

Call For Papers

HESPI Conference on IGAD Economies 2016

“Imperatives for Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals”

Preload:

The Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Regional Economic Community comprises 8 member states with combined GDP of USD 218 billion and population of 250 million (World Bank, 2015). The region has been characterized by low socio-economic performance for many years, but has experienced a turnaround in the last two decades when most countries recorded impressive economic performance. Since the year 2000, these economies have grown at annual average rate of 5.9 percent. Accordingly, maintaining high growth is a prerequisite to ensure sustainable development in the region.

Progress in meeting the MDGs has been made by many IGAD countries; including in universal primary education, child and maternal health, and poverty reduction goals. However, owing to the pervasiveness and structural nature of the problems, much remains to be done as poverty and malnutrition are still prevalent. Although basic educational and health outreach have improved in many countries in the region, access remains low to good quality health and higher educational. It is crucial to bring broad-based sustainable development for the region. In line with this, the HESPI conference on IGAD economies in 2016 would be framed against the background of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that establish targets to be pursued by all countries through 2030.

About the HESPI Conference on IGAD Economies:

In view of the promising recent development in the IGAD community and the many challenges that member states face, it is essential to have a platform for researchers to discuss the progress made and the challenges that are faced. The annual conference on IGAD economies is such a platform initiated by the Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI) and its partners in 2014. It is believed that the conference offers such a unique avenue for researchers, policymakers and development practitioners from the region and the world at large to debate economic and social issues of concern for the region.

The main objectives of the conference on IGAD Economies is to:

- offer a unique venue for researchers, policy makers and development practitioners to discuss and debate important economic, and social issues of relevance to the region.
- contribute to the economic, and social development of the region through promotion and advancement of scientific research on economic, and social policies and related issues.
- promote knowledge generation, management, and dissemination as an important driver of policy dialogue, and good policy implementation in the region

The first HESPI sponsored conference on *“Economic, and Social Developments in the IGAD region in 2014”* and the second on *“Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction in IGAD Region in 2015”*, were successfully conducted in, Addis Ababa.

HESPI Conference on IGAD Economies 2016:

This year’s planned conference on IGAD economies will be held on **24-25 October 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. And it will be open to pertinent economic and social research policy issues aligned with the 17 SDG goals the UN has set and their implications for the economies of the IGAD region. In particular, priority is placed on research outputs on the following specific thematic areas and the related sustainable development goals:

- *Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition.* Papers that serve as policy inputs to realizing the goals set in the SDGs to end poverty in all its forms, eliminate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture pertaining to the IGAD.
- *Ensuring Quality Education.* Papers centered around the challenges and prospects to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; on institutional requirements to do so; and on measurement of educational justice and related issues.
- *Productive Work and Economic Growth.* Papers that delve into labor market characteristics and implications to promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work.
- *Industrialization, Innovation, and Infrastructure.* Papers on policies to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

The Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute and its partners, thus, invite interested participants to submit original research papers related to the four thematic areas listed above. We are open to contributions that use rigorous and policy oriented studies aligned to poverty, hunger and malnutrition; educational quality and access; productive work and economic growth; and industrialization, innovation, and infrastructure. We also encourage papers that draw lessons from the Millennium Development Goals and on the challenges and prospects ahead for the SDGs. The papers need to focus on issues of broader impact and related to IGAD economies or lessons from other low income economies in Africa and elsewhere. Young researchers from Africa and the IGAD region, in particular, are encouraged to submit their research findings.

Policy Panel Discussions:

HESPI also invites researchers and policymakers to prepare policy focused papers on the following topics to be considered for panel presentations.

i. ***“Local Capacities and initiatives to Combat Climate Change and Implications to Realizing Sustainable Development in the IGAD.”*** The region is often affected by recurrent drought, floods, and associated climate change issues. The panel will assess the challenges pertaining to adaptations and mitigations and will distill strategic and policy recommendations.

ii. ***“Institutional Imperatives to Create Developmental and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development in the IGAD.”*** The panel is expected to discuss issues related to promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; access to justice for all, and build effective, responsive and accountable institutions to deliver equitable public services and inclusive development at the central and local levels.

Submission procedures and deadlines:

All interested researchers should send the abstract of their paper by 31 May 2016 to hespi@igadec.com or gashaw.tsegaye@hespi.org. Abstracts should include the research issues, state the methodologies and data to be utilized, and indicate the relevance of the findings to sustainable development policy making. Abstracts selection will be made based on the rigor of the studies and policy relevance to the SDGs. Researchers will be notified about acceptance of abstracts by mid. June 2016. Authors with accepted abstracts should send the first draft of the full paper by 31 August 2016 and the final paper by 30 September 2016. Papers that do not meet minimum required standards could be rejected at any stage.

Important dates:

✓ <i>Abstract</i>	<i>31 May 2016</i>
✓ <i>Notification of acceptance</i>	<i>15 June 2016</i>
✓ <i>Deadline for first draft submission</i>	<i>31 August 2016</i>
✓ <i>Deadline for submission of final papers</i>	<i>30 September 2016</i>
✓ <i>Conference Date (2 days) in Addis Ababa</i>	<i>24-25 October 2016</i>

Papers accepted through this call for papers for presentation would be considered for publication in the conference proceedings, and, if selected, as a Working Paper for the Institute. The conference is open to researchers from academia, policy makers, and other development change agents. The conference will be held in English, and simultaneous translation will not be available.

Financial support:

Authors of papers accepted for presentation should indicate if they require financial support to cover expenses (full or partial) associated with their participation at the Conference. Only one author per accepted paper will be eligible for support, and priority will be provided to presenters from the region.