whether Africa is an agent or a bystander when it comes to international relations.



Dr Roseline Achieng and Dr Jo-Ansie van Wyk

Panel 3: Africa and World politics

The last panel considered the role of history as the driver of the future. The panel considered difference between four consecutive South African presidents with reference to each being either transformational or transactional. The panel also considered the comparative analysis of Fukuyama and Huntington (unexpected convergence) and noted the role of state modernisation and westernisation. The panel also highlighted Africa's declining share of global exports despite indications of growth and pointed to the importance of economic integration which should be accompanied by political integration to achieve the vision of African Integration and ultimately Agenda 2063.



Dr Hailey Beyene; Dr Costa Georgioud and Dr Lesley Masters



Participants at the colloquium

4. KEY POINTS FROM THE INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Each panel was followed by a discussion session which allowed participants from the floor to engage in debate on the research presented. In the discussion sessions of the day participants raised a number of questions. Most importantly, the role of South Africa in the Agenda 2063 was interrogated but it was noted that Agenda 2063 was still a rough framework but that in going forward it would be important to build on this framework in support of the continents political, social and economic development.

Colloquium Concludes



Prof Clive Napier doing the closing

APPENDIX 1 : COLLIQIUM PICTURES



Dr Ntandazo Sifolo and Prof. Victor Ojakorotu



Dr Jo Ansie van Wyk



Dr Phil Mtimkulu



Prof Dirk Kotze during Interactive discussion



During Q & A



Dr Lesley Masters

APPENDIX 2 : COLLIQUIUM PROGRAMME

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome**
Prof Clive Napier, SAAPS President
09:10 – 09:30 **Opening Address Prof John Tesha, Executive Secretary, Africa Forum**

09:30 – 11:00 **Panel 1: The AU and peace and security**
Chair: Prof. Victor Ojaborotu , *Head of the Department, History, Politics and International Relations North West University*

1. The AU Peace and Security Council: an agonising but necessary Journey
Dr Ntandazo Sifolo, Director Isisele Confidential Consultancy
2. Challenges and prospects of AU to implement the Ezulwini Consensus: the case of collective security and the use of force
Mr Tunamsifu Shirambere Philippe, University of South Africa
3. The AU and the Responsibility to Protect: Lessons learnt from the 2011 United Nations Security Council intervention in Libya
Ms Faith Mabera, University of Pretoria

Discussion

11:00 – 11:15 TEA

11:15 – 12:30 **Panel 2: Africa Agency in world politics**
Chair: Dr Lesley Masters, Institute for Global Dialogue

1. The AU's Agenda 2063: Exercising African Agency in Geo-politics through the APRM – Showcasing Best Practices
Dr. Roseline Achieng, South African Institute of International Affairs
2. Africa in Multilateral Nuclear Diplomacy: Agent or Bystander?
Dr Jo-Ansie van Wyk, University of South Africa

Discussion

12:30 – 13:00 LUNCH

13:00 – 14:30 **Panel 3: Africa and World Politics**
Chair: Dr Phil Mtimkulu, Political Sciences, University of South Africa

1. Unexpected Convergence: The Huntington/Fukuyama Debate
Dr Costa Georghiou, University of Johannesburg
2. The President, South Africa's foreign policy and Africa
Dr Lesley Masters, Institute for Global Dialogue
3. Africa's Economic, Political Integration and Stability
Dr Hailay Beyene, University of South Africa

Discussion

14:30 Close Prof. Clive Napier, SAAPS President

APPENDIX 3 : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Clive Napier, SAAPS, UNISA
Dirk Kotze, SAAPS, UNISA
John Tesha, Africa Forum
Victor Ojakorotu, North West University
Nathaniel Umukoro, University Nigeria
Ntandazo Sifolo, Isisele Confidential Consultancy
Faith Mabera, University of Pretoria
Lesley Masters, Institute for Global Dialogue
Roseline Achieng, SAIIA
Philippe Tunamsifu, UNISA
Jo Ansie Van Wyk, UNISA
Phil Mtimkulu, UNISA
Costa Georghiou, University of Johannesburg
Victoria Graham, University of Johannesburg
Hailay Beyene, UNISA
Garry Brady, UNISA
Tumelo Motaung, UNISA
Karliene de Beer, UNISA
Yolanda Spies, University of Pretoria
Victoria Graham, Monash University
Emilia Haworth, Africa Forum
Nolufefe Dwabayo, DIRCO
Mongezi Mahlulo, DIRCO
Linda Maso, DIRCO
Valerie Matlou, DIRCO
Katleho Moorosi, DIRCO
Lebogang Ntsimane, DIRCO
Billy Nkhumane, DIRCO
Patrick Baleka, ANC IR
Zandile Ngubeni, ANC
Norman Tabane, ANC
Richard King, British High Commission
Patrick S. Wamoto, Kenya High Commission
Charity Mamogwane, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
Zaidoon Abdulwahab, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
Anders Hagelberg, Embassy of Sweden
Dean Kao, Taipei Liaison Office
Ellen Tamarkin, US Embassy
Steven Gruzd, SAIIA
Yarik Turianskyi, SAIIA
Aditi Lalbahadur, SAIIA
Solani Ngobeni, AISA
Dumisani Kewuti, AISA
Charity Manyeruke,
Margherita Philipp

APPENDIX 4: ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL STUDIES (SAAPS)



The IGD is an independent foreign policy think tank dedicated to the analysis of and dialogue on the evolving international political and economic environment, and the role of Africa and South Africa. It advances a balanced, relevant and policy-oriented analysis, debate and documentation of South Africa's role in international relations and diplomacy.

The IGD strives for a prosperous and peaceful Africa in a progressive global order through cutting edge policy research and analysis, catalytic dialogue and stakeholder interface on global dynamics that have an impact on South Africa and Africa.



The South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) came into life in May 2001, as the result of the merger of the South African Political Studies Association (SAPSA) and the South African Chapter of the African Association of Political Science (AAPS-SA). The Association is the official body of the disciplines of Political Science and International Relations in South Africa. The primary international affiliations of SAAPS are the International Political Science Association (IPSA), the African Association of Political Science (AAPS), and the World International Studies Committee (WISC).

Politikon

The official journal of the South African Association of Political Science is *Politikon*, published by Taylor & Francis (Routledge). *Politikon* articles are currently noted in ABC Pol Sci, Advance Bibliography of Contents, GEOBASE, Index to South African Periodicals, International Development Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, and Political Science and Government.

Conferences

SAAPS hosts biennial national conferences. In the alternate years, the Association presents the Research Colloquium. The conferences take the usual professional association congress format. Research Colloquia are somewhat more informal, and scholars are encouraged to present work-in-progress, beside conventional research papers. In 2009 and 2011, various regional Colloquia took place in September and October. The 2014 Biennial Conference will be hosted by UNISA.



Aims and Activities

The main aims and activities of SAAPS are to:

- Perform an educational function by promoting knowledge and understanding of national and international political affairs through teaching, workshops, discussion and study groups, seminars, conferences, publications and research;
- Encourage contact and stimulate relationships among individuals and Institutions concerned with the systematic study of national and international political affairs;
- Perform empowerment functions through a special emphasis on the encouragement and facilitation of emerging and student scholarship.

Governing structures

An elected Council and an Executive Committee govern the affairs of SAAPS. The latter consists of the president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer. Office-bearers are elected at a general members' meeting that coincides with the Association's Biennial Conference. The Secretary-treasurer manages its financial affairs. The last elections were in September 2012.

Membership

Academics, students, practitioners, and anybody interested in the disciplines of Political Science and International Relations are welcome to join. See [Join SAAPS](#) for current information on membership fees.

For more information: SAAPS President, Prof. Clive Napier at napiecj@unisa.ac.za