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PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY
(GLOCEPS)
Research | Knowledge | Influence

OVERCOMING AFROPHOBIA IN AFRICA: GOVERNANCE, CITIZENSHIP AND THE FUTURE OF CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION



Date: Friday, November 20, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel,
Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya

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1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

a. Introduction

This event has been jointly convened by the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) and the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS). The event aims to strengthen governance research and provide a platform for evidence generation and uptake in the policy ecosystem. The partnership reflects both organisations' commitment to inclusive dialogue, knowledge sharing, and strategic partnerships to address social and governance challenges in Africa and beyond. PASGR, the Ford Foundation, and Trust Africa led the cocreation and ideation processes. The design of this event aims to engage researchers, academics, and policy practitioners through the Utafiti Sera intervention framework. This participatory approach encourages innovative thinking and brings diverse perspectives and expertise to bear on the initiative's objectives and strategies. It aims to support the development of effective, context-sensitive solutions.

b. The Problem Context

The continent is continually becoming threatened by Afrophobia—manifested through hostility, discrimination, prejudice, and violence against African migrants within African countries—has emerged as an urgent challenge to governance and social cohesion. Across the continent, it is expressed through systemic hostility, exclusionary policies, and periodic outbreaks of violence. These challenges negate the ideals inspired by the African liberation struggles that informed the establishment of the African Union (AU). These issues remain central to the aspirations for cooperation, transformation, integration, and a stronger African identity globally. Contemporary realities of emerging tensions raise questions about the relationship between these aspirations and national sovereignty, citizenship, migration, governance, and development. Despite advances in regional cooperation, contentions remain in cross-border movement and settlements, raising questions about governance and policy issues relating to immigration, employment, public services, identity, social cohesion, and national priorities.

Anti-migrant violence in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria, alongside the experience and practice of repatriation, illustrates the scale of this phenomenon. Thus, Afrophobia poses significant implications for African states, revealing the human, political, and institutional costs of unresolved tensions surrounding migration, identity, economic exclusion, and access to public services. These issues are shaped by structural, institutional, economic, and political conditions. Political narratives, media, and digital platforms also shape public responses.

c. Opportunity for Action

Governments have legitimate responsibilities to protect national interests, regulate immigration, maintain public order, manage borders, and respond to citizens' expectations. Africa's development also depends on regional cooperation, responsible mobility, economic interdependence, and mutual respect. The policy challenge is to reconcile sovereignty with integration so that domestic priorities complement the Pan-African vision. This presents an opportunity to renew the Pan-African project. Afrophobia can be understood as a governance stress signal that exposes gaps in citizenship, social protection, urban inclusion, service delivery, and regional integration. A structured continental dialogue can generate practical, evidence-informed responses that strengthen African solidarity, mobility governance, and social cohesion.

The AU's Agenda 2063, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, and Regional Economic Community frameworks provide foundations. Implementation requires capable institutions, coordinated policies, diplomacy, public confidence, and cooperation.

Against this background, the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) in collaboration with the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) propose a high-level Meeting of key stakeholders under the theme "Overcoming Afrophobia in Africa: Governance, Citizenship and the Future of Continental Integration."

The meeting will offer a neutral, policy-oriented platform for scholars, diplomats, policymakers, migration experts, and institutional representatives to examine governance, citizenship, migration, and integration. It will promote policy learning and recognize that sovereignty and integration can reinforce one another through effective governance, responsible migration administration, economic cooperation, and mutual respect.



2. OVERALL PURPOSE

The in-person meeting will examine how African countries can strengthen solidarity by reconciling sovereignty, governance, citizenship, and migration management with integration and shared prosperity. It will identify approaches to promote mutual respect, responsible mobility, economic interdependence, and renewed Pan-African commitment.



Specific objectives

The five objectives are:

1. **Re-examine the relevance of Pan-Africanism:** Assess the evolution of Pan-African ideals and their contemporary significance for governance, citizenship, migration, and continental integration.
2. **Explore citizenship and continental belonging:** Consider how national identity, sovereignty, and a shared African identity can complement one another.
3. **Analyze migration governance and social cohesion:** Examine how unemployment, inequality, urbanisation, public service delivery, and institutional capacity shape migration-related perceptions and community relations.
4. **Reconciling sovereignty with regional integration:** Identifying approaches that enable states to fulfil legitimate immigration, border management, and national security responsibilities while advancing regional cooperation and mobility.
5. **Develop/inform practical policy recommendations:** Assess relevant AU and regional frameworks and identify institutional, diplomatic, and economic measures to strengthen mobility, interdependence, and African solidarity.

3. KEY THEMATIC DISCUSSION AREAS



4. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY



5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The meeting will produce five outputs.

a) Meeting communiqué and Action Plan: A concise record of principal insights, priority areas of consensus for the six-part webinar series, and recommendations for action.

b)Policy brief: Reimagining African Solidarity: Governance, Citizenship, and the Future of Continental Integration, setting out findings and policy proposals.

c) Policy framework: Practical approaches to migration governance, institutional capacity, regional cooperation, and continental solidarity.

d) Research and publication agenda: Priority areas for further work on citizenship, migration governance, integration, and Pan-Africanism.

e) Stakeholder engagement framework: Proposals for sustained dialogue among governments, regional institutions, academia, think tanks, and development partners.

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The meeting is expected to achieve the following five outcomes:

a) A shared understanding of contemporary Pan-Africanism: Greater clarity on the relevance of unity and solidarity to citizenship, migration, sovereignty, and integration.

b) Policy perspectives on citizenship and migration governance: A stronger appreciation of how national identity, institutional capacity, development pressures, and social cohesion interact.

c) Practical proposals for balancing sovereignty and integration: Recommendations for effective immigration administration, regional mobility, and cooperation under AU and regional frameworks.

d) Options for shared economic prosperity and social cohesion: Identification of opportunities in trade, entrepreneurship, investment, and skills mobility, alongside approaches to responsible communication and peaceful coexistence.

e) A renewed framework for African solidarity: Policy recommendations placing mutual respect, shared responsibility, effective governance, and collective prosperity at the center of continental cooperation.

7. PARTICIPANTS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES.



PROGRAMME OF THE EVENT:

Time	Activity and Presenters
8:00 am - 8:45 am	**Arrival, registration and brief introduction of participants** **Facilitator: Dr Sam Oando,** PASGR Programmes Manager – Research and Policy
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Welcome Remarks: • **Prof. Fadel Ndiame, PhD -** Executive Director, PASGR.
9:00 am - 9:40 am	**Keynote Address: PASGR** • **Prof. Gerald Ouma, PhD -** PASGR Board Chair. Professor of Higher Education and the Senior Director of Institutional Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Prof Ouma brings a wealth of experience in visionary leadership and institutional development, along with a steadfast commitment to advancing our mission. **Guest Speaker: GLOCEPS** • **DG (Rtd) Alexander M. Imbenzi, NDC (K), CBS, OGW,** Member, GLOCEPS Council of Advisors, Former Director General, Department of Immigration; Author, Managing Ethnicity in a Democracy.
9: 40 am – 10: 00 am	Plenary – Q&A Session. – Moderated by Dr. Sam Oando
10: 00 am – 10: 10 am	**Photo Session**
10: 10 am – 10: 35 am	**Coffee Break**
10: 35 am - 12:05 pm	**Transition to Break Out Labs: Expert presentations** – *Moderated by* **Jim Kaketch**, *PASGR Programme Officer, Utafiti Sera.* • **Lab 1: Afrophobia, Pan-Africanism, and African Citizenship** ○ **Moderator: Dr. Janet Kiguru, PhD**, Political and Economic Affairs Manager, Australian High Commission to Kenya. ○ **Discussant: Dr. Ebrima Sall, PhD**, Executive Director Trust Africa, and immediate former Executive Secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). • **Lab 2: Migration, Mobility, and the Promise of Regional Integration** ○ **Moderator: Amb. Catherine Mwangi:** Former Kenya`s Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU). ○ **Discussant: Prof. Fatima Arib, PhD–** PASGR Board member, President and Founder of the International Institute for Sustainable Transition in Africa and Full Professor at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, Morocco. • **Lab 3: Economic Exclusion, Youth Unemployment, and Social Frustration** ○ **Moderator: Dr. Luke Kinoti, PhD**, PASGR Board Member, a seasoned finance and investment professional, entrepreneur, business coach, corporate trainer, and author with experience in establishing, leading, and building corporate and business entities. ○ **Discussant: Dr. Rose Ngugi, PhD** – Senior Economist, Former Executive Director, KIPPRA, Chair – Southern Voice; Research Fellow, AERC; Former Advisor to IMF. • **Lab 4: Cities, Service Delivery, and Social Cohesion** ○ **Moderator: Ms. Rosebella Apollo**, PASGR Programme Officer, leading African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) Project. ○ **Discussant: Dr Mildred Ambani, PhD**, Lecturer at Kenyatta University, Urban Planning Expert at Pamoja Trust. Urban planning and GIS professional bridging academic research and on-the-ground spatial planning across Africa and beyond. • **Lab 5: Political Leadership, Media Narratives, and Public Discourse** ○ **Moderator: Mr. Oumar Ndiaye** - Program Officer, Ford Foundation Office of West Africa, Lagos, Nigeria. ○ **Discussant: Prof. Fred Jonyo, PhD,** Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi. • **Lab 6: From Dialogue to Action: A Governance Framework for African Solidarity.** ○ **Moderator: Kananu Mutea** – FAC Chair, PASGR Board, a seasoned legal advisor with vast experience specializing in dispute resolution and risk advisory, and the founder and lead partner at both Course Correct Consulting and KM Associates. ○ **Discussant: Prof. Eric Aseka,** Director, Institute for the Study of African Realities and the Leadership and Governance Hub, Africa International University (AIU)



