

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## CALL FOR PAPERS & FILMS BUILDING ON COMMUNAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN SOMALIA

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The Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC) is a local non-governmental organization based in Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia. PDRC's mandate is to conduct research, analysis, and advocacy on peacebuilding, security, governance, respect of human rights and development issues in Puntland and Somalia. PDRC aims to contribute to evidence-based policy making and programming to foster peacebuilding and state-building in the region with support from local, national, and international stakeholders.

PDRC has been actively engaged in peace and state-building efforts in Puntland and Somalia through various initiatives. It has conducted research and analysis on conflict drivers, governance structures, and the challenges to development in the region. PDRC has also facilitated dialogues and consultations among stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, religious leaders, women's umbrellas, traditional leaders, as well as marginalized and disadvantaged communities, to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts and enhance social cohesion.

Furthermore, PDRC has contributed to peacebuilding efforts by providing platforms for dialogue, reconciliation, and trust-building among different clans and communities in Puntland and Somalia. It has facilitated inter-clan dialogues, peace conferences, and community-based conflict resolution mechanisms to promote peaceful coexistence and reduce violence.

Therefore, the center is honored to announce a Call for Papers for the upcoming peace conference on "Building Communal Peace and Reconciliation in Somalia" to be held in Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia, in August 2023. We invite researchers, peacebuilding practitioners, supporters, actors, as well as academicians to submit papers, presentations, and films that highlight their experiences and lessons learned in the field of peacebuilding in Somalia.

Somalia has experienced decades of conflict and instability, leading to widespread violence, displacement, and suffering among its communities. However, amidst the challenges, there have been inspiring efforts towards building peace and reconciliation at the grassroots level, with local communities taking ownership of the process. PDRC builds on the notion that home-made solutions are pivotal in promoting sustainable reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. This conference aims to bring together practitioners and experts who have been working on peacebuilding initiatives in Somalia to share their successes, challenges, and best practices in building communal peace and reconciliation.

We are particularly interested in papers, presentations and films that focus on the following topics:

1. Tested and Potential Local peacebuilding approaches: Sharing experiences of successful community-led peacebuilding initiatives in Somalia, including traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, local governance models, and grassroots peacebuilding strategies.

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2. Women, youth, and marginalized groups in peacebuilding: Exploring the roles and contributions of women, youth, and marginalized groups in building communal peace and reconciliation, including their participation in decision-making processes, leadership roles, efforts to address gender-based violence, and their overall contribution to peacebuilding. The paper should preferably speak to one group e.g. Women or Youth.
3. Innovative methodologies and practices: Showcasing innovative methodologies, tools, and practices in peacebuilding, such as participatory approaches, dialogue processes, and community-based interventions, and their impact on building sustainable peace. Papers entailing the integration and exploitation of technology in peacebuilding are highly encouraged.
4. Lessons learned and best practices: Reflecting on the lessons learned, challenges faced, and best practices in peacebuilding initiatives in Somalia, including strategies for sustaining peace, overcoming obstacles, and promoting social cohesion.
5. Role of external actors: Analyzing the role of external actors, including international organizations, donor agencies, and regional entities, in supporting peacebuilding efforts in Somalia, and examining the opportunities and challenges of external interventions.
6. Films on peacebuilding: We also invite short films/documentaries that highlight the efforts, stories, and impact of peacebuilding initiatives in Somalia, capturing the diverse perspectives and experiences of communities, practitioners, and actors involved in the process.

Selected papers, presentations, and films will be presented at the peace conference in Garowe, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and learning from each other's experiences. This conference aims to foster dialogue, build partnerships, and contribute to the collective understanding of successful peacebuilding in Somalia.

All papers and films submitted will be peer-reviewed prior to publication on the PDRC Website.

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## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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### PAPER SUBMISSION

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- Abstracts or summaries of papers or presentations (maximum 500 words) should be submitted as MS Word attachments to [email address] by [submission deadline]. The abstract should clearly state the objective of the presentation, research methodologies and findings, and how they will contribute to the field.
- Author(s) name(s), institution's name(s), institution's address(es), corresponding author, email address(es) and a short bio (up to 100 words).
- Full papers or presentations should be between 3000 to 5000 words (excluding abstracts) and should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
- All papers should be in Font 'Times New Roman', Font Size 'Single spaced'.
- Each author is welcome to present up to two submissions.
- References: Papers should be well referenced in either APA or MLA styles. The authors can choose which style they prefer; however, the style used should be consistent. The list of sources should include authors' first names, according to the style guide. As far as possible, in-text references should include the page numbers of the sections referred to. In the case of direct quotations, the inclusion of exact page numbers is necessary.

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- Film submission is not a requirement for those submitting papers.

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### FILM SUBMISSION

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- A 5–7-minute trail video on a communal peace building and/or reconciliation process made by the applicant (individual/institution). The video clip must be between 5-7 minutes, with English subtitles, and MP4 format.
- All rights must have been observed in the production of the film(s)
- Paper submission is not a requirement for those submitting peace building and/or reconciliation films.

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### IMPORTANT DATES:

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- Abstract submission deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Notification of acceptance: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Full paper/presentation/film submission deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- Conference dates: 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.

We look forward to receiving your submissions. Only those selected after screening will be contacted with further instructions to participating in the peace conference in Garowe.

Thank you,

For further inquiries or information, please us contact:

[info@pdrcsomalia.org](mailto:info@pdrcsomalia.org) or [amina@pdrcsomalia.org](mailto:amina@pdrcsomalia.org)