

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

East African Community Conference 2026 (EACON 2026)

CONFERENCE THEME

“Deepening Somalia’s EAC Integration Through Treaty Domestication, Strategic Investments and Human Capital Development”

Conference dates	28–29 September 2026
Location	Mogadishu, Somalia
Initial submission	Abstracts only (250 words maximum)
Abstract submission deadline	30 July 2026
Submission email	papers@eaccon.com

Research that informs EAC implementation, regional trade integration, strategic investment and future workforce development

COORGANIZERS



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EACON 2026 — Call for Abstracts

1. Invitation to Submit

The East African Community Conference 2026 (EACON 2026) invites researchers, academics, policymakers, public institutions, development partners, private-sector actors, investors, civil society organisations, practitioners, and qualified postgraduate or early-career scholars to submit original, high-quality abstracts for consideration.

Somalia's accession to the East African Community has opened a new phase in the country's regional and economic trajectory. The central task is implementation: aligning national laws, policies, institutions, markets, investment priorities, and workforce capabilities with regional commitments, while converting membership into measurable gains in trade, investment, connectivity, productivity, and human development.

EACON 2026 is a results-oriented platform connecting evidence with policy action. Submissions should offer clear evidence, comparative lessons, practical policy options, or implementable recommendations relevant to Somalia, the wider EAC region, or Somalia's implementation of EAC commitments.

2. Conference Purpose and Scope

The conference seeks contributions that can strengthen policy implementation, competitive markets, regional trade integration, strategic investment, and workforce competitiveness. Comparative work involving other EAC Partner States is encouraged where it generates practical lessons relevant to Somalia.

Who May Submit	Eligible Abstract Categories
● Researchers, academics and research institutions ● Universities, think tanks and professional associations ● Policymakers, ministries, public agencies and parliamentarians ● EAC institutions and contributors from EAC Partner States ● Private-sector organisations, chambers of commerce and business associations ● Development partners and development finance institutions	● Academic research papers ● Policy research papers ● Evidence-based policy analyses ● Applied sector studies ● Comparative regional studies ● Institutional and regulatory assessments ● Practice-based case studies ● Trade, labour-market and institutional analyses

All submissions must be original and must demonstrate how the proposed analysis contributes to the EACON 2026 conference theme and one of the three Research and Policy Themes.

3. Research and Policy Themes



Each submission must select one of the following themes. Topics should demonstrate a clear connection to Somalia, the wider EAC region, or the implementation of EAC commitments.

Theme 1: Domesticating EAC Protocols

This theme examines the legal, policy, regulatory, institutional, and governance requirements for effective EAC implementation.

- Domestication of the EAC Treaty, protocols, and related regional commitments
- Legal, policy, and regulatory harmonisation with EAC frameworks
- Institutional readiness, implementation capacity, and inter-agency coordination
- Compliance, monitoring, accountability, and stakeholder participation
- Public awareness and engagement in regional integration processes
- Comparative lessons from other EAC Partner States

Theme 2: Competitive Markets and Regional Trade Integration

This theme focuses on enabling Somali firms, producers, institutions, and infrastructure to compete and connect within regional and continental markets.

- Somalia's participation in the EAC Common Market and regional value chains
- Customs modernisation, border management, and trade facilitation
- Reduction of non-tariff barriers and improvement of cross-border business efficiency
- Standards, certification, quality infrastructure, and regulatory compliance
- Regional trade logistics, transport corridors, ports, and market connectivity
- Alignment of EAC and AfCFTA trade opportunities and obligations
- Enterprise readiness, digital trade, and regional market competitiveness
- Bankable regional projects, public-private partnerships, and investment mobilisation

Theme 3: Human Capital and the Future Workforce

This theme considers how education, skills, labour mobility, innovation, and technology can strengthen Somalia's regional competitiveness.

- Education, skills, and labour-market alignment for regional competitiveness
- Technical and vocational education and training and workforce readiness
- Labour mobility and recognition of professional qualifications
- Building future-ready universities for East Africa
- Research collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange
- Digital skills, artificial intelligence, and the future of work
- Youth employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive workforce participation

4. Abstract Submission Requirements



The initial submission stage is for abstracts only. Each abstract must not exceed 250 words and should contain the following elements:

- 1. Proposed title:** A clear and informative title reflecting the focus of the proposed paper.
- 2. Background or problem:** A concise explanation of the issue, gap, or policy challenge being addressed.
- 3. Objective:** The main research, policy, or analytical objective.
- 4. Methodology or approach:** The research design, evidence base, analytical framework, or policy-analysis method.
- 5. Findings:** The principal findings or, for work in progress, the expected findings supported by a clear analytical basis.
- 6. Conference relevance:** The contribution to the EACON 2026 theme and selected Research and Policy Theme.
- 7. Practical significance:** The policy, institutional, trade, investment, or workforce implications.
- 8. Keywords:** Three to five keywords.
- 9. Theme selection:** Theme 1, Theme 2, or Theme 3.
- 10. Classification:** Academic paper or policy paper.

Anonymity requirement: The abstract must not contain author names, affiliations, contact information, or identifying acknowledgements. Author details must be provided in a separate document.

