



## Afar Forum Conference 2016

### *Managing Vulnerability to Recurrent Drought and Building a Resilient Community: The case of Afar People in the Horn of Africa*

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The Bi-Annual Afar Forum Conference will be held on September 2 – 4, 2016, in Brussels, Belgium, with cooperation of various Afar Associations throughout the world. The overall goal of the conference is to bring together different stakeholder such as educators, civil society organizations, government representatives, Afar political organizations and the Afar diaspora to identify solutions to the problems the Afar people are facing.

The Afars are indigenous people who live in three countries in the Horn of Africa - Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Although the Afars have been the most exposed population to droughts in the Horn of Africa, the past five years have been particularly challenging for these semi-nomadic pastoralists because of the El Niño climate phenomenon that affects the rainfall. Drought causes a severe lack of water, pasture and loss of livestock resulting in food insecurity which gradually leads to lose of lives. Recurrent droughts and the vulnerability to climate change is the single most pressing factor that threatens the livelihood of the majority of Afars in the Horn of Africa.

The objectives of 2016 Afar Forum conference are: First, to examine root causes exacerbating the impact of the climate change, such as land policies, resource distribution and institutional capacities to build resilient communities to reduce the adverse impact of droughts. Second, to illuminate the long-term outcomes of economic and social policies that affects Afar communities in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Consequently, it is expected to get deeper and analytical approaches related to drought mitigation strategies from the research community, policy makers, civil society organizations and NGOs.

The Afar Forum is civic and opinion molding organization which does not subscribe to any political organization in and outside Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. Since its foundation in 1991, the Afar Forum has been holding large gatherings where Afars and subject matter experts to discuss opportunities, challenges, achievements in all the Afar regions in particulate and the Horn of Africa in general. The Afar Forum has been advocating and setting the agenda for Peace-building, good governance, democracy and respect for human rights, gender equality, and pro-poor development.

#### **A CALL FOR PAPER.**

The Afar Forum invites scholars and interested organizations to present a paper on Afar people in Ethiopian, Eritrea and Djibouti. The paper must be brief and presented in 30 minutes. The paper must be written in English or French. *The paper should be mailed to: [afar\\_forum@yahoo.com](mailto:afar_forum@yahoo.com) not later than August 6, 2016.*

We sincerely hope you will join us and we look forward to welcoming you all.

Executive Committee