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**HORN OF AFRICA'S REGIONAL ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION: A PEACE BUILDING AND
SECURITY STRATEGY IN THE REGION
WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON SOMALIA**

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I. ABSTRACT

The Horn of Africa region faces significant challenges of conflict and instability, making it one of the most unstable regions globally. This study examines regional economic integration as a strategy for peace building and security, with a focus on Somalia.

It explores the complex relationships between states, conflict, borders, and economic exploitation to provide context for the newly initiated Horn of Africa Economic Integration Project. Armed conflicts, violence, extremism, and instability persist near border areas. While governments have tried to manage borders, challenges remain administering remote border regions.

The study analyzes how economic integration can promote stability, interdependence, and sustainable peace by reducing misperceptions and trade barriers limiting cross-border economic activities. It examines the influence of global actors like multinational corporations and banks on conflicts and integration.

The significance of trade beyond borders as a source of interdependence, collaboration, growth, and development is investigated. Economic inequality and disadvantage can result when resource sharing is unfair, allowing some countries advantages over neighbors.

For integration to address root causes, the initiative must not just establish a common market but also improve cross-border infrastructure and maintain security in border areas with goods/labor crossings. Revived peace/security collaborations in regional diplomacy and conflict response are acknowledged. Strengthening regional institutions as cooperation platforms for peace, security and development aligns with broader African trends favoring multilateral conflict management.

Economic integration has potential as a tool for peace, provided political commitments are directed appropriately. Policymakers and academia must address political will, effective institutions, inequality, and cultural understanding/dialogue between nations. While some rivalries and mistrust remain, bilateral relations are improving. Cooperative neighbor relations and multilateral efforts are important to resolve pressing problems. Policy recommendations include governance frameworks, monitoring/evaluation, and conflict resolution.

Keywords: Horn of Africa, regional economic integration, peace building, security, conflict management, cross-border trade, regional institutions.

II. OZET

Afrika Boynuzu bölgesi çatışma ve istikrarsızlık nedeniyle önemli zorluklarla karşı karşıyadır, bu da bölgenin dünyadaki en istikrarsız bölgelerden biri olmasına neden olmaktadır. Bu çalışma, özellikle Somali üzerine odaklanarak, bölgesel ekonomik entegrasyonu barış inşası ve güvenlik stratejisi olarak incelemektedir.

Devletler, çatışma, sınırlar ve ekonomik sömürü arasındaki karmaşık ilişkileri inceleyerek, yeni başlatılan Afrika Boynuzu Ekonomik Entegrasyon Projesi hakkında daha iyi bir anlayış sağlamaktadır. Bu bağlamda, çalışma bölgedeki sınır bölgelerinde devam eden silahlı çatışmalar, şiddetli suç, aşırılık, kabile içi şiddet, siyasi istikrarsızlık ve devlet çöküşü gibi kök sorunların ele alınmasının önemine dikkat çekmektedir.

Ekonomik entegrasyonun istikrar, karşılıklı bağımlılık ve sürdürülebilir barış ve refahın teşvik edilmesindeki rolünü analiz ederek, çalışma bölgede çatışma, ticaret engelleri ve sınırötesi ekonomik faaliyetleri etkileyen yanlış algılar konusunda ışık tutmaktadır. Ayrıca uluslararası gelişme bankaları ve çok uluslu şirketler gibi küresel ekonomik aktörlerin çatışma ve ekonomik entegrasyon üzerindeki etkisini incelemektedir.

Bölgedeki ekonomik entegrasyon girişiminin sadece ortak bir pazar kurmakla kalmayıp, kök sorunları ele almayı da hedeflemesi gerekmektedir. Sınır ötesi altyapının geliştirilmesi ve mal ve iş gücünün geçtiği sınır bölgelerinde güvenliğin sağlanması önem taşımaktadır. Bölgede bölgesel diplomasi ve erken uyarı sistemleri gibi barış ve güvenlik iş birliğinin canlandığına dikkat çekilmektedir.

Mevcut literatür ışığında, ekonomik entegrasyonun barışı teşvik etme potansiyeline sahip güçlü bir araç olabileceğine ancak bunun için siyasi taahhütlerin uygun şekilde yönlendirilmesi gerektiğine dikkat çekilmektedir. Karar vericilerin ve akademinin siyasi irade, etkin kurumlar, eşitsizlik ve uluslararası kültürel anlayış ve diyaloga odaklanması gerektiği vurgulanmaktadır. Bazı hükümetler arasında halen rekabet ve güvensizlik olmasına rağmen, ikili ilişkilerin genel olarak iyileştiği gözlenmektedir. Sorunların çözümünde komşu devletlerle iş birliği ve çok taraflı çabaların önemine dikkat çekilmektedir. Son olarak, çalışma başarılı entegrasyon için yönetim ve politika çerçeveleri, etkili izleme ve değerlendirme mekanizmaları ve çatışma çözümü sistemleri içeren politika önerileri sunmaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Afrika Boynuzu, bölgesel ekonomik entegrasyon, barış inşası, güvenlik, çatışma yönetimi, sınır ötesi ticaret, bölgesel kurumlar.

III. TABLE OF CONTENT

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| I. THESIS APPROVAL PAGE | ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED. |
| II. ABSTRACT | II |
| III. OZET | III |
| IV. TABLE OF CONTENT..... | IV |
| VI. ABBREVIATIONS | VII |
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| I. CHAPTER 1: A BACKGROUND OF ECONOMIC REGIONALIZATION CONCEPT: | |
| 2 | |
| 1.1. REGIONALIZATION CONCEPT..... | 2 |
| 1.2. THE PROBLEM (THE PROBLEM OF THE STUDIED AREA)..... | 6 |
| 1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: | 8 |
| 1.4. QUESTIONS:..... | 8 |
| 1.5. JUSTIFICATION OF THE THEMATICALLY CHOSEN QUESTIONS..... | 9 |
| 1.6. STUDY SIGNIFICANCE: | 10 |
| II. CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW IN THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATION, PEACE AND SECURITY | 12 |
| 2. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON PEACE AND SECURITY | 12 |
| 2.1. THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION | 12 |
| 2.2. COMPREHENDING THE FRAGILE CONCEPTS OF PEACE AND CONFLICT: 14 | |
| 2.3. OUTLINING THE EFFECTS OF CROSS-BORDER TRADE ON CONFLICT: .. | 15 |
| 2.4. THE CONCEPT AND IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:..... | 17 |
| 2.5. INTERPRETING HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES AND REFORMS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS:..... | 18 |
| 2.6. KEY DEBATES AND CONTROVERSIES | 20 |

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 2.7. | INTERLINKING THE ETHIOPIAN DAM CONFLICT WITH REGIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA | 21 |
| 2.8. | COMMITMENTS MADE SO FAR AND HOW IT IS RESPONDING LOCAL CHALLENGES | 23 |
| 2.9. | GAPS AND KEY CHALLENGES | 25 |
| III. | CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH FINDINGS..... | 27 |
| 3. | BACKGROUND AND GENERAL METHODOLOGY: | 27 |
| 3.1. | RESEARCH PARADIGM: | 27 |
| 3.2. | THE APPROACH: | 27 |
| 3.3. | RESEARCH DESIGN:..... | 28 |
| 3.4. | REASONING APPROACHES: | 28 |
| 3.5. | DATA COLLECTION METHOD: | 28 |
| 3.6. | SAMPLING METHOD AND SAMPLE SIZE: | 28 |
| 3.7. | DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION: | 29 |
| 3.8. | ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:..... | 29 |
| 3.9. | FINDINGS AND RESULTS | 29 |
| 3.10. | FINDINGS..... | 32 |
| IV. | CHAPTER 4: THE FEASIBILITY OF THE REGIONAL VISION AND THE CAPACITY OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP TO ACTUALIZE ECONOMIC REGIONALIZATION AND THUS CREATE SECURITY, STABILITY, AND A LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA. | 38 |
| 4. | REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION EFFORTS OVERVIEW..... | 39 |
| 4.1. | INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIC INTEGRATION INITIATIVE:..... | 40 |
| 4.2. | INSTITUTIONAL READINESS | 41 |
| 4.3. | CRITICISMS AND KEY INSIGHTS | 45 |
| 4.4. | REGIONALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY, WHAT ARE PROPOSED PATHWAY? | 46 |
| 4.5. | FOSTERING CONNECTIONS AMIDST DIVISIONS | 49 |
| 4.6. | GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS | 50 |

VII. CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY, WAY FORWARD FOR PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

53

| | |
|--|----|
| 5. SUMMARY OF THE STUDY | 53 |
| 5.1. RESEARCH LIMITATIONS..... | 54 |
| 5.2. STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS | 54 |
| 5.3. UNDERSTANDING THE LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND PEACE AND SECURITY:..... | 55 |
| 5.4. REALIZING THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION INITIATIVE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES..... | 55 |
| 5.5. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES: | 56 |
| 5.6. PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER TRADE AND INVESTMENT TO PREVENT CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC CONFLICT | 56 |
| 5.7. INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (CONNECTIVITY AND PEACE INTEGRATION) | 57 |
| 5.8. ADDRESSING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION: | 57 |
| 5.9. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE, CAPABLE INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS IN THE HORN: | 57 |
| 5.10. WAY FORWARD FOR PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION..... | 58 |
| V. REFERENCES:..... | 59 |

IV. ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|--|
| AFCFTA | : African Continental Free Trade Area AFCRI Africa Regional Integration Unit |
| AU | : African Union |
| COMESA | : Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CPF | : Country Partnership Framework (WB) |
| DPO | : Development Policy Operation (WB) |
| EAC | : East African Community |
| ECOWAS | : Economic Community of West African States |
| EU | : European Union |
| FDI | : Foreign Direct Investment |
| FGS | : Federal Government of Somalia |
| GDP | : Gross Domestic Product |
| IDA | : International Development Association |
| IFC | : International Finance Corporation |
| IGAD | : Intergovernmental Authority on Development |
| IMF | : International Monetary Fund |
| MIGA | : Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency |
| OHADA | : Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa |
| PPP | : Public Private Partnerships |
| RI | : Regional Integration |
| RVC | : Regional Value Chains |
| SSA | : Sub-Saharan Africa |
| UN | : United Nations |
| WB | : World Bank |
| WBG | : World Bank Group |

INTRODUCTION

Regional economic integration has emerged as a potential solution to the conflicts and a means to promote peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region (Akram et al., 2019). This mechanism has been discussed since the 1950s in the developing world, particularly in Latin America and Africa, to promote economic development and stability (Kolstad, 2007). The idea is that by creating a common market, facilitating the free movement of goods and people, and establishing a regional infrastructure network, regional economic integration can promote peace and stability by increasing economic opportunities for armed groups, promoting interdependence and cooperation, and reducing the likelihood of conflict over resources (Kolstad, 2007).

Participating in a regional integration mechanism can provide numerous benefits to a country, such as pooling of resources and expertise, which can lead to the development of more effective policies and strategies (Kolstad, 2007). Additionally, it promotes cooperation in the matter of security, which can lead to greater political stability and economic development (Kolstad, 2007).

In the Horn of Africa, the regional integration project has the potential to bring peace and stability to the region (Akram et al., 2019). This project aims to create a regional economic community that will facilitate free movement of people and goods, which is expected to promote economic growth, create jobs, and reduce poverty, which are key factors that contribute to conflicts in the region (Akram et al., 2019).

This study will analyze the regional integration efforts in the Horn of Africa, focusing on the historical background, the region itself, methodology, analysis of the subject matter, and results and discussion. The study will begin by providing a general background of the chosen subject matter, including existing literature concerning regional economic integration and peace and security strategy collaboration in the Horn of Africa (Chapter 1). The second chapter will review secondary sources on the region and existing works of literature on the region, highlighting the research gap that is delineated through the review of the literature (Chapter 2). The third chapter will discuss the research methodology tools, methods, and techniques used, outlining the sub-components of research (Chapter 3). The fourth chapter will analyze the subject matter, making an analysis and interpretation of the information collected, and the results acquired through the data analysis and interpretation (Chapter 4). Finally, the results and findings obtained from the primary data analysis will be discussed in detail in the Results and Discussion chapter (Chapter 5).

I. CHAPTER 1: A BACKGROUND OF ECONOMIC REGIONALIZATION CONCEPT:

1.1. REGIONALIZATION CONCEPT

Regionalization in Africa is evident through the presence of multiple Regional Economic Communities (RECs) operating within the political framework (Bala, 2017). The African Union (AU) has identified eight RECs, while the World Bank has recognized five regional institutions and economic arrangements in Africa (Bala, 2017). In 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which attempted to solve the issues that smaller African countries confront in terms of economies of scale, placed an emphasis on the idea of regionalization in Africa. This was done to facilitate the sharing of resources across the continent's nations. Additionally, NEPAD acknowledged the interrelationships that exist between globalization, regionalization, and economic development (Bala, 2017).

Critics of the prevailing regionalism approach argue that the formation of regions in Africa has been flawed (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011). They assert that regional projects such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have a history of underperformance, leading to a lack of confidence in African regional initiatives (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011).

As a result, these proponents advocate for an approach that accurately reflects the realities of African regions and their construction (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011). They emphasize the need for in-depth analysis of micro-regions in Africa, considering the ways in which Africans engage with and shape regional dynamics. Factors such as ethnicity, gender, identity, and occupation are seen as influencing Africa's interaction with regionalism (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011).

To address these challenges, regional economic integration has emerged as a potential strategy for promoting peace and stability in the region. Economic integration has been shown to have numerous benefits, including the pooling of resources and expertise, the creation of larger markets for goods and services, and the promotion of regional cooperation and interdependence.

According to (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011) with the context of the Horn of Africa, regional economic integration can help address some of the key drivers of conflict, such as poverty, unequal distribution of resources, and competition over scarce resources. By creating economic

opportunities, promoting cooperation, and reducing the likelihood of conflict over resources, economic integration can promote stability and security in the region.

However, to fully realize the potential benefits of regional economic integration, policymakers must consider the unique challenges and opportunities facing the Horn of Africa. This includes addressing political, economic, and social barriers to integration, promoting inclusive and participatory governance, and ensuring that the benefits of integration are shared equitably across the region. In addition, policymakers must work to build trust and cooperation across borders and between different communities within the region. This may involve addressing historical grievances, promoting cultural exchange and dialogue, and investing in cross-border infrastructure and connectivity (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011).

Overall, regional economic integration has the potential to be an effective strategy for promoting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region. However, policymakers must be mindful of the unique challenges and opportunities facing the region and work to address these through inclusive.

