

2021 CONFERENCE ON LAND POLICY IN AFRICA

Call for Short Stories on Land Governance Towards the Africa We Want *Deadline: 31st August, 2021*

Introduction: The Conference on Land Policy in Africa- a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank is inviting young African creatives to re-imagine land governance in Africa by writing short stories as part of CLPA coming up on November 2-4, 2021.

We are seeking stories written by African writers located on the continent or in the African diaspora. Creative African youth are strongly encouraged to submit their stories.

Background: The Conference theme aligns with the African Union Declaration of 2021 as "*Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building Africa We Want*," which is epitomized by Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063. The focus is on African heritage and cultural dimensions of land and the potential to secure livelihoods, economic growth, and sustainable development through the creative economy in both the rural and urban settings. And by fostering innovation, stimulating social and economic value through creativity, talent, intellectual capital, expressions of the arts, and cultural entrepreneurship as envisioned in Agenda 2063. The Call for Short Stories is part of this alignment.

The short stories will show the complexity of land issues in Africa and the opportunities that land provides to communities for, among others, food, identity, spirituality, culture, and heritage. Land is also a site of struggle, tension and creativity. The stories will interrogate questions such as: *How would rural and urban areas in Africa look like if there was very poor land governance? How would it be fixed to support the Africa We Want? How can that experience be told artistically through the lens of African characters and sensitivity to landscapes?*

Themes: The short stories are expected to be grounded on African perspectives, present or possible realities and futures as seen through the opportunities and challenges of land governance in Africa. They should capture the imagination around land issues confronting the African continent: land and spirituality in the African socio-cultural context; education and knowledge systems in inclusive land governance; women perspectives to secure tenure rights; land in African cultural heritage and creative industries; decolonization and social change, among others.

At the core of the short story will be land and how it plays out in the lives of the African people. Short listed entries will be published in an *Anthology of Short Stories on land in Africa* to be launched at the CLPA 2021.

Guidelines:

- **Genre:** We invite you to explore imaginative narratives culled from the following genres: *Afrofuturism, Science Fiction, Action Adventure, Fantasy, Speculative fiction, Suspense, YA, Historical Fiction, Mystery/Crime and Literary Fiction.*
- **Language: English and French**
- **Number of words:** Written short stories should not be less than 2,000 words and should not exceed 3000 words.
- **Number of entries:** We will not accept more than one entry per submission.
- All submissions must be the original work of the author. We welcome translations, so do let us know if your work is translated from another language. Stories that are published elsewhere (online or print form) are welcome but do let us know so that we can explore publishing permissions. If you plan to submit to multiple outlets, please let us know.
- **Keep it Simple.** Short stories should be in double space and in 12 font Times Roman and not more than 3000 words.
- **Deadline. 31st August 2021**

Where to Submit: Introduce yourself and attach your submission in Microsoft word and send to eca-info@un.org with the **Subject: Short Story Submission on Land Governance towards the Africa We Want**

Acknowledgement: We will acknowledge selected authors and invite them to participate in a workshop to enhance their submissions. The three best short stories will be awarded and two others will get Special Mention during the CLPA.