



5TH International Conference on Federalism

'Equality and Unity in Diversity
for Development'



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
December 14 to 16, 2010

5th International
Conference on Federalism

in co-operation with
the Forum of Federations

Practicing Equality

Strengthening Unity

Celebrating Diversity

Working for Development


Introduction

Ethiopia will host the 5th International Conference on Federalism from 14 to 16 December 2010 in Addis Ababa. This will be the latest in a series of unique, practitioner-oriented conferences designed as a forum for experience sharing on issues related to federalism. The International Conferences on Federalism were initiated in 1999 by the Forum of Federations with the first conference in Mt. Tremblant, Canada. This was followed by a second conference in 2002 in St. Gallen, Switzerland, a third in Brussels, Belgium, in 2005, and a fourth in New Delhi, India, in 2007.

These conferences are organized by the government of the host country in partnership with the Forum of Federations and provide a forum for sharing experience related to challenges associated with the governance and operation of federal and federal-type systems. All previous conferences have had participation from the highest levels of government, including heads of state, heads of government, heads of constituent units, legislators, senior officials, as well as young professionals, academics, and private sector and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives. Both the number of participants and countries of origin of participants grew from conference to conference. While 500 participants coming from 25 countries participated in Mt. Tremblant, the New Delhi conference hosted 1300 participants from 116 countries.

The first conference focused on the challenges of federalism in a globalizing world and offered an opportunity for discussion of four topics around the welfare state, social diversity, intergovernmental relations and economic and fiscal arrangements. The second conference paid special attention to foreign policies, conflict management in multicultural societies and fiscal federalism. These three topics reflected current issues of the host country, Switzerland, with its multicultural society and fiscal reform projects under discussion for a number of years prior to the conference. The host country of the third conference, Belgium had opted for federalization in 1993 in order to accommodate the tri-communal character of Belgian society. As Belgium was still a young federation at the time of the conference, questions of the founding and functioning of federal arrangements, models of distribution of power and foreign policies in federal states were at the core of the third conference. Being one of the biggest and most diverse federations, India chose the theme 'Unity in Diversity - learning from each other'. Managing cultural, ethno-linguistic and religious diversities along with economic imbalances were the main issues discussed during this conference.

During the 4th International Conference on Federalism in New Delhi, India, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, His Excellency Meles Zenawi, announced that




Ethiopia would host the 5th International Conference on Federalism. The 5th International Conference will be the first hosted by an African country; previous conferences took place in North America, Asia and Europe (twice). Bringing the 5th International Conference on Federalism to Ethiopia offers a unique opportunity to include African perspectives in the discussion on achievements and challenges of federalism. While federalism has been regarded with some reluctance in the majority of African countries for various reasons, Ethiopia is one of the few African countries which opted for a federal democratic system after the overthrow of the military regime that had ruled the country until 1991.

Federal or quasi-federal arrangements have proven workable for a number of African countries, like Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. Despite their ethnic diversities, most of these countries have not based their constitutions on territorially clustered cultural-linguistic communities as has been the case in Ethiopia. The “nations, nationalities and peoples” of Ethiopia are constitutionally sovereign. These sovereign entities voluntarily united to form the federation. The Ethiopian federal state belongs to them collectively.

The theme of the 5th International Conference on Federalism, 'Equality and Unity in Diversity for Development', reflects the need for sustainable development in federal, federalizing or decentralizing countries in Africa and other non-Western regions. Sustainable development requires equality and unity in diversity, qualities necessary for the emergence and sustenance of social peace and democracy. The theme selection follows the well-established tradition of concentrating on topics that are relevant to the host country as well as to federal, federalizing and decentralizing countries in the region and around the world.

Mission of the 5th International Conference

The mission of the 5th International Conference is to provide a forum for experience exchange and mutual learning among practitioners and experts, to equip them to better serve their societies. During the three days of the conference, practitioners and experts from all federal and decentralized countries as well as countries seeking federal or quasi-federal arrangements are encouraged to share their experience. The focus of the conference is not so much to debate theories of federalism but instead to use theoretically-informed but experience-based case studies of as many



countries as possible to generate discussion on best practices and possible solutions for specific problems, challenges and questions.

In addition to consideration of international experience, the 5th International Conference also provides a forum for sharing the national experience and for learning from regional examples within Ethiopia. Local conferences will be organized in all of Ethiopia's regional states. Specific target groups such as youth, women, business people, peasants and pastoralists will assemble in selected regions to discuss issues relating to their specific experience with federalism. The results of these pre-conference meetings will be made available to all conference participants, giving them a chance to learn more about the host country. High school students will be offered the opportunity to participate in an essay competition. The winners will be invited to the main conference and their essays will be published along with the Ethiopian case studies.

Topics of the 5th International Conference

The theme 'Equality and Unity in Diversity for Development' will be discussed under five topics. These topics, to be considered in parallel, are as follows:

1. Federalism and the Democratization Process
2. The Impacts of Regionalization and Globalization on Federations
3. Unity in Diversity through Federalism
4. Federalism and Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanisms
5. Fiscal Federalism and Equitable Development

Under each topic, there will be three different questions for discussion to be considered sequentially in three Work Sessions. The questions will relate to the main theme of the conference, 'Equality and Unity in Diversity for Development'. Each question will be considered in a Work Session from three different perspectives with one case study each from Ethiopia, Africa and the rest of the world.

