

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE THEME: "Enhancing Local Agency for Human Security and Sustainable Development in Fragile Contexts"

Organised by:

The Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (CPSS) and the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Fragile contexts, characterised by weak institutions, insecurity, chronic poverty, and the abrogation of the agency of the local, that is, groups and individuals directly impacted by fragility, represent one of the most troubling and consequential challenges of our time. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahel, and Nigeria in particular, the connexion of conflict, climate change, resource competition, weak states and governance failure has produced contexts wherein the human security and development needs of the most vulnerable communities and directly affected are consistently subordinated to the priorities of distant institutions and powerful external actors.

This International Conference converges, for the first time on a single platform, the twin disciplinary traditions of Peace and Strategic Studies and Agricultural Extension and Rural Development to reflect and inflect on a shared and urgent conviction: that sustainable peace and human security in fragile contexts cannot be designed, delivered, or sustained from the outside. They must be organic and even when hybrid, rooted in, owned by, and accountable to the agency of the local communities they are meant to serve.

This is why this conference appreciates contributions from academics, researchers, postgraduate students, policy practitioners, development workers, civil society organisations, security professionals, traditional leaders, and community practitioners across all relevant disciplines. Interdisciplinary submissions that cut across two or more thematic clusters are strongly encouraged and will be given special consideration by the review committee.

THEMATIC CLUSTERS AND SUB-THEMES

Abstracts and proposals are invited under the following eight thematic clusters. Each cluster is open to empirical, theoretical, policy-oriented, and practitioner-based submissions:

CLUSTER A: PEACE, SECURITY, AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

For scholars and practitioners in Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution, Security Studies, Strategic Studies, and International Relations

This cluster examines the structural, institutional, and community-level dimensions of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and human security in fragile contexts. It foregrounds local agency not as a peripheral concern but as the central variable determining whether security interventions produce lasting peace or merely displace violence.

Sub-themes include:

1. Rethinking Human Security: Local Agency as the Missing Variable in Fragile State Theory
2. Human Security Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
3. From Victims to Actors: Community-Led Peacebuilding in Conflict-Affected Rural Environments
4. The Limits of Top-Down Security: Why Local Knowledge Must Drive Fragile Context Interventions
5. Traditional Institutions as Human Security Providers: Evidence from West Africa
6. Early Warning, Local Eyes: Community-Based Conflict Early Warning Systems in Fragile Contexts
7. Armed Non-State Actors and the Erosion of Local Agency in Rural Communities
8. Post-Conflict Reconciliation and the Role of Indigenous Peacebuilding Mechanisms
9. The Gender Dimensions of Human Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings
10. Farmer-Herder Conflicts and the Displacement of Local Agricultural Agency in the Sahel
11. Local Peace Committees as Sustainable Conflict Management Architecture
12. Peace Education and Civic Engagement for Sustainable Development
13. Migration, Displacement, and Rural Community Reintegration
14. Inter-ethnic and Inter-religious Dialogue for Community Stability
15. Natural Resources, Mining, and Environmental Governance as Conflict and Peace Variables
16. Land Tenure and Policy Issues in Fragile Contexts

CLUSTER B: AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOOD SYSTEMS

For scholars and practitioners in Agricultural Extension, Rural Development, Food Systems, Agronomy, Livestock Science, and related fields

This cluster addresses the foundational role of agriculture and rural livelihoods in sustaining human security and community resilience in fragile contexts. It recognises that food production, land governance, and rural economic systems are simultaneously drivers of conflict and foundations of peace — and that local agricultural agency is among the most powerful and most neglected instruments of sustainable development.

Sub-themes include:

1. Crop Production and Food Security in Local Livelihoods under Conditions of Insecurity

2. Livestock Management Practices and Pastoralist Agency in Fragile Contexts
 3. Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Local Adaptation Strategies in Rural Communities
 4. Livelihood Vulnerability, Economic Empowerment, Rural Resilience, and Local Governance
 5. Entrepreneurial Innovation, Value Chain Development, and Market Access in Fragile Regions
 6. Food Security and Nutrition in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings
 7. Digital Agriculture and Extension Services for Rural Transformation in Remote Communities
 8. Gender and Youth Inclusion in Agricultural Development and Food Systems
 9. Agricultural Extension Services in Conflict-Affected Communities: Challenges, Innovations, and Pathways
 10. Participatory Rural Appraisal as a Tool for Restoring Local Agency in Post-Conflict Communities
 11. Climate-Smart Agriculture in Fragile Environments: Empowering Farmers as Agents of Adaptation
 12. The Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organisations in Building Resilience in Insecure Communities
 13. Rural Extension Workers as Peacebuilders: Navigating Agricultural Development in Conflict Zones
 14. Women Farmers and Local Agency: Gender, Land, and Livelihoods in Conflict-Affected Contexts
 15. Sustaining Agricultural Value Chains under Conditions of Insecurity and Displacement
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CLUSTER C: GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICY

For scholars and practitioners in Political Science, Public Administration, Policy Studies, Law, and Governance

This cluster interrogates the political and institutional architecture of fragile contexts — examining how governance systems enable or obstruct local agency, and what legislative, institutional, and policy reforms are necessary to place communities at the centre of their own security and development.

