



JANUARY 26, 2024

Newsletter

Understanding Conflicts in Ethiopia: 2015-2021

The Federalism, Diversity Management and Rule of Law Studies at the Policy Studies Institute(PSI) conducted an internal validation workshop entitled "Understanding Conflicts in Ethiopia from 2015-2021" on January 26, 2024 in the premises of the PSI main meeting hall.

In an effort to understand and address the complex conflicts that have plagued Ethiopia in recent years, a team of researchers have come together to shed light on this pressing issue. Led by Dr. Tilahun Teferra from PSI, the team includes scholars such as Dr. Desalegn Amsalu, Dr. Abyiot Teklu and Dr. Zemelak Ayitenew from Addis Ababa University and Dr. Melaku Abera from Ethiopian Civil Service University.

During the opening of the internal validation workshop, H.E. Prof. Beyene Petros, Director General of PSI, said that the research topic is a very sensitive endeavor and invites many interpretations. Prof. Beyene said Ethiopia, a country known for its rich history and diverse cultural heritage, has been plagued by escalating conflicts in recent years. He said that the conflicts persist despite the new government's efforts of peace and reform.

Bootom-line

During the internal validation workshop, Prof. Beyene expressed his hopes for the study to provide a comprehensive understanding of the conflict situation in Ethiopia from 2015 to 2021. He emphasized the importance of examining the trends, causes, consequences, and responses to these conflicts in order to shed light on their complexities

Conflicts in Ethiopia have different triggers.

The research team has taken note of the questions and suggestions made by the workshop participants. They will carefully consider these suggestions as they continue to refine and finalize the research findings.

In the final remarks of the internal validation workshop, Prof. Beyene emphasized the importance of acknowledging the diversity within Ethiopia and warned against generalizing the conflicts in the different regions. He emphasized the need for the research team to present the findings in a nuanced and context-specific manner, as each conflict has its own dynamics and underlying causes.

Prof. Beyene's emphasis on avoiding generalizations is in line with the research team's effort to capture the complexity of Ethiopian conflicts. Given the diverse ethnic, religious and cultural settings in the country, the research team recognizes the importance of contextualizing the findings to reflect the specific conditions and complexity of each region.



Dr. Tilahun Teferra(PSI)

The conflicts that have plagued Ethiopia from 2015 to 2021 have posed significant challenges to the country's stability and progress. By examining the causes, trends and consequences of these conflicts, we gain valuable insights into the complex dynamics at play. It is imperative that policy makers, community leaders and stakeholders work together towards sustainable peace, effective diversity management and the promotion of the rule of law.

“Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means”



Dr. Desalegn Amsalu
Addis Ababa University

The presenter of the research findings, Dr. Desalegn Amsalu, said that despite hopes for peace and progress following the change of leadership in 2018, the country has seen a rise in violence and unrest. In this study, he said they analyzed the conflicts in Ethiopia from 2015 to 2021 and shed light on the causes, trends and consequences that have shaped the country's landscape. Dr. Desalegn Amsalu added that the period between 2015 and 2021 is characterized by a significant increase in internal conflicts across Ethiopia.