



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOMALIA**  
**Theme: The Role of Democratic Governance**  
**Versus**  
**Sectarian Politics in Somalia**

**4 – 6 June 2010**

**Place: City Hall, Lund, Sweden**

The organizers have decided to complement exclusive conference with a focus on **Somalia**. We as organizers as well as a great number of Somali scholars, feel there is an urgent need to offer such a conference with exclusive attention on Somalia. The situation in Somalia is a human tragedy. The human insecurity is currently a catastrophe. Many Somalis live without any sense of protection. Basic security for Somalis does not exist. Human rights principles and people's ability to participate in democracy are almost none existent. For these reasons, we believe a conference is needed **on the role of democratic governance versus sectarian politics in Somalia**.

There are special invitations among others to political scientists, sociologists, historians, economists, lawyers, environmentalists, civil society organizations, international institutions, and policy-makers to participate in the conference. Their input and perspectives bring vital insights into democratic governance and sectarian politics in Somalia.

The challenges are to move from a collapsed state to build institutional arrangements for collective decision-making, which incorporate core values of democracy, such as inclusion, consensus building and accountability, in efforts to build and sustain peace are immeasurable in Somalia. The conference calls for inter-disciplinary papers within the following **three workshop areas**:

**Day 1**

- **Human security:**
  - Immediate-term human insecurity in Somalia
    - Preventing escalating social violence and inter-group tensions, and managing conflicts
  - Intermediate-term response
    - Human security challenges of reintegrating the displaced, pursuing justice when war crimes have been committed, and social transformation.
  - Long-term challenges (this theme fits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the conference)
    - Developing democratic institutions and processes that empower all segments of society to participate equitably in political, economic and

social life and that do not allow for social exclusion, intolerance and bigotry.

It focuses on how the Somali society at large can guarantee '*freedom from fear*' and '*freedom from want*'. What capacity is needed to provide the necessary institutions for realizing human security? What processes need to be in place to build on people's strengths and aspirations? What are the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity? What are the threats to Somali people?

### Day 2

- **Democratic governance:**

- Social and political participation (social movements and democratization)
- Governance: accountability and responsibility
- Devolution or autonomy of political power
- Interim or transitional administration

### Day 3

- **Sectarian politics:**

- Traditional values versus tribal politics
- Corrupt politics and the politics of corruption
- Formation of collective values: needs, rights and duties
- Islam, education and collective identity

Both day 2 and 3 focus on how a democratic system in Somalia can work in practice, and what it can deliver. In other words, how can Somali democracy enable human rights, physical well-being and human development? How can a Somali government guarantee and respond to collective needs, the participation of civil society in decision-making processes, or social and political accountability of the ruling classes in Somalia? It focuses on empowerment, which is the second component of human security. Empowerment of people for critical developmental outcomes such as education, health care, and opportunities for livelihood.

You are invited to send abstract which should include a working title, the author's discipline and field, address, institutional affiliation and e-mail address to the conference coordinator written below before **15th January 2010**. Deadline for the complete paper is **30 March 2010**. Papers are expected to be of high quality and follow the time limitations. All guest speakers are requested to take an inter-sectional approach to their papers. We look forward to receiving your abstract.

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**Guidelines for submitting a paper to the  
2010 international conference on  
Somalia**

The report is published both in paper and electronically (Lund University Research), which is an Open Access database as well as on SIRC website. SIRC will take care of the printing; the publisher will take care of the open access. By submitting your paper to SIRC you also agree to have this report electronically published.

Deadline for submitting abstract is 15 January 2010, and submission of the complete paper is 30 March, 2010

If your paper is coming later, we can not guarantee that it will be published in the report. The abstract and paper should be sent to Somalia International Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC).

E-mail: [sirc@zeta.telenordia.se](mailto:sirc@zeta.telenordia.se)

In addition to the paper, you have to add the following:

- Abstract, not more than 150 words.
- Keywords: it should be 5 keywords, no more, no less.
- Author presentation. Make a short presentation (max 150 words): where are you working, your title, book publication, and what project you are involved in at the moment.

Your paper will only be spell checked by the editor of the report. The content and sources of the paper you have to take care of yourself.

The publisher does not claim any copyright to your piece. That means that you are free to do whatever you want to with it even if it's published in this report as a book by Lund University.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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