



AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA (ASAA)

CALL FOR HOSTING PROPOSALS

7th ASAA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2027

Invitation to Submit Hosting Proposals

The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) hereby invites **universities, research institutes, think tanks, academies, and other scholarly organizations based in Africa** to submit proposals to host the:

7th ASAA Biennial Conference - October 2027

The conference is expected to bring together between **500 and 800 participants** from Africa and around the world, including scholars, researchers, graduate students, policymakers, artists, development practitioners, civil society actors, and members of the African diaspora.

The conference will be organized principally as an **in-person event with hybrid participation options** where feasible.

1. About the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA)

The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) is a pan-African scholarly association founded in 2013 to advance knowledge production on Africa from the continent and from African-centered perspectives (website: <https://www.as-aa.org/>). The Association seeks to strengthen intellectual communities across Africa and the diaspora by promoting excellence in research, teaching, publication, policy engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The ASAA is committed to:

- Advancing African-centered scholarship and knowledge production.
- Fostering interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue.
- Supporting emerging scholars and doctoral students.
- Promoting intellectual exchange between scholars, policymakers, artists, activists, and practitioners.
- Building and strengthening continental and global scholarly networks.

The ASAA Biennial Conference is the Association's flagship event and one of the premier global convenings in African Studies held on the African continent.

2. About the ASAA Biennial Conference

Held every two years, the ASAA Biennial Conference provides a unique platform for:

- Presenting cutting-edge research on Africa and its diasporas.
- Facilitating interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral dialogue.
- Supporting doctoral students and early-career scholars.
- Strengthening scholarly networks across Africa.
- Promoting engagement between academia and society.
- Celebrating African intellectual and cultural production.

The conference program normally includes:

2.1. Pre-Conference Activities

- Professional development workshops.
- Doctoral Academy.
- Early Career Scholars Forum.
- Editorial and publishing workshops.
- Meetings of ASAA thematic networks and research groups.

2.2. Main Conference Activities

- Opening Ceremony;
- Presidential Address;
- Keynote Lectures;
- Plenary Sessions;
- Parallel Panels;
- Roundtables;
- Policy Dialogues;
- Book Launches;
- Film Screenings;
- Artistic Performances;
- Exhibitions;
- Business Meeting of the Association;
- Closing Ceremony.

3. Why Host the ASAA Biennial Conference?

Hosting the ASAA Biennial Conference provides an exceptional opportunity to:

- Position your institution as a continental and global leader in African Studies;
- Showcase your institution's academic excellence and infrastructure;
- Strengthen partnerships with universities and research organizations across the world;
- Promote your country and city as destinations for international academic exchange;
- Increase institutional visibility and internationalization;

- Foster long-term scholarly collaborations and networks;
- Contribute to shaping the future of African Studies from the continent.

4. Broad Institutional Eligibility

Institutions wishing to host the Conference must:

Institutional Standing

- Be based in Africa.
- Be a recognized institution of higher education, research institute, think tank, or scholarly organization.
- Demonstrate alignment with ASAA's mission and values.

Membership

- Be an institutional member of ASAA; or commit to becoming an institutional member by January 2027.

Institutional Commitment

Demonstrate:

- Administrative capacity.
- Financial management capacity.
- Experience organizing major academic events.
- Ability to mobilize institutional and external support.
- Commitment to collaborative planning and implementation.

5. Hosting Requirements

Prospective host institutions should demonstrate their ability to provide or facilitate:

5.1. Conference Facilities

- One plenary venue seating at least 500 participants.
- At least seven breakout rooms.
- Exhibition and networking spaces.
- Registration and information areas.

5.2. Technology and Infrastructure

- Audio-visual equipment.
- High-speed internet.
- Technical support services.
- Hybrid participation infrastructure where feasible.

5.3. Accommodation and Transportation

- Affordable accommodation options.
- Student housing possibilities.
- Airport transfers and local transportation arrangements.

5.4. Visa Support

- Invitation letters.
- Liaison with immigration authorities where possible.
- Information on travel and entry requirements.

5.5. Catering and Hospitality

- Coffee breaks and lunches.
- Diverse dietary options.
- Reception and networking facilities.

5.6. Participant Welfare and Security

- Medical support arrangements.
- Security and emergency procedures.
- Accessibility accommodations.

6. ASAA's Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

The ASAA strongly encourages bids that demonstrate commitment to:

- Gender equity.
- Regional representation.
- Linguistic diversity.
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Participation of early career scholars.
- Inclusion of underrepresented communities.

7. Environmental Sustainability

ASAA encourages host institutions to adopt environmentally responsible practices, including:

- Reduced paper consumption.
- Sustainable procurement.
- Waste reduction and recycling.
- Environmentally responsible transportation solutions.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of:

Criteria	Weight
Institutional Capacity	20%
Conference Infrastructure	20%
Financial and Fundraising Capacity	20%
Accessibility and Logistics	15%
Academic Vision and Alignment with ASAA Mission	15%
Diversity, Inclusion and Sustainability	10%

9. Submission Requirements

Interested institutions are invited to submit:

1. Completed Conference Hosting Bid Questionnaire.
2. Letter of Institutional Commitment.
3. Institutional Profile.
4. Preliminary Budget.
5. Description of Conference Facilities.
6. Proposed Local Organizing Committee (LOC).
7. Any additional supporting documents.

10. Important Dates

Activity	Date
Launch of Call for Proposals	25 August 2026
Deadline for Requests for Clarification	25 September 2026
Submission Deadline	10 November 2026
Review of Proposals	November 2026
Interviews with Shortlisted Institutions	December 2026
Announcement of Successful Bid	January 2027
Signature of Memorandum of Understanding	February 2027

11. Submission of Proposals

Proposals should be submitted electronically to:

The Executive Secretary
African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA)

✉ info@as-aa.org



Subject line: ASAA 2027 Conference Hosting Proposal – [Institution Name]

12. Further Information

For additional information, please contact:

African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA)

 www.as-aa.org

 info@as-aa.org

Final Invitation

The African Studies Association of Africa warmly invites institutions across the continent to partner in hosting the **7th ASAA Biennial Conference** and to help shape the future of African Studies from Africa and for the world.

Join us in advancing African scholarship, strengthening pan-African intellectual communities, and building new horizons for African Studies.

African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) - *“Advancing African Knowledge from the Continent.”*

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA