



Call for Papers

Enhancing the Effectiveness of Customary Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is home to a number of ethnic groups with respective customs of conflict resolution. Most or all of these ethnic groups have two or more of these customary institutions, making the country a host of rich institutions for addressing intra and inter-group conflicts. Since time immemorial, the ethnic communities have relied on these institutions to prevent conflicts and resolve when they occur. Yet, since recently the country is struggling with recurring and brutal conflicts that involve ethnic factors. Conflicts erupt sporadically and news of violence is in the headline of local and international news. The volatile situation has not changed for years and several government attempts to address the root causes of mass atrocity and conflicts is not as effective as it is necessary.

Literature on customary conflict resolution mechanisms is preoccupied with documentation of these institutions, and some with the relationship between the state courts and these customary conflict resolutions mechanisms. Studies have not addressed at least enough the role and effectiveness of these institutions in the current ethnic based conflicts. It is clear that sustainable peace building efforts in Ethiopia cannot be realized without a systematic and effective participation of customary conflict resolution mechanisms. It is therefore important to understand the current status of these institutions in conflict resolution and peace building and devise mechanisms for their enhanced and effective participation. This cannot be in turn understood without a systematic and focused research on this particular topic, thus this call for research papers.

The Ministry of Peace in collaboration with the Institute of Ethiopian Studies of Addis Ababa University and Arba Minch University is seeking papers that investigate the current status of customary conflict resolution mechanisms in Ethiopia. The contributors are encouraged to use the following illustrative, not exhaustive, questions to develop their papers: Why is the country so well known for its rich cultural values of conflict prevention and resolution face such recurrent conflicts structured along ethnic lines? Are the customary institutions making their level best to avert these conflicts and settle them when they occur? If so, how much are they effective in their traditional role? Are there some factors which make customary institutions no longer as effective as they used to be in the past? What can be done to enhance the role of these institutions without intrusion into their traditional jurisdiction? We encourage papers which are engaged in an in-depth investigation of conflict resolution mechanisms of a certain community in relationship to the current social and political context of the country.

In addition to the above guideline and concept note, contributors are advised to take note of the following important dates and further information:

- **February 16, 2023** – deadline for submission of abstracts (500 words). Please include contact detail of an author(s) for future correspondence for notification of results. Please submit your abstracts to the following cumulative address: d2amsalu@yahoo.com and yirgie@gmail.com
- **February 21, 2023** – Authors whose abstracts are selected will be notified of results of acceptance.
- **March 22, 2023** – Deadline for authors whose abstracts are selected to submit full papers
- **April 27 and 28, 2023** – Workshop at Arba Minch University. Contributors whose papers are selected will be required to do a presentation in person.
- The Ministry of Peace will pay a modest honorarium in installments for successful proposals.
- Papers that will survive a double-blind peer review process will be published in the Journal of Ethiopian Studies.
- Contributions can be made in Amharic or English



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