

CONCEPT NOTE
Academic Conference on Africa 2024
**“Power, Justice, and the People:
Human Rights and the Rule of Law for Africa’s Transformation”**

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In 2024, we stand on the threshold of a significant milestone — 140 years since the Berlin Conference imposed a new order on Africa, redrawing its borders without the participation of its people and setting the stage for an enduring legacy of exclusion. The conference initiated a period of colonial division, exploitation, and systematic exclusion that have shaped Africa's political and socio-economic realities and have left lasting scars. Even after the formal end of colonialism, the legacy of these decisions persists, as many of the global structures of power, inequality, and economic exploitation remain unchanged.

Unfortunately, the marginalization of African voices in decision-making processes remains stark. The imbalance of power in shaping Africa's destiny is as relevant today as it was 140 years ago, and nowhere is this imbalance more evident than in the realm of global scholarship.

availability of African health information.² This gap was made especially clear in Africa-focused

of providing a platform for African scholarship that addresses the wide-ranging scope of Africa's development, with particular emphasis on the quadruple nexus of development, peace and security, humanitarian work and human rights.

The academic conference brings together African scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from different sectors and disciplines to engage in high-level interactive dialogue on the most pressing issues facing African communities.

The 2024 iteration of the conference will address critical themes, particularly:

The *morning thematic sessions* (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) will generally feature a keynote speaker and a panel discussion featuring distinguished academics and policymakers. This will be followed by interactive