



INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES
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Second international forum “Development of Parliamentarism”

On July 1-3, 2019, Director of the Institute for African studies of the RAS, corresponding member, Professor Irina Abramova took part in the second International forum “development of parliamentarism”, as well as in the parliamentary conference “Russia-Africa”, organized by the state Duma of the Russian Federation.

The forum was attended by representatives of 132 States, about 800 parliamentarians and experts, among them, in particular, the President of the inter-Parliamentary Union Gabriela Cuevas Barron, Chairman of the Grand national Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Shentop, Chairman of the pan-African Parliament Roger Nkodo Dang, Chairman of the parliamentary conference of the Baltic sea Jorgen Pettersson and others.

Professor Irina Abramova in her welcoming speech at the session “Russian-African cooperation in the security sphere as a factor of peace and stability in Africa: the role of parliaments” spoke about the role of science in the development of relations between Russia and Africa, said that “without a technological breakthrough in the field of ecology, health and education we won't be able to move our relationship from a dead point in order to solve the problems that face Russia's population, and the population of Africa”. The role of education and University science, training of specialists for Africa was also noted. Professor Abramova stressed that “by training specialists, Russia is preparing the future for its people and for the people of Africa.” The parliamentary conference was attended by representatives of more than 30 countries of the African continent, about 300 parliamentarians, as well as 50 experts.

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XIII Congress of anthropologists and ethnologists of Russia

On July 2-6, 2019, the XIII Congress of anthropologists and ethnologists of Russia was held in Kazan, dedicated to the theme: “systems of kinship, ties and communications in the history of mankind: anthropological aspect”. The Congress was attended by more than 800 scientists, including Ph.D., researcher of the [Center of history and cultural anthropology](#) Nadezhda Khokholkova. The 66 sections and 2 round tables

discussed the development of anthropological and ethnological studies, problems of interethnic and interfaith relations, migration, diasporas, ethnic minorities, national policy of the Russian Federation, etc. [Read more](#)



Press conference: “Russia's Cooperation with the Middle East and Africa: topical issues and key projects”

On July 11, 2019 Director of the Institute for African studies of the RAS, corresponding member, Professor Abramova took part as an expert in the international multimedia press center “Russia today” press conference “Russian cooperation with the countries of the Middle East and Africa: current issues and key projects.”

According to Prof. Irina Abramova, the Russia - Africa Summit, will help to find priority areas in cooperation with the States of the continent.

“It is important for us to answer questions about priority sectors where we can interact, where our country can already give something to Africa to get something for itself in return. It is important for us to build our relations, including from the point of view of Africans: taking into account the development of their market, taking into account the fact that the population there is young and very active. Moreover, we can give a lot to Africa,” - said Prof. Irina Abramova. [Read more](#)



Participation of the Director of the Institute for African Studies of the RAS, corresponding member, Prof. Irina Abramova in the meeting of the Business Council at the Russian foreign Ministry

On July 16, 2019 Director of the Institute for African studies, corresponding member, Professor Irina Abramova took part in the meeting of the Business Council under the Minister of foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the development of economic relations of Russian Federation with African countries in the context of preparations for the economic forum and the Russia-Africa summit. The meeting was chaired by Russian foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

The focus of the event was on expanding and deepening Russian - African trade, economic and investment cooperation in anticipation of the Sochi events in the Russia-Africa format. They also discussed the issues of increasing the efficiency of political and diplomatic support for Russian business projects on the African continent.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Russian foreign Ministry, other interested ministries and agencies, scientific, business and public circles.

Minister of foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov noted the importance of increasing the efficiency of political and diplomatic support for Russian business projects on the African continent in order to strengthen the positions of domestic business circles in foreign markets. The foreign Minister, in particular, said: “Our relations with Africans are reaching a new level, including the trade and economic sphere. The first-ever Russia - Africa summit should give a special impetus to these processes.”

According to the Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation, Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee for the preparation and holding in of the summit “Russia – Africa” Anton Kobaykov, the organization of the Summit and the Economic forum “Russia – Africa” is a natural result of increasing interest of both sides to cooperation in recent years. “The Annual meeting of the African export-import Bank held in Moscow in June this year showed that Russia has already accumulated considerable experience of local partnerships on the African continent and has established effective communication on the development of joint projects. The holding of the summit And the Russia - Africa Economic forum will help Russian business to consolidate its position in one of the centers of growth of the world economy” Anton Kobaykov stressed. [Read more](#)



Russia, China and the West joined the fight for Africa

Today, everyone wants a piece of Africa. The West habitually looks at the African continent from the point of view of former colonial metropolises. However, once the fiefdom of European powers, in recent decades Africa has increasingly become the object of intense interest of China, which has become a leading investor in infrastructure projects of the mainland. Despite the growing competition of representatives of different countries on African soil, the relatively low cost of labor and a large supply of natural resources also attract Russia, in which, unlike the Soviet Union, there is no longer the entire periodic table.

In the twenty-first century, the African continent is becoming one of the most competitive territories. In addition to the former metropolises of great Britain and France, new players from Asia are rapidly beginning to penetrate the mainland. Hundreds of Chinese companies have made the mainland their home, developing areas from manufacturing and new technologies to healthcare and “Confucius institutes.” Also influenced by the media: more than 40 telecommunications networks in 30 countries in Africa are owned by the Chinese. Meanwhile, critics of the ambitious “one belt, one road” initiative argue that high-profile projects by investors from China are more like “debt traps”. Unsustainable public debt for developing countries in Africa and new environmental problems are the result.

Meanwhile, the African population has long exceeded 1 billion inhabitants and in the near future, according to sociologists, will overtake Asia in the title of the youngest region of the Earth. Thus, in the long term, the countries of Africa represent an ever-growing consumer market, and there may be enough space not only for the West, China, but also for Russia.

“In recent decades, interest in Africa from other countries of the world is growing primarily because the mainland countries finally in the XXI century show, in contrast to previous decades, quite high rates of economic growth”, said the Head of the [Center for North Africa and the Horn of Africa Studies](#) Dr. Alexander Tkachenko. [Read more](#)

“Current comment”

(the rubric was created in cooperation with
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Sudan: difficulties of the transition period

In the political life of Sudan in the first half of 2019, two important dates should be highlighted: April 11 and June 3. On the first date, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown in a bloodless military coup after nearly 30 years of rule. The coup was preceded by four months of mass popular protests, often turning into violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces. According to official data, from December 19, 2018, when protesters first set fire to the government building, to April 11, 2019, 65 people were killed (according to the opposition – more than 100).

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Publications of The Institute:

Collective monograph “Youth in the political and socio-cultural life of Africa”

Editorial Board: Dr. Krylova N. L., Ph. D. Grishina N. V., Ph. D. Ksenofontova N. A.

Moscow: Institute for African studies Russian Academy of Sciences, 2019. – 426 PP.

ISBN 978-5-91298-231-6

The presented work is the first monographic publication in the last 25 years devoted to the problems of African youth and its role in the formation and development of young States. Special attention is paid to the issues of socialization and identity formation in both traditional and modern societies, the specifics of youth organizations.

[More detail](#)



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