Sub-themes include:

1. Decentralisation, Local Government, and the Deepening of Human Security in Fragile States
2. Inclusive Governance Frameworks for Conflict-Affected Communities: Theory and Practice
3. Social Contracts in Fragile Contexts: Rebuilding State-Community Trust through Local Agency
4. The Political Economy of Aid Dependency and Its Impact on Local Agency in Fragile States

5. Security Sector Reform and Community Policing as Human Security Instruments
 6. Local Agency and the Implementation Gap: Why Good Policies Fail Fragile Communities
 7. Customary Governance Systems and their Contribution to Sustainable Development in Rural Nigeria
 8. Legislative Frameworks for Community Participation in Natural Resource Governance
 9. Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and the Restoration of Local Institutional Agency
 10. Federalism, State Fragility, and the Devolution of Human Security Responsibilities
 11. Informal Power Mapping, Gatekeeping, and Social Cohesion in Local Contexts
 12. Barriers to Local Agency in Fragile Contexts: Structural, Political, and Cultural Dimensions
 13. Policy Frameworks for Human Security and Sustainable Development
 14. Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Fragile Contexts
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CLUSTER D: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

For scholars and practitioners in Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Management, Geography, Development Economics, and Earth Sciences

This cluster addresses the complex and often deeply contested relationship between natural resource governance and human security in fragile contexts — with particular attention to the extractive industries, land rights, climate vulnerability, and the environmental justice dimensions of development in resource-rich but conflict-affected communities.

Sub-themes include:

1. Extractive Industries and the Disempowerment of Local Communities: Evidence from Nigeria's Mineral Belt
2. Community Rights and Local Agency in the Governance of Solid Minerals in Fragile Contexts
3. Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining: Formalisation, Local Agency, and Human Security
4. Environmental Degradation as a Driver of Fragility: Restoring Ecosystem Services through Local Action
5. Climate Change, Resource Scarcity, and the Fragility-Development Nexus in Rural Africa
6. Oil Spills, Environmental Justice, and the Struggle for Local Agency in the Niger Delta
7. Forest Communities and Sustainable Development: Balancing Conservation with Local Livelihoods
8. Water Security, Local Governance, and Conflict Prevention in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions
9. Land Grabbing, Displacement, and the Erosion of Local Agricultural Agency in Sub-Saharan Africa
10. Participatory Environmental Impact Assessment as a Tool for Community Empowerment

CLUSTER E: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION

For scholars and practitioners in Sociology, Public Health, Education, Social Work, Psychology, and Community Development

This cluster examines the social foundations of local agency — exploring how health systems, educational institutions, social protection frameworks, and community support networks either sustain or erode the capacity of individuals and communities to determine their own futures in fragile contexts.

Sub-themes include:

1. Healthcare Delivery in Fragile Contexts: Community Health Workers as Local Agency Champions
2. Health Security and Community-Driven Health Systems in Fragile Local Contexts
3. Education in Conflict-Affected Communities: Schools as Spaces of Resilience and Local Agency
4. Education for Resilience and Human Security in Fragile Contexts
5. Mental Health, Trauma, and the Restoration of Personal Agency in Post-Conflict Communities
6. Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support in Fragile Settings
7. Social Protection Systems and their Role in Sustaining Human Security in Fragile Environments
8. Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants and Displaced Persons
9. Youth Radicalisation, Unemployment, and the Erosion of Constructive Local Agency
10. Women's Empowerment Programmes as Human Security Interventions in Fragile Contexts
11. Disability, Fragility, and the Systematic Exclusion from Local Agency and Development
12. Child Protection and the Restoration of Agency in Post-Conflict Societies
13. Community-Led Sanitation and Public Health Initiatives as Models of Local Agency
14. Sociology, Social Structures, and Community Agency in Fragile Environments
15. Arts, Culture, and Creative Expression as Tools for Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion

CLUSTER F: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, AND INFORMATION

For scholars and practitioners in Communications, Digital Governance, Media Studies, Information Technology, and Cybersecurity

This cluster examines the transformative — and sometimes destructive — role of digital technology and information ecosystems in fragile contexts, interrogating how digital tools can either empower local communities or expose them to new forms of harm, manipulation, and exclusion.

Sub-themes include:

1. Digital Transformation and Technology for Human Security in Fragile Contexts
2. Digital Tools for Empowering Local Communities in Fragile and Remote Environments
3. Misinformation, Hate Speech, and the Erosion of Local Social Cohesion in Conflict-Affected Communities
4. Community Radio as a Platform for Local Agency, Peacebuilding, and Rural Development
5. Social Media and Citizen Journalism as Tools for Accountability in Fragile Governance Contexts
6. Mobile Money, Financial Inclusion, and Economic Agency in Conflict-Affected Rural Communities
7. Digital Early Warning Systems and Local Community Participation in Conflict Prevention
8. Information Operations by Non-State Armed Actors and their Impact on Local Agency
9. Bridging the Digital Divide: Technology Access and Human Security in Marginalised Communities
10. E-Governance and the Strengthening of Local Institutional Capacity in Fragile States
11. Artificial Intelligence, Algorithmic Bias, and Implications for Development in Fragile Contexts
12. Digital Agriculture and Extension Services for Rural Transformation

CLUSTER G: ECONOMICS, FINANCE, AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

For scholars and practitioners in Economics, Development Finance, Business Administration, and Entrepreneurship

This cluster examines the economic foundations and financial architectures of local agency in fragile contexts — exploring how access to finance, market participation, entrepreneurial innovation, and economic governance either enable or constrain the capacity of communities to build sustainable livelihoods under conditions of insecurity.