12:05 pm – 12:45 pm	**Round Table Dialogue: Priority ideas from the labs and expert opinion – what needs to be done.** *Moderator:* **Dr. Kathryn Nwajiaku-Dahou** – *HRCC Chair, PASGR Board, former Director of ODI's Politics and Governance programme and now a Principal Research Fellow of the Institute.* • **Ms. Racheal Makokha** - Research and Projects Officer, OTT • **Amb. Solomon Maina,** Former Ambassador to Japan, GLOCEPS Non-Resident Research Fellow. • **Prof. Patrick Maluki-** Chair, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies- UoN, Chair Foreign Service Academy Council. • **Amb. Erastus Mwencha -** former Secretary-General of COMESA and former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
12:45 pm -1:15 pm	Plenary – Q&A Session. – Moderated by Rosebella Apollo
1:15 pm -2:05 pm	Lunch Break
2:05 pm - 2:45 pm	**Panel Discussion: From evidence to Policy Action – Bridging the Gap** **Moderator: Dr. Jose Jackson-Malete**, *RPC Chair – PASGR Board. Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership at Michigan State University.* **Panelists:** • **Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, PhD** Former Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and former Kenyan Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. • **Dr. Penina Mueni Yumbya, PhD-** Kenya Country Director, ICED. • **Mr. Eric Wafukho,** Policy Advocacy Champion, PASGR. • **Mr. Stephen Nduvi,** Research Fellow GLOCEPS.
2: 45 pm – 3:15 pm	**The launch of PASGR fellowship and Publication Policies:** Brenda Odhiambo and Mercy Limiri, PASGR • Reading the Preamble **- Dr Jose Jackson-Malete**, RPC Chair. • Sharing copies – **Martin Kapchanga and Susan Gichuna**, PASGR.
3: 15 pm – 3:45 pm	Closing Remarks: Collaborations for Action • **Prof. Gerald Ouma,** PASGR Board Chair. • **Prof. Fadel Ndiame** – ED PASGR, (Vote of Thanks)
3: 45 pm – 4:15 pm	**Coffee break and Networking**

Notes:

The roundtable discussion should provide a structured, egalitarian conversation in which participants sit as equals, with no head of the table or main speaker. They discuss specific topics, share experiences, and build consensus. The moderator serves as a neutral facilitator, opening the session, guiding the discussion, ensuring quieter voices are heard, and keeping the group on track. The moderator is free to design the discussion's structure and flow.

The panel discussion will be a moderated, interactive conversation between subject-matter experts and the audience, typically lasting 45 minutes. Panelists are expected to answer questions, debate, and respond to one another. A question-and-answer format is recommended. The moderator will provide a brief introduction and guide the conversation using targeted questions, with audience questions woven throughout.

The labs are organized into thematic sessions. The moderator is expected to set the tone and establish the framework for engagement. The discussant will deliver expert presentations on the topic and invite contributions from the audience. The moderator may open the presentations as agreed with the small audience. A rapporteur will take notes on the key points and share them before the end of the session.

Organization Profiles

1. PASGR

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) is an independent, a pan-African not-for-profit organisation established in 2011 and located in Nairobi, Kenya. Currently engaged in more than 26 Anglophone and Francophone African countries, PASGR works to enhance research excellence in governance and public policy that contributes to the overall wellbeing of women and men.

• **PASGR's Vision:** A vibrant African social science community addressing the continent's public policy issues.

• **PASGR's Mission:** Advancing research excellence for governance and public policy in Africa.

In partnership with individual academics and researchers, higher education institutions, research think tanks, civil society organisations, business and policy communities both in the region and internationally, PASGR supports the production and dissemination of policy relevant research; designs and delivers suites of short professional development courses for researchers and policy actors; and facilitates the development of collaborative higher education programmes.

PASGR's three core programmes: Research and Policy; Professional Development and Training; and Higher Education, bring together the right mix of universities, research institutions, government, policy actors, researchers and academics to:

• ***Establish and sustain partnerships at national / regional and international levels for advancing research, higher education and training;***

• ***Facilitate the creation of policy and research communities;***

• ***Enhance the institutionalisation of a research culture in Africa's universities and research organizations;***

• ***Coordinate a collaborative Master of Research and Public Policy with universities in Africa.***

2. GLOCEPS

The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) is a think-tank based in Nairobi, Kenya. GLOCEPS is a leading centre of excellence in policy influence and strategy formulation, advancing global peace, security and development. The Centre provides strategic linkage between experience and research by bringing together outstanding professionals, thought leaders, and academia to advance key issues on peace and security. GLOCEPS work cuts across five research foci, namely, security and defence; foreign policy; transnational organized crimes; governance and ethics; and development.

• **Mission:** To contribute to global peace and prosperity through research in security, diplomacy, and development.

• **Vision:** To be the epitome of excellence in research, strategy formulation and policy influence.

Goals

i. To provide a platform for continuous exchange of knowledge in security, diplomacy, and development at national, regional, and global levels;

ii. To generate policy advisories to improve governance and strategic leadership in both public and private sectors;

iii. To facilitate skills and knowledge transfer between experienced practitioners and emerging professionals;

iv. To cultivate professional linkages through continuous collaboration and networking to support research in security, diplomacy, and development;

v. To continuously set the research agenda for state and non-state policy environment and to influence evidence-based strategic decision-making processes.



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