



**MASHARIKI RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE (MRPC)**

# **CALL FOR COMMENTARIES**





## MASHARIKI RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE (MRPC)

Contemporary East Africa is characterized by a complex interplay of security and governance challenges that significantly threaten regional stability and development. Political instability, manifesting through authoritarian governance and weakened institutional frameworks, undermines the legitimacy of state authority and contributes to civil unrest. The resurgence of violent extremism and transnational organized crime exacerbates these challenges, as non-state actors exploit socio-economic disparities and grievances, leading to heightened insecurity. Adverse effects of climate change, including resource scarcity and environmental degradation, heighten competition among communities and often result in conflict. The imperative of human security emerges, particularly for vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by these crises. This multifaceted landscape necessitates a nuanced understanding of security that transcends traditional paradigms, advocating for comprehensive policy solutions that address the interconnectedness of these issues and promote sustainable governance practices in the region. Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (MRPC), is inviting academic experts, policy practitioners to contribute to shaping public policy debates in this regard. MRPC is open to papers based on primary data and or secondary data provided they speak to current and futuristic public policy concerns in the region.

### **About Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (MRPC)**

MRPC is a non profit, interdisciplinary and independent think tank headquartered in Nairobi, with focus on strategic and security studies in the Eastern Africa Region. The Centre provides a platform for research and policy discourses in pursuit of a secure and prosperous region. This call for commentaries aligns with MRPC's core mission. The Centre offers analysis conscious of the changing security, development and diplomatic landscape globally to inform policy formulation and strategic support to states, non-state actors, intergovernmental agencies, and the private sector.



[www.masharikirpc.org](http://www.masharikirpc.org)  
[info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org)



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## Call for Submissions

This call invites students, scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit extended abstracts for consideration, ranging between 300 to 500 words, for MRPC's forthcoming guest column. Submissions should critically explore the evolving discourse on security and strategic studies in the region, providing rigorous analysis of complex and interconnected challenges. Final commentaries are expected in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 words.

## Sub themes

We welcome commentaries on the following sub-themes:

a	Democracy, Governance, and the Rule of Law
b	Human Security and Social Protection
c	Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Transnational Threats
d	Regional Security Cooperation and Multilateral Governance
e	Climate Change, Environmental Security, and Resource Governance
f	Gender, Peace, and Security
g	Cybersecurity, Technology, and Digital Governance Food Security



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[info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org)



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h	Political Transitions, Elections, and Conflict Management
i	Sustainable Development, Peace, and Inclusive Growth
j	Migration, Displacement, and Security
k	Youth, Unemployment, and Governance
l	Economic Security and Regional Integration

## Submission Guidelines

Upon the approval of research abstracts, authors shall be expected to follow these guidelines for the commentary submission.

- **Originality:** Your paper should be original work, not previously published or under review elsewhere.
- **Author Information:** Include your full names and affiliations in your submission email for identification and correspondence purposes.
- **Review Process:** MRPC is committed to a fair and unbiased selection process through a double-blind review, ensuring the anonymity of both reviewers and authors.
- **Where to Submit:** Please contact the MRPC research team at [info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org) or [mrpc168@gmail.com](mailto:mrpc168@gmail.com).



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[info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org)



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## Key Requirements

- **References:** While brief, commentaries must cite relevant literature, reports, or data where applicable. Use APA 7th ed referencing styles consistently.
- **Format:** Submissions must be in Word (docx) format with standard 12-point Times New Roman font, 1.5 spacing.
- **Structure:** We propose a simple structure that would include an introduction, several sub-headings to structure the thesis, and a conclusion. Nb. Please see our commentaries on the MRPC website for guidance.
- **Author Details:** Include the author's full name, affiliation, and contact details on a separate title page to ensure anonymity in the peer-review process.

## How to Submit

Send your commentary to [info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org) with the subject line: "Commentary Submission."

## Publication and Copyright

Accepted commentaries will be published on MRPC's website under the guest column. Authors retain copyright over their work but grant MRPC the right of first publication.

## Contact

For abstract submission, questions, or clarifications, please contact the MRPC research team at [info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org) or [mrpc168@gmail.com](mailto:mrpc168@gmail.com).



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[info@masharikirpc.org](mailto:info@masharikirpc.org)



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