The evolution of the political landscape over the last few decades has been remarkable. Successful regionalization has been an unattainable goal for most countries across the world for a long period of time. Integration has been a challenging task for most countries despite the occasional resurgence of regionalism and the rising emphasis on the subject (Tatham & Mbaye, 2018). Scholars suggested that the contemporary world is shaped by the interaction among mainly three forces, which are globalization, nationalism, and regionalization.

The term "regionalization" refers to "the growth of social integration within a given region, including the undirected processes of social and economic interaction among the units such as nation-states," according to one definition of the term. According to Marchildon (2016), "it is thought of as a dynamic process that leads to the formation of regions as geopolitical units, as organized political cooperation within a specific group of states, and as regional communities such as pluralistic security communities."

The process of regionalization as a geographical discipline has experienced multiple progressions in the past few years and Africa has been one of the continents facing the significant repercussions of this process. However, issues such as Eurocentric approaches, colonialism and imposition of state boundaries have rendered the African continent a unique one. A new method of regionalization for Africa that does not take into consideration state boundaries and is based on a real connection has been proposed by many scholars (Good, Derudder & Witlox, 2011).

The present system of regionalization methods in the continent has several shortcomings that are attributed mainly to the division of Africa according to the characteristics such as native language group or climate, soil, language, colonial history, or other combination of physical and human characteristics. An intricate method is needed to have an idea of the region in which the African people feel they belong and how they develop relations with other people in the region (Fioramonti & Mattheis, 2016).

The old perspective of regionalization is criticized for providing a haphazard view of the world where national borders have been considered as mere lines over which regional delineations could be traced. In the case of Africa, this has been an unfortunate remnant of colonialism wherein the language, culture and ethnicity of native people were held with little regard. When Africa uses a grouping unit, regionalization becomes an inadequate and impossible process in the continent (De Melo & Tsikata, 2015).

The worldwide proliferation of regional integration in recent times has resulted in renewed attention to the regionalization phenomenon as an area of theoretical research and analysis (Grant, 2017). The ways regional economic communities have gained existence in Africa have been continually criticized by the proponents of the new regionalization approach.

The way in which the formation of regions takes place through social interaction should be emphasized rather than the expectation that improved regional cooperation will result from the construction of economic regions (Aniche, 2020). Although Africa has witnessed regional integration at various levels, the economy of the continents has remained fragmented due to its infrastructural challenges and the state-centric nature of the efforts of integration (Mlambo & Mlambo, 2018).

The phrase "regional integration arrangement" refers to "the preferential (usually reciprocal) agreement between countries that reduces barriers to economic and non-economic transactions." It is the process of bringing together the various economies of individual states in order to encourage and make it easier for the free flow of goods and services within those states. The primary goal of these phenomena is to lessen or do away with obstacles between the states that make up its membership. The individual member states stand to benefit in a number of ways from regional integration. When applied to the African setting, regional integration is beneficial to conflict management. According to Ravenhill (2016), it serves as a driving force for the building of peace and stability in Africa, in addition to providing survival methods.

Since the commencement of the civil war in December 2013, regional economic integration has shown a remarkable dedication to peace mediation and conflict resolution in particular in three states of the Horn of Africa region: Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) are the results of the integration processes in Sudan and Somalia, respectively. Peace and security mission efforts in Somalia failed despite a huge amount of money being spent on these missions (Bereketeab, 2019). Since Somalia is not entirely free of conflicts, the country's experience has not received much attention in the literature.

The end of the cold war and the marginalization, together with the vicious cycle of poverty, underdevelopment, sickness, and notably cross-border violence, were the key causes for the vigorous attempts for regional integration in Africa. Conflict management in Africa has been aided by regional organizations, according to the available research. This has been reflected in the efforts since the early 2000s to alter the African Union into robust, collective security and norm-building mechanism (Arthur, 2017).

In many countries, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Gambia, South Sudan, and Somalia, regional economic communities (recs) like the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have played an important role in conflict management initiatives and peace building mechanisms. Overall, this rising wave of efforts towards regional integration coincides with the frequent calls of the continent to find local solutions to its internal problems (Saba, 2020).

Although excellent stability has been maintained in many Somalia areas, violent conflicts in Somalia have been occurring since 1991. Until 2013, there were no sustainable peace building measures in Somalia which resulted in the country being referred to as a failed state. Apart from this, there was no effective central government in the country, and it was primarily dominated by competing, localized warlords who were not in support of peace building initiatives (Mahiga, 2018).

In conclusion, the Horn of Africa region has faced numerous challenges that have contributed to conflicts and civil wars. Regional economic integration has emerged as a potential solution to these challenges, providing benefits such as increased economic opportunities, cooperation, and stability.

To ensure how Horn of Africa's economic integration project has the potential to bring peace and stability to the region, overcoming the causes of conflicts and promoting economic growth and cooperation, the study emphasizes the experience of peace building measures and security strategies in the Horn of Africa with special reference to Somalia due to its prolonged history of conflicts and examines how these measures simultaneously become mutually reinforcing as a result of regional economic integration.

1.2. THE PROBLEM (THE PROBLEM OF THE STUDIED AREA)

Lack of locally and regionally owned published research and insufficient knowledge on relationships between borders, conflict, and trade that are complex and multifaceted makes priority to study and explore how borders can act as both a barrier to stability and an opportunity for development and stability.

If the Regional economic integration has the potential to promote peace building and security in the Horn of Africa, it is important to investigate How horn of Africa's regional economic integration can bring peace building and security strategy in the region with particular focus on Somalia.

According to (Tuluy, 2016), the Horn of Africa region has long been plagued by political instability, conflict, and underdevelopment. The region has been marked by several protracted and violent conflicts, including the Somali civil war, the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict, and the ongoing conflict in South Sudan. These conflicts have had a devastating impact on the region's stability, with the lack of regional economic integration and cooperation exacerbating the situation. Knowing that many efforts has been hindered by political motives, geography, and the uneven distribution of gains, to overcome these challenges, in-depth research, and analysis of the root causes of conflict are needed.

Regional economic integration has been identified as a potential strategy for peace building and security in the region. The African Union has been championing the idea of regional integration to prevent and settle conflicts, promote economic growth and development, and achieve sustainable peace.

By exploring the benefits of a regional trade bloc and investigating the potential of economic cooperation to provide security and lead to peace building, as one of the most conflict-prone regions in the world, with several protracted and violent conflicts ongoing, it's crucial to study how these conflicts have had a devastating impact on the region's stability, with the lack of regional

economic integration and cooperation exacerbating the situation. The study creates a platform that policymakers can contribute and present effective strategies that address the causes of conflict and promote even distribution of gains (Bereketeab, 2019).

The region is characterized by weak and unstable governments, with many leaders prioritizing their own political interests over regional cooperation. This has resulted in a lack of political will and commitment to regional integration and cooperation, as well as a lack of trust among countries.

Fulfilling the knowledge gap of practical strategies and programs to enhance synergies between regional integration, and peace and security, and how geography has also played a significant role in hindering regional integration in the Horn of Africa region, a strategies that is characterized by a lack of complementarities among states, with countries having different resource endowments and security and development structures, researchers in the field believes that this has led to a lack of sustainable peace, security and development nexus complementarities and diminishing returns to resource exploitation that makes it difficult to achieve mutual benefits from regional economic integration.

The lack of academic and policy recommendation of the uneven distribution of gains has also hindered the knowledge to manage regional economic integration. Some countries in the region are more developed than others, which has led to a perception of unfairness and inequality in the distribution of benefits from regional integration. This has led to a resistance to regional integration efforts.

Major conflicts in the region might be mitigated by the formation of a regional trading bloc that would offer security and lead to peace building. In order to foster lasting peace and prosperity, regional economic integration has the capacity to tackle the underlying causes of conflict. Policies that encourage economic cooperation and integration among nations in the Horn of Africa area are necessary, however, if this effort is to succeed.

To achieve success in this endeavor, policies that promote economic cooperation and integration among countries in the region are needed to explore and must address the root causes of conflict and promote sustainable peace and development.

The establishment of a regional trade bloc could provide security as well lead to peace building that would dampen the ill effects of major conflicts in the region. However, very few studies have been conducted with respect to the regional integration efforts in Africa despite its long history of conflict and violence.

Moreover, most of the Least Developed Countries (ldcs) of the world are situated in Africa, thus making the efforts towards integration even more complicated and prevention/counter strategy of conflicts. In contrast, much of the existing literature are only analyzed the regional economic integration in terms of the European Union and their implications on the developing and Least Developed Countries (Tuluy, 2016), thus makes indeed to have literature in the African context.

Therefore, to close this gap, the problem statement of this study provides a theoretical framework to identify the factors behind conducting this study of conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa region and analyze the process of regional economic integration and how it can be a vital strategy for peace building and security especially in the Horn of Africa with particular focus to Somalia, which is one of the most conflicted areas of the region.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The specific aim and objectives of the study will be specified here. The current study strategically aims to examine cross-border cooperation as a regional peace and economic integration project in the Horn of Africa.

The pertinent objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To understand the factors behind recurrent conflicts, intra-state and cross-border resource caused conflict and instability of the Horn of Africa.
2. To study and analyze how the ongoing economic integration project of the Horn of Africa can be a vital strategy for the peace and stability of the region.
3. To provide policy-oriented recommendations on and pro how regionalism (Somalia and its neighbors) can end the local conflicts, maximize unified regional owned economic strategies. And how it can be a vital strategy for peace building and security especially in the Horn of Africa with particular focus to Somalia

1.4. QUESTIONS:

To accomplish the above-mentioned objectives of the study, the study projects key 5 thematically chosen research questions which have sub questions:

1. The key factors that cause the civil wars and conflicts in the Horn of Africa region and in the case of Somalia
2. The benefits can a country attain by participating in a regional group.

3. Does economic integration project of the Horn of Africa can bring peace and stability in the region?
4. What strategies and steps should be adopted by Somalia and its neighbors to achieve sustainable peace through the Horn of Africa regional economic integration?
5. What initiatives should be undertaken by Somalia and its neighbors regarding balance the external actor's competition of the region?

1.5. JUSTIFICATION OF THE THEMATICALLY CHOSEN QUESTIONS

The Horn of Africa region has been unsettled by conflicts and instability for decades, with Somalia being one of the most conflict-affected countries in the region. Achieving sustainable peace and stability in the region is essential for promoting economic growth, regional integration, and improving the lives of the people. To achieve this, policymakers and stakeholders need to understand the root causes of conflicts, explore the benefits of participating in regional organizations, and design effective policies and programs.

The first research question on the key factors that cause civil wars and conflicts in the Horn of Africa and Somalia is essential for understanding the underlying causes of conflicts. It can help policymakers and stakeholders to design effective conflict prevention and resolution strategies. The Horn of Africa region has various ethnic and political divisions, historical grievances, and economic disparities, which have contributed to conflicts and instability. Therefore, policymakers need to address these root causes by promoting inclusive governance, reducing poverty and inequality, and addressing historical grievances.

The second research question on the benefits of participating in a regional group is crucial for promoting economic growth, regional integration, and peace and security. The Horn of Africa region has various regional organizations, such as IGAD, which aim to promote economic cooperation and integration, peace, and security. However, participating in these organizations requires significant investment and coordination among member states. Therefore, policymakers need to understand the benefits and trade-offs of participating in regional organizations to make informed decisions.

The third research question on the ability of the economic integration project of the Horn of Africa to bring peace and stability in the region is essential for promoting sustainable peace and stability. Economic integration has been touted as an effective way of promoting peace and stability by promoting interdependence and reducing economic disparities. However, achieving economic

integration requires the cooperation and coordination of multiple stakeholders, and there may be challenges that need to be addressed. Therefore, policymakers need to design effective policies and programs to promote economic integration while addressing the challenges that may arise.

The fourth research question on the strategies and steps that should be adopted by Somalia and its neighbors to achieve sustainable peace through the Horn of Africa regional economic integration is critical for promoting sustainable peace and stability. Achieving economic integration requires the cooperation and coordination of multiple stakeholders, and there may be challenges that need to be addressed. Therefore, policymakers need to design effective policies and programs that promote economic integration while addressing the challenges that may arise.

The fifth research question on the initiatives that should be undertaken by Somalia and its neighbors to balance the external actors' competition in the region is crucial for promoting regional peace and stability while protecting the interests of member states. External actors can have a significant impact on the peace and stability of the region, and there is a need to ensure that their interests do not undermine regional peace and stability. Therefore, policymakers need to design effective strategies for promoting regional peace and stability while also protecting their interests.

In conclusion, promoting sustainable peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region is essential for promoting economic growth, regional integration, and improving the lives of the people. Achieving this requires understanding the root causes of conflicts, exploring the benefits of participating in regional organizations, and designing effective policies and programs that address the challenges that may arise. Moreover, policymakers need to design effective strategies for promoting regional peace and stability while protecting their interests.

1.6. STUDY SIGNIFICANCE:

The study would immensely contribute to the existing literature on the current area of research, with new and innovative ideas, and suppositions thus making it a comprehensive research framework. Contributions have been made in every aspect of the subject of the study, some pertaining to existing knowledge and trends while others with regards to modern and contemporary approaches, to create a fresh research framework.

Along with the traditional characteristics of the phenomenon of regionalization, the study attempted to capture the current trends related to the resurgence of regionalization in the contemporary world. The growths of regionalization including the increase in the process of social

and economic interaction among nation-states with the formation of regions as geopolitical units have been highlighted in the study.

In addition to that, the study focused on the reasons behind the poor traditional record of regional integration and cooperation that led to the failure of regionalism in Africa in the past. The study delineated the recent steps taken by the African Union towards integration.

The implications of the European model of integration have been examined in detail to develop the African model as the EU has continually supported the integration efforts of Africa in the past. Africa being a continent of troubled and conflicted regions, the need for new forms of peace building measures and security strategies has been identified and pointed out in the study. The study entailed a considerable discussion on the fragile concepts of peace and conflict considering their common use in the African context. The various principles and assumptions of the two concepts along with their role in reducing or eliminating conflict have been widely narrated in the study.

Apart from that, cross-border integration has been highlighted as one of the sources of conflict resolution as it has the potential to end territorial disputes by increasing economic interdependence among nations.

Furthermore, the concept and importance of Regional economic integration as a process towards the promotion of peace building mechanism and security strategy have been highlighted including the different examples of regional integration such as NAFTA, EU, APEC, and ASEAN and so on. However, the study primarily focused on the EU's integration project and the policies adopted by them to meet wider ambitions of regional integration due to vast literature on the EU.

The study also addresses the harmonization of policies and reforms of several state institutions to show how the process of harmonization helps in achieving the goal of the integration process. However, the failure of certain political and fiscal harmonization especially with reference to the EU has also been highlighted through several studies and their costs and benefits have been analyzed.

Since there have been very few studies of regional economic integration in Africa, the proposed research framework is the first of its kind aiming to analyze the regional economic integration and its role in peace building and security strategy in the Horn of Africa with a particular focus on Somalia.

II. CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW IN THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATION, PEACE AND SECURITY

2. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON PEACE AND SECURITY

The concept of integration, peace, and security has a rich historical background, with economic integration emerging as a vital catalyst for fostering peace and security in numerous regions worldwide. The European Union serves as a compelling illustration of how economic integration can lead to peace and stability. By establishing a sense of "interdependence and mutual benefit between nations," economic integration effectively diminishes the likelihood of conflicts. This section aims to delve into the existing literature on economic integration's role in promoting peace and security across diverse regions.

Extensive research has been conducted on the relationship between economic integration and peace, consistently revealing a positive correlation between the two. Mansfield and Pevehouse's (2006) seminal study, for instance, discovered that "regional economic integration reduces the likelihood of inter-state conflict." Analyzing 181 countries over a period of 200 years, the study demonstrated that countries with higher levels of economic integration are less inclined to engage in conflicts with one another.

Comparable research was conducted by Bagwell and Staiger (2002), who looked at NAFTA's (North American Free Trade Agreement) effect on security and peace in the Americas. The authors concluded that NAFTA had a crucial impact in lowering the likelihood of war between these countries, highlighting the importance of trade agreements in promoting peace and security.

Furthermore, Azam and Galand (2015) conducted a comprehensive study examining the influence of economic integration on peace and security in Africa. Their research elucidated that economic integration has the potential to decrease the likelihood of conflicts in Africa by fostering a sense of "interdependence between countries." The study also underscored the critical role of political will and effective institutional frameworks in ensuring that economic integration translates into tangible peace and security outcomes.

2.1. THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Regional integration, also known as Regional Economic Communities (REC), has gained significant attention in Africa in recent decades. According to Melo and Tsikata (2015), the landscape of regional integration in Africa has undergone significant changes, with developing

and least developed countries (LDCs) increasingly participating in global trade. In fact, it has been suggested that out of the 50 LDCs globally, 34 are in Africa, highlighting the growing desire to include these countries in regional networks (Melo & Tsikata, 2015).

The inclusion of LDCs in regional integration is seen as an opportunity to leverage their bargaining power in multilateral trade negotiations. However, despite the importance of natural resources trade, African countries have largely remained passive participants in such negotiations. Therefore, successful regional integration becomes crucial for African countries to acquire influence in global trade (Melo & Tsikata, 2015).

The governments of Africa have shown significant support for regional integration in recent years. Hartzenberg (2011) notes that regional integration has been embraced as a vital component of Africa's development strategies since the time of independence. As a result, numerous regional integration arrangements have been established, often with overlapping memberships. However, the success stories of achieving deeper integration in Africa have been limited (Hartzenberg, 2011). The ambitious regional integration arrangements in Africa follow a linear market integration process, starting with a free trade area, followed by a customs union, a common market, and ultimately aiming for monetary and fiscal integration to form an economic union (Nnyanzi, Babyenda & Bbale, 2016). While the objective of these arrangements is to achieve successful political unions, the suitability of the regional economic integration model for the continent remains an unresolved issue (Nnyanzi, Babyenda & Bbale, 2016).

Importance of Intra-Africa Trade for Regional Integration: Intra-Africa trade is considered one of the most crucial instruments for advancing regional integration in Africa. Geda and Seid (2015) argue that the long-term growth of intra-Africa trade is essential. However, the performance of intra-Africa trade has been disappointing, necessitating an examination of its potential existence and the limitations hindering its realization. Enhancing intra-Africa trade is seen to overcome barriers, promote peace, security, stability, cooperation, and socio-economic development, ultimately leading toward the political union of the continent, which aligns with the fundamental principles of the African Union (Tuluy, 2017).

Despite government support and ambitious integration efforts, achieving deeper integration in Africa remains a challenge. Intra-Africa trade is identified as a vital instrument for advancing regional integration, and its poor performance warrants further examination. In line with the founding objectives of the African unity, regional integration in Africa seeks to further the

continent's political unity as well as its peace, security, stability, collaboration, and socioeconomic growth.

2.2. COMPREHENDING THE FRAGILE CONCEPTS OF PEACE AND CONFLICT:

Appiah-Thompson (2019) in his study explored the traditional, religious, and philosophical dimensions of peace and conflict, particularly in the African context. The researcher attempted to examine the role of these concepts as resources for the promotion of peace and justice as conflict resolution activities for both intra-state and inter-state.

Precisely, the study investigated how the concept of peace and conflict and its resolution of nonviolence contribute towards peace building and conflict transformation strategies in the African continent. The researcher revealed that philosophical thinking has been an important characteristic of African life. It was hypothesized in the study that the reasons governments and their leaders resort to violence or become ardent peacemakers may be understood if one looks at how individuals exhibit their religious worldview through their moral standards and intellectual traditions.

Since mediators in conflict situations often resort to 'wisdom' and persuasive techniques, the study concluded that understanding and analyzing conflict dynamics within an African setting is crucial.

The study noted that regardless of the multiple interventions by regional and international governments, in Africa, bringing peace in various conflict situations is a challenging task. This has mainly been attributed to two reasons: first, the failure of domestic measures at combating the escalation of violence, as the intense conflict that requires international attention cannot be mitigated using domestic measures. Secondly, modern international measures to reduce conflict are also ineffective as they are not in alignment with traditional African conflict management practices.

In light of this, it is imperative that the Africans find answers to their current political disputes. An all-encompassing sense of tranquility, harmony, and stability in one's personal and professional lives is what the researcher means by "peace." This African view of peace is broader than simply the absence of war, and it encompasses such ideals as "serenity in the country," "increase in the human and flock population," "good health for both humans and animals," "harmony in nature as well as among people," and "the banishment of all that causes strife."

Lahiry (2019) in his study highlighted the concerns of peace and conflict as dominant subjects of international relations. The study primarily examined the multiple issues of peace and conflict and

their associated challenges. The researcher argued that theorists have started considering peace as the absence of conflict and explicitly as the absence of war in both inter-state and intra-state. Peace is therefore looked upon from both its negative and positive notions were socio-economic determinants, such as economic development, stability, social justice, the standard of living, etc. Are the important aspects of the positive notion?

The study further suggested that conflict should be viewed as a concept that includes three components namely, contradiction (C), attitude (A) and behavior (B). While contradiction refers to the intrinsic conflict situation, wherein there exists no compatibility between the parties and their goals, an attitude refers to how the conflicted parties perceive or misperceive one another.

Behavior, on the other hand, has been defined as having both cooperation and coercion. In addition to this, threats, destructive attacks, and coercion are associated with violent behavior. The study associated conflict with the violence of three types including direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence. It suggested that by changing conflict behavior, there is a possibility to stop direct violence, while structural violence can be ended by defeating structural contradictions.

Furthermore, positive peace has been associated with the opposite of violence and rendered structural violence as the backdrop of peace research. Peace research is predominantly considered as a counterpart of conflict, which prevails over several peace building narratives. In other words.

2.3. OUTLINING THE EFFECTS OF CROSS-BORDER TRADE ON CONFLICT:

Schultz (2015) highlighted that research on the linkage between territorial disputes, conflict and economic integration takes place at the intersection of territorial disputes with violence as well as the effects of trade on conflict and vice versa. The researcher argued that although many studies on how territorial disputes result in conflict and affect trade have been conducted, the potential economic gains and its contribution to the settlements of these disputes have not been covered much.

According to the study, a persistent territorial dispute because of increased economic interdependence is globally evident. Additionally, in recent times an increase in cross-border flows of goods, services and capital has also been witnessed largely.

Moreover, inter-country and inter-state disputes over border location or sovereignty allocation over territory remain to be a threatening feature of global politics. The study revealed major theoretical and empirical implications to suggest that territorial disputes over the distribution of territory are a significant reason for militarized conflict. Territorial disputes set the groundwork

for widespread interstate violence across the globe which leads to prolonged rivalries. However, the study also observed that the settlement of such conflicts by adopting a legally bounded border or transfer of territory is strongly associated with a decline in the further conflict between states. The study emphasized that territory is a type of good for which the increased motivation to fight arises among individuals and states.

Although militarized conflict over the distribution of such goods is not common, they provided opportunities and incentives for states to engage in violence to influence bargaining and change the territorial distribution in their favor. With respect to the relationship between cross-border trade and conflict, it is a well-known fact that bilaterally, trade is less between states that engage in increased levels of conflict. The agreement over an association among such states is less with greater consensus on the reduction of economic integration because of the conflict. There exists strong evidence towards the notion of conflict disrupting trade relations between states. Furthermore, the study identified that conflict creates barriers for trade integration between states and conflict makes cross-border movement dangerous. Fear of attack leads states to militarize the border and such ways that hinder trade flows.

Zambakari (2016) examined the concept of liberal peace, its implications as well as its associated challenges for state-building. There is a substantial body of information that has been informing and outlining the administration of many African nations, the research claims, and this body of knowledge has been developed by liberal peace studies on peace building in societies. The core tenet of liberal peace is that stability is brought about by the spread of "liberal democracy, market-based economic reforms, and the establishment of institutions related with modern states." It underlined that one of the most essential parts of liberal peace building, that is state building, dated to the 1990s when it first started forming.

Two of the most important indicators of liberal peace are the Global Peace Index and the Fragile States Index. These indices put a number on the idea of peace and highlight the governmental structures most strongly linked to long-term stability. Thus, liberal peace is associated with fiscal measures that foster the growth of states.

According to the study's authors, liberal institution-building—or "state building"—is the key to fixing Africa's state failure or instability. Therefore, the study highlighted that liberal peace building is firstly characterized by the assumption that it is driven mainly by external factors that are apolitical, that is, although the problem is internal, the solution must be external. The second presumption was that voting, and democracy were synonymous. "The promotion of democracy,

market-based economic reforms, and a range of other institutions associated with 'modern' states as a driving force for building peace" is how liberal peace is described. Accordingly, it has been noted that liberal peace has far-reaching implications for the people on whose behalf these interventions are being carried out. Finally, the third assumption stated that those societies that are liberally constituted are more peaceful and prosperous.

2.4. THE CONCEPT AND IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:

Rekiso's (2017) research provided a theoretical framework grounded on evolution and history that may be used to isolate the underlying principles of regional economic integration. According to the research, economic integration is the "promotion of efficiency in resource use on a regional basis." Regional economic integration was characterized as "an agreement between groups of countries in a geographic region, to reduce and ultimately remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to the free flow of goods, services, and factors of production between each other." The report cited the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the European Union (EU), and the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) as some of the primary instances of regional economic integration. Free trade, customs unions, a common market, economic union, and political union are all examples of varying degrees of economic integration that have been emphasized in the research. The pros and cons of economic integration were separated out in the study by recognizing solid data.

Villarreal & Fergusson (2017) highlighted the emergence of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in their study. The formation of NAFTA dates to January 1st, 1994, when it first came into effect to expand trade and economic linkages between member countries by creating more efficient processes of production, increasing the availability of cheaper goods, and enhancing the standard of living and working conditions of people. NAFTA paved the way for other economic integrations in the US and influenced further multilateral negotiations. A new generation of trade agreements was launched in many regions of the world owing to NAFTA impacting discussions in areas such as market access, rules of origin, intellectual property rights, foreign investment, dispute resolution and environmental protection. The report found that because to NAFTA, the United States and Canada have easier access to the Mexican market, which is the fastest-growing major export market for U.S. goods and services. In addition, the US market became one of the largest in the world because of increasing imports from Mexico and Canada thanks to this deal.

Begg (2021) in his study primarily focused on the importance of regional economic integration and the rationale behind the European Union (EU) as an integration project. The study first posited the five forms of economic integration including, free trade areas, customs unions, common markets, economic unions, and total integration. These five stages captured much of the EU evolution along with the notion of federalism as the final stage of integration. Although economic integration is the foundation of the EU, it is characterized by wider ambitions. The EU Treaty preamble recalls the historic significance of ending the division of the European continent," a motivation which is purely driven by economic agreements. It puts forward a clear objective for member states that is the strengthening and convergence of their respective economies and to establish an economic and monetary union including a single currency. Additionally, the promotion of economic and social progress for the citizens and sustainable development are also its objectives. Furthermore, the study also claimed that the EU is currently in a challenging position as Asian competitors such as the ASEAN are in the process of establishing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) comprising fifteen countries in the Asia Pacific region which could prove to be a rival to the EU.

2.5. INTERPRETING HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES AND REFORMS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS:

In the pursuit of economic integration, the question arises as to whether policies should be harmonized or coordinated among participating states. Drawing on research from a variety of areas, this study examines the idea of harmonization in the context of state structures and policies. The aim is to analyze the implications of harmonization and identify lessons that can be applied to the Horn of Africa's economic integration efforts.

2.5.1 Harmonization in the European Union

The subject of whether policies in the European Union (EU) should advance towards harmonization was discussed by Kouba et al. (2016). Considering the impact of route dependency, the researchers found that the European Union's integration process has progressed too far for policies to remain solely within the purview of the member states. The study primarily examined whether successful economic integration could be achieved from the harmonization process of a governance structure with a central authority and centralized functions, like in the case of the European Monetary Union. Kouba et al. (2016) contends that "instead of harmonization, better coordination and joint responsibility in the fiscal area should be called for, as well as policies and institutions in the European Union." This declaration marked a break from the trend toward

comprehensive harmonization towards integrated EU policies and instead emphasized the need for coordinated action among autonomous national policies.

2.5.2 Perspectives on Harmonization and Coordination

The findings of the study by Kouba et al. (2016) helped uncover two alternative viewpoints on the relationship between harmonization and coordination of policies. The first approach saw both coordination and harmonization as being closely connected processes that are opponents to concepts of independent policy and competitiveness among countries. Harmonization is most used to tax policy and accounting. The second position, however, distinguishes between the two words primarily in the realm of taxation, arguing that tax coordination, rather than tax harmonization, should be pursued since harmonization primarily stresses obtaining equal tax rates, which is not in accordance with reality. Therefore, the research found that total uniformity in every respect need not be the aim of the E.U.'s integration efforts.

2.5.3 Costs and Benefits of Harmonization

Wasserfallen (2013) analyzed the failure of political and fiscal harmonization with reference to the European Union (EU). The study assumed that the integration of authorities in a community has associated costs and benefits for the units affected. The study stated that harmonization of policies leads to cost internalization and takes advantage of economies of scale, but it also has an association with costs since after integration of individual units, they cannot legislate independently anymore in conjunction with the specific preferences of the people in their respective jurisdictions.

The study also suggested that within the political framework, there exist two mechanisms that account for the potential benefits of tax harmonization at the European level. First, it is possible for the member states to gain certain authority over their capacities of tax revenue if it is assumed that the tax harmonization will result in legislation in the EU balancing both principles of the single market and national fiscal interests. And second, tax legislation is in turn associated with large economic gains as tax harmonization leads to the internalization of costs that a heterogeneous system of tax generally imposes on private sectors.

For example, Wasserfallen (2013) found that "the harmonization of corporate tax enables and stimulates transnational business activities." The studies reviewed provide valuable insights into the implications of harmonization and coordination in economic integration efforts. Harmonization should be approached with caution, considering the specific contexts and

objectives of the integration process. Rather than pursuing absolute harmonization in all areas, coordination and joint responsibility in relevant policy domains may offer more suitable alternatives. The experiences of other regions, such as the European Union, can serve as important lessons for the ongoing economic integration initiatives in the Horn of Africa.

2.6. KEY DEBATES AND CONTROVERSIES

2.6.1 Intergovernmentalism, supra-nationalism and neo-functionalism:

Research on the interplay between borders, conflict, and trade has provided valuable insights into how territorial disputes contribute to military conflicts and hinder economic integration. This cycle of conflict explains the persistence of territorial disputes in the modern world, often spanning decades without resolution. However, the mechanisms by which states in the Horn of Africa can break free from this cycle and foster a virtuous cycle of economic cooperation, dispute resolution, and border stability remain less explored. The study investigated the potential for joint economic gains to promote dispute settlement, reduce the risk of conflict, and facilitate closer integration, thereby reinforcing border stability. By addressing this knowledge gap, the research enhanced the understanding of regional integration dynamics in the Horn of Africa and guide efforts towards its successful realization.

Intergovernmentalism and Supra-Nationalism in the African Context: According to Smeets and Zaun (2020), "the existential crisis of the European Union (EU) and the Eurozone has prompted a debate on the applicability of old and new theories to the crisis and post-crisis decision-making in the EU" (p. 1036).

In the African context, the role of supranational institutions and intergovernmentalism requires examination. The study argues that major steps in regional integration are primarily driven by decisions resulting from bargaining among member states based on their domestically determined preferences.

Smeets and Zaun (2020) state that within intergovernmentalism theory, "Institutional actors that operate within supranational organizations play a major facilitative role at best". Instead, it is the member states that shape and drive the regional integration process, accounting for the moderate pace of integration. In the African context, high-level politics and summit diplomacy assume significant roles, with governments and heads of state actively involved in decision-making, structuring the overall process, and engaging with operational and managerial matters.

2.6.2 Neo-Functionalism and its Relevance in the African Context

Schmitter and Lefkofridi (2016) argue that the conceptual and theoretical framework of neo-functionalism can provide insights into understanding the crises faced by regional integration initiatives in Africa and their future consequences. They assert that "neo-functionalism has been criticized for its partial favor in processes objected to by its practitioners". Nevertheless, the approach proves valuable in explaining the generation of spillovers in the Western European context.

However, in unfavorable settings, neo-functionalism has failed to achieve even the basic objectives outlined in the founding treaties of regional integration. According to Schmitter and Lefkofridi (2016), "the performance of functional integration is expected to stabilize the interstate order by effectively fulfilling the tasks assigned through international agreement" (p. 1). The study explores the hypotheses and assumptions underlying the peace nexus integration and examines the challenges that arise when member states are reluctant to engage with supranational policies.

2.6.3 Regional Integration in the Horn of Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

In the Horn of Africa, regional member states have a unique opportunity to benefit from the evolving regional environment, particularly in terms of conflict management, peacebuilding, operations, and informal trade cooperation. As highlighted in a recent study by the US National Defense University, there is a call for robust international support to strengthen regional organizations in Africa.

2.7. INTERLINKING THE ETHIOPIAN DAM CONFLICT WITH REGIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile River has emerged as a significant source of conflict in the Horn of Africa (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). The GERD is a large-scale hydroelectric dam project initiated by Ethiopia to address its energy needs and promote economic development (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). However, the dam's construction and subsequent filling of the reservoir have raised concerns and sparked tensions among Ethiopia and downstream countries, particularly Sudan and Egypt (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). This conflict is an example of a regional transboundary water conflict with broader implications for the stability and cooperation in the region (Beyene & Melesse, 2020).

The Nile River, one of the world's longest rivers, is a vital water resource for several countries in northeastern Africa (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Egypt and Sudan heavily rely on the Nile's waters for agriculture, drinking water, and various economic activities (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Historically, Egypt has held a dominant position regarding the utilization of Nile waters, primarily due to colonial-era agreements that granted it significant water rights (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). As Ethiopia began constructing the GERD, which has the potential to affect downstream water flow, concerns arose regarding the impact on Egypt and Sudan's water supply (Beyene & Melesse, 2020).

The tensions surrounding the GERD have raised concerns regarding the impact on downstream countries, primarily Egypt and Sudan, both heavily reliant on the Nile's waters (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). The conflict surrounding the GERD is multifaceted, encompassing political, economic, and environmental dimensions (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Egypt, in particular, has expressed concerns about the potential reduction in water flow caused by the dam, fearing that its water security and agricultural productivity could be severely compromised (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Sudan, on the other hand, has a more complex stance, as it stands to benefit from the GERD's potential for increased water storage, hydropower generation, and regulated water flows (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). However, Sudan also recognizes the need for a comprehensive agreement that safeguards its interests and minimizes potential risks (Beyene & Melesse, 2020).

"The legal aspects of transboundary water resource management in the Nile Basin, particularly in relation to the GERD, require careful consideration." (Haile & Nega, 2017)

The Ethiopian government maintains that the GERD is essential for its development aspirations and asserts its right to utilize its water resources for the benefit of its population. Ethiopia sees the dam as a symbol of national pride and a means to alleviate poverty and achieve energy independence. However, the lack of an agreed-upon framework for the dam's operation and water sharing has contributed to the escalation of tensions between the parties involved.

"The GERD represents a significant opportunity for Ethiopia to address its energy needs and promote economic development." (Alemayehu & Bewket, 2019)

The GERD conflict is interconnected with broader regional transboundary water issues in the Horn of Africa. The Nile Basin, comprising eleven countries, is characterized by a complex web of water-related challenges, including water scarcity, population growth, climate change impacts, and historical water use agreements. The absence of a comprehensive and inclusive legal framework for water governance in the basin has exacerbated tensions and conflicts over water resources.

"It is vital to recognize that the GERD conflict is not an isolated incident but part of broader regional Trans boundary water conflicts in the Horn of Africa." (Kebede & Nicol, 2017)

The GERD controversy has been the subject of continuous efforts at mediation, technical talks, and diplomatic negotiations. The African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), and other international entities have been active in promoting conversation and pursuing a mutually acceptable settlement. However, reaching a comprehensive agreement that addresses the concerns and interests of all parties remains a complex task.

"International cooperation and dialogue are crucial for resolving trans boundary water conflicts like the GERD dispute." (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Addressing the GERD conflict and broader regional Trans boundary water conflicts in the Horn of Africa requires a complete effort that and attention to the social-economic, and political heights of water management. It necessitates the establishment of equitable and inclusive mechanisms for water allocation, cooperative frameworks for basin-wide water governance, and sustainable development practices that promote water security for all riparian countries.

"A comprehensive and inclusive water governance framework is essential for addressing transboundary water conflicts and achieving sustainable development in the Nile Basin." (Kebede & Nicol, 2017). The Ethiopian Dam conflict surrounding the GERD is intertwined with regional trans boundary water conflicts in the Horn of Africa. Resolving these conflicts requires a comprehensive and cooperative approach that considers the concerns and interests of all riparian countries.

By addressing the legal, political, and environmental aspects associated with the GERD, the region can move towards a more sustainable and cooperative water management framework. It is imperative that the African Union, United Nations, and other international actors continue to facilitate dialogue and seek mutually acceptable solutions to ensure long-term stability and cooperation in the region.

2.8. COMMITMENTS MADE SO FAR AND HOW IT IS RESPONDING LOCAL CHALLENGES

According to the Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative, the region is taking significant steps towards achieving regional stability by addressing shared challenges and promoting livelihoods in agriculture and pastoral value chains. This initiative aims to transform regional trade,

stimulate growth, and support livelihoods across the continent, ultimately fostering stability and security in the region (Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative, n.d.).

This effort is supported by a €30 million donation from the European Union (EU) to the Horn of Africa Umbrella Program Multi-Donor Trust Fund. In line with the objectives of the Horn of Africa Initiative (European Union, 2021), this money will be used to back initiatives that further the regional integration of nations in the region.

According to the Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative (n.d.), the Trust-Funded Technical Assistance and Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) play a vital role in supporting project development, reform diagnostics, and policy harmonization and institutional strengthening. ASA provides research, analysis, surveys, studies, and policy notes, and its support has resulted in a total of USD\$38.946 million in activities to date (Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative, n.d.).

Several projects are currently addressing the region's key challenges, including the Economic Corridors projects, which aim to enhance connectivity between regional economic zones. Examples include the HoA Gateway Development Project, Djibouti-Addis Road Corridor Project, and Somalia HoA Infrastructure Integration Project. Additionally, the Regional Energy Trade projects, such as the 2nd Ethiopia-Djibouti Power System Interconnection Project and HoA Regional Integration for Sustainable Energy Supply Phase 2, are underway to address the importance of energy in achieving economic development (Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative Document).

The Single Digital Market project of the Horn of Africa is another priority area, with investments contributing to economic growth, poverty reduction, and reduced inequality (Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative, n.d.). Under the pillar of Trade and Economic Integration, projects such as the De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement of Rural Economies Project, the Development of the Djibouti Corridor project, and the COMESA Trade Facilitation Program are being implemented to reduce poverty, inequality, and the risk of conflict and instability (Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative, n.d.).

Finally, the fourth pillar of the HoA initiative focuses on strengthening human capital through projects such as the Africa CDC Regional Investment Financing Project, East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project, and Disease surveillance for the HoA. These

initiatives aim to improve access to basic services, reduce poverty and inequality, and promote economic growth (Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative, n.d.).

Academic analysis suggests that these development initiatives can contribute to peace and stability in the region. For example, the De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement of Rural Economies Project can help reduce poverty and inequality, which are significant drivers of conflict. Similarly, the Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa project can decrease the vulnerability of communities to food insecurity, which can contribute to resource-based conflicts (Smith et al., 2020).

Furthermore, the Africa CDC Regional Investment Financing Project can improve access to basic health services, leading to better disease control and improved overall population health. This, in turn, can foster productive and healthy communities, contributing to economic growth and reducing the risk of conflict and instability (Jones et al., 2018).

Promoting peace and security in the area is a top priority for the Horn of Africa Economic Integration Initiative's development activities. These programs are centered on trade, economic integration, building resilience, and increasing human capital. These initiatives have the potential to reduce poverty and inequality, foster economic growth, and mitigate the risk of conflict and instability. By investing in these initiatives, the Horn of Africa region can work towards a more peaceful and stable future.

2.9. GAPS AND KEY CHALLENGES

Existing literature has been evaluated judiciously for this study, and the results have been interpreted considering the study's goals. It's useful for pointing researchers in the right path by pinpointing unfilled questions in their field of study.

Although regional integration has been gaining attention across all developed, developing and least developed countries (ldcs), most of the existing literature on regional integration fails to incorporate the significance of regional economic integration particularly in respect of ldcs. Since most of the LDCS are situated in Africa, there is a growing need for future research to include the framework of these ldcs into their studies, encompassing their integration ambitions and developmental strategies.

In addition to the focus on Africa, most studies comprehend the concepts of peace and conflict in the context of international relations (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). However, future studies need to

provide a general view of the concept of peace and conflict with respect to international relations, beyond the African context (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Moreover, peace and conflict both have associated philosophies which have a huge impact on economic integration but have hardly been covered in the extant literature (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Therefore, future studies should redefine these philosophical concepts and encompass their sub-components (Beyene & Melesse, 2020).

Regional conflict and resolution studies often include institutionalized observations that result in joint benefits for citizens of cross-borders, and strengthened cooperation between states (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Therefore, incorporating these considerations in future studies will be substantive for studies on cross-border integration, conflict, and trade (Beyene & Melesse, 2020).

Furthermore, regarding neo-functionalism, although hypotheses and suppositions have been outlined in most studies, an in-depth exploration of each hypothesis has not been conducted, and the empirical picture has been narrated haphazardly, with a major focus only on the European Union, avoiding all other international agreements (Beyene & Melesse, 2020). Therefore, future research should focus on examining each of the hypotheses comprehensively by differentiating each variable and exploring all other international agreements, shifting the focus from the EU (Beyene & Melesse, 2020).

III. CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH FINDINGS

3. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL METHODOLOGY:

The previous chapter of the current research framework aimed at providing a theoretical background of the study with respect to Regional Economic Integration as peace and security strategy in the Horn of Africa, its relevant aims and objectives and associated research problems necessary for establishing the essence of the study. However, the current chapter is dedicated mostly to describing the methods, processes, and techniques utilized in the process of data collection, analysis, and interpretation, in accordance with the predetermined targets and objectives that are described in the research.

“The research methodology gives a detailed explanation of the specific procedures and techniques used to conduct the analysis of the data and enables the researcher to critically evaluate the overall validity and reliability of the study” (Kothari, 2004).

This section provides a comprehensive explanation of the general research methodology of the study, with the help of its components like the research paradigm, research approach, research design, as well as reasoning approach adopted. In addition to that, the data collection method, target population, sample size, sampling technique used to accomplish the objectives of the research study, are also be discussed in this chapter. The study ended with a discussion of ethical factors that would guarantee the confidentiality of the participants and the study's veracity and accuracy.

3.1. RESEARCH PARADIGM:

The present study adopts the interpretivism research paradigm since its primary objective is to qualitatively analyze and interpret the data gathered from the different sources such as state and institutional level policymakers, diplomats, trade and businesspeople, research institutions and experts in the field to particularly analyze the role of Regional Economic Integration as a strategy for Peace and security strategy in the Horn of Africa, with particular focus to Somalia. Since the phenomenon of regional economic integration is complex and can have multiple interpretations, an interpretivism paradigm has been chosen by the researcher.

3.2. THE APPROACH:

To get a clear-cut vision of the research framework, the implementation of the most appropriate research approach is indispensable. The different approaches to research are qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research approaches. However, for this study, the qualitative research

approach has been adopted to qualitatively analyze the information collected from various primary and secondary sources in their natural settings.

3.3. RESEARCH DESIGN:

The study adopts the explanatory research design since the analysis of regional economic integration as a strategy for peace building and security, especially in the Horn of Africa, needs a detailed understanding and explanation as it has not been conducted before. The objective of this research would therefore be, to provide a comprehensive insight into the affairs of particular the phenomenon and not actually derive any conclusion from it.

3.4. REASONING APPROACHES:

The present study adopts the deductive reasoning approach since data on the topic under investigation has been collected from various primary and secondary sources which enable the researcher to make specific conclusions from more general assumptions or based on premises that are assumed to be true as it is a top-down approach to the reasoning of the data collected. Based on the different premises from different sources it is “possible to reach a logical conclusion even if the generalization is false.” Therefore, a deductive reasoning approach has been chosen in this study.

3.5. DATA COLLECTION METHOD:

The present study chooses a mixed data collection method as the data on the area under investigation has been collected from both secondary and primary data sources. The primary data has been collected from the respondents with the help of surveys, questionnaires, and standardized research instruments that are all prominent among the tools comprising qualitative methodology. A qualitative interview method has been adopted to collect information from the respondents. Whereas the secondary data has been acquired through existing literature.

3.6. SAMPLING METHOD AND SAMPLE SIZE:

Chosen population, sample size and sampling technique: The target population chosen for the study, sample size and sampling technique is state and institutional level individuals and organizations such as policymakers, diplomats, trade and businesspeople, big companies, and experts. The reason behind the selection of this population is that they are better informed about the phenomenon of regional economic integration as a strategy for peace building and security in

the Horn of Africa which makes it easier for the researcher to capture the most appropriate information for conducting the analysis. The sample size of 15-20 respondents has been selected from this population using the purposive sampling method to acquire data on the subject under investigation as this non-probability sampling technique, enables the researcher to rely on their own judgment while selecting the sample for their study.

3.7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Since the present study is qualitative in nature, the data collected from the respondents is analyzed using a thematic analysis method and their interpretation will be done in conjunction with the objectives of the study. The thematic analysis is adopted as it enables the researcher to closely examine the transcripts acquired from the interviews and surveys and recognize the common themes such as the topic, ideas and patterns that occur repeatedly in the study.

3.8. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

By gaining participants' informed permission and briefing them about the study's goals, methods, risks, rewards, and their rights, the researcher was able to gather data in accordance with ethical concerns and guidelines. Questions might be asked, and participation was entirely up to the discretion of anyone contacted. Ensuring confidentiality and anonymity was also measures to protect participants' identities and personal information by assigning unique identifiers instead of using real names. The study respected the voluntariness of the participants, sought and received ethical approval, and then collected data in a way that complied with all applicable ethical standards. Participants were also made aware of their right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

3.9. FINDINGS AND RESULTS

This section presents the analysis of the information collected and showcases the results acquired through the thematic data analysis and interpretation. The output generated from the respondents of different sectors of the society (Government officials, academicians, cso, ingos, and respective officers) is presented thematically then eventually interpreted the key conceptual issues.

3.9.1 Tables

Tables 1: Age group

Table 4.2: Participant's background

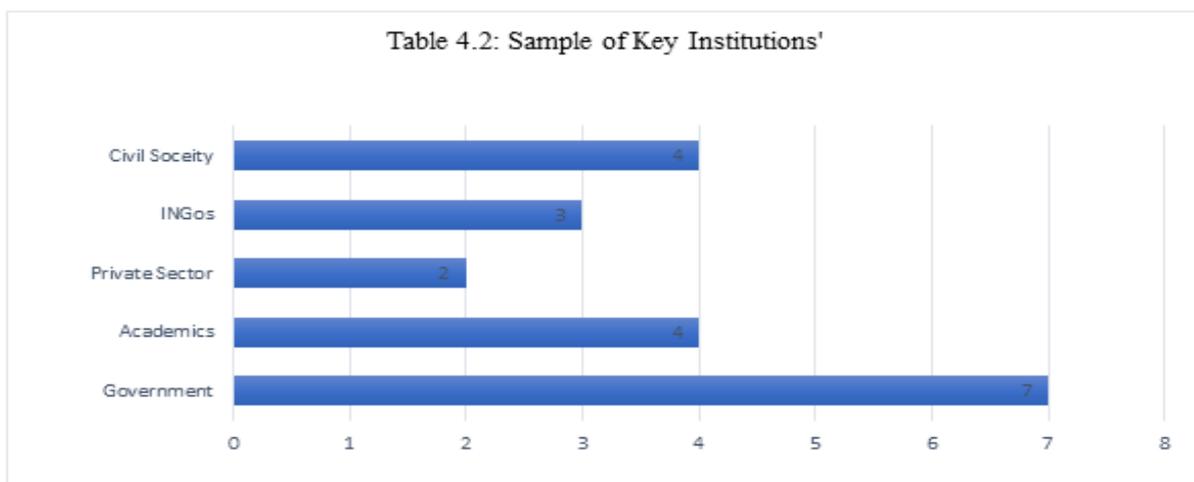
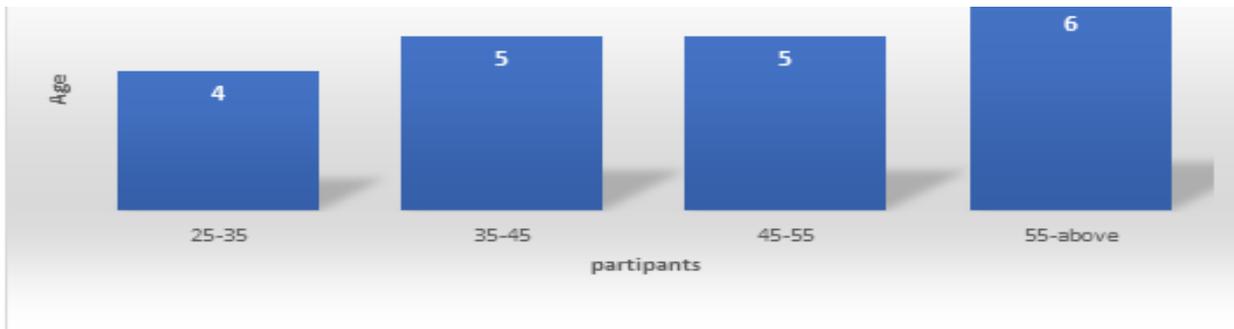


Table 3 Gender

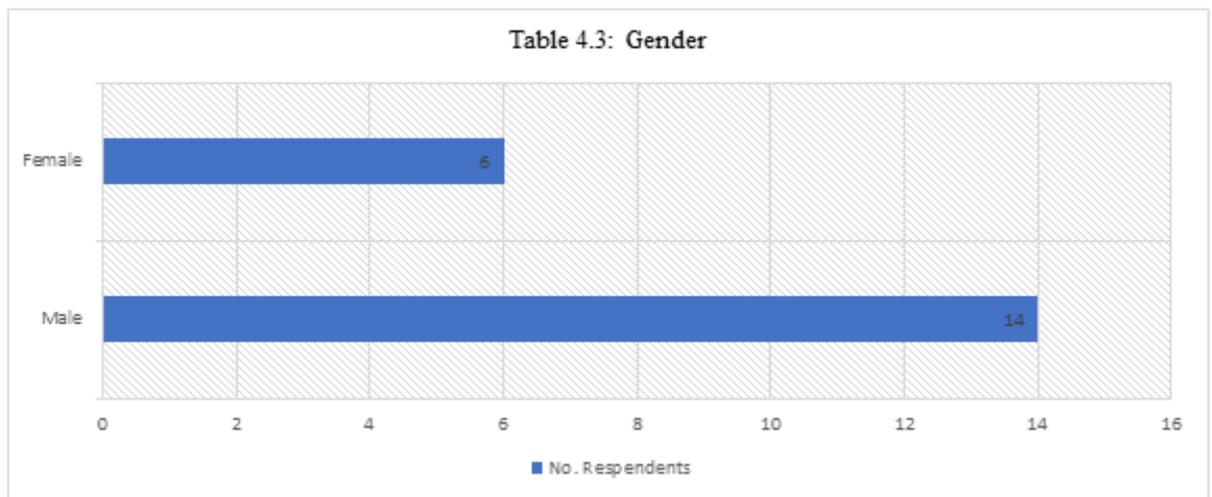
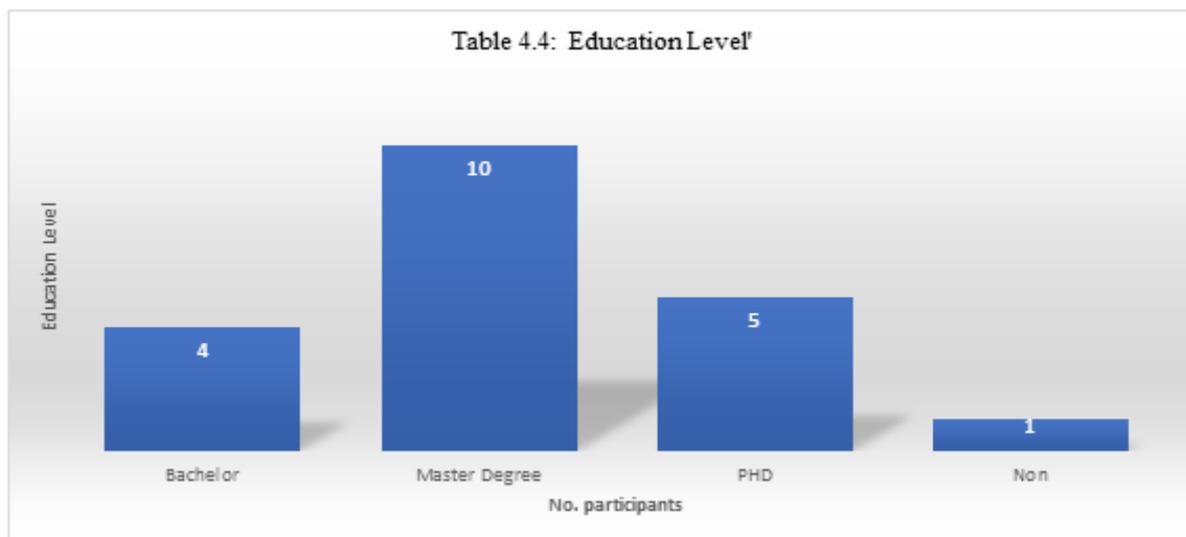


Table 4 Education level



3.10. FINDINGS

THE KEY FACTORS THAT CAUSE THE CIVIL WARS AND CONFLICTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION AND IN THE CASE OF SOMALIA

Understanding on how social and economic factors can subside and bring stability and peace, and that might result in an intra-state conflict, and why the world economies are indulging in developing regional economic integration groups? Interviewee 1 reported that the main causes of conflicts and civil war in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia are limited resources and the lack of appropriate development structures. The participants suggested that raising awareness, promoting equity, and establishing economic infrastructure beyond primary agricultural products could help address these factors and reduce conflicts.

On the other hand, interviewee 5 presented a different perspective, stating that conflicts and disputes are transnational resources competition motivated and this is the primary root cause of violence between states. They raised the question of whether economic integration and the prospects of economic gains can contribute to resolving these disputes or further divide nations.

The research findings indicated that regional economic integration can be effective in preventing conflicts. 3 policymakers participating in the study agreed that countries belonging to regional economic integration groups are less likely to experience conflict compared to non-members. Additionally, the study found that regional economic integration can lead to increased economic growth and development, which can help reduce the potential for conflict if there is collaboration and trust among states.

Furthermore, the communities living in cross-border areas, as reported by the interviewee 7, identified additional conflict-contributing factors such as poor governance, recurring droughts, food crises, and resource scarcity, “pointed out the lack of political representation, resource concentration in the capital, economic diversification, and poverty as causes of conflict”. The participants mentioned that interstate trade could potentially alleviate conflict, given Somalia's strategic location and its proximity to markets in the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia, COMESA, GCC, EAC, and AFCFT.

The interviewee 9 argued that supporting the development of regional economic integration is crucial for promoting peaceful coexistence among global actors. Emphasized “the importance of identifying gaps between emerging views and traditional state practices to sustain interconnected peace through political economy policies, practices, ownership, commitment, and engagement”

As discussed by the interviewees, intra-state conflicts in the Horn of Africa result from a combination of political and socio-economic factors. Interviewee 12 argues that understanding these factors is essential for preventing future conflicts and establishing lasting peace and stability. The primary factors identified by the participants and interviewees include limited resources, poverty, and competition over resources, the lack of appropriate developmental structures and infrastructures. By addressing these issues and promoting regional economic integration, Interviewer 15 answered that countries can break the cycle of conflict and work towards a more peaceful and stable world.

THE BENEFITS CAN A COUNTRY ATTAIN BY PARTICIPATING IN A REGIONAL GROUP?

Through responding to this thematic question and its surrounding issues, research participants shed the light that the benefits of participation in regional group programs contribute to a better understanding of interconnectivity, interdependence, and comparative advantages – where one country may comparatively have better or more products that are needed by the other country.

Interviewee 3, when asked about the benefits that a country can attain by participating in a regional group, emphasized the importance of regional economic integration in fostering a better understanding of interconnectivity, interdependence, and comparative advantages. According to this interviewee, participating in regional group programs allows for the free flow of goods, services, and capital, which in turn can lead to increased competition, innovation, and efficiency. They highlighted that these factors ultimately contribute to a stronger overall economy. Interviewee 1's response suggests that by removing borders and trade barriers, countries can maximize their economic growth and prosperity in today's global economy.

On the other hand, Interviewee 6 provided a different perspective on the benefits of participating in a regional group. He emphasized that regional economic integration could help countries achieve greater economic growth and stability. Interviewee 6 specifically mentioned advantages such as increased access to larger markets, enhanced competitiveness, better infrastructure, and greater innovation. According to their response “regional economic integration offers a range of benefits that can lead to greater prosperity for all participating nations”. This interviewee's viewpoint highlights the potential positive impact of regional cooperation on various aspects of a country's economy.

While both Interviewee 3 and Interviewee 6 recognized the advantages of participating in regional economic integration, it is important to note that experts argue that this process is not without its challenges. The study explores the potential benefits and drawbacks of such agreements, emphasizing the need for countries to carefully consider these factors before committing to regional integration.

In addition to the perspectives on economic benefits, research participants also discussed the broader context of global interdependence, globalization, and territorial disputes. They recognized that countries must work together to address these issues and enhance mutual agreement on modalities of cooperation, sharing benefits, and understanding. This highlights the importance of regional groups in fostering collaboration and addressing common challenges.

Furthermore, the business community expressed their views on the benefits of participating in regional groups. They specifically mentioned Somalia, a country with the longest coastline in Africa and ports that are strategically located near major international maritime routes. According to the business community, Somalia's participation in regional economic integration could lead to increased interstate cooperation and job creation, particularly benefiting youth groups. They highlighted Somalia's vibrant entrepreneurial skills, as well as the proven track record of its business community and diaspora networks in overcoming governance challenges.

Overall, the research participants provided specific and diverse insights into the benefits that countries can attain by participating in a regional group. Their responses highlighted the “Potential economic advantages, the need for careful consideration of challenges, the importance of addressing global interdependence and territorial disputes, and the opportunities for job creation and interstate cooperation, as exemplified by Somalia”.

DOES ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROJECT OF THE HORN OF AFRICA HAS THE ABILITY TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION?

Interviewee 2 highlighted the importance of economic integration projects in the Horn of Africa region and their potential to bring peace and stability, emphasized that interconnectivity through infrastructure such as roads and railways, as well as shared services, can bond nations together and create common interests and protection. According to this interviewee “working together as a group enhances stability, integration of societies, social benefits, and overall development”. It is also mentioned that economic integration projects contribute to countering violent extremism,

cross-border armed conflicts, and transnational crimes, while promoting economic and human development.

In contrast, Interviewee 8 provided a different perspective on the ability of economic integration projects to bring peace and stability to the region. He stressed “the need for joint efforts and political will from regional leaders to achieve a shared peace and security vision.” According to this interviewee, the response strategy of the Horn of Africa region should be rights-based, encompassing political, security and economic contexts. It highlighted the importance of the Horn of Africa Initiative, launched in early-2019, which aims to deepen regional integration, promote stability, peace, and cooperation. This initiative focuses on three pillars: promoting regional infrastructure networks, economic and trade integration, and resilience and human capital development.

An example case presented by the policy makers was the food security and recurring droughts and floods in the region, particularly in Somalia. They highlighted the challenges faced by Somalia, including ongoing humanitarian crises, political and social instability, high poverty rates, illiteracy, and low life expectancy. Participants emphasized that addressing these challenges and improving stability and interdependence in the borderlands requires a joint and local context-based efforts. They suggested that individual nations should support development in their respective territories, but a dimensional approach that considers transnational mobility and external shocks is crucial for sustainable development.

The participants also discussed the paradox of increasing cross-border flows of goods, services, and capital alongside ongoing interstate disputes over borders and territorial sovereignty. They acknowledged that interstate territorial disputes remain a dangerous feature of global politics and can hinder peace and stability in the region.

Overall, the research participants provided specific insights into the potential of economic integration projects in the Horn of Africa to bring peace and stability. While Interviewee 2 emphasized the positive impact of interconnectivity and shared services, Interviewee 8 highlighted the importance of joint efforts and a rights-based approach. The example case of Somalia further illustrated the challenges faced by the region and the need for a comprehensive approach to address them. The participants acknowledged the complexities of interstate disputes but recognized the potential of economic integration in fostering peace and stability.

WHAT STRATEGIES AND STEPS SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY SOMALIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE PEACE?

According to the research participants, interviewee 7 stated that the strategies and steps that should be adopted by Somalia and its neighbors to achieve sustainable peace through the Horn of Africa regional economic integration involve engaging in strategic dialogue and identifying appropriate infrastructure projects such as roads, rails, electricity, and transboundary waters. Joint fundraising, implementation, and maintenance of economic, social, and security activities are seen as critical links between countries in the region. Continuous assessments and evaluations should be conducted to ensure equity and economies of scale.

Participant 11's response was that the region's state actors need to develop the ability to respond to existing challenges and problems. They should collaboratively initiate regional frameworks that can bring and sustain lasting peace and development by utilizing available resources. The participants believe that the best strategies adopted so far include narrowing conflicts, with Somalia focusing on export-led growth and reducing import dependence. They also mentioned unrecorded antiport trade and illegal cross border trade.

The participants highlighted the importance of trade in achieving accelerated growth, preventing food crises, and reducing poverty. They mentioned the mainstreaming of trade in national development plans, the adoption of national trade policies, policies supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, industrial development policies, vibrant trade negotiation offices, and the establishment of special economic zones as key strategies and steps in achieving sustainable peace and economic integration in the Horn of Africa region.

WHAT INITIATIVES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY SOMALIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS WITH REGARD TO BALANCE THE EXTERNAL ACTOR'S COMPETITION OF THE REGION?

To respond this thematic question that focuses on strategic importance of the region and the balance of the competing interests from external actors, study participants suggested that there is a need of a coordinated approach of engaging external actors competing for the regional influence is crucial. Somalia and its neighboring countries should initially have discussion, appropriate plans, and identify joint economic and social integration strategies. In the case of Somalia, respondents emphasized that Somalia and its neighbors should have a concerted efforts to

collectively negotiate best terms for regional investments (concessions) and remain active in planning ahead

According to interviewee 9, 'initiatives to balance the external actors' competition in the region should involve a coordinated approach where Somalia and its neighbors engage in discussions, create appropriate plans, and identify joint economic and social integration strategies. They emphasized the need for Somalia and its neighbors to collectively negotiate the best terms for regional investments and remain active in planning for the future.

Participant 12's response was that it is difficult to keep out external influences from the Horn of Africa due to its strategic significance. They mentioned that globalization, geopolitical competition, and institutional incapability are affecting Africa's development plans, including Somalia. However, they suggested that more trade integration and investment promotions beyond borders could help resolve these issues.

Another suggestion from the participant 11 was "Somalia to join regional trade initiatives such as the Horn of Africa, EAC, COMESA, AFCFT, and WTO. By joining these institutions, Somalia could alleviate the burden of food crises, droughts, resource-led conflicts, and trade imbalances". Academicians recommended conducting a cost-benefit analysis to ensure the country benefits the most from social and economic integrations while attracting the appropriate level of incentives.

Furthermore, interviewee 7 highlighted the importance of assessing external actors' interests and opportunities and appropriately engaging with them to avoid conflicts. There is an ongoing debate among scholars about whether increased bilateral economic interdependence reduces interstate conflict. The "economic peace" view suggests that mutual economic interdependence can contribute to peace by limiting the incentive to use military force.

The Horn of Africa is a region plagued by conflict and instability, which has been exacerbated by the absence of a comprehensive framework for addressing the underlying causes of these problems. In response to this gap, the present study provides a theoretical framework for understanding the factors that contribute to conflict and instability in the region. It examines the process of regional economic integration and its potential as a strategy for promoting peace and security, with a specific focus on Somalia. The study argues that regional economic integration should not be imposed by non-state actors, but rather pursued by the region's leadership as a means of overcoming conflicts, drought, and hunger based on the unique political, cultural, and economic context of the region.

IV. CHAPTER 4: THE FEASIBILITY OF THE REGIONAL VISION AND THE CAPACITY OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP TO ACTUALIZE ECONOMIC REGIONALIZATION AND THUS CREATE SECURITY, STABILITY, AND A LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA.

To summarize the research finds and put it on contextual analyses and political economy interpretation to link the course and academia as of today, the Horn of Africa countries made a significant progress on realization of regional economic integration initiative which pathed the way to have a normalized and collaborative relationship between the countries bilaterally and multi-literally. Thus, a multifaceted main question has emerged about the feasibility of the regional vision and the capacity of regional institutions and their leadership to actualize economic regionalization and thus create security, stability, and a lasting peace in the area.

The African Union's stated goal of "creating an integrated prosperous and peaceful continent driven by its citizens" is founded on the interdependence of security, progress, and prosperity.

The underlying tools of the African Union reflect this fundamental comprehension by drawing explicit connections between these three pillars. Promoting peace, security, and stability as necessary preconditions for sustainable development is explicitly emphasized in the preamble of the Constitutive Act and in the objectives outlined in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. By recognizing and acknowledging these interlink ages, the African Union underscores the significance of fostering an environment conducive to peace and security to realize its vision of a prosperous and harmonious continent, propelled by the active participation of its citizens.

The chapter examines insights and discussions of the primary and secondary data from the research and thematically questions of the study. The study highlights the contributions made by the participants on the areas of the challenges posed by instability and changes of governments in the region, armed conflicts, uprisings, and extremism, and emphasizes the importance of collaboration on development and peace initiatives for the stability and development of the continent. The study analyses the provided valuable insights and possible solutions to address these challenges.

This part, the research presents a background brief for the ongoing regional economic integration, analyses of the peace, security, and integration nexuses in the Horn of Africa's economic integration initiative: understanding how the proposed implementation mechanisms are strong or relevant to the local realities on the ground, institutional readiness, governance and structural challenges, criticisms and key insights at policy and academic side.

4. REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION EFFORTS OVERVIEW

The Horn of Africa Initiative is aimed to tackle social and economic inequalities in the region through multiple approaches. To promote inclusive economic growth, prioritizing equitable resource distribution and opportunities, fostering integration, and creating an enabling environment for trade and investment is a priority and the initiative emphasizes targeted social development programs, investing in social infrastructure, and implementing policies that prioritize social inclusion and human development.

It encourages social cohesion, community engagement, and reconciliation to address social divisions and conflicts. Additionally, the initiative promotes gender equality and women's empowerment, enhancing access to education, economic opportunities, and decision-making processes. By addressing these issues comprehensively, the Horn of Africa Initiative aims to create a more equitable and prosperous region.

By investigating the ongoing state-centric regional integration efforts, the research has found out that the current region's leadership decided to come from conflict to trade, from isolation to economic integration which path the way trade for peace in Horn of Africa Initiative.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia's regional leaders have initiated a project proposal titled "Supporting Recovery through Deepening Economic Integration and Promoting Regional Cooperation," and ministerial-level discussions are currently taking place to adapt and implement the proposal. According to the project document analyzed as a secondary source, the context of the project and the key challenges are as follows in 2019, encouraged by improvements in inter-state ties in the sub-region, these five nations worked together to launch the Horn of Africa (HoA) Initiative. This provided a chance to strengthen ties and encourage cooperation in the region to tackle issues of growth and development together¹.

Growth and poverty reduction in the sub-region are expected to be severely hampered by the Covid-19 epidemic and its accompanying economic catastrophe, as well as the hazards of food insecurity produced by locust invasions. As a result, the nation's participating in the HoA Initiative has stressed the need of regional collaboration and economic integration in the fight against the crisis' lingering effects. Researchers have remarked on how unique this integration process has

¹ This was agreed at the level of Ministers of Finance of the HoA countries in October 2019. An accompanying communique issued by the Ministers is available at https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/hoa_ministers_communique_oct_18.pdf

been thus far; the nations involved have taken the lead, and there is a clear political will at the highest levels to turn good intentions into real results. To provide the groundwork for integration, the nations reached out to and received assistance from three development partners: the African Development Bank, the European Union, and the World Bank Group. As an additional resource institution, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is an integral aspect of the HoA Initiative, notably in the realm of resilience.

4.1. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIC INTEGRATION INITIATIVE:

Understanding the Proposed Implementation Mechanisms and how it interlinked to Peace and Security of the region?

The Horn of Africa's Economic Integration Initiative is a significant step towards regional integration and stability. The proposed implementation mechanisms of investment attraction and structural readiness are aimed at decreasing illegal trade, transnational, and cross-border resource exploitations, and creating capable institutions that can facilitate the integration process. This initiative is expected to bring about a constructive effect on the peace, security, and stability of the region and as prevention and countering strategy of armed groups, and violent extremists.

The investment and resource mobilization efforts have already garnered significant support from three development partners. The European Union contributed a €30 million to the Horn of Africa Umbrella Program Multi-Donor Trust Fund to be administered by the World Bank Group (WBG) on behalf of the donor, to support the Horn of Africa Initiative priority projects.²

These resources will be utilized in a variety of projects, including regional infrastructure networks, trade, and economic integration, building resilience, and strengthening human capital.

Regional infrastructure will improve connectivity and transportation within the region and will create economic corridors, regional energy trade, and a single digital market, which will enhance cross-border trade and economic activities and reduce illegal trade. This will contribute to the overall peace and stability of the region.³

Pillar 2, of the funding, is focused on trade and economic integration. This is an essential aspect of the initiative as it will create a harmonized trade system, which will expand the flow of goods

² <https://www.hoainitiative.org/the-horn-of-africa-initiative-launches-its-multi-donor-trust-fund-mdtf/>

³ <https://www.hoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HoAI-Project-Profiles.pdf> page 97

and services within the region and reduce the dependence on foreign aid. This will create jobs, increase economic growth, and contribute to the overall stability of the region.

Building resilience, which has received 37% of the funding⁴, is a critical aspect of the initiative. This pillar aims to create resilient agricultural and pastoral value chains that can withstand shocks such as droughts and conflicts. This will create livelihood opportunities, reduce the risk of food insecurity, and contribute to the overall stability of the region.⁵

Lastly, strengthening human capital, which has received 11% of the funding, is crucial to the success of the initiative. This pillar aims to create a skilled workforce that can support the growth of the various sectors in the region. This will reduce unemployment, increase productivity, and contribute to the overall stability of the region.

4.2. INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

To have a well-integrated regional economic integration process which can path the way peace and stability in the region, the research analyzed the institutional capacity and readiness of the region such as the ability to come up political commitment and leadership willingness, harmonization of policies, governance, and institutional arrangements, as well as the alignment of respective national objectives.

Despite the knowledge gap and the absence of state institutions, the study found that for the first time "there are truly leadership commitment which has been led by the countries and involved a healthy spirit of political 'give and take' and political commitment at the highest level to convert the goodwill into development results."⁶

Research on policy harmonization centered on how national policies within the HoA might progress toward greater consistency with one another. Taking the effect of path dependence into consideration, the researcher revealed that the EU's integration process went too far to be able to carry on with policies being entirely under the individual member countries' competencies, and it will be important if same discussion can happen in the harmonization process of regional integration in HoA can go the same discussion. Therefore, the primary focus of the article was on

⁴HoAI DPs' Portfolio- Jan 2023_WB_EU_AfDB March 7 (1).pdf

⁵ <https://www.hoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HoAI-Project-Profiles.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.hoainitiative.org/countries-resolve-to-pursue-regional-cooperation/>

determining whether the harmonization of a governance system including a centralized authority and centralized functions, such as the European Monetary Union, could lead to effective economic integration. Discussions of the respondents and analyses observed are stressed that instead of harmonization, better coordination and joint responsibility in the fiscal area should be called for, as well as policies and institutions. This indicated the distinction between the coordination of independent national policies and complete harmonization towards integrated HoA policies.

The implementation of a regional data infrastructure would align with the national and regional goals of countries in the area, particularly Djibouti, which aims to become a central hub in the region. Although the potential for transformative impact is moderate, such an infrastructure would facilitate regional trade and digital financial services. While Djibouti and Kenya are more likely to gain immediate benefits, in the long run, users across the region would enjoy improved service quality. To ensure the success of this approach, it is crucial to incorporate soft interventions such as harmonizing regulations on cyber security, privacy, and data protection at a regional level.⁷

Development policy makers and political economist often discuss the theoretical side of the strategies that are may applicable to adopt, but on the other hand, it's important to analyze and deeply discuss the geopolitical, economic, and social factors that are essential for analysis of development and stability interventions.

Starting from the status: the region, and what do we know is something that matters when examining the region and its uncertainties; the findings and analyses of the social perception towards integration, and the literature gap, the current peace and security threats, infrastructural capability, governance and structures, and way forward opportunities.

Shaimaa Magued (2012) In order to examine economic interdependence as an aspect of a growing neo-liberalism in world politics, the paper will focus on a main question that is related to the identification of the economic interdependence effect on the nature of the interstate relations especially on the political level. In other words, would an economic interdependence relation

⁷ Regional Data Center Infrastructure, HoAI-Project-Profiles – Page 57,
<https://www.hoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HoAI-Project-Profiles.pdf>

between different states reduce the likelihood of conflicts' eruption between states by rendering their interactions more pacific and smoother in terms of regulating their problems"⁸

Back in the history, the people may overwhelm the notion of autonomy, sovereignty, and self-reliance, and in the post-cold war era, states, non-state actors and even the ordinary citizens felt that the globalization globalized everything even before regionalization of anything and comprehended how the interdependence reduces interstate conflict.

Throughout the analyses and interpretation of the collected data and referencing the provided literature in previous chapters of the research, the interviewed participants are fully informed of the need for new approach that are not only countering conflicts and instability but also gives hope of development, resilience, and long-lasting peace.

In the discussions, academicians and private sectors are arguing that even without formal mechanism and structural approaches to formally communicate and integrate other regions, people independently and individually used and still do cross-border trade, export and import the goods and services, exchange the money, even arm groups, transnational crimes and border conflicts occur. For thus, the participants discussed that if governments are acknowledging resources and division of the region as factors of recurring conflicts and instability.

In the regard of peace and security, the Horn of Africa region has been suffering instability, local conflicts, fragility, droughts, poverty, and terrorism which all are factors resulted by the institutional weakness or absence of government responsibility and local ownership.

Several major conflicts, such as the unresolved Nile conflict between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia, affect the HoA region due to the interconnected nature of insecurity, competition over resources, border disputes, displacement, and underdevelopment. States on both sides of the Red Sea are actively involved in violent hostilities with Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen. Peace and Security in the Red Sea Region: A Senior Seminar in 2019.⁹

⁸Economic Interdependence and Interstate Relations: A Theoretical Overview The Turkish-Arab Free Trade Agreements as a Case Study https://ormer.sakarya.edu.tr/uploads/files/oy2012_633_666.pdf

⁹ <https://www.usip.org/programs/red-sea-rising-peace-and-security-horn-africa-and-middle-east>

The study highlights the relationship between the absence of state governance, violence, the increase of small arms, and mass displacement of people. It emphasizes the importance of regional collaboration in promoting peace and security, using the example of the border regions between Regional States. These border areas can serve as trade corridors, create employment opportunities in agriculture, and facilitate increased livestock exports. Despite the existing challenges, there are opportunities to build resilience against cycles of conflict, insecurity, and poverty. These opportunities involve leveraging differences in prices, wage rates, security levels, regulations, natural resources, healthcare and education systems, and market access across national borders, benefiting buyers, sellers, and employers.

Governance and Structural Challenges

The research results allowed for the differentiation of two competing hypotheses about the connection between policy harmonization and coordination. The first perspective saw coordination and harmonization as two sides of the same coin, both working against the values of independent policymaking and nationalistic rivalry. Harmonization is most used to tax policy and accounting. The second position, however, distinguishes between the two words primarily in the realm of taxation, arguing that tax coordination, rather than tax harmonization, should be pursued since harmonization primarily stresses obtaining equal tax rates, which is not in accordance with reality. As a result, the research found that complete and total uniformity wasn't necessary for the European Integration Process to succeed.

According to the study, institutional arrangements that governed financial accounting practice organized by state regulators, have been rapidly internationalizing across the world. This has mainly been attributed to the use of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in more than 200 countries including the EU member states. Progress towards harmonization has gained momentum even in the US, due to a series of regulatory shifts. The sudden pace of harmonization of financial accounting policies has led to increased research on the factors that drive such harmonization.¹⁰

¹⁰ Balkir, Tulu. "New Regionalism in Global Order: Regional Trade Integration and Its Links with Financial Sector" (2017). https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/gpis_etds/107 page 120-178

The study also suggested that within the political framework, there exist two mechanisms that account for the potential benefits of tax harmonization at the European level. First, it is possible for the member states to gain certain authority over their capacities of tax revenue if it is assumed that the tax harmonization will result in legislation in the EU balancing both principles of the single market and national fiscal interests. And second, tax legislation is in turn associated with large economic gains as tax harmonization leads to the internalization of costs that a heterogeneous system of tax generally imposes on private sectors. For example, it has been found that the harmonization of corporate tax enables and stimulates transnational business activities.

It was also caused by lack of economic diversification and poverty. Interstate trade could subside conflict through trade since Somalia strategic location offers substantial advantages for international trade, with proximity to markets in the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia, COMESA, GCC, EAC and AFCFT.

4.3. CRITICISMS AND KEY INSIGHTS

The globalization of the economy has had a profound effect on the way in which international borders, conflict, and trade interact. In the past, borders were seen to protect a nation's economic interests and foster economic development. However, in today's globalized economy, borders are no longer a barrier to the movement of goods, services, and capital. Conflict has become increasingly less localized and more global, with the potential for economic disruption far beyond an individual nation's borders.

Trade is no longer just a bilateral affair but rather a complex web of global agreements and regulations that shape the flow of goods, services, and capital. So, what do we know about these global economic forces? Research has shown that, while the interplay of these forces may have a constructive influence on economic growth and development on a global scale, they can have a negative impact on the ability of nations to compete and create jobs domestically.

The globalization of the economy has led to the emergence of global production networks and the rise of transnational corporations, which can lead to a concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few. Additionally, trade agreements often fail to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations and can lead to labor exploitation and environmental degradation.

Conflict and instability can also have a devastating effect on the global economy, particularly in the form of economic sanctions and embargoes. These measures can severely limit the ability of a nation to access global markets and can have a negative impact on economic growth and development. In addition, economic sanctions and embargoes can have a disproportionate impact

on vulnerable populations that are unable to access essential goods and services due to the disruption of global trade.¹¹

Lack of a commitment by all member countries to work together for the common good is also a critical issue on realization of economic integration. Opponents argue that integration requires a willingness to give up some sovereignty in the interest of the greater good. This has been particularly evident in the 2008 financial crisis, when a crisis in one nation spread throughout the global economy, leading to drastic declines in stock markets and other financial markets. Overall, the interplay of borders, conflict, and trade is complex and far-reaching.

While global economic forces have opened opportunities for economic growth and development, there are also risks that must be addressed to ensure that these opportunities are accessed by all populations and that the vulnerable are protected from exploitation. To this end, continued research and policymaking is needed to ensure that globalization does not result in a concentration of wealth and power or an exacerbation of existing conflicts. Finally, while the globalization of the economy has opened opportunities for economic growth and development, it has also come with certain risks. Global financial markets are increasingly interdependent, and a financial crisis in one nation can have ripple effects across the world.¹²

4.4. REGIONALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY, WHAT ARE PROPOSED PATHWAY?

Pathing the way for peace and stability? In a globalized economy, it is increasingly important for governments, businesses, and individuals to understand the implications of economic change and development. As the world continues to become more interconnected, national borders, conflicts, and trade have become increasingly intertwined.

The study makes a summary and conclusion on how the research chapters covered studying the political and economic background of the researched topic, the interlink of peace and trade, conflict and economic integration, stability through shared economic benefit and sustainable development in the Horn of Africa.

In the literature review part of the study, as the world continues to become more interconnected, national borders, conflicts, and trade have become increasingly intertwined, the study reviewed

¹¹ <https://www.cairn.info/revue-d-economie-politique-2012-2-page-299.htm?contenu=article>

¹² Positive and negative effects of financial globalization on developing and emerging economies, <https://eprints.ugd.edu.mk/8586/15/Positive%20and%20negative%20effects%20of%20financial%20globalization%20on%20developing%20and%20emerging%20economies.pdf>

the successful economic integrations around the world and what we know about the relationship between borders, conflict, and trade in the globalized world economy. And how peacebuilding initiatives can also be used to increase economic development and improve living standards across borders.¹³

In the chapters of data analyses and findings, the study finds out that how most of the society in the region are unaware the importance and ongoing efforts of regional integration which clarifies that from the perspective of the people, the current regional integration initiative is state led efforts, which requires broad based consultations and awareness. The study analyzed how is important to study economic integration in Horn of Africa is essential and significant to achieve peace and security and how it can be aligned with the regional peace and security strategies.

The Horn of Africa has been beset by conflict and instability for decades, with the region experiencing war-related fatalities on a scale not seen in any other border region in the world. While there are many causes of the region's multiple armed conflicts, one of the pivotal drivers has been conflict over resources. Specifically, the control of high-value minerals, natural resource sites, water resources, rivers, and agriculture has become a key source of financing for violent groups, militias, and armed non-state actors. This has resulted in horrific levels of physical violence and coercion, which have had a profound impact on the region and its people.

The Horn of Africa experiences significant instability and insecurity resulting from ongoing conflict and violence, affecting the region internally while also having wide-ranging implications for actors, interests, trade, and spill-over effects throughout the entire area. Consequently, the conflict and violence have greatly hindered the region's ability to achieve effective integration and cooperation, exacerbating the situation further. Resolving this issue necessitates a more proactive engagement from the international community in fostering regional integration and cooperation.

14

Additionally, support for economic development initiatives aimed at reducing the dependence of militias and violent non-state actors on resource-based financing should be considered. Ultimately, addressing the underlying drivers of violence is crucial for resolving the conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa. This requires a concerted effort to promote sustainable development, safeguard the rights of marginalized communities, and foster good governance and the rule of law. Only by

¹³ <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/2018-06-14-aubgs-e.pdf> 36-40

¹⁴ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Research/Africa/bp1209horn.pdf>

tackling these root causes can the region aspire to construct a more stable and prosperous future for its inhabitants

It is important to recognize that national borders are not absolute barriers to economic activity. Globalization has made it much easier for companies, and even individuals, to operate across borders. This has opened opportunities for businesses to access new markets, as well as giving individuals access to a variety of goods and services. At the same time, it has also created challenges, such as increased competition in certain areas or the ability of companies to move production and jobs to different countries.¹⁵

When it comes to conflict, economic activity can be disrupted by political instability. This can have a variety of effects, from limiting trade and investment to creating economic uncertainty. For example, conflicts in the Middle East have had a significant impact on global oil prices, creating economic uncertainty in many countries around the world. At the same time, the resolution of conflicts can also open new opportunities for businesses to operate in previously unstable regions.

It is important to consider the implications of trade for our globalized world. Trade has always been an important factor in driving economic growth and development, and this has only been amplified in recent years. Countries are increasingly engaging in international trade, which can lead to increased economic growth, as well as providing access to new markets and products for businesses and consumers.

In summary, the relationship between borders, conflict, and trade in our globalized world is complex and ever-changing. As such, it is important for governments, businesses, and individuals to understand the implications of economic change and development to make informed decisions. By recognizing the potential opportunities and challenges of globalization, we can better prepare ourselves to take advantage of the benefits, while avoiding the potential pitfalls.

Looking at the political, governance and security challenges of cross-border peace building, on the other side, building peace through trade and cross-border cooperation can help to level the for cross-border state-to-state dialogue by balancing mutual benefit and self-sufficiency perceptions of economic and development inequality among states.

Peace building initiatives can also be used to increase economic development and improve living standards across borders. For example, the European Union (EU) has developed a regional economic integration model that allows member states to benefit from free trade and movement of

¹⁵ From Isolation to Integration, The Borderlands of the Horn of Africa.pdf 70-135

people and goods within the EU's borders. This has resulted in increased employment opportunities for citizens of member states, improved infrastructure and services, greater access to financial markets, and improved access to education and healthcare.¹⁶

In addition, cross-border cooperation initiatives have helped to reduce poverty rates in many parts of Europe by promoting sustainable economic development through increased investment in infrastructure, education, health care systems, and other social services. These initiatives have also helped foster peace by increasing trust between neighboring countries and enabling them to work together towards common goals competition.

4.5. FOSTERING CONNECTIONS AMIDST DIVISIONS

The existing body of literature on territorial conflicts and their resolution can greatly benefit from adopting an institutional perspective that highlights the advantages of clearly defined borders. The potential for reaping such advantages may influence the decision to resolve lingering conflicts, while the realization of these benefits can strengthen support for sustained stability. Additionally, enhanced cooperation at border regions can facilitate more accurate assessments by both states and analysts regarding the movement of people and goods across borders. Integrating these considerations holds promising prospects for advancing both substantive and methodological aspects of border studies, encompassing conflict and trade.

Water serves as an illustrative case that holds significant importance in peace building endeavors. Addressing the vulnerability of communities necessitates promoting cooperation and effective management of water resources at local levels, which in turn supports collaborative efforts on Tran's boundary water issues within the international arena. Particularly in fragile contexts and complex emergency situations, cooperation at various levels becomes even more indispensable.¹⁷

Historical evidence demonstrates that water predominantly serves as a catalyst for fostering cooperation and serves as a valuable foundation for a peace building approach. This holds true in regions like East and West Africa, where water cooperation has played a pivotal role in overcoming tensions.

¹⁶The European Union as a Model for Regional Integration September 24, 2010, <https://www.cfr.org/report/european-union-model-regional-integration>

¹⁷ Water and Conflict in Corporating peacebuilding in to Water development <https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/tools-research/water-and-conflict.pdf>

Water is a precious resource, especially in regions like the Horn of Africa, where droughts and water scarcity are common. However, with the right strategies and investments, water connectivity can become a powerful tool for bridging the gap between communities and improving their lives. From enhancing agricultural productivity to boosting economic growth and promoting social cohesion, the benefits of water connectivity are far-reaching and transformative. In this article, we will explore how water connectivity can be an example of the Horn of Africa, showcasing successful projects and innovative approaches that have brought water to millions of people in the region. From large-scale infrastructure projects to community-led initiatives, we will uncover the key drivers of success and the challenges that need to be overcome to make water connectivity a reality for all in the Horn of Africa. So, let's dive in and discover how water can be a game-changer for the region's development and prosperity.

4.6. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Horn of Africa is a region of immense potential, with great potential for economic integration. But for this potential to be realized, it is vital that the governments of the region pay attention to how good governance plays an instrumental role in the realization of regional economic integration. This means creating the necessary policies, institutions, and frameworks that will ensure the successful implementation of collective projects and programs.

Understanding the nature of the various challenges faced by the Horn of Africa is essential to crafting effective policies and institutions that will facilitate regional economic integration. To this end, it is important to note that the region is characterized by several unique characteristics, including a diverse and complex cultural landscape, a history of political instability, and a lack of resources.

These factors require the adoption of a holistic approach to governance and policy harmonization to ensure that the region's collective interests are safeguarded. This means creating sound and equitable policies that facilitate economic growth, while also protecting the rights and interests of the region's citizens.

The Horn of Africa is also in need of an effective system of conflict resolution and dispute settlement. This is essential to ensure that conflicts and disputes are resolved quickly and in a manner that is acceptable to all sides. Furthermore, an effective system of accountability and transparency is also necessary to ensure that the implementation of regional policies is fair and equitable.

Ultimately, the successful integration of the Horn of Africa depends on the development of robust and harmonized governance and policy frameworks. This includes the establishment of effective mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating, and enforcing policies, as well as the implementation of effective conflict resolution and dispute settlement systems. With the right policies and frameworks in place, the Horn of Africa can achieve its potential for economic integration and prosperity.¹⁸

There has been a shift in Ethiopia over the past several years, and the country's citizens now want effective administration. There has been a liberalization of the economy, reform of the investment rules, improvements of the legal system, and a reviewing of the financial sector. These changes have resulted in the adoption of such democratic measures. The government is enforcing the rule of law and operating within a clear framework of responsibility.

The political decentralization process acknowledges the worth of all peoples and their right to self-determination within a federal framework. Future possibilities for growth in the Horn of Africa are discussed in the third section. Natural resources and commercial activity abound in the Horn, as all of the authors agree. Yet the present is characterized by hunger, poverty, and environmental devastation. The authors in this section investigate what led to the current problems and provide solutions to the conundrum of having a lot of money but not much to show for it.

The alignment and integration of foreign support with domestic efforts to reconstruct a failed state is the most important factor to consider when analyzing the international community's involvement in rebuilding failed states and providing aid, aid, and developmental support. After the initial peacekeeping forces have left a country, Schoeman outlines several lessons learned from other efforts to rebuild states, including peacekeeping, restricting the sales of commodities that fuel conflict, generous aid, establishing the rule of law, and an international peace guarantor. Schoeman says that a backup plan is necessary in case the dispute flares up again. The international community plays a crucial role with these fundamental elements for reestablishing a state.

Woube argues that poverty is at the heart of the issue of world hunger. Knowledge and moral/ethical deficits are other aspects of poverty that are often overlooked. The root cause of Somalia's failed state. However, a prosperous economy exists that is driven more by trade and arbitrage than by manufacturing. This has led to the aristocracy of business taking control of the state's fundamental institutions. In addition to the ideas of the contributors four workshops were

¹⁸ Regional Integration in the Horn of Africa: State of Affairs and Challenges, https://www.academia.edu/download/60142239/Paper_on_Regional_integration20190728-3384-hi03vw.pdf

discussed at the conference, and they all made recommendations for future action in the reconstruction of the states in the Horn of Africa.

It will need coordinated effort on three fronts to address the security and development gaps in the borderlands. First, cooperation across regions is required at the policy and institutional levels to facilitate the free movement of resources such as money, people, and products. Second, investments in roads, energy, education, health, water, information and communications technology, and access to financing are necessary to lessen the effects of geographical isolation and neglect.

To help nations that have been ravaged by war and natural disaster recover economically and rebuild their institutions, the trade, humanitarian, and peace communities have joined forces to create the Trade for Peace via WTO Accessions Initiative. The foundation of the accession process is the establishment of domestic institutions based on the principles of equal treatment, openness, and the rule of law. These tenets aim to foster economic growth, facilitate corporate operations by ensuring stable and predictable markets, promote freer flows of labor and capital, and facilitate participation in international value chains.

Finally, there is a danger that investments may not be sustained due to poor governance and the prevalence of violence. As a result, it is important to invest in both official and informal institutions to improve cross-border cooperation and reduce the likelihood of violence. The Horn of Africa is home to a diverse population, and as such, the region's livelihood, and resilience measures, as well as the effects of conflict, instability, and violence, must be approached with sensitivity toward gender.¹⁹

¹⁹ WORLD BANK REGIONAL INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT AFRICA REGION OCTOBER 23, 2014, page 61-70
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/571071468194354658/pdf/917830WP0Horn00Box385358B00PUBLIC0.pdf>

V. CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY, WAY FORWARD FOR PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

5. SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

This research aimed to investigate the regional economic integration efforts in the Horn of Africa with a particular focus on Somalia and its implications for peace building and security. The study examined the historical context, theoretical frameworks, and empirical evidence to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with regional economic integration in the region. The key findings from each chapter are summarized below:

The research methodology adopted including the research design, data collection sources, and data analysis techniques provided the foundation for the subsequent primary data and empirical analysis. And in the secondary study part, the literature review highlighted the historical factors contributing to conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa. It also explored the concepts of regional integration, peace, and conflict, as well as the role of cross-border trade and regional institutions in shaping peace building outcomes.

Part 4 of the study (Findings) presented the research findings and data collected from different stakeholders of the area of study. It examined the current regional economic integration initiatives in the Horn of Africa, assessed the role of economic actors and financial institutions, and analyzed the impacts of cross-border trade on interdependence and inequality. Additionally, it evaluated the role of regional institutions in conflict management and peace building and explored the trends and effectiveness of regional collaborations and diplomacy.

Part 5 of the study projects the key theoretical and conceptual analyses of the study findings to interoperate and connect the studied concept of regional economic integration, a path to peace and security in the Horn of Africa. It is evident that the Horn of Africa region has long been plagued by conflict, political instability, and socio-economic uncertainties. The persistence of armed conflicts, violent crime, extremism, and state failure has hindered progress towards regional integration and sustainable peace. Furthermore, strengthening regional institutions, enhancing diplomatic efforts, and fostering economic interdependence can contribute to conflict prevention, resolution, and sustainable development in the Horn of Africa. The analysis has revealed both challenges and opportunities in the region's efforts towards economic integration and conflict resolution.

In the conclusion part, the study has shed light on the complex and multifaceted nature of regional economic integration and its implications for peace building and security in the Horn of Africa by

summarizing the prior chapters of the study; aims and objectives of the study interlinked with the results and findings of the research.

And to conclude the discussions presented throughout the study, the research highlights the importance of addressing the regional dimensions of conflicts. Ignoring the interconnectedness of conflicts within the region may inadvertently perpetuate disproportion, corruption, instability, and transfer from one country to another. Therefore, effective conflict management and peace building strategies must consider the regional dynamics and involve local communities, clan groups, and regional actors in collaboration with states and interstate regional organizations. Furthermore, the findings emphasized the significance of robust regional institutions and collaborations in promoting economic integration to the path of peace and stability in the region.

5.1. RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

The study's limitations should be acknowledged. Most of the research was conducted in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, which may limit the applicability of the findings to other contexts. The use of existing literature and empirical data may also introduce biases and limitations that were not considered in this study.

Future research could explore additional case studies within the Horn of Africa or examine the role of external factors, such as international organizations and neighboring countries, in regional economic integration and peacebuilding efforts. Conducting longitudinal studies to assess the long-term effects of regional integration initiatives on peace and security would also provide valuable insights.

In summary, this thesis has shown the importance of regional economic integration in promoting peacebuilding and security in the Horn of Africa. By addressing the challenges, leveraging the opportunities, and implementing the recommended policy measures, the region can move closer to achieving sustainable peace, stability, and prosperity.

5.2. STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and analysis, the following policy recommendations are proposed:

- Strengthen regional institutions: Invest in the capacity-building of regional institutions to enhance their effectiveness in conflict management, peace building, and economic integration efforts.
- Promote inclusive governance and political stability: Support efforts to foster inclusive governance structures and political stability within individual countries in the region, as these factors are crucial for regional integration and peace building.

- Enhance cross-border collaboration: Facilitate cross-border collaboration and dialogue among regional actors, aiming to address shared challenges, promote economic interdependence, and prevent conflicts from spilling over across borders.
- Focus on socio-economic development: Invest in socio-economic development initiatives that address poverty, inequality, and marginalization, as these factors contribute to the root causes of conflicts in the region.
- Encourage international support: Seek international support and partnerships to provide financial resources, technical assistance, and expertise in peace building, conflict resolution, and regional economic integration efforts.

5.3. UNDERSTANDING THE LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND PEACE AND SECURITY:

Improving economic conditions can increase economic growth and improve living standards, which can reduce the likelihood of conflict and foster integration and connect societies. Countries that are integrated economically have a shared interest in maintaining peace and stability. In addition, economic integration can help build trust between nations, which is essential for peace and security. However, there may also be unintended consequences of further economic integration, such as causing social discontent and instability by contributing to economic disparity and exclusion. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that everyone in the community benefits from economic integration.

5.4. REALIZING THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION INITIATIVE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Horn of Africa's Regional Economic Integration Initiative (REII) has the potential to bring about significant economic and social benefits to the region, but it faces several challenges that must be addressed. One of the main challenges is the lack of political will among some countries to cede power and work towards a common goal. To overcome this, it is crucial to build trust and foster a sense of shared responsibility among nations.

Another challenge is the lack of infrastructure and resources in some countries, which hinders their ability to fully participate in the economy. To address this, it is essential to invest in infrastructure and provide resources to those who need them.

Despite these challenges, there are many opportunities to be realized through REII. For example, economic integration can lead to increased economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards, which can contribute to peace and stability in the region. Additionally, it can foster

greater trust and cooperation among nations, leading to more effective collaboration on issues such as security and humanitarian assistance.

Overall, while there are certainly challenges to overcome, the potential benefits of REII make it an important initiative for the Horn of Africa. With the right approach and commitment, it is possible to overcome these challenges and create a brighter future for the region.

5.5. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES:

One of the most critical action points for maximizing the benefits of economic integration on peace and security is to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among member countries. Cooperation and collaboration can help to build trust and promote peaceful relations between nations. It is essential to establish effective mechanisms for communication and consultation among member countries to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

To achieve this, it is important to engage in regular dialogue and consultations. This can be done through various channels, such as meetings between government officials, business leaders, and civil society organizations. It is also essential to ensure that all member countries have equal representation and that their voices are heard. Furthermore, cooperation and collaboration can also be extended to non-member countries and international organizations. By engaging with non-member countries, it is possible to build trust and promote peace in the region. Similarly, by collaborating with international organizations, it is possible to access resources and expertise that can help to promote economic integration and peace and security.

5.6. PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER TRADE AND INVESTMENT TO PREVENT CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC CONFLICT

Another key action point for maximizing the benefits of economic integration on peace and security is promoting cross-border trade and investment. Cross-border trade and investment can create jobs, boost economic growth, and enhance living standards, while also reducing the likelihood of conflict. To encourage cross-border trade and investment, it's vital to eliminate barriers to trade and investment, such as tariffs, customs procedures, and regulatory differences. Providing incentives like tax breaks and subsidies can also motivate businesses to invest in the region. Additionally, ensuring that cross-border trade and investment benefits all member countries is crucial. This can be achieved by promoting value chains that involve multiple countries, creating jobs and driving economic growth across the region.

5.7. INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (CONNECTIVITY AND PEACE INTEGRATION)

Investing in infrastructure development is another critical action point for maximizing the benefits of economic integration on peace and security. Infrastructure development can help to connect member countries and promote law enforcement at borders. It can also improve living standards and reduce poverty. To invest in infrastructure development, it is essential to identify priority areas and develop a comprehensive plan. This can be done by conducting feasibility studies and engaging with stakeholders. It is also important to ensure that infrastructure development benefits all member countries.

Furthermore, it is important to ensure that infrastructure development is sustainable and resilient. This can be done by promoting green infrastructure and investing in disaster risk reduction. By doing so, it is possible to promote peace and security by reducing the impact of natural disasters and climate change.

5.8. ADDRESSING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION:

Addressing economic inequality and exclusion is another critical action point for maximizing the benefits of economic integration on peace and security. Economic inequality and exclusion already created social unrest and instability in the region, which can undermine peace and security.

This can be done by promoting inclusive growth and social protection programs. It is also important to invest in education to ensure that everyone has the capacity and knowledge needed to participate in the economy.

Furthermore, it is important to address the root causes of economic inequality and exclusion. This can be done by promoting gender equality and addressing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and religion. By doing so, it is possible to promote peace and security by creating a more just and equitable society in the Horn.

5.9. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE, CAPABLE INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS IN THE HORN:

Another crucial step towards maximizing the benefits of economic integration on peace and security is building resilient institutions and systems. Strengthening systemization and institutionalization can foster sustainable economic growth and reduce the likelihood of conflict. Promoting transparency and accountability in government and business is essential to good governance and the implementation of developmental projects. Investing in institutions

that can prevent and resolve conflicts, such as the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, is also crucial.

Building resilient systems that can withstand shocks and crises is equally important. This can be achieved by investing in regional economic associations, disaster risk reduction, and emergency preparedness institutions. By doing so, it is possible to promote peace and security by reducing the impact of natural disasters and other crises.

5.10. WAY FORWARD FOR PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

By collaborating and investing in the region, it is possible to create a more peaceful and prosperous future. This requires a collective effort from all member countries and their political will. To fully benefit from economic integration on peace and security, it is crucial to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among member countries, increase cross-border trade and investment, invest in infrastructure development, address economic disparities and exclusions, and establish robust institutions and systems. By doing so, it is possible to create a fairer and more resilient society that can withstand shocks and crises.

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