



Hiraad Institute
for Public Policy Studies.
Igniting Ideas. Shaping Tomorrow.



HADAF
Forum **2025**

1st Hiraad annual Dialogue Forum (HADAF), 2025

From margins to mainstream: questioning center and periphery context in the Somali region's policy, development and resilience

Conference date: September, 10-13, 2025

Location: Jigjiga SRS, Ethiopia

Contact: Contact@hiraadinstitute.com



About Hiraad Institute

Established in June 2024, Hiraad Institute stands as a beacon of knowledge production and a platform of charting local narratives in the Somali region of Ethiopia. This non-partisan, non-profit think tank prioritizes rigorous research and discussion on critical issues facing the region. Policy and governance, peacebuilding, pastoralism and agriculture, climate change, economic development, religion and culture, social cohesion, history and heritage are all within Hiraad's focus, ensuring a comprehensive approach to regional challenges. By translating complex research findings into actionable recommendations, the Institute bridges the gap between academia, policy makers, and the public

Hiraad aspires to not only inform policymakers but also empower Somali region community. The Institute fosters a culture of inquiry, encouraging public's active participation in the development process. Collaboration is key to Hiraad's mission. Partnerships with government agencies, international organizations, and local entities will ensure that Hiraad's research has a tangible impact on the ground.

Hiraad strives to be the leading center for evidence-based policy research in the Somali region. By upholding principles of objectivity, inclusivity, and transparency, the Institute aims to contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous, and just future for Somali region, Ethiopia and the entire Somali peninsula.

About Hiraad Annual Dialogue Forum (HADAF)

HADAF is a major annual event that brings together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, concerned citizens, and community leaders from across the Somali region and beyond. The forum focuses on sharing research findings, discussing contemporary development challenges and opportunities, and fostering collaboration on solutions.

Themes and sub-themes:

1. Contemporary social and political dynamics

- Governance, decentralization, and federalism
- Somali clan dynamics, politics, and identity
- Conflict resolution, and peacebuilding,
- Inter and intra regional conflicts and cross-border relations
- National dialogue, reconciliation and its implications
- Somali region Gas and Oil exploration: its political and scio-economic dynamics, environmental impact and resource governance

2. Roots of Identity: History and memories of the Somali region

- Historical narratives and identity formation
- Colonial and post-independence/colonial histories
- The past, and present of histories of the struggle for self determination
- Centre-periphery debates in historical perspective

3. Education and Youth Development

- Mediating quality education, access and literacy challenges in the Somali region
- Recent reforms in the federal education system and their implications
- Youth empowerment, TVET and skills development
- Early Child Care Education and the Somali region

4. Pastoral Livelihoods and Economic Development

- Pastoralism, agro-pastoralism, and sustainable livelihoods
- Natural resource management in pastoral areas
- Market access, infrastructure, and commercial pastoralism
- Inflation, and eroding purchasing power of pastoralists
- Recent humanitarian cuts, and their implications for the Somali pastoralists
- Climate smart agriculture and innovative approaches to pastoral livelihoods

5. Food Security, Health, and Nutrition in Pastoral Contexts

- One Health in pastoral areas
(linking human, animal, and environmental health)
- Food security challenges in the context of pastoral areas
- Nutrition literacy and targeted nutrition interventions in pastoral communities
- Health equity and equality among the pastoral communities in the SR
- Institutional and legal frameworks affecting healthcare provision in pastoral areas

6. Environmental Challenges and Climate Resilience

- Drought, water scarcity, and climate adaptation strategies
- Sustainable resource use and conservation efforts
- Climate change impacts on livelihoods and migration
- Disaster risk reduction and the role of early warning systems

7. Horn of Africa initiative

- Connecting Somali region to the broader horn; prospects and challenges
- Economic, trade and investment integration for sustainable growth
- Human capital and infrastructural development

Important Dates:

Abstract submission date: July 25, 2025

Full paper submission date: August 30, 2025

Tentative forum date: September, 10-13, 2025