

**IGU Thematic conference dedicated to the Centennial of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences “Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges”, Moscow 4-6 June 2018**

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**Commission C27. Land Use and Land- Cover Change: challenges of globalization**

While the dynamics of land use and economic development have long been intertwined, globalization is today an important driver shifting world ecological-economic relationship. In globalized world demand in some distant regions generates land transformations in others. These linkages are known as teleconnections. One more side of globalization is commercialization of lands. For long time land use policy has been valued solely for the market price of crops, or similar commodity-based market values. A new trend is observed in a growing competition between the financial value of land and its economic value. Land speculation and land grabbing are often separated from the actual economic value that can be obtained from land and its provisioning services. The conversion of farmland from agricultural to non-agricultural use occurred where the largest returns can be obtained. The relative abundance of cheap and suitable land in poor countries and increasingly liberalized trade and investment regimes made them an attractive destination for farmland investments for biofuels growing production of which was an important factor of the recent global food crisis in 2007-2008. About 2.5 billion people depend on land resources but only have legal ownership of 10% of it. These people are vulnerable to land dispossession in the hands of powerful actors (i.e. multinationals, governments, etc.). The session will welcome papers dealing with the themes closely related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1,2,5,10,15): teleconnections, land grabbing, conversion of farmland from agricultural to non-agricultural use (land “artificialisation”), biofuels production with application to food security issues, disruption of an emotional-spiritual connection between people and lands, land justice, maximizing the potential of smallholders, including women and youth.