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Ministry of Science and Higher Education - Ethiopia

# National Research Thematic area of Peace and Diplomacy

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## 1. Introduction

Ethiopia is a key political pressure point in world politics. The strategic importance of Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa and its proximity to the Middle East has always attracted international interest. For Ethiopia, primary concern of the diplomacy is the safeguarding of its political independence and territorial integrity. This can be achieved by strengthening relationships with the friendly states, cultivating cordial relations with the states that have so long been indifferent to it and the neutralization of the hostile forces. Ethiopian diplomacy can be commenced and new friends will be obtained through fruitful negotiations. However, the effectiveness of Ethiopia's diplomacy depends to a great extent on its strength and power.

As the fundamental political objective of Ethiopian diplomacy is to achieve its ends peacefully, all diplomatic actors of the country should have diplomatic skills that enable them to play a great amount of roles in the international political system, which is a complex web consisting of conflict, communication and cooperation. Moreover, treating peace and diplomacy together can help to manage power competition, potential confrontation, and managing threats to the international political system. The quest for global peace and security is a constant subtext in diplomatic practice. Therefore, the primary objective of multilateral diplomacy is "saving future generations from the scourge of war".

For this reason, terrorist activities and fundamentalism, identity politics, and economic, social and political grievances are among the major issues that urge Ethiopia to work more on peace and diplomacy. Furthermore, its central geographic location, huge population size, military strength and recent promising economic performance and the Nile hydro politics would also make Ethiopia a nucleus for regional integration and cooperation in the Horn of Africa. But making Ethiopia the destination of economic and trade opportunities in the Horn demands a proactive foreign policy with skillful diplomatic communication system with the neighboring countries.

Moreover, the Ethiopian Foreign Affairs and National Security Policy and Strategy (FANSPS) lists out seven main strategies that outline Ethiopia's regional diplomacy:

- a pan-Africanist legacy
- the pursuit of regional peace and security
- emerging issues and longstanding threats from the Horn of Africa and beyond

- economic diplomacy
- measures to combat terrorism and evolve strong counter-terrorism capabilities;
- the effective use of multilateral platforms, regional diplomacy and leadership in mediation by IGAD and the AU; and
- military strength and substantial participation in peace support operations

Despite significant progress on the economic sector; extreme poverty, lack of democracy, frequent conflict and diplomatic failures remain serious challenges to Ethiopia's internal political stability and external intervention in the region and beyond. Therefore, ensuring sustainable peace and enhancing Ethiopian diplomacy in line with the concepts of contemporary international relations should be the main theme of the national research strategy.

With this understanding, the national research strategy in peace and diplomacy should deal with:

- The indigenous and scientific ways of resolving or settling differences, contradictions and conflicts of the country that underline mutual tolerance, dialogue and the rule of law. This helps to live and act in a democratic environment by promoting all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the integrity of the nation. It is also important to deal with structural and unstructural conflict, functional and dysfunctional conflict, transforming negative peace into positive and guaranteeing sustainable peace in the country. Hence, the issues of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacemaking, peace building and conflict transformation are the most vital issues.
- The challenges of peace and security of the country such as the prevalence of vandalism, sectarianism, ethnocentrism, local migration, terrorism and etc... The prevalence of these problems lag behind Ethiopia's economic development, political advancement and the democratization process. Therefore, upholding the social, cultural and basic democratic principles in a scientific research can revive Ethiopia's peace and diplomacy, which makes Ethiopia a democratic and progressive nation.
- The challenges of Ethiopian diplomacy and international relations. As diplomacy and international relations are core elements in world politics, therefore, solving such challenges in scientific ways underpin a fertile ground to achieve Ethiopia's national interest and power.
- The contemporary Global Issues and Ethiopia's foreign policy such as globalism, regionalism, migration, human trafficking and arms smuggling in the Horn of Africa. As we are found in a

dynamic world; it is inevitable to adjust Ethiopia's foreign policy and international relations along with the new world order.

- Cross cutting issues

## **Theme 1:**

### **Peace and Security**

Traditionally, peace has been understood as the mere absence of war. However, war is not the only way in which people suffer. People suffer and die from other causes such as the absence of justice, high unemployment rate, chronic poverty, disease, malnutrition, exploitation, etc. Contemporarily, however, peace is the coexistence of different cultures and societies to be obtained by improved communication with others, common understanding and the ability to tolerate one another. Individual rights are guaranteed by the absence of racism and other primordial elements. Therefore, non-violent living creates a state of trust, harmony and cooperation. Moreover, the realization of peace prevents the loss of human life and capacity.

Moreover, security is a device of maintaining peace and preventing aggression. It is machinery for joint action in order to prevent or counter any attack against an established order. The underlying principle of security is that an attack on any part of a state is an attack on all parts of that state. It is a permanent arrangement that aims against any aggression anywhere.

