



EAST AFRICAN INSTITUTE
for Peace & Governance



Department of Diplomacy & International Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

1st Annual Peace Conference REPORT

Theme of The Year:

Securing Sustainable Peace in the Horn of Africa



20 - 21
August 2024



Nairobi
Kenya



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

governance systems, external interference, youth, women, peace and security, and the impacts of climate change—each of which presents significant obstacles to lasting peace in our region.

Our institute remains committed to facilitating inclusive and constructive dialogue aimed at fostering peace and positive governance. The discussions and outcomes of this conference provide a roadmap for continued collaboration across sectors and borders. The engagement and insights of all participants have laid a strong foundation for the work that lies ahead.

My sincerest thanks to everyone who helped this event succeed. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will make significant strides in securing sustainable peace and development for the Horn of Africa.

Anwar Abdifatah Bashir

Executive Director of East African Institute for Peace and Governance

The East African Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG) in Nairobi, Kenya hosted the inaugural "Annual Peace" Conference, which I present with great pleasure. This landmark event, held on the 20th and 21st of August 2024, brought together an esteemed group of global leaders, policymakers, scholars, and civil society representatives to discuss some of the most pressing peace and security challenges in the Horn of Africa.

At EAIPG, we believe that sustainable peace in the region is achievable through dialogue, cooperation, and innovation. This conference served as a critical platform for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and proposing actionable solutions to the challenges facing the Horn of Africa today. We addressed issues such as violent extremism, fragile

Introduction

The East African Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG) is a dynamic organization dedicated to addressing peace and governance challenges in the East African region. Through its collaborative efforts, EAIPG engages in dialogues and events aimed at fostering sustainable development and regional stability.

Between 20th and 21st August 2024, the East African Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG) successfully hosted its inaugural "Annual Peace" Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. This groundbreaking event attracted participants from across five continents, including representatives from Africa, the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. The conference aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration on critical peace, security, and governance issues in the Horn of Africa, with a central focus on "Securing Sustainable Peace in the Horn of Africa."

The conference was organized in response to the persistent challenges facing the Horn of Africa, including conflicts, fragile diplomatic relations, the impact of foreign intervention, and the growing threat of climate change. With more than 100 participants from across the region and diaspora communities, the conference created a platform for policymakers,

diplomats, academics, civil society members, and other stakeholders to engage in thoughtful discussions and propose actionable solutions to these pressing issues.

The event brought together policymakers, academics, diplomats, civil society members, and other stakeholders to engage in thought-provoking discussions on securing sustainable peace in the region.

Conference Theme: **"Securing Sustainable Peace in the Horn of Africa."**



Objectives of the Conference

The primary aims of the conference were to:

- **Address and mitigate ongoing conflicts in the Eastern African region, particularly around the Red Sea:**

The conference sought to tackle the ongoing conflicts in Eastern Africa, with a specific focus on the Red Sea, which is a critical geopolitical area. Experts emphasized the importance of collaborative conflict resolution mechanisms and peacebuilding efforts to prevent further destabilization. The discussions focused on addressing underlying issues such as resource competition, border disputes, and political instability. Participants proposed diplomatic interventions, mediation, and community engagement strategies to mitigate the violence and promote long-term peace. Regional cooperation was highlighted as a necessary step in addressing these complex conflicts effectively.

- **Facilitate discussions to repair sporadic diplomatic ties between nations in the region:**

One of the core objectives of the conference was to mend fragile diplomatic relationships between Eastern African

nations. Tensions and intermittent diplomatic breakdowns have hindered the region's progress toward peace and stability. Panel discussions encouraged dialogue among governments to rebuild trust, increase transparency, and engage in confidence-building measures. The aim was to create a platform where countries could openly address grievances, explore mutually beneficial solutions, and agree on frameworks for sustainable cooperation. By fostering better communication, the conference aimed to restore and strengthen diplomatic ties, leading to more unified regional efforts in peace and governance.

- **Enhance regional collaboration in the fight against piracy and terrorism:**

A significant focus of the conference was enhancing cooperation in the fight against piracy and terrorism, which continue to threaten regional security in Eastern Africa. Experts discussed the need for intelligence-sharing mechanisms, joint military operations, and coordinated legal frameworks to combat these threats. Stakeholders from affected nations underscored the importance of involving local communities in countering radicalization and extremism while improving maritime security to curb piracy.

Through collaborative regional efforts, the conference aimed to address both the root causes and immediate dangers posed by piracy and terrorism, ensuring a collective response to these persistent security challenges.

- **Foster regional integration through cultural diplomacy and economic partnerships:**

The conference aimed to foster deeper regional integration by promoting cultural diplomacy and economic partnerships. Cultural diplomacy was seen as a means to bridge divides, build trust, and promote mutual understanding between nations. Discussions centered on utilizing shared cultural heritage, education exchanges, and artistic collaboration to strengthen regional ties. Additionally, economic partnerships were highlighted as essential for development, with the potential to create more resilient economies, reduce poverty, and address unemployment. By linking cultural diplomacy with economic initiatives, the conference encouraged policies that promote regional cohesion and long-term sustainable growth in Eastern Africa.

- **Strengthen regional solidarity by promoting the role of intergovernmental bodies like IGAD and the East African Community:**

Strengthening regional solidarity was another core aim, with a focus on reinforcing the roles of intergovernmental bodies like IGAD and the East African Community (EAC). These organizations play crucial roles in facilitating dialogue, conflict resolution, and economic integration in the region. The conference advocated for enhancing their capacities and expanding their mandates to address emerging challenges, such as climate change and migration. Participants stressed the importance of supporting these bodies with adequate resources and political backing, as they serve as vital platforms for fostering regional unity, coordinating peacebuilding efforts, and promoting sustainable development.

These objectives provided a foundation for meaningful discussions aimed at building long-term peace and security in the Horn of Africa.



Participants

The conference brought together a diverse group of attendees, representing various sectors and organizations. Among the attendees were:



This diversity ensured that the discussions reflected a range of perspectives and expertise, contributing to the richness of the dialogues.

Keynote Speakers and Presentations

Several distinguished speakers delivered keynote addresses, setting the tone for the conference. They included experts in international relations, peace, security, conflict management, and regional diplomacy. The speakers underscored the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by the Horn of Africa.

Key presentations revolved around critical themes such as:

Countering violent extremism (CVE) in Africa: The theme of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in Africa stressed the critical need for a unified, multi-sectoral approach to tackling terrorism and extremist ideologies. Speakers emphasized that governments, civil society, and international partners must collaborate to effectively address the root causes of violent extremism, including poverty, political instability, and marginalization. A key focus was on preventive measures—such as education, youth empowerment, and social inclusion—aimed at reducing the appeal of extremist ideologies, especially among vulnerable populations.

Efforts to counter extremism also involve strengthening community resilience and enhancing local governance structures to

prevent the spread of radicalization. Additionally, the importance of intelligence-sharing, regional cooperation, and diplomatic engagement was underscored as necessary tools in the fight against terrorism. The discussions highlighted that successful CVE initiatives require not only security-based approaches but also social and economic strategies to address the factors driving individuals toward extremist violence in the first place.

Governance and state capacity in fragile regions: the theme emphasized the importance of robust institutions in promoting good governance and peacebuilding efforts. Speakers underscored that effective governance is essential for maintaining stability in areas affected by conflict and political unrest. Fragile regions often face governance challenges such as weak institutions, corruption, and a lack of accountability, all of which contribute to instability.

Strengthening state capacity involves building transparent, inclusive, and responsive institutions that can address the needs of citizens while also upholding the rule of law. The speakers highlighted that governance reforms should focus on decentralization, improving public services, and increasing citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Additionally, there was a call for international support to assist fragile states in developing stronger systems of governance. Ultimately, the discussions pointed out that without solid governance frameworks, peacebuilding efforts are unlikely to be sustainable in regions prone to political instability and conflict.

The role of regional entities like IGAD and EAC in peace and security: The theme emphasized the crucial role of regional entities such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) in promoting peace, security, and development across the Horn of Africa. These organizations have been instrumental in mediating conflicts, facilitating dialogue, and fostering cooperation among member states.

Speakers highlighted how IGAD and EAC have acted as key platforms for conflict resolution by engaging in diplomatic interventions and peacebuilding efforts in areas like Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. Their ability to bring together diverse stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and international organizations, has proven vital in addressing regional security threats, including terrorism, cross-border disputes, and economic challenges. Additionally, their focus on regional development and integration initiatives contributes to economic stability, which is crucial for sustainable peace. Ultimately, IGAD and EAC's proactive engagement in peacebuilding makes them indispensable actors in ensuring regional stability and fostering long-term development.



Key Themes Discussed

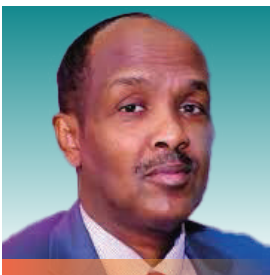
PANEL DISCUSSION: 1

The conference covered an array of pressing topics:

Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism in Africa

The panel on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) examined the severe security implications of extremism in the Horn of Africa. Experts, including academics, public officials, and think-tank leaders from Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, discussed the multi-faceted nature of the threat, including its impact on regional stability and international security. Key topics included the effectiveness of current counterterrorism strategies, the role of socio-economic factors in radicalization, and the need for community-based approaches. The panel emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in intelligence sharing, counter-radicalization programs, and policies addressing underlying grievances to build resilient communities and counter extremist ideologies effectively.

Panelists



MUKHTAR A. OGLE

Executive Office of the President, Kenya: Discussant



DR. KIZITO SABALA

University of Nairobi
Discussant



JOSEPH BOINNET

Executive Office of the President, Kenya



SAMIRA GAÏD

A leading Regional Security Analyst

Moderator



FAÏSAL ADEN

MA in terrorism & Insurgency
University of Leeds



ALI QADARWARJIID

Experienced Somali Diplomat
and Political Officer



ABDINUR ABDELLA

Experienced Project
Officer & Community
Development Specialist



PANEL DISCUSSION: 2

Governance Systems and State Capacity in the Horn of Africa

The panel on Governance Systems and State Capacity delved into the governance challenges facing the Horn of Africa, highlighting the critical need for stronger state institutions and effective governance to bolster peacebuilding efforts. Representatives from the United Nations, researchers, and public officials examined issues such as political instability, corruption, and weak institutional frameworks that hinder conflict resolution and development. The discussion underscored the importance of reforming governance structures to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Panelists advocated for capacity-building initiatives to support state institutions, improve public services, and ensure equitable resource distribution, all crucial for fostering stability and supporting long-term peacebuilding in the region.

Panelists

KEY STATEMENT



PROF. HASSAN KEYNAN
Former Professor & Retired Senior UN Official



ABDILLAHI NADIF
Managing Director of Hilaac Research Development Centre (HIRAD).



QUMAN AKLI
Co-founder Asal Consulting



AMINA ABDI
Moderator



MR. ROBLE DAHIR
Director of the Centre for Social Development (CES) Somalia



MOHAMUD MOHAMED MOHAMUD
Dean and lecturer at the University of Bosaso Garowe (UOBG).



MOHAMED MUSSE MOHAMED KALAKAAN
Head of Center for innovation entrepreneurship and Research (CIER)



PANEL DISCUSSION: 3

Regional Entities (IGAD and EAC) and their Roles in Peace, Security, and Development

The panel on Regional Entities (IGAD and EAC) explored the pivotal roles of regional organizations in fostering peace, security, and development in the Horn of Africa. Diplomats, academics, and think-tank leaders discussed how IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and the EAC (East African Community) contribute to conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and regional integration. The discussion highlighted IGAD's efforts in mediating conflicts and coordinating humanitarian aid, as well as the EAC's role in promoting economic integration and cross-border cooperation. Panelists stressed the need for these organizations to enhance their collaboration, streamline their peacekeeping operations, and leverage their influence to drive sustainable development and regional stability.

Panelists



**MR. ABDULLAHI
M. YAHIE**

Senior Economist & Development
Expert (Retiree and Consultant)



**FELISTUS
KANDIA**

Research Fellow at
MRPC



**ABDIRISAK MUKHTAR
ABDIRAHMAN**

a Fiscal Analyst at the
Somali Federal Parliament.



**ABDIRIZAK ADEN
MUHUMED**

PhD candidate in the Department
of Political Studies at University of the
Witwatersrand (Wits)

Moderator



JOHN MWANGI, PHD

Researcher, Peace and
Conflict Studies Lecturer at
St. Paul's University
Limuru, Kenya.



ANNE-FRANTZ DOLLIN

Doctoral student at University
Paris 8, Junior Fellow at the
Open Diplomacy
Institute.



Foreign Meddling, Proxy Wars, and External Influence in the Horn of Africa

The panel addressed the impact of foreign meddling, proxy wars, and external interventions on the Horn of Africa's stability. This panel critically examined the significant influence of external actors in the Horn of Africa, focusing on how foreign military interventions and proxy wars exacerbate conflicts in the region. Scholars, government officials, and experts from international organizations offered insights into how various global powers pursue strategic interests by supporting rival factions or intervening militarily, thereby destabilizing local governments. The discussion highlighted the need for stronger regional diplomacy to counter these external pressures and protect sovereignty. Panelists also called for international cooperation that respects local peacebuilding efforts and reduces dependency on foreign powers, promoting long-term regional stability and self-sufficiency.

Panelists

KEY STATEMENT	 FAISSAL ABDI ROBLE Prolific Writer & Extensive Commentator on the HoA Affairs	 DR. TUNÇ DEMİRTAŞ. Foreign Policy Researcher at SETA	 PROF. PHILLIP O. NYUNGURO Associate Professor of Political Science & Public at the UoN, Kenya.	 DR. FATUMA AHMED ALI Associate Professor of International Relations at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS) of the USIU-A, Kenya. Moderator
	 ISMAIL NUMAN TELCI Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations at ORMER	 AHMED MOHAMOUD MOHAMED Independent researcher technocrat, & lecturer on political science.	 Amb. SOLOMON K. MAINA, MBS, Foreign Policy Research Fellow at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy	

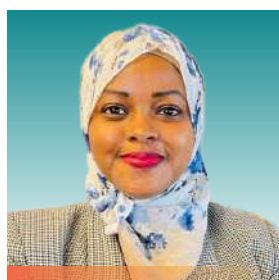


PANEL DISCUSSION: 5

Climate Change and its Impact on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa

The panel on Climate Change and its Impact on Peace and Development highlighted how climate change exacerbates conflict and hinders development in the Horn of Africa. Former government officials, UN staff, and environmental researchers discussed the region's vulnerability to climate-related challenges such as droughts, floods, and food insecurity. They emphasized the urgent need to integrate climate resilience into peacebuilding efforts, advocating for policies that address both environmental and socio-economic impacts. The discussion underscored the importance of developing adaptive strategies that enhance community resilience, promote sustainable resource management, and mitigate climate-induced conflicts. The panel called for coordinated regional and international support to ensure that climate adaptation measures are incorporated into broader peace and development initiatives.

Panelists



**BISHARO ALI
HUSSEIN**

Policy, Gender, and
Migration Expert - UN



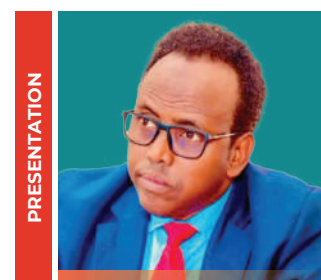
DENIS MUNIU

Research Fellow
GLOCEPS



**DR MAIMUNA
MOHAMUD**

Discussant



DR. ADAM AW HIRSI

Director at Foresight for Practical
Solutions, a research and action
Institute specializing in
Public policy.

Moderator



**RAUDHAT
SADDAM**

Researcher at Horn
International Institute



ALI IBRAHIM, PHD

Acacia Dialogue
Center



BRAVIN ONDITI

Research Assistant at The
HORN International Institute
for Strategic Studies



PANEL DISCUSSION: 6

The Role of Media and Freedom Movements in Democracy

The panel on The Role of Media and Freedom Movements in Democracy examined how digital media has transformed democratic activism, particularly in authoritarian regimes. Freedom movement leaders, media professionals, and academics discussed the pivotal role of digital platforms in amplifying dissenting voices and mobilizing grassroots movements. They highlighted how social media and digital communication tools have enabled activists to bypass state-controlled media, organize protests, and advocate for democratic reforms. The panel also explored the challenges faced by digital freedom movements, such as censorship, surveillance, and online harassment. Panelists stressed the need for robust digital rights protections and international support to safeguard freedom of expression and bolster democratic participation.

Panelists

KEY STATEMENT



ADANI HIRMOGE
ONLF Spokesperson



SHAFII IBRAHIM
Head of Journalism & Communication Dept MU



GORDON ODHIAMBO
Executive Director, Africa Center for Diplomatic Affairs



USAME MOHAMED MUHUMAD
MP, FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives
Moderator



ASHA BONAYA LIBAN
Young leader, passionate about Youth, peace & security agenda.



GEORGE MACHARIA WAITHIRA
Discussant

PANEL DISCUSSION: 7

The Role of Civil Society Organizations and Public Diplomacy in Promoting Regional Integration

The panel on The Role of Civil Society Organizations and Public Diplomacy in Promoting Regional Integration focused on how grassroots and diplomatic efforts drive regional unity and peace in the Horn of Africa. Representatives from community-based organizations, women's groups, and youth movements discussed their pivotal roles in fostering cross-border cooperation and social cohesion. They highlighted initiatives such as cross-cultural exchanges, regional advocacy campaigns, and collaborative projects that build trust and address shared challenges. The panel emphasized the importance of empowering civil society to influence policy-making and promote inclusive dialogue. Public diplomacy efforts were also underscored as essential for enhancing regional integration by bridging gaps between governments and communities, advocating for joint regional initiatives, and creating platforms for mutual understanding and collaboration.

Panelists

KEY STATEMENT



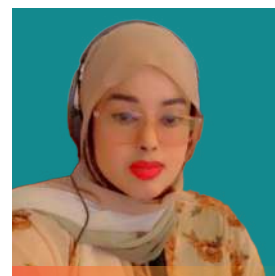
AMINA HAJI
CEO and Co-founder
SPNEA



**ISMAIL YUSUF
OSMAN**
Chairman of the Somali Academy
of Science, Culture and Arts.



**MOHAMED ISMAIL
MOHAMED**
Veteran, Puntland
Statesman and Education
Advocate



**IFRAH A.
FARAH**
Founder and CEO of
Midnimo Women
Network

Moderator



**MR. JEREMY
ORONJE**
Research Assistant, Horn
International Institute.



MR AHMED ABDI
Co-founder and the
Director of HAIPS.

Breakout Sessions and Workshops

The conference also featured various breakout sessions, where smaller groups of experts discussed specialized topics in depth. These sessions allowed participants to exchange ideas and brainstorm actionable solutions on issues like:

- **Women's Role in Conflict Resolution**

This session focused on the essential role of women in peace processes, highlighting their unique perspectives and contributions. Participants discussed strategies to enhance women's involvement in decision-making, emphasizing the need for gender-inclusive policies to strengthen conflict resolution efforts across the region.

- **Youth Involvement in Peacebuilding**

Experts explored the importance of engaging youth in peacebuilding initiatives, recognizing them as key agents of change. Discussions centered on creating opportunities for youth participation in governance and peace processes, ensuring their voices are heard, and empowering them to drive positive transformations in their communities.

- **Economic Partnerships for Regional Growth**

This session addressed the potential of economic partnerships to bolster regional integration and development. Panelists discussed strategies for enhancing trade, fostering cross-border investments, and leveraging economic collaboration to support peace and stability, emphasizing the role of economic growth in mitigating conflict and improving regional prosperity.

These sessions encouraged deeper interaction among participants and generated innovative ideas for addressing the region's challenges.



Networking Opportunities

Throughout the two-day conference, ample opportunities were provided for participants to network and form meaningful collaborations. Informal roundtable discussions and social gatherings facilitated the exchange of ideas and the development of partnerships that will continue beyond the conference. These connections are expected to strengthen efforts toward achieving peace and security in the Horn of Africa.



Outcomes and Resolutions

Several key outcomes and resolutions emerged from the conference:

1. Commitment to Regional Collaboration: Participants at the conference emphasized the need for continued collaboration among governments, civil society organizations, and regional entities to tackle shared challenges in the Horn of Africa, particularly terrorism, climate change, and external interference. The threat of violent extremism, especially from groups like Al-Shabaab, necessitates joint efforts in intelligence-sharing and counterterrorism strategies. Civil society's role in preventing radicalization was also acknowledged. Climate change, a growing concern, calls for coordinated regional policies that integrate environmental resilience with peacebuilding. Participants urged regional bodies like IGAD and the African Union to lead climate adaptation initiatives. Additionally, foreign interference and proxy conflicts require a united regional diplomatic front to protect sovereignty and reduce external meddling. Economic integration and cultural diplomacy were identified as key strategies for promoting peace, with regional organizations such as

the East African Community (EAC) playing a pivotal role in fostering economic ties, trust, and stability across borders.

2. Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism: Stakeholders at the conference highlighted the need for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in the Horn of Africa. They stressed the importance of collaboration between governments, security agencies, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and local communities. Key strategies discussed included addressing the root causes of radicalization, such as poverty, unemployment, and political marginalization, alongside strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms.

Empowering youth and women, promoting education, and enhancing community engagement were seen as essential to building resilience against extremism.

Additionally, participants called for policies that promote social inclusion and reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies.

3. Climate Change and Peacebuilding:

Participants emphasized the vital connection between climate change and peacebuilding, recognizing that environmental sustainability plays a critical role in maintaining peace in the Horn of Africa. Climate-induced challenges like droughts, floods, and food insecurity exacerbate conflicts and displacement, making climate resilience essential for long-term stability. Stakeholders called for integrated policies that simultaneously address climate adaptation and conflict resolution. They proposed regional cooperation on sustainable agriculture, water management, and disaster preparedness to reduce resource-based conflicts. Civil society was urged to lead awareness campaigns, while governments and regional bodies like IGAD were encouraged to implement climate-sensitive peacebuilding strategies across vulnerable communities.

4. Empowerment of Women and Youth:

The conference emphasized the crucial role of women and youth in peacebuilding, acknowledging that their involvement is essential for sustainable peace. Participants called for increased efforts to empower these groups by actively involving them in decision-making processes at local, national, and regional levels. Recommendations included creating

leadership programs, offering skills training, and ensuring that peacebuilding initiatives are inclusive of gender and youth perspectives. Additionally, participants urged governments and civil society to prioritize policies that promote social, economic, and political empowerment for women and youth, recognizing their potential as agents of change in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict recovery efforts.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

While the conference achieved its objectives, several challenges were noted:

- **Complexity of Issues:** The wide range of topics discussed highlighted the complexity of the region's challenges, underscoring the need for sustained, multi-faceted approaches to conflict resolution.
- **Logistical Challenges:** Organizing an event of this scale, with participants from multiple countries and continents, presented logistical challenges that will inform future events.

Conclusion

The inaugural "Annual Peace" Conference hosted by the East African Institute for Peace and Governance was a resounding success. The event provided a vital platform for stakeholders to engage in critical dialogue, exchange ideas, and propose concrete solutions to the peace and security challenges in the Horn of Africa. The diversity of participants from five continents and the range of topics discussed contributed to the richness of the conversations, and the outcomes of the conference are expected to guide future efforts in promoting sustainable peace and development in the region.

1st Annual Peace Conference in Numbers



2
Days
Event



100
Participants



15
Speakers



5
Guest
of Honors



4
Embassies



7
Panel
Discussions



7
Moderators



42
Panel
Participants

Main Partners of the Conference



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Research Papers Presented at the Conference

1. Enhancing Trade Facilitation for Regional Economic Integration withing IGAD: Challenges and Strategies - **Felistus Kandia**, Research Fellow at Mashariki Research and Policy Center.
2. Gen Z Protest and the Role of Media. - **Asha Bonaya Liban**, Award winning young leader passionate about youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda.
3. Egypt's Quest for Influence in East Africa: Motives, Instruments, and Challenges – **Ismail Numan Telci**, Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations and Lecturer at the Middle East Institute (ORMER) Sakarya University, Turkiye.
4. IGAD's Representation in Brussels: a tool for better regional integration? - **Anne-Frantz Dollin**, PhD Studnet in Political Science (CRESPPA LabTop - University Paris 8)
5. The quest for Political Integration in the East African Community: An assessment 20 years later - **John Mwangi, PHD**, Research, Peace and Conflict Studies, Lecturer at St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.
6. Understating the Gulf State's Foreign Policy in Somalia: Present and Future Implications – **Ahmed Mohamoud Mohamed**, Independent Researcher, Technocrat and Lecturer at the Political science department of the City University of Mogadishu.
7. Marginalized but Critical: The Impact of Climate Change on Women's Peace-building Efforts in Somalia, **Bisharo Ali Hussein**, Policy, Gender and Migration Expert, United Nations
8. The Economic Impact of Somalia Joining the East African Community: An Analysis from a Review Perspective. – **Abdirisak Mukhtar Abdirahman**, a Fiscal Analyst at the Somali Federal Parliament.
9. A Nexus Between State Capacity and Peace-building in Somalia – **Abdillahi Nadif**, Managing Director of Hilaac Research Development Centre (HIRAD).
10. Indirect Rule and Violent "reinvention" of governance in Ethiopia's Somali Regional State – **Abdirizak Aden Muhumed**, PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits).
11. The Nexus of Piracy in the Indian Ocean and Terror Threats: The need for an Enhanced Security Structure in the East African Community – **Ali Qadar Warjiid**, Experienced Somali Diplomat and Political Officer, and **Abdinur Abdella**, Experienced Project Officer and Community Development Specialist.

Research Papers Presented at the Conference

12. An Analysis of Turkiye's Peace and Security Policies in the Horn of Africa – **Dr Tunc Demirtas**, Foreign Policy Researcher at SETA.
13. The Long-standing Conflicts Between Ethiopia and Somalia and Their Impact on the Ogaden Region – **Adani Hirmoge**, Spokesperson of the Ogaden Liberation Front (ONLF).
14. The Climate Security Nexus: Climate Crisis in Somalia and Global Security Implications – **Dr Adam Aw Hirsi**, Director of Foresight for Practical Solutions.
15. "The Ethiopian State: A Rogue Leviathan with a Savage Streak: Why Peace and Sustainable Development Eluded Ethiopia" - **Professor Hassan Keynan**, Former professor and retired senior United Nations official who worked in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Author, poet, and blogger.



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