



# HEKIMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

P. O. Box 21215  
NAIROBI, KENYA 00505  
TEL: +254 (20) 3876608/9  
+ 254 (20) 3999000  
[www.hekima.ac.ke](http://www.hekima.ac.ke)

**HIPSIR\* | HEKIMA INSTITUTE OF PEACE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATION**

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**Conference topic:**

**Extractive Industries in Africa:  
Addressing Conflicts and Integrating Sustainable Development**

**4-5 October 2016**

### INTRODUCTION

The Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), of Hekima University College, Nairobi, Kenya, will be holding a two-day international conference on **4-5 October 2016** on resource extraction in Africa with the focus on addressing conflicts and integrating sustainable development. This is in the light of new resource discoveries in the continent and the negative experiences too often in the past. The conference will explore the implications of resource extraction on economic development, environmental sustainability, community participation, revenue distribution, transparency, human rights observance, potential and existing community conflicts, legal frameworks and exit strategies. Discussions at the conference will highlight existing best practices that give evidence of improvement of quality of life from resource extraction, and the opportunities that the extractive industries create, while equally raising caution on practices that alienate parts of the population, propagate corruption and degrade the environment. The outcome of these discussion will be useful for policy formulation and implementation as well as for advocacy and inter-stakeholder conflict resolution mechanisms.

### RATIONALE

Africa is rich with a wide variety of minerals such as oil and gas, diamond, gold, uranium, nickel, coltan, and others. There is great hope that those resources will contribute to continuing economic growth and improvement of the quality of life in a number of countries. However, past experience demonstrates that the wealth generated by the extraction and sale of natural resources has not always translated into positive outcomes. In many cases it has in fact led to economic decline, poorer quality of life and protracted conflicts, hence the term, “resource curse”. The emerging extractive industries thus need to draw lessons

from the past and ensure that this industry improves national economies, protects the environment and develops effective conflict resolution mechanisms.

The international conference will bring together knowledgeable stakeholders who include government officials responsible for guiding and regulating resource extraction, private companies that carry out extraction, residents of the areas in which extraction takes place, civil society and NGO's that have experience in this field, as well as the academic community that analyses key issues and potential responses. The diverse perspectives and interests of the various stakeholders will create the opportunity for dialogue among the participants so that an understanding of the potential and existing pitfalls and appropriate policies for new resource extraction can be addressed in ways that best support the common good.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the conference include:

- a) provide an opportunity for presentation and learning to diverse stakeholders in extractive industries in order to discuss a wide variety of issues and perspectives involved in the industry
- b) dialogue over different views and interests that shape extractive industries
- c) provide an opportunity for discussion and dialogue about the conflicting interests and realities present in resource extraction industry. How do these various perspectives interact? Are they conflicting or mutually supportive? What misunderstandings might need clarification?
- d) explore diverse mechanisms in resolving conflicts between communities and extractive multinationals; governments and extractive multinationals; local investors, government and extractive multinationals
- e) come up with recommendations aimed at improving extractive industries through social accountability reflected in better legal frameworks, policy formulation and implementation, and advocacy for better conditions of life for affected populations and respect of natural resources as common good.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The conference program is designed to include keynote addresses in plenary followed by discussions; parallel sessions covering the various themes with paper presentations from resource persons/experts; and sharing of experiences; and exhibitions. The panel session will provide opportunity for dialogue among the participants. Reporters at each session will record and feed back to the conference what has been learned in the various sessions. These reports will provide the basis for discussion and proposals about future actions by each of the stakeholders. Prior to the conference potential paper presenters will submit abstracts on topics of the conference themes for consideration before making final selections.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS**

- a) develop a better mutual understanding among stakeholders of the complex effects of resource extraction
- b) produce practical, realistic and innovative approaches and recommendations for policy and action among all the stakeholders, giving each one guidance on how best to contribute to a positive outcome for resource extraction

c) generate critical analysis of the extractive industry, document major lessons learned and propose practical solutions for this very complex industry

d) look back at 20 year of the liberalization policies and competitiveness of African countries in attracting investors. This deregulation trend for the sake of attracting FDI and investment in different sectors for the sake of development has led to some ill-practices in the extractive industry. What evaluation can we make and what policy orientations can we make?

e) publish the outcomes of these discussions in the form of conference proceedings, book publication, and journal publication in HIPSIR's *African Peace Studies Journal*. Discussions will further be carried forward at HIPSIR's monthly public forum as well as in seminars and workshops.

## TOPICS

**We invite 250 word abstracts on any of the following topics:**

1. Extractive Industries and sustainable development in Africa
2. Africa's competitiveness and stakeholders negotiations at the exploration and exploitation stages
3. Resource-based conflicts and conflict resolution mechanisms
4. Local communities' welfare and extractive multinational's corporate social responsibility
5. Extractive multinational and government contract tendering: implications for the EITI principles
6. Environmental degradation/preservation, climate change (COP21) and the resource extraction industry
7. Lessons learned from the past and best practices in extractive industry
8. The Gender factor in the extractive industry
9. Role of religious leaders in the dialogue between local communities and the extractive industry
10. Role of civil society, NGOs and CSOs in the dynamics of extractive industries

Send your abstracts to: [conference.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke](mailto:conference.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke) or call +254729755905

**DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.**