5. Separate Author-Information Document

A separate document must accompany the anonymised abstract and include:

- Full name of the corresponding author
- Institutional affiliation and country
- Email address and telephone number
- Names, affiliations, and countries of all co-authors
- A short biography of no more than 100 words for each author

6. Originality and Ethical Requirements

- The submission must be original and should not be under simultaneous consideration elsewhere.
- Authors must disclose whether any part of the work has previously been presented, circulated, or published in another form.
- All data, evidence, and sources must be represented accurately and ethically.
- Authors are responsible for obtaining any required permissions, ethical approvals, and participant consent.
- Submissions containing plagiarism, fabricated evidence, or material misrepresentation may be rejected or withdrawn.



7. Review and Selection Process

Eligible abstracts and invited full papers will undergo anonymised scientific and editorial review. Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the conference theme and selected Research and Policy Theme
- Clarity of the research or policy question
- Quality and appropriateness of the methodology or analytical approach
- Strength of the evidence, argument, or analysis
- Originality and significance
- Relevance to Somalia and the wider EAC region
- Practical policy, institutional, investment, or implementation value
- Quality and clarity of writing
- Potential contribution to a moderator-led Research and Policy Dialogue
- Potential for development into conference proceedings, policy briefs, or conference-report outputs

Review decisions may be: accepted; accepted subject to revision; waitlisted; or declined. Authors will receive the decision and next-step instructions through the official conference email.

8. Full-Paper Requirements

Only authors whose abstracts are accepted will be invited to submit full papers. Invited manuscripts should comply with the following requirements:

- A4 paper size and portrait orientation
- One-column layout
- Margins of 2.54 cm on all sides
- Line spacing of 1.5
- Maximum length of 10 pages, including tables, figures, and references
- Submission in Microsoft Word or PDF format
- APA 7th edition citation and reference style
- Numbered and titled tables and figures referenced in the text
- An originality declaration
- An anonymised review manuscript without author names, affiliations, or identifying acknowledgements

9. Recommended Full-Paper Structure

1. Title	Clear and informative.
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2. Abstract and keywords	A concise summary and three to five keywords.
3. Introduction and problem statement	Purpose, context, research question, or policy problem.
4. Literature or policy context	Relevant evidence, frameworks, and existing knowledge.
5. Methodology or analytical framework	Research design, data, methods, or policy-analysis approach.
6. Results or principal analysis	Findings and supporting evidence.
7. Discussion	Interpretation in relation to the objectives and regional context.
8. Policy and implementation implications	Practical implications for institutions, markets, investment, or workforce development.
9. Conclusion and recommendations	Main conclusions and actionable recommendations.
10. References	Complete APA 7th edition reference list.

10. Conference Participation Format

EACON 2026 will feature moderator-led Research and Policy Dialogues rather than conventional sequential academic paper presentations. Accepted contributions will be grouped by thematic field, enabling researchers to engage directly with policymakers, practitioners, private-sector leaders, investors, and development partners through structured discussions.

Selected authors may be asked to prepare a concise evidence summary, a limited set of dialogue slides, or a short policy-recommendation note. Final participation instructions, session groupings, and moderator guidance will be communicated after acceptance.

11. Publication Opportunities

Selected, quality-approved, and consented contributions may be considered for one or more of the following outputs:

- EACON 2026 Conference Proceedings
- EACON 2026 Policy Brief Series
- The official EACON 2026 Conference Report
- A thematic implementation-recommendations paper
- Publication on the EACON website, subject to author consent and technical readiness
- Possible future development for external journals, working-paper series, or edited volumes

External journal or edited-volume publication is prospective and is not guaranteed. Inclusion in the conference or a dialogue session does not automatically guarantee inclusion in the proceedings or any other publication output.



12. Submission Procedure

Submit the required files by email to papers@eaccon.com.

Suggested email subject: *EACON 2026 Abstract Submission – [Lead Author's Name] – [Research Theme]*

Required attachments:

- An anonymised abstract of no more than 250 words, submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format
- A separate author-information and biography document

Submissions received after the deadline or through an unapproved channel may not be reviewed. Authors should retain copies of all submitted files and correspondence.



13. Important Dates

Milestone	Date
Abstract submission deadline	30 July 2026
Final abstract decisions and participation confirmations	By 5 August 2026
Full-paper submission deadline	25 August 2026
Scientific and editorial review	26–31 August 2026
Revised full-paper deadline	10 September 2026
Dialogue materials, biographies, and publication-consent documents	10 September 2026
Conference dates	28–30 September 2026

14. Submission Checklist

Abstract File	Author-Information File
• No more than 250 words • One selected Research and Policy Theme • Three to five keywords • Academic or policy paper classification • No author-identifying information	• Corresponding author contact details • Affiliations and countries for all authors • Biography of no more than 100 words per author • Any required disclosure of prior circulation or presentation • Files attached before sending

15. Contact Information

Email	Website	Location
papers@eaccon.com	www.eaccon.com	Mogadishu, Somalia

EACON 2026 — From regional membership to practical implementation and measurable development outcomes

