



5th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

Theme: Foundations for a Sustainable Economic Transformation in Kenya

DATE OF EVENT: June 2022

The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) invites researchers, policy makers, academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the 5th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference.

The conference will explore the key foundations for economic transformation in Kenya beyond the Kenya Vision 2030. Economic transformation means the evolution of the structure of an economy from low-productivity traditional activities (such as in traditional agriculture) to higher productivity modern activities (such as in manufacturing and services). When this happens, the economy, society and institutions modernize, moving the country to higher levels of development. This is facilitated by fundamental changes in the economy that raise the overall productivity level while ensuring adequate quantity and quality of employment, equitable distribution of income and wealth, access to quality public services and protection of the environment.

Currently, the main transformational blueprints for Kenya are the Kenya Vision 2030 and the 2010 Constitution of Kenya. The 2010 Constitution devolves power, resources and functions and created a two-tiered governance system comprised of the National government and 47 County governments. The Constitution of Kenya also recognises culture as the foundation of the nation and as the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people and nation. The Kenya Vision 2030 aims at transforming Kenya into “a globally competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life by 2030”. The Vision rests on three pillars (economic, social and political) and several enablers. On the economic front, the aspiration is to maintain a sustained economic growth of 10 per cent per annum. The social vision is to see a just and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure environment. Politically, Kenya aspires to have issue-based, people-centred, result-oriented, accountable and democratic politics. The foundations of the Kenya Vision 2030 include disaster risk reduction and ending drought emergencies; human resource development, labour and employment; infrastructure; land reforms; national values and ethics; public sector reforms; science, technology and innovation; and security, peace and conflict management. The key question is how well these have evolved over time, what potential is yet to be exploited? What are the demands for transformation from the emerging development issues? Are the priorities changing?

A review of Kenya’s transformation history does not conform neatly to the experiences of developed countries since the first industrial revolution. For the last three decades, employment and output are not shifting from low productivity areas to high productivity areas. In addition, labour productivity in Kenya has been declining, yet productivity growth is one of the key drivers of economic transformation. Employment shifts in the economy are becoming more informalized and insufficient to provide decent standards of living. Agriculture is a dominant sector in Kenya and represents 31 per cent of national

output and 44 per cent to employment. However, the transformation of agriculture has been low, partially due to low and stagnant levels of productivity. This has forestalled the gradual movement of labour out of farming to take advantage of better economic activities off-farm. This movement is expected to provide the impetus for more commercialized agriculture. Kenya's industrial sector is mainly agro-based and has not changed much between 1990 and 2018. The share of manufacturing in total output remained almost constant at 10 per cent and the country seems to follow what has been termed "premature de-industrialization". The services sector contributes the largest share to output and employs an increasing share of labour force. It accounts for slightly more than 50 per cent of gross domestic product, with the key sub-sectors being transport and communication, wholesale and retail trade, financial services and hotels and restaurants. However, the productivity of the services sector has been declining over time, and new jobs in the sector are mainly informal. Recent growth experiences have witnessed a number of emerging sub-sectors that are transformational and have the potential of creating jobs and enhancing productivity. These include the gig economy, fintech, green economy, creative economy, frontier products for trade diversity and developmental values.

In furtherance of the objectives of the conference, KIPPRA is making this call for well-researched and original papers that address the above background. The conference aims to explore opportunities for Kenya to attain sustained economic transformation. In this regard, conference papers focusing on various research areas should prioritize the critical areas that could unlock the potential for economic transformation. Key among the research areas include the following:

- Human capital, skills and labour market
- Population, demographic transition, and demographic dividends
- Macroeconomic stability, debt sustainability and domestic resource mobilization
- Growth sources, productivity, and diversification
- Agricultural diversification and productivity
- Industrial structure and industrialization
- Creative economy, culture and innovation
- Urbanization and smart cities
- Gig economy and digital innovation
- Fintech, transactions and savings mobilization
- Trade competitiveness and frontier products
- Climate risks, green and blue economy sub-systems
- Values and social institutions
- Transformational leadership and economic development
- Making markets work

The emphasis is on high quality research papers on the above motivated themes, with a clear balance between theory and practice, forward-looking and policy relevance of the research findings. We especially encourage practitioners including policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders and academics to submit papers.

Requirements

1. Interested authors should submit a concept written in English to KIPPRA. All concepts should be strongly aligned to the conference theme.
2. Each concept should not be more than 2,500 words and should include:
 - Title
 - Abstract (250 words maximum)
 - A brief biography of the author(s) including qualifications and research experience (should not be more than 150 words)

- A strong motivation of the paper and clear objectives (500 words maximum)
 - A brief literature review (800 words maximum)
 - A well-articulated methodology (500 words maximum)
 - A summary on the key contribution of the work (200 words maximum)
3. The research can focus on any one of the themes above or bring out multi-linkages within themes

Key Dates

31 st January 2022	Deadline for submission of Concepts
15 th February 2022	Notification of the authors of selected Concepts
9 th May 2022	The full research papers completed by authors and submitted to KIPPRA
June 2022	5 th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Researchers responding to this call can submit their proposal by email:

Email: conference@kippra.or.ke

To the Attention of: The Conference Committee, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)

Email Caption: 5th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference 2022

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