Topic 1: Federalism and the Democratization Process

Under the first topic, 'Federalism and the Democratization Process', the discussion will include: the conditions under which federalism emerges (end of colonialism, civil wars, etc.); whether federation is perhaps the first democratic act (as in the case of Ethiopia) or comes afterwards; the creation of federal democratic constitutions and institutions (e.g., Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, South Africa); the gap between democratic structures and authoritarian political cultures; the transition from centralist, no-party and/or one-party political systems to federal, multi-party political systems (African and Eastern European countries); the roles of domestic actors (parties, community and civil society organizations (CSOs), media, etc.) and external actors (G-8 countries, European Union (EU) members, multilateral financial institutions, international NGOs, etc.) in facilitating or frustrating the democratization process (Horn of Africa, Great Lakes Region, Southern Africa, West Africa, etc.). Such issues will be addressed along three dimensions in sequence. These dimensions are: (1) the transition from conditions of colonialism, war and/or dictatorship to federalism; (2) bridging the gap between authoritarian political cultures and practices and emerging federal democratic institutions and practices; and (3) the roles of domestic and external actors (civic, financial, economic, political, military, etc.) in facilitating or frustrating the federalization and democratization processes.

Question 1: What conditions make federalism a necessary form of state and what are the major constitutional and institutional challenges to federal states in the initial stages?

This first question asks under what conditions the 'idea of federalism' appears compelling to multiethnic or multicultural countries overcoming colonial rule, dictatorships, civil wars, and/or deep divisions. Although they are two sides of the same coin, federalization may precede and facilitate democratization (e.g., Ethiopia) or democratization may precede and facilitate federalization (e.g., Belgium, Spain). The presentations will analyze the major constitutional, structural and institutional challenges in the initial stages of the federalization and democratization of the state.

Question 2: How do newly federalizing and democratizing countries address the challenges of bridging the gap between democratic federal institutions and authoritarian political cultures?

The second question to be considered under Topic 1 addresses one of the major challenges confronting countries undergoing a transition from centralist, one-party political systems to federal, multi-party political systems. It asks in what ways the authoritarian political culture of a society affects the transition from a non-democratic system to a federal democratic polity. How does the political culture of a society facilitate or inhibit this transition? The current challenge in Ethiopia, for example, has been how to overcome the traditional authoritarian political culture and develop a democratic political culture that would enhance the federal democratic constitution and structure that is already in place. What role do educational institutions play in this context? What role do the media play? How can a climate of trust in the constitution and institutions like courts, parliaments, etc., be developed (e.g., Mexico, South Africa, India)? What are relevant factors in not only creating and maintaining democratic institutions but also forming general trust in these institutions?

Question 3: What are the roles of domestic and external actors (civic, financial, political, etc.) in facilitating or frustrating the federalization and democratization processes?

Under the third question of Topic 1, there will be analyses of the roles of domestic and external actors in facilitating or frustrating the democratization process. Domestic actors may act as facilitators of or obstacles to the federalization and democratization processes. They may also act as a double-edged sword, playing both roles under different circumstances. External actors can facilitate federalization and democratization processes. At the same time, they may attempt to impose conditions in order to advance their own particular or global interests at the expense of the federalizing and democratizing countries (e.g., Germany, Iraq). Some may also be more interested in creating or maintaining pliant governments than in dealing with independently-minded national leaderships. How can indigenous traditional institutions (e.g. elders, local governments, traditional judicial systems, traditional leadership, traditional relief or support systems) facilitate the process of democratization, community development and conflict resolution, and how can they be accommodated within federal structures (e.g., South Africa, Ethiopia)? What is the role of modern (partly externally induced) CSOs, NGOs, business groups, women's organizations,

professional associations, media, etc., in facilitating or frustrating the processes of democratization and federalization?

Topic 2: The Impacts of Regionalization and Globalization on Federations

The second topic deals with the impact of sub-regional, regional and global pressures on federations. The peace, security, development and viability of each state are dependent on conditions in the neighboring states, in the continent and in the globe. Therefore, the issues of sub-regionalization, regionalization and globalization are pertinent to all states, including federal states. Supra-national organizations at the sub-regional, regional and global levels directly or indirectly influence the distribution and division of powers within federations, at times enhancing the powers of the federal government and at other times empowering the state governments. They are also relevant in creating large markets that will enable federal states to take advantage of them by being competitive enough at the global level.

Question 1: What is the impact of sub-regionalization, regionalization and globalization on federations?

Regionalization and globalization have had significant impact upon the operation of federations throughout the world. Case studies could, for example, highlight how globalization affects the relationship between constituent units and the federal government. What factors compel federal states to seek sub-regionalization and regionalization? For instance, the Greater Horn of Africa sub-region provides an excellent example of some of the factors that compel federal or federalizing states to seek regionalization. Some of the sovereign nations, nationalities and peoples of the Ethiopian federation have trans-border co-ethnics and co-religionists in all the neighboring countries. The interaction and interpenetration of sub-nations, nations and regions provide the context not only for federalization in Sudan, Somalia and Kenya, but also for potential initiatives towards a confederation of all the Horn of Africa countries, and indeed of the countries of the Great Lakes sub-region, etc. Therefore, the sub-regional organizations in Africa (COMESA, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, etc.) are important to federalization and con-federalization at sub-regional and regional levels. The African case can be compared with cases in other regions of the world: What could African countries learn from the experience of sub-regional and regional organizations in Asia (ASEAN) and Latin America (Mercosur)? What are the ways or opportunities to facilitate federalization and con-federalization through regionalization or sub-regionalization?

Question 2: What lessons could be learned from the experience of federal systems under developed regional arrangements elsewhere in the world for the design and operation of regional integration in Africa and other regions of the world?

During the second Work Session, participants will focus on the considerable experience with regional integration in many parts of the world. Prominent examples include the EU, Mercosur, ASEAN and NAFTA. In some cases, special arrangements have been put in place at the regional and/or member state level to take account of the internal structure of member states. There may be lessons from this experience as Africa moves toward greater regional