Therefore, this theme focuses on security issues such as military security, human security, national security, information and financial security and deterrence policy. Next to this, conflict prevention, management (peacekeeping), resolution (peacemaking), peace building and conflict transformation, violence and aggression, arms proliferation, control and regulation, Justice and Security Sector Reform (SSR), Natural Resource Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism (ADRM) are important. Moreover, the theme more focuses on Peace building /Sustainable peace issues such as

#### **A. Security Issues**

- ✓ State security (Military Security or High security)
- ✓ Regime security

- ✓ Human security (Low security: food security, environment security, societal security, climate security, water security, economic security, cyber security, space security, maritime security...)
- ✓ Security dilemma,
- ✓ National security/national interest, national power
- ✓ Strategic/geopolitical issues
- ✓ National security strategies and policies
- ✓ Security threats (External, internal)
- ✓ Vulnerabilities
- ✓ Regional security complex (local security, regional security, global security)
- ✓ Security community
- ✓ Collective security
- ✓ Alliances, alignments, non-alignments
- ✓ Security-Development Nexus
- ✓ Trans-border organized crimes
- ✓ Human trafficking, child raiding,
- ✓ Money laundering
- ✓ Drug trafficking
- ✓ Arms trafficking
- ✓ Cross border resources such as trans-boundary water and related resources
- ✓ Illegal transfer of Small arms and light weapons

## **B. Peace and Conflict issues**

- Positive and negative peace
- Resource related conflicts
- Historical/social justice related or identity related conflicts
- Conflict if various types

- Ways of conflict resolution: Facilitation, Negotiation, Good Offices, Pre-mediation, Mediation, Arbitration and Adjudication
- Nationalism (all forms of Nationalism)
- Post conflict reconstruction and rebuilding
- Negotiation, negotiation skills, bilateral and multilateral negotiations
- Rule of law, good governance and democratization
- Federalism and intergovernmental relations
- History, trauma healing and reconciliation
- Justice and Peace (Just Peace – SDG goal 16)
- Grassroots, regional , national dialogue and consensus
- Culture of violence, Culture of Peace and non-violence
- Gender and peace building
- Pluralism and Diversity management
- Nation building and State building
- Art, Violence, and Peace building
- Regional Development and integration
- Media, Peace and Security

This theme also identifies challenges of peace and security in Ethiopia. It is evident that building peace and maintaining security in Ethiopia are not an easy process to undertake because of political, economic and socio-cultural factors. For this case, Ethiopia can only survive and flourish when conflict is handled systematically and carefully, and transform its devastating consequences into constructive energy. To this end, researchers need to have an advanced and systematic knowledge of handling conflict in order to build a more sustainable, stable, equitable, secured and peaceful nation; to promote a culture of peace; to create a non-violent community; as well as to establish a peace-industrial complex more helpful to the national economy, political advancement, democratization process and the nation's populations than the current culture of war and the war-industrial complex.

In addition to the above challenges of peace and security, here are understated issues

## **Challenges of peace and security**

- Sectarianism, tribalism, and ethnicism
- Violent conflict and war
- International intervention
- Insecurity and lack of rule of law
- Violent extremism, political polarization, intolerance, and superstition
- Interethnic relations and conflict
- Issues related to national dialogue, national consensus and reconciliation
- Geopolitics, geo-economics and geo-military and regional instability
- Selfish interest and xenophobia
- Federalism and its features, and intergovernmental relations
- Gender and peace building
- The relationship of peace with culture and social values
- Degraded endogenous conflict resolution mechanisms
- Common national and Trans-boundary/national resources
- Terrorism and counter-terrorism, enforcement of law
- Poverty, limited Job opportunity,
- The absence of justice, undemocratic governance system,
- Political domination, economic exploitation or unfair national resource distribution
- Military structure (limits the interdependence of central and regional governments of Ethiopia, resource wastage, promoting personal loyalty)
- Fragile governance institutions
- Weak Civil society organizations and pressure groups
- Absence of structured think tanks- to put pressure on policy inputs



## Theme 2:

### International Relations and Diplomacy

#### A. International Relations

- Principles
- Major theories and their implication for 'peaceful coexistence' in the 21st century
- Realism (might is right)
- Liberalism (institutions, human rights, ethics/morals in human relations) neoliberalism (democracy and market economy)
- Social constructivism (Respecting differences, interpretation, understanding context, pluralism, justice, human rights, equality, gender issues, feminism, greenism)
- Postmodernism, post-structuralism
- Critical realism, neorealism, subaltern realism, classical realism...
- Postcolonial, post-colonialism, decolonization as an approach
- What they all mean to the 21<sup>st</sup> century relations among the nations in practice