Sub-themes include:

1. Financial Agency in Fragile Contexts: Access, Inclusion, and Institutional Barriers
2. Microfinance and Economic Agency: Evidence from Conflict-Affected Communities in West Africa
3. Informal Economies and Local Agency in Fragile States: Assets, Liabilities, and Policy Implications
4. Illicit Financial Flows, Resource Capture, and the Perpetuation of Fragility
5. Risk Transfer and Insurance Mechanisms in Fragile Local Contexts
6. Social Entrepreneurship as a Human Security Instrument in Post-Conflict Communities
7. Remittances, Diaspora Engagement, and Local Economic Agency in Fragile Contexts
8. Public Investment in Fragile Communities: How Infrastructure Spending Either Builds or Bypasses Local Agency

9. Trade, Market Access, and the Economic Empowerment of Rural Communities under Insecurity
 10. Impact Investment and Development Finance for Fragile Context Sustainability
 11. Economic Marginalisation as a Conflict Driver: Pathways from Exclusion to Agency
 12. Entrepreneurial Innovation, Value Chain Development, and Market Access in Fragile Regions
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CLUSTER H: HUMANITARIANISM, DEVELOPMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

For scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in Humanitarian Studies, Development Cooperation, International Law, and Global Governance

This cluster addresses the international architecture of humanitarian and development assistance in fragile contexts — critically examining the gap between global frameworks and local realities, and advocating for a genuine localisation of the humanitarian-development-peace agenda that places community agency at its irreducible centre.

Sub-themes include:

1. The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: Centering Local Agency Across All Three Pillars
2. Aid Architecture and Local Ownership: Reforming International Development Assistance for Fragile Contexts
3. The Localisation Agenda in Humanitarian Response: Progress, Persistent Resistance, and Future Prospects
4. Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Camps as Fragile Contexts: Restoring Agency and Dignity in Displacement
5. International Human Rights Law and the Protection of Local Agency in Conflict Zones
6. The Sustainable Development Goals in Fragile States: Measurement, Progress, and Local Ownership
7. South-South Cooperation and the Transfer of Locally Generated Development Models
8. The Role of Regional Organisations — African Union, ECOWAS, IGAD — in Supporting Local Agency for Peace
9. Transitional Justice, Truth Commissions, and the Restoration of Community Agency
10. Decolonising Development: Rethinking International Partnerships for Genuinely Local Empowerment

Who Submits an Abstract

Abstracts are welcome from academics, researchers, postgraduate students, policy practitioners, development workers, civil society organisations, security professionals, traditional and religious leaders, and community practitioners from Nigeria, Africa, and the international scholarly and practitioner community.

Types of Submissions

Submissions may take one of three forms. Individual paper presentations for a single author or co-authors to present original research findings, theoretical arguments, or policy analyses in a 20-minute conference slot. Panel proposals combine three to four thematically related presentations under a connecting argument, with a designated panel discussant and a collective 90-minute session. Practitioner case study presentations offer development workers, community leaders, civil society organisations, and security professionals a structured platform to present field-based evidence, programme evaluations, or community-led innovations — without the requirement of a formal academic paper.

Interdisciplinary Submissions

Abstracts that permeate two or three thematic clusters are strongly encouraged. The conference is explicitly designed as a space where disciplinary boundaries dissolve in the service of more integrated, locally grounded, and practically useful knowledge. Interdisciplinary submissions will receive priority consideration in the review process.

Abstract Requirements

All abstracts must be written in Times New Roman, size 12; Single spacing and can be between 250 and 350 words. Abstracts and case studies must clearly articulate the research question or central argument, the theoretical or conceptual framework, the methodology or evidence base, the principal findings or expected findings, and the contribution to the conference theme of enhancing local agency for human security and sustainable development. Abstracts must indicate the thematic cluster under which the submission is made and, where applicable, the sub-theme it addresses most directly.

Language

Abstracts and presentations must be submitted in English.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Abstract Submission Deadline: 30 June, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 25 July, 2026

Conference Date: 25 Oct. – 28 Oct., 2026

Registration opens (Early Bird): 20 July, 2026

Late Registration: 25 August, 2026

Conference Registration: #60, 000 for Participants within Nigeria; 100USD for Foreign Participants

Conference Mode: Hybrid: Physical and Virtual

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Publication platforms for accepted manuscripts: Journal of Agricultural Extension (JAE) and Journal of Peace, Security and Development (JPSD)

Partners:

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