PANELS ACCEPTED FOR THE CONFERENCE

1. **"African Opposition Parties – a Standard?"**

Moderator: Maciel Santos, Professor – Department of History- FLUP; CEAUP (maciel999@yahoo.com)

The political history of almost all African territories during colonial times and afterwards has a common denominator: the appropriation of abureaucratic State by a ruling class not inclined to political concessions. Both nationalist parties before independence and the opposition parties of the new States share common features, being the end-solution of armed struggle and its hybrid political and military structure some of the more often ones. Their support base, trade unions, regional or religious identities, is commonly a function of the strength of the civil society from where it stems.

This panel proposes a discussion of some case studies and wants to contribute to the settlement of a pattern of the political opposition in hostile environments.

2. **Popular Protest in Africa and the Crisis of Political Parties**

Moderator: Sergey V. Kostelyanets, Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (sergey.kostelyanyets@gmail.com).

In 2019, a new wave of socio-political protests swept across many countries of the world. African countries that were most affected by the wave – Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, etc. — differ markedly in terms of economic development and the nature of their political structure. The protests had local roots and varied in degree of intensity, composition of participants, ways of expressing discontent, and goals. However, despite the differences, there are some common features of these protests, one of the most noticeable being the weak participation of political parties, including opposition ones. Moreover, protests observed in a number of

countries may reflect the distrust of the population not only towards governments, but also towards politicians and the parties they represent.

The lack of public trust is becoming a huge problem for political parties and their leaders, who are trying in various ways to restore ties with civil society groups and the population in general. The situation is complicated by the fact that many new protest movements themselves turn into parties and seek to run in national elections in order to participate directly in the law-making and decision-making processes. Consequently, a collision arises: on the one hand, the expansion of ties between political parties and spontaneously formed protest movements can enrich the political environment and strengthen the support base of a political party that has expressed sympathy for protesters; on the other hand, tension can arise between existing parties and movements, which can be dealt with either through the institutionalization of cooperation (integration) or the political transformation of both sides. Ultimately, successful interaction between political parties and protest movements can contribute to both resolving conflicts and improving relations between parties and their electorate.

The panelists are encouraged to touch upon some of following questions: Why do many African political parties, primarily opposition ones, withdraw from organizing and participating in mass protest movements, even when demands of the protesters seem fair, and when the former and the latter are objectively are like-minded? Could interaction between parties and protest movements facilitate political stabilization or, on the contrary, would be likely to aggravate the socio-political conflict between the government and civil society? Are we now witnessing a progressive decline in the importance of the institution of political parties on the African continent?

3. **Post-Conflict Transformation of Rebel Movements into Political Parties and Related Peace-Building Issues**

Moderators: Tatiana S. Denisova (tsden@hotmail.com); Dmitri M. Bondarenko (dbondar@hotmail.com) Institute for African Studies Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

The transformation of rebel movements into political parties after the end of civil wars and conflicts has become one of the enduring phenomena of the political life in African countries. This has been observed in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Chad and several other countries. As a rule, the opportunity for an anti-government movement to become an officially recognized political organization, and for its leaders – to head it in order to develop a future political career, arise either in the event of a rebel victory (Rwanda, Liberia, Uganda) or after the signing of a peace agreement (Sierra Leone) and the start of the integration of former militants into the socio-economic and political life of post-war society. Often, it is the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs (DDR) that allows those guilty of large-scale crimes not only to avoid punishment, but also to occupy important public positions.

In turn, the desire of certain warlords to ascend to the top of the political ladder during or after the end of the conflict confirms the struggle for political power (along with economic one, e.g., access to natural resources) as the main motive for their anti-government actions. A proven way of gaining power peacefully is by participating in presidential and parliamentary elections. The control of a political party and often an extensive base of its support, including recent militants, makes the "path to power" easier for warlords.

The transformation of insurgent movements causes an ambiguous reaction of both the population of the countries that have survived conflicts and the world community, since, on the one hand, the development of a political career by recent warlords in the context of peace-building (in accordance with the logic of events) should prevent the unfolding of another spiral of violence; on the other hand, they are accustomed to achieving goals by military means, and even in civilian life they often resort to violence in resolving political issues.

At the panel it is expected to discuss positive and negative aspects of the transformation of anti-government armed groups into political parties, also ruling ones, in the context of peace-building, including through case studies of specific countries.

4. **Single-party and multi-party political systems in African countries in the southern Sahara during the "cold war" years**

Moderator: Andrei Tokarev, PhD (History), Head of Center for Southern African Studies, Institute for African Studies; Associate Professor, Military University (stp79@yandex.ru)

It is presumed to discuss in this panel the reasons for the formation of single-party and multi-party political systems in African countries in the south of the Sahara in the years of the "cold war" as well as the advantages and disadvantages of these systems.
  It is important to discuss here:
- the influence of dominant ideologies in the world and in the region, of political-religious, nationalist currents, etc., on the formation of ideology and the activity of the respective parties;
- the conditions of coming to power or remaining in opposition;
-the influence of the world powers in these organisations.

5. **The "Arab Spring" and its Impact on Islamist Political Parties in North Africa**

Moderator: Mourad Aty, Assistant Professor U. Guelma/ CEAUP (md_aty@yahoo.com)

By late 2010, the Arab World was hit by a strong wave of popular unrest, the so-called "Arab Spring." Prior to these upheavals, north African societies were already very shaky and unstable at diferente levels: social, economic, and Political. Political parties coming from relegious underpinnings were at the heart of this turmoil. The Muslim Brotherhood, along with its affiliates in the region was the main ideology behind most political parties and civic society organizations. In egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Lybia, and even Algeria there was a strong belief that the next ruling political class would be tied to the "Murshid" rather than any other competing ideology, be it nationalist, leftist or even coming from an other rival from the same background such as the Salfist attempts in Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria. This panel is centred around the idea of the rise and demise of political Islam in North Africa during the post-Arab Spring era. We accept paper proposals on the following tracks

- Political Islam in North Africa in the light of the Popular Unrest
- The Role of Islamists during the Uprisings
- The Relationship between the Political Regimes and the Islamist Political Parties
- Political Reforms and Islamism
- North African Societies and the Islamist Civic Society Organizations
- National Armies and the Political Agenda
- Extremism and Political Islam
- Foreign Powers and Ideological Ties to Local "Proxies."
- Case Studies on Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, and even Sudan

6. The Weakness of Political Organizations in Wartime Sahel

Moderator: Eduardo Costa Dias, CEI-IUL (eduardocostadias@yahoo.fr)

The Sahel region is today, alongside the Near and Middle East, one of the most turbulent areas in the world. Islamic radicalism prevails in different forms and degrees.

In vast areas of countries like Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger or Nigeria the control of the territory is disputed amoung djihadist groups and governmental and international military forces.

This situation has no end in sight for external reasons it is true, but also - and a lot - for internal reasons, namely the weakness of the political organization of civil society. Paper proposals are invited to this panel, which, while taking into account external political conditions, focus mainly on the general weakness of organizations and political parties that allowed and allows the installation to "wash and last" Islamic terrorism in the Sahel and on its southern "margins" (North Nigeria, Northwest Cameroon).