Call for Abstracts

ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

IGAD CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (ICEPCVE)
First Annual Horn and East of Africa Regional Research Conference on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: Deepening Scientific Local Understanding of Radicalization and Violent Extremism

Date: 4th – 6th December 2019
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline for Submission: 31st July 2019
Organizer: IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) in collaboration with USAID Kenya and East Africa
Conference Languages: English and French

Context
The threat of violent extremism has grown steadily in Horn and Eastern Africa Region undermining stability and development of the states in the region. It is in this context that the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) developed a comprehensive regional strategy in 2017 to guide the generation and implementation of effective policy and action to prevent and counter violent extremism in the region.

Violent extremism is defined in the strategy as the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals. Preventing and countering this threat requires comprehensive, whole of society approach based on a deeper understanding of categories of violent extremists—including international networks, terrorist franchises, homegrown terrorists and radicalized political or criminal groups—and the specific responses required to address them.
The drivers of violent extremism are diverse and complex. Charismatic preachers, teachers and mobilizers have used powerful strategic communications, compelling messages and the promise of material and financial benefits or enhanced social status as pull factors to recruit mainly youth to their cause. Extremist groups also exploit widespread grievances against the state such as underdevelopment and poverty, lack of access to education, unemployment, corruption, real or perceived social and political exclusion, and perceived or actual injustice and discrimination that may push individuals towards violent extremism. In this regard, effectively countering the efforts of violent extremists calls for a nuanced understanding of the broad context of operation of the ‘owners of war’ exemplified by the Al-Shabaab and the bearers of grievances, also known as ‘the disenfranchised,’ who are the targets of these extremists.

This Research Conference is the first in a series of Annual Research Conferences to be held every year by the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) in collaboration with development partners. The goal is to share relevant research findings and practical experience to inform policy, strategy and programs as well as to catalyze more research to gain a deeper understanding of the drivers of violent extremism in the Horn and Eastern Africa region and to develop new ways to effectively counter it.

Please find below more information on the abstract structure and details of the themes. Each selected abstract will be given a time slot of 20 minutes to present the full paper.

For more information about ICEPCVE, visit

**Themes**

- Gender Perspective on P/CVE
- Diaspora, Migration and Violent Extremism
- P/CVE and Communication
- Role of Private Sector in P/CVE
- Ideology and VE
- Interaction among and between VEOs in and outside East Africa
- Mental and Psychosocial Health and its Interaction with VE in East Africa
- Collation of Lessons from Development Practices to Design Responses to VE
• Amnesty, Demobilization, Deradicalization and Rehabilitation in East Africa
• Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (RFTF)
• Preventing and Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism
• Roles of Families and Communities in Strengthening Community Resilience against Violent Extremism
• Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders
• Role of Education in Countering Violent Extremism
• Developing Effective Alternative and Counter-Narrative Framework for Countering Violent Extremism
• Empowering Communities for Countering Violent Extremism
• PCVE National Action Plans Development
• Empowering Youth to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (P/CVE)
• Local Push and Pull Factors Leading to Radicalization and Recruitment
• Countering the Narrative of Violent Extremists

Please be aware that these are just some guidelines. They do not preclude the possibility of hosting further thematic studies related to the fundamental topics of violent extremism and radicalization. However, submissions must be based on empirical data, policy, strategy or programs under way or directly related to the Horn and East African region.

Abstract Instructions
People interested in presenting a paper at the conference should send an abstract, of no more than 500 words (bibliography excluded), to Mr. Farah Ibrahim at the following email address: icepcve@igad.int.

Please copy farah.ibrahim@igad.int and samuel.teshale@igad.int by no later than 31st July 2019.

Headings: Times New Roman, font size 14
Main Text: Times New Roman, font size 12
Format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
Language: English
The abstract should include the following:
- Author’s/Authors’ Affiliation
- Email Address
- Themes Treated
- Title of Abstract
- Body of Abstract
- Bibliography

Please attach your curriculum vitae (in PDF format) within the same email.

Email Subject: IGAD First Annual P/CVE Research Conference 2019 – <Name> – <Title of Paper>

Upon approval of abstracts, a draft paper (maximum of 3000 words, bibliography excluded) will be requested by 16th September 2019. The language of the presentation can be English or French.

ICEPCVE will cover travel and accommodation costs for the selected speakers.

You will be notified by e-mail whether your paper has been accepted on or before 30th August, 2019.