

Actuarial Society 2017 Convention

17-18 October 2017

Sandton Convention Centre



2017 Convention

17 - 18 October

Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

SHAPE THE FUTURE

Do you have important knowledge and experience to share? The annual Convention of the Actuarial Society is the perfect platform for you to do this. Let us help you shape the future.

Call for Topics

The 2017 Convention Organising Committee is looking for innovative ideas and authoritative views on current matters, as well as topics that link to outcomes of the new CPD scheme. We are open to a wide range of topic submissions which can be based on formal papers or standalone presentations without a formal paper. They can be given as a short TED-style talk or a longer 45-minute presentation.

To ensure that we keep improving the quality of the content and presentations, and taking on board the feedback from members, we will be introducing a new topic selection process this year. This will include telephone discussions with topic submitters, allocation of Practice Area-recommended sponsors for each presenter, group presentation training, and dry runs to select and enhance the final set of presenters. There will be fewer slots available, but we are confident that the enhanced selection process and the addition of presenter sponsors will help us shape the topics offered and ensure excellent content for our members.

Attached is the full Call for Topics including details on the selection process and key dates.

Would you like join us on this journey? Please propose a topic by clicking [here](#) and submit your proposal by 31 March 2017.

Regards,

The 2017 Convention Organising Committee

Convention Secretariat | African Agenda

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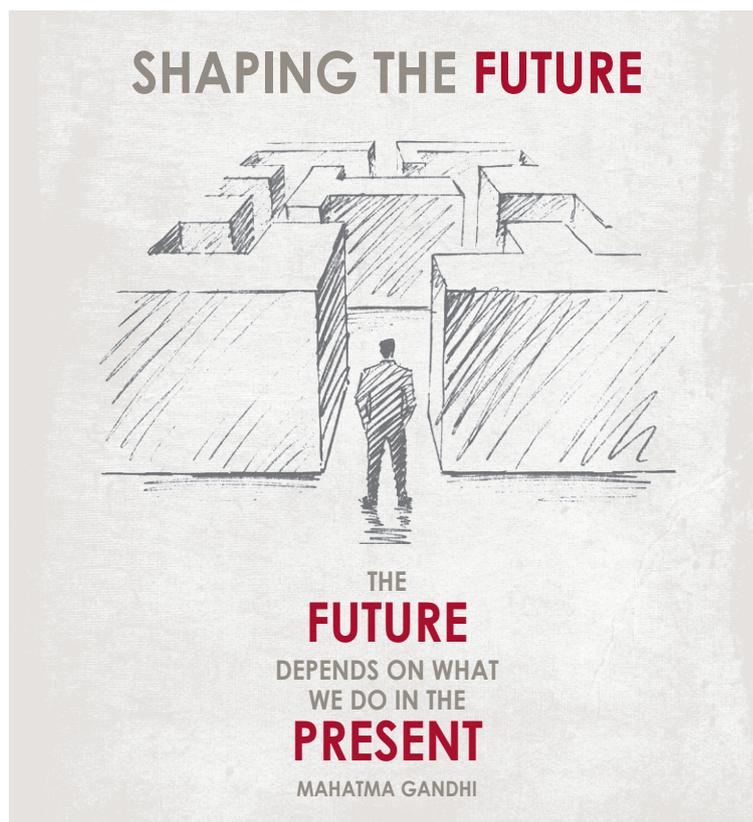
CALL FOR TOPICS

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Calling all shape-shifters! Be part of this year's Convention and make an impact, be the difference and shape our future!

We invite members to propose topics for presentation at the 2017 Convention on 17 and 18 October at the Sandton Convention Centre.

To keep improving the quality of presentations and in light of the feedback received from members, there will be a new selection process for topics this year with stricter criteria, more training and a wider selection of types of sessions to attend – for example, selected classroom-style workshops as well as the popular Fintech Spotlight we had in 2016.



PRESENTATION OPTIONS

This year the following presentation format options are available:

- 1. Full Sessions:** 45-minute presentation plus a 15-minute Q&A.
- 2. TED-Style Talks:** 20 minutes each on a TED-Style stage (no lectern, timer etc.), limited slides and thought provoking ideas that are worth sharing. 10 minutes Q&A after each session.

Speakers may indicate their preference when submitting papers and presentations, but the Convention Organising Committee and Practice Area representatives will make the final decision on the format allocation to speakers making allowance for the number of speakers, the range of topics in each practice area and programme constraints.

Proposals for the presentation based on formal papers as well as standalone presentation without formal papers are welcome.



SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR THE CONVENTION

The process this year will allow us to fine-tune the quality of presentations and preparation of presenters for speaking. The following process will be followed:

- 1) **Initial Selection:** The proposed topics will be reviewed by the Convention Organising Committee who will recommend the top submissions to move through to the second selection round. We will look for innovative proposals and authoritative positions on topical issues, as well as areas indicated to be of interest within the new CPD scheme.
 - 2) **Conditional Shortlisting:** The Convention Organising Committee will contact the selected submitters to discuss their expertise and experience on the proposed topic, reasons for undertaking research, applicability and interest by the profession.
 - 3) **Design and preparation:** Speakers will be empowered to deliver an effective and engaging presentation, supported by a Sponsor and Dale Carnegie Training. The Sponsor will be allocated by the ASSA Practice Areas and the Convention Organising Committee, to help shape the paper and/or presentation for technical quality and useful outcomes. A Dale Carnegie certified trainer will provide practical workshops and one-on-one coaching, to help Speakers design and deliver their own high-impact presentation.
 - 4) **Final Selection:** The final stage in the selection process will be a **compulsory** individual dry run of the presentation, to be facilitated by the professional presenter trainers and attended by the sponsor, chair of the session and Convention Organising Committee members. Accepted topics will receive constructive feedback to enhance the impact of the presentation. Topics that do not make it into the final Convention programme will receive feedback and, if warranted, a recommendation to the relevant practice area for use as a sessional or in the relevant practice area seminar.
- The Convention Organising Committee and sponsors will also review all final presentations in the weeks leading up to the Convention.

For the timelines of this process, refer to the table below:

TIMELINE	
31 March	Proposal submission deadline
28 April	One-on-one discussions complete
15 June	Submission date for full abstracts
30 June	Submission date for draft papers for review
17 July	Reviewer feedback to authors
15 August	Submission date for final papers (publication and prize eligibility)
31 August	Presentation training and presentation dry runs complete, final presenters selected
15 September	Submission date for all Convention presentations for review
18 September	150-word "press release" promoting your paper
29 September	Final submission date for all Convention presentations
2 October	Final Convention newsletter issued (with "press release" presentation summaries and links to papers)
17-18 October	2017 Convention

PRIZE FOR THE BEST PAPER

All papers submitted before **15 August 2017** will be eligible for the papers prizes to be awarded at the Convention. Three prizes will be presented at the Convention for outstanding papers chosen by a panel appointed by the Actuarial Society's Research Committee.

The prizes are:

- RGA Prize for the best paper
- RGA Prize for the best first-time paper
- Swiss Re Prize for the best paper on reinsurance or risk



PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Topic proposals are now being accepted and will be until **Friday, 31 March 2017**.

When you submit your proposal, you need to:

- a. Indicate:
 - if you intend to submit a paper with presentation or submit a presentation only
 - preferred length of presentation – full presentation or TED-Style talk
 - the type of session you prefer for a full presentation – panel discussion, lecture, workshop, etc.
 - the required level of audience knowledge (i.e. foundational, intermediate or advanced)
- b. Provide a bullet point description (maximum 75 words) of your topic, giving as much detail as possible
- c. Provide a list of 4-8 outcomes that the audience will be expected to take out of the presentation
- d. Give an indication of your and any co-presenter(s) experience on the selected Topic
- e. Provide an indication of your availability in April for a 45 minute conversation with the Convention Organising Committee

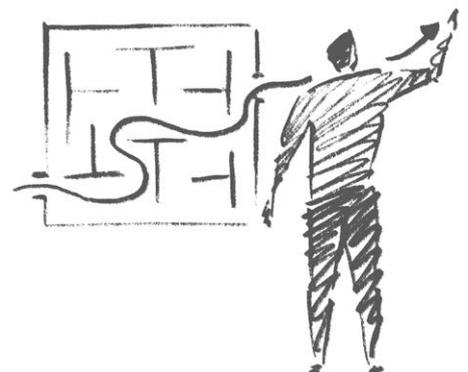
All of the above information, with the exception of point d and e, will be included in pre-Convention communications as well as the Convention handbook in order to help members select sessions to attend.

To propose a topic, please click on the link below and submit your proposal by **Friday, 31 March 2017**.

Link for proposals: <https://client.conf-manage.com/2017-convention/call-for-topics>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lisa Vickers, Programme Secretariat, at info@actuarialsocietyconvention.org.za or +27 (0)21 683 2934.

All submissions will be acknowledged.



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