



## **WUN Global Africa Group**

### Call for Chapter Abstracts

#### *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Deadline: **31 July 2017 (extended)**

The WUN [Global Africa Group](#) (WUN GAG), which is co-chaired by Prof Maano Ramutsindela (University of Cape Town) and Dr David Mickler (University of Western Australia), is an international research network that was officially launched at the University of Ghana on 8-9 June 2017. WUN GAG aims to enhance the opportunities for building global research collaborations, innovations and impact in support of Africa's development agenda.

Towards this end, the WUN GAG is developing a new collaborative research project and publication on *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*, which will take the form of an interdisciplinary, peer reviewed, edited book to be published by a major university or commercial publisher in 2018.

The book will feature individual chapter contributions from researchers across various disciplines at WUN GAG member universities and their collaborating partners in Africa and beyond. The project will highlight both research already being done in the WUN and, importantly, the substantial value of innovative global research networks in producing inclusive, collaborative, transformative and impactful research in line with the "Global Partnership for Sustainable Development".

**This is a *Call for Abstracts for prospective chapter contributions to this book project.***

The project will draw upon the expertise and international research partnerships forged through the WUN Global Africa Group. It is expected that abstracts will come from a range of different disciplines, although final chapters should be accessible to a more general rather than a narrow discipline-based or technical audience. Each chapter of 5,000 words (including references) should be co-authored by two or more contributors.

*Note: Each chapter contribution must have at least one Africa-based co-author and at least one co-author from a WUN member university. Chapters should be both conceived and produced through collaboration.*

The book will be divided into four parts along the following lines:

### **Part 1: Theoretical reflection on the SDGs**

The book begins by tracing the conception and formulation of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), and the debates that preceded their adoption by the United Nations. The goal in Part 1 of the book is to understand SDGs as a text that evolved throughout the negotiation process, and how scholarly analyses placed them in broader and varied contexts to develop critiques. We call for papers that engage with theoretical debates on SDGs from any vantage point.

### **Part II: The SDGs and Africa's development agenda**

The second part of the book locates the SDGs within African contexts. A key question is what are the intersections or tensions between SDGs, African and other development agendas, and how can we explain them? To answer this question we call for papers that use case studies to evaluate the impact/implications of one or more SDGs on Africa.

### **Part III: Scientific evidence: Rethinking SDGs**

Taking the SDGs as a starting point in Africa's development risks marginalizing existing scientific evidence of what is crucial for the survival of Africa's citizens and Africa's growth. What does scientific evidence tell us about priorities for African states that should inform the direction and implementation of SDGs in Africa's regions? What are the silences in SDGs? Which obstacles should be removed in order to realize the objectives of any of the SDGs? How should we measure the success or failures of SDGs? We invite papers that tackle any of these or related questions.

### **Part IV: Collaborative research for SDGs**

The UN makes it explicit that the realization of SDG objectives depends on collaboration by various stakeholders at various levels. It is expected that collaborative research would deliver scientific results that would guide the SDGs. This raises important questions, namely what are the weaknesses in existing research collaboration or networks? What form should collaborative research take to avoid or overcome the pitfalls associated with the North-South divide? How should collaborative research be configured to be relevant to SDGs in Africa. In other words, how can we understand the role and impact of global research collaboration and networks in relation to Africa and the SDGs? We seek papers that speak to the structure, norms and values of existing collaborative research and what has come out of those collaborative efforts. Prospective authors may also want to think about any issue that relates to collaborative research, including best practices.

## Call for Abstracts

Abstracts will be selected on the basis of both quality and appropriate balances between topics, gender of authors, and collaborating institutions. Prospective collaborators are encouraged to include early career and doctoral research students as contributors.

Prospective contributors and their collaborators are invited to submit a chapter abstract (max. 300 words) by **31 July 2017** to Maano Ramutsindela ([maano.ramutsindela@uct.ac.za](mailto:maano.ramutsindela@uct.ac.za)) and David Mickler ([david.mickler@uwa.edu.au](mailto:david.mickler@uwa.edu.au)).

Notification of accepted contributions will be made at in the first week of August 2017. Once abstracts have been selected, a full edited book proposal will be prepared and submitted to major university and commercial publishers in August alongside applications for publication support grants. We hope to secure a publishing contract by October 2017 after which we will plan for a workshop at the University of Cape Town in mid-October 2017 with all authors. The tentative draft chapter deadline is 30 January 2018.

## Links

WUN Global Africa Group:

<http://www.wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/global-africa-group>

UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Common African Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda:

<http://cap.africa-platform.org/>

African Union's Agenda 2063:

<http://au.int/en2/agenda2063>

