

# CALL FOR POLICY PAPERS

**Promoting Regional Stability:  
The Importance of Rules-Based Cooperation,  
Trade, and Peace in the Horn of Africa.**

Conference dates : 4 to 6 November 2024

Location: Djibouti

Contact: [callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org](mailto:callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org)

## About the Heritage Institute

Since its inception 12 years ago, the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) has revolutionized the policy landscape in Somalia. As the country's pioneering think tank, HIPS has fostered a culture of evidence-based policymaking, earning respect and recognition both locally and internationally. HIPS operates on three main pillars: research action, policy dialogue forums, and capacity-building initiatives. The three pillars aim to guide Somalia's peace, state-building, and policy agendas.

## About the Annual Forum for Ideas

The Annual Forum for Ideas (AFI) is HIPS's flagship program, providing an interactive platform for policymakers, practitioners, business leaders, civil society, academia, and activists. The AFI unites participants from across Somalia, the Horn of Africa, and the Somali diaspora to engage in dialogue, share insights, and develop collaborative solutions. It has become a cornerstone for advancing policy deliberations and democratic engagement in the region.

## The Eighth Edition of AFI (AFI2024)

The Eighth Edition of AFI organized by HIPS in collaboration with the University of Djibouti and the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches de Djibouti (CERD), under the auspices of His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh, the President of the Republic of Djibouti, will focus on the critical importance of rules-based cooperation, trade, and peace in promoting regional stability in the Horn of Africa. This year's conference aims to address the pressing challenges and opportunities related to regional stability and cooperation.

## Key Themes:

### **1. Exploring International Law on Relations Between Landlocked and Maritime States:**

Analyzing international legal principles governing state sovereignty and port usage, including existing agreements and frameworks like UNCLOS.

### **2. The Role of Trade in Regional Cooperation:**

Exploring how trade can serve as a catalyst for regional integration and cooperation, using the East African Community as a case study.

### **3. Alternatives to Conflicts: Rules-Based Cooperation:**

Discussing the significance of establishing and adhering to rules-based frameworks for regional cooperation to ensure mutual benefits and shared prosperity.

#### 4. Peace and Security:

Addressing the broader implications of conflicts in the Horn of Africa, including civil wars, insurgencies, and potential state conflicts, and their impact on regional stability.

#### 5. Case Studies and Best Practices:

Learning from successful examples of regional cooperation in other parts of the world and identifying best practices for the Horn of Africa.

### Format of the Conference:

The conference will feature senior officials from Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, including keynote speeches, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. HIPS invites scholars, experts, and practitioners to submit peer-reviewed academic papers. Distinguished speakers from the region and beyond will share their insights, followed by interactive sessions for in-depth discussions and collaborative problem-solving.

### Submission Guidelines:

**Abstract:** Submit an abstract between 300-500 words, encapsulating the main argument, research methodology, and crucial recommendations.

**Paper Length:** Submissions should range from 3,000 to 5,000 words, references included.

**Formatting:** Utilize Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spacing, and one-inch margins.

**Language:** Acceptable submission languages are Somali and English; however, those submitted in Somali must be accompanied by an English abstract.

**Originality:** Ensure originality in your work with proper citations. Plagiarized submissions will face immediate disqualification. Previously published paper will not be accepted.

Abstracts by researchers with master's and PhD degrees and with at least one previously published work will be considered.

**Biography:** Include a concise bio (max. 150 words) outlining your academic and professional experience.

**Review Process:** Each paper will be subjected to a meticulous peer review process, with selections made based on academic merit and alignment with the objectives and themes of AFI2024.

**We look forward to your contributions. To submit, please send your work to [callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org](mailto:callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org).**

## Important Dates:

- Deadline for Abstract Submission: **05 Sep 2024**
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance: **10 September 2024**
- Deadline for Full Paper Submission: **10 October 2024**
- Notification of Paper Acceptance: **25 October 2024**
- Conference Dates: **4 to 6 November 2024**

## Expected Outcomes:

### 1. Enhanced Understanding:

A comprehensive understanding of how Horn of Africa countries can collectively promote regional stability through rules-based cooperation, trade, and peace.

### 2. Policy Recommendations:

Concrete policy recommendations for promoting rules-based cooperation, trade, and peace in the region.

### 3. Strategic Frameworks:

Development of strategic frameworks for preventing regional conflicts and fostering long-term stability and prosperity through economic collaboration and trade while protecting sovereignty.

### 4. Networking:

Strengthened networks among policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders, facilitating ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

## Conclusion:

The Heritage Institute's Annual Forum for Ideas (AFI) serves as a deliberative platform for advancing peace, stability, and economic development in the Horn of Africa. The centrality of Somalis in the Horn of Africa, given their dominance in Somalia and Djibouti and significant presence in Kenya and Ethiopia, positions them as anchors and unifiers in the region. By fostering rules-based cooperation and collaborative efforts, the AFI aims to address critical regional challenges and unlock the region's full potential. HIPS and its partners invite all stakeholders to participate in this transformative event, contributing to a sustainable future marked by shared prosperity and lasting stability. Join us in this essential endeavor to create a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow.

NB: We would like to inform you of a change in the participation guidelines for the Annual Forum for Ideas and invite the Institute's esteemed friends and interested parties to take part. Starting this year, all participants will be responsible for covering their own expenses following the receipt of the official invitation. However, researchers who submit their full papers on time and receive approval from the Call for Papers review committee will have their full expenses covered.