Capacity Building Collaboration Project

Concept Note for Validation Workshop

31st January 2022

1. Introduction

The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in partnership with the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) has provided financial support for the implementation of a capacity-building project. The project is implemented in collaboration with Haramaya University, University of Obafemi Awolowo Ile-Ife, Protestant University of Central Africa, University of Hargeisa, Africa University and Addis Ababa University. The timeframe of the project is from January 2021 to December 2023.

The objective of the project is to develop research capacity in collaborating universities by supporting PhD students and post-doc peace and security researchers in their research projects. To this end, the project provides financial support and training that will help researchers to improve their research capacities; and create opportunities and platforms for researchers to expand their researches and network, which enables them to disseminate research findings to continental and international audiences.

The general objective of the research support is geared towards understanding blockages to peace and specifically focuses on: (i.) Understanding why effective accountable and inclusive institutions have not been built in conflict-affected or post-conflict societies; (ii.) The dynamics of blockages to peace construction with a primary focus on factors, actors, internal and external dynamics, including the reasons for not implementing peace deals; (iii.) Factors that hinder peace at the local, national and regional (the Horn of Africa) levels.

To date, the project has provided the following grants to PhD level students and post-doc researchers of Addis Ababa University.

1. Four research grants;
2. Three grants to publish a peer reviewed article in recognized journals;
3. Two grant to publish a policy briefs.

The project, as per outcome 4: organize validation and review workshops, output 4.2: validation of research findings by project participants and other invited institutions, intends to organize annual validation workshops. The validation workshop is intended as a platform for reviewing and validating the work of researchers supported by the project.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the validation workshop are to:

・Review the work of researchers supported by the project;
・Engage the relevant stakeholders of the project in validating research outputs; ・Receive feedback and input from stakeholders for the work conducted by researchers supported by the project.

3. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the validation workshop are:

・The provision of feedback and input to researchers from project stakeholders; ・A report of the workshop to inform a wider group of project stakeholders.

4. Participation

The validation workshop, which will be conducted in Addis Ababa at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, will convene key stakeholders of the project. The workshop participants, inter alia, will include representatives from governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and higher education and research institutions.

5. Methodology

The workshop format will include a presentation by the nine researchers supported by the project. Each presentation will be followed by Q & A and comments by the participants, which will then be addressed by the researcher. Each researcher will be given 20 minutes to present their work. The presentation will include introduction; statement of the problem; objectives; methodology; analysis and interpretation of data; and, where applicable, results, conclusion and recommendation.

6. Timeframe: 28[th]February 2022, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

7. Venue: Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University