This theme also focuses on International Relations and diplomacy. International Relations (IR) reflect the dynamics of the International System which is a complex web with multiple but mutually functioning components and is characterized by interfacing changes and continuities. International Relations encapsulate the multivariate aspects of human beings in the global contexts. It is what can be described as 'a fusion of social science disciplines', as it deals with the basic elements of the social man; the only difference is that it looks at such essentials in relational contexts beyond national borders. What makes IR all the more distinct is its broad scope. There has always been a basis for social interactions as well as need to go beyond borders. This reinforces the thesis of the inevitability of mutuality or interdependence of human beings. So, history is replete with the interdependence of national groups, who having defined their boundaries have found one another in an unavoidable situation of mutual interaction. Such economic factors as scarcity and wants; social factors as friendship, enmity, intermarriages, expansion and land hunger; political factors as power, authority, influence and diplomacy; as well as military factors as coalition, alliance, and war; among other

factors, have defined the contexts of IR. These historical basics have also been responsible for the two fundamental or recurring elements of international politics namely, cooperation and conflict.

Diplomacy is the art of negotiation, especially of treaties between states; political skill. Moreover, diplomacy is the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between the governments of independent states. In relation to this, the word diplomacy denote at least four different things. Of these, the first four convey the ideas of: (1) foreign policy, (2) negotiation, (3) the machinery by which such negotiation is carried out and (4) a branch of the Foreign Service.

Therefore, diplomacy and International Relations require highly qualified specialists and analysts who will possess the skills to analyze and to evaluate the evolution of international relations, including the major changes and events in this dynamic global politics and the reasons for these changes. They have to identify and reconcile ever-changing norms, roles; the types of practical diplomacy used in international relations; and the skills together, update and to apply the newest scientific knowledge with the high culture of professional thinking.

Nevertheless, Ethiopia's diplomacy and International Relations is affected by the changing nature of the global politics. As new global phenomena lead to new foreign policy and diplomacy of countries, constant modifications or alteration to changing circumstances without affecting the basic substances of Ethiopia's national interest may be an important measure that foreign policy makers should work about. No static foreign policy is actually desirable since it should cope up with changing situations without compromising the core values of a state's national interest. Therefore, framing of foreign policy is perhaps the highest political function of a state. Errors in its formulations can lead to most serious repercussion. Because of its significance, the formulation of foreign policy has been the prerogative of the chief executives of a state in all ages. Moreover, the form of a state's foreign policy may be formulated, shaped and influenced by different factors depending on time and circumstances.

The most important issues here to address are Interstate Relations (Bilateral, trilateral, multilateral, relations), national interest, foreign policy, Power Relations, International/Global Order, Hegemony and Diplomacy, International Communication, Political Communication and Ethiopia's international relations and diplomacy with IGOs and MNCs.

## **B. Diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

### ➤ Principles

- Theories extended from IR and Peace/Security Studies
- Differences and similarities among peace, security, international relations and diplomacy
- Their implications for the 21<sup>st</sup> century context
- Major issues in diplomacy (listed below)

Furthermore, the theme focuses on basic practices of diplomacy such as

- Sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity
- Core national interest: security, survival, dignity and development
- Core elements of national power: geographical advantage, population, health and education, natural resources, industrial establishment, national infrastructure (technology, modern transportation systems, information and communication system, military establishment, policy makers, leaders, leadership skill, and government
- Foreign Policy
- Forms and Techniques of diplomacy
- Tracks of Diplomacy ( Track 1, Track 2, Track 3, Track 1.5 and Multi-track diplomacy)
- Diplomacy of power vs. power of diplomacy
- Diplomatic Communication and Negotiation
- Diplomatic Agreements (Treaties, Conventions, Alliances, Accords)
- Diplomatic Ethics, Protocols and Etiquettes
- Precedence, Event management and Media
- Diplomacy, Positive Nation branding and Image building
- Diplomacy and Sustainable Development
- Diplomacy and economic objectives
- Diplomacy and cultural activities
- Diplomacy and ideology
- Hydro Politics, Water Diplomacy and Negotiation
- Economic diplomacy and Resource diplomacy
- Preventive diplomacy
- Diplomatic negotiation
- Diplomacy and technology

- Trends of digital diplomacy, public diplomacy and citizens diplomacy
- Organization of Diplomatic Service
- Diplomatic and Consular Law
- Diplomats and diplomacy
- Trans-professional diplomacy
- Bilateral (between sovereign countries)
- Multilateral (between/among countries and agencies such as the UN, the AU, EU and individual countries)
- Pluri-lateral (Between sovereign states and Civil societies/NGOs, non-state actors including religious or cultural entities...)
- Conference, sports (ping-pong diplomacy), shuttle diplomacy, public diplomacy, cultural or food-related (culinary diplomacy)
- Science for and in diplomacy
- Diplomacy for science
- Digital diplomacy

