



It is with profound gratitude and joy that we unveil the inaugural edition of *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy*. This groundbreaking academic endeavour seeks to establish a scholarly forum dedicated to the demanding exploration of policy formulation and strategic decision-making in Eastern Africa and beyond.

The inception of this scholarly journal is a significant step in meeting the need for a specialised platform that can illuminate the diverse challenges and nuances inherent in policymaking and strategic deliberations in the region, whose environment, made up of a rich blend of socio-economic, political, and cultural threads, presents an array of complex challenges that need innovative and context-based explanations and solutions. It is the objective of this journal to generate an interdisciplinary discourse that fosters evidence-based policymaking and stimulates critical analyses of strategic choices that inform decisions and action.

The journal is tailored to reflect the research themes of the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), with a focus on security and defence, foreign policy, transnational organised crimes, development, and governance and ethics. In line with the scope of the journal, this inaugural issue showcases a diverse assemblage of research articles that typify the intellectual diversity of the contributors.

The regular features *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy* shall include:

- a) **articles** on foundational research policy and strategy with a strong focus on security and defence, foreign policy, transnational organised crimes, development, and governance and ethics, data-driven inductive studies as well as methodologically and theoretically innovative studies;
- b) **book reviews** of recently published works relating to policy and strategy, with a view to exploring and describing their relevance to the field; and
- c) **special issues** focusing on a particular topic, theoretical innovation, or methodology.
- d) **policy briefs** focusing on tactical, operational and strategic issues and advisories for consumption by policy-makers, bureaucrats, stakeholders and opinion leaders.

The current issue covers the general area of education and human capital development policies, economic development initiatives, public policy and governance strategies foreign policy and diplomatic strategies. The range of the research areas in the current volume underscores the inherently multidimensional nature of policy and strategy formulation within the Eastern African context.

The need for this journal springs from the apparent absence of a scholarly forum dedicated to the elucidation of policy and strategy discourses within the distinctive



milieu of Eastern Africa. The region's idiosyncratic landscape, replete with diverse socio-economic, political, and cultural nuances, engenders an array of challenges that require innovative and context-specific solutions. It is this void that *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy* aspires to address. The main reason for founding this journal is to foster and catalyse interdisciplinary dialogue and facilitate evidence-based policy-making. By providing a platform for the convergence of diverse knowledge and perspectives, this journal aims to engender a synergistic exchange of ideas, thereby fostering a holistic and multidimensional approach to policy formulation and strategic decision-making.

It is also envisioned that the journal will serve as a vital channel for the dissemination of cutting-edge research findings. This will ensure that the unique challenges and context-specific solutions in the region are amplified and shared among scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders. This way too, the journal will facilitate, encourage, and support rigorous scholarly inquiry, thereby contributing to the collective knowledge base and informing future research. Moreover, it is hoped that the journal will reflect the commitment to intellectual excellence and the pursuit of knowledge as a catalyst in the region for sustainable development, fostering a culture of critical thinking and empirically-grounded discourse that transcends traditional boundaries.

To achieve its objectives, the journal is committed to promoting academic excellence and intellectual rigour. The editorial board and the author community, comprising multidisciplinary expertise, are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical publishing practices. Each contribution is meticulously crafted and subjected to a rigorous double-blind peer review process which is a cornerstone of scholarly publishing that safeguards the quality and credibility of the research disseminated through our journal. We further ensure that the papers are comprehensively and impartially assessed, scrutinised for originality, methodological robustness, and scholarly significance.

At this juncture, it is only fair to express profound indebtedness to the editorial board for their dedication and expertise which has given shape to this journal. These distinguished scholars, drawn from diverse academic disciplines and institutions, have lent their invaluable insights and guidance, whose result is this inaugural volume of *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy*.

This journal is biannual and we welcome submissions that will contribute to the discourse on policy formulation, strategic decision-making, and their manifold implications within the Eastern African context and beyond. We call on researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and scholars to contribute their work for consideration in future issues of *The Eastern Africa Journal of*



Policy and Strategy. Through a collaborative endeavour, we can bring together diverse perspectives to offer transformative solutions to the region's most pressing challenges. We are indebted to our institutional partner, The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy, whose financial support and belief in our vision have been the bedrock upon which this endeavour was built. The Centre's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and advancing the frontiers of knowledge has been a source of inspiration and motivation. Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the broader research community, whose enthusiasm for this journal and engagement with its mission have been a driving force behind its inception. It is through this collaborative spirit and the collective pursuit of knowledge that we can truly unlock the transformative potential of policy and strategy research within our region.

As we embark on this intellectual journey, we remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the values of academic excellence, ethical integrity, and impactful scholarship. Together, we shall strive to create a lasting legacy that contributes to the betterment of society and the advancement of knowledge across Eastern Africa and beyond. We believe that *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy* will successfully catalyse the advancement of knowledge and foster a profound impact on policy-making processes within our region by prioritising evidence-based decision-making and holistic, contextualised approaches to shape strategic thinking and inform decision-making frameworks that offer tangible solutions. Through the dissemination of research and the facilitation of interdisciplinary dialogue, we aspire to elucidate policy choices and strategic imperatives, and their diverse implications across socio-economic, political, and environmental domains.

Ultimately, *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy* envisions itself as a catalyst for transformative change, thereby contributing to the cultivation of a prosperous and sustainable future. The journal will strive to empower policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders by availing knowledge and insights with which to navigate the region's unique challenges and capitalise on its untapped potential. Through synergistic confluence of scholarly rigour, interdisciplinary collaboration, and commitment to societal impact, *The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy* shall endeavour to shape strategic thinking and policymaking processes.

Dr. Kenedy Asembo, PhD

Editor-in-Chief,

The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy