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## ERSA Workshop

### Monetary and Financial Integration in Africa

University of Fort Hare

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2010

The last decade has witnessed a growing interest in the project of monetary and financial integration among African countries. Focus has especially been on improving the financial system's ability to mobilise and allocate resources (including development finance), promote macroeconomic stability and private sector development with the ultimate goal of promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. Consequently, many countries have initiated different regional and domestic programmes to promote monetary and financial integration. While regional monetary and financial integration may offer several benefits, experts agree that the challenges to implement policies and programmes of integration remain very daunting as countries face economic, political, institutional and structural problems.

Although there is a growing literature on financial and monetary integration in Africa, such literature remains largely scattered and fragmented. As such there is at present a lack of clarity about what has been done, where the gaps are with respect to empirical and theoretical research as well as about the issues that should be addressed in policy-focused research.

In the light of these challenges, ERSa is organising a two-day workshop to examine critically the challenges of monetary and financial integration in Africa. The workshop will examine the challenges and opportunities of financial integration in African, review the state of existing research and identify areas for future analysis. The workshop will feature invited papers, a guest lecture and roundtable discussion of the issues.

Interested researchers are welcome to submit proposals for papers. Author should focus particularly on identifying the state of progress made thus far in terms of policies and programmes, the challenges such programs face, the existing research on the issues, as well as gaps in the literature. We welcome contributions in any of the following general themes:

- Financial integration issues: definition, measurements and challenges - theoretical and empirical evidence
- Policies towards macroeconomic convergence
- National monetary and financial statistics data base harmonisation-issues and challenges
- Legal and property right institutions and financial integration
- Regional payments and clearing systems: what needs to be done?
- Regional capital markets integration issues

**Submission:**

Please submit complete papers or extended abstracts (2-3 pages) as a pdf-file together with full contact details by 15 December 2009 to:

Meshach Aziakpono at [m.aziakpono@ru.ac.za](mailto:m.aziakpono@ru.ac.za)

or

Nicola Viegi at [nicola.viegi@uct.ac.za](mailto:nicola.viegi@uct.ac.za)

ERSA is able to offer financial support to cover travel and accommodation expenses to one research-active member of any South African economics department wishing to attend the workshop.

Please send your nominations, giving academic affiliation and areas of interest to Tania Jacobs at [tania.jacobs@uct.ac.za](mailto:tania.jacobs@uct.ac.za) by 15 December 2009.