The theme also gives due emphasis to new types in the modern world diplomacy such as:

- Transition or Post conflict reconstruction Diplomacy:  
The main elements of this form of diplomacy are security operations, electoral reform, reconstruction and war crimes tribunal.
- Governance Diplomacy:  
The major areas include ad hoc global environmental conferences (Habitat II and Johannesburg, the Rio follow up summit); domestic security operations by UN and other mandated forces; UN commissions e.g. on sustainable development and public service ethics (transparency, accountability, public finance accounting standards)
- Associative diplomacy  
It is assuming more importance as a result of the broadening of international agenda concerning trade, technology transfer, aviation, human rights, environment and development issue.
- Bilateral Diplomacy
- Multilateral diplomacy

- Conference Diplomacy
- Summit diplomacy

This theme also incorporates challenges of Ethiopian diplomacy and international relations. For a long period of time, Ethiopian Foreign policy was static which does not tune to change with the contemporary world politics. The foreign policy is State-centered with track I diplomacy as well as Ethiopian diplomats have lack of diplomatic and communication skills. The diplomatic approach is more of reactive rather than proactive and also the linkage between foreign policy and domestic policy is tenuous. Moreover, regional integration and development agenda is in limbo – not scientific. Therefore, to address these gaps, it identifies challenges of diplomacy and international relations

### **Challenges of diplomacy and international relations**

- State centered – track I Diplomacy and inefficient
- Lack of diplomatic Skills and tools
- Geopolitics and International intervention
- Reactive rather than proactive
- Tenuous foreign policy and domestic policy
- Poor regional integration
- Out-dated development agenda.
- Diplomatic crises (Is diplomacy profession or vocation in Ethiopia?)
- Poor Diplomatic communication and Correspondence
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not putting time bounded duties for diplomats in host country
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not providing up to dated information for diplomats in the host country.
- Weak up to dated diplomatic tools such as digital diplomacy
  - The capacity to access media ( mainstream Medias and al media) the usage of media in general
- Underdevelopment/ power

## Theme 3:

### Global Issues/ Trends and Ethiopia's Foreign Policy

A global issue is any issue or problem that adversely affects the global community and environment, possibly in a catastrophic way, including environmental issues, political crisis, health crisis, social issues and economic crisis. Solutions to global issues generally require cooperation among nations.

In this globalized world, Ethiopia cannot practice isolated political, economic and other social activities as well as it cannot formulate a unique foreign policy. What is happening in other part of the world has positive or negative effect in our national interest.

Therefore, this theme incorporates issues such as

- Interstate Relations (Bilateral, trilateral, Multilateral relations)
- Ethiopia, Inter Governmental Organizations and Multinational Corporations
- Ethiopia and the new security politics
- Ethiopia and the presence of foreign military deployment/ presence in Horn of Africa
- Power Relations, International Global Order, Hegemony and Diplomacy
- International Communication
- Political Communication
  - Political Ideology and Political Economy
  - Globalization, cyber crime
  - Global Warming and Climate Change,
  - Contemporary international crises (terrorism, Global War on Terror, piracy, counter-piracy)
  - Religion and Politics in the Global World
  - Migration, human trafficking and racism
  - Populism and Nationalism
  - Pandemic disease

## **Theme 4:**

### **Regional Cooperation and Development**

Regional cooperation between developing countries to improve transport facilities, provide commercial information, and pool efforts in such areas as energy, water supply, research and development and knowledge generation can be crucial for the success of development strategies. Regional cooperation and development is part of the long yearn goal in creating united Africa. Therefore, this theme emphasizes on issues such as

- Diplomacy, Regional Cooperation and integration
- Geopolitics , Regional Security and intervention
- Ethiopia, Regional and International Peacekeeping
- International Peacekeeping contribution for National Interest
- Regional peace building and its challenges
- Center-Peripheral and inter-boundary development
- Free Trade Area
- Tran boundary economic relations (road and other infrastructural development)
- Illegal transaction and its effects
- Illegal human movement
- Diplomacy and overlapping regionalism

## **Theme 5:**

### **Cross-cutting Issues**

Cross-cutting issues are topics that are identified as important and cut across most or all aspects of peace and diplomacy. These topics should therefore be integrated and mainstreamed throughout all stages of development from policy design, to implementation, and evaluation.

- Gender mainstreaming
- Indigenous Knowledge (identification, and use)
- Policies, Institutions, and Governance

- Community empowerment and sustainability
- Equity and inclusion
- Economic power
- Social accountability
- Culture
- Politics and identity
- Cross-border trades
- Refugees/migration policies and issues
- Climate and environmental issues



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