CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Kampala Geopolitics Conference is a two-day academic public event discussing current geopolitical questions and trends. It is inspired by the successful event "Geopolitics of Nantes" in France. The conference will be held at the emblematic University of Makerere, one of oldest and most prestigious universities in Sub-Saharan Africa, where many African leaders were trained. The partners involved include: The Embassy of France, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Makerere University, UN Women Uganda, Alliance Française Kampala and Reach a Hand Uganda. The conference aims at creating a high-level, interactive and dynamic platform for dialogue and free exchange of ideas cutting across contemporary, local and international geopolitics. Experts from Uganda and the African continent will be joined by international researchers to engage in participatory and documented debates on global topics.

The inaugural Kampala Geopolitics Conference took place in October 2018 and was the first of its kind in Uganda. Building up on last year's success, the Kampala Geopolitics Conference 2019 will take place on the 17th and 18th of October. This year's event will host 18 roundtables and further exchange platforms on a variety of topics relating to Global Challenges, Regional Trends, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Culture and Society.

Format and Participation

The conference will feature 18 panels and will attract thousands of participants from Uganda and beyond. The targeted audience is the general public with special focus on students, academia, representatives from civil society and media, political decision-makers and the diplomatic community.

Some key questions pertinent to the conference topics include but are not limited to: *Which efforts are undertaken to implement workable solutions for demographic changes? What does the aftermath of recent revolutions and uprisings entail? When are revolutions and uprisings 'successful'? Can robots be restricted by ethical and legal principles? Who is liable for accidents, damage or war crimes caused by machines? Do governments still exercise factual authority in the political and economic sphere? To what extent are global economic structures responsible for the prevalence of modern day slavery and human trafficking? Is the Great Lakes Region to see a situation of conflict-overspill? To what extent do exploitation and illicit financial flows throw off development on the African continent? To what extent does energy insecurity hinder development in Africa? Are Red Sea Arena countries competing with China to re-colonialise Africa? Is criticism towards the International Criminal Court (ICC) being addressed? Have the UN been effective in implementing their goals? Which variable limit the UN from reaching its full potential? What are challenges in the adjustment of cities to smart urbanism? What is the current state towards achieving SDG 2? To what extent are women perpetrators, not victims? Is development aid a curse or a blessing? What are the cost implications of ignoring climate change? How can the private sector come on board to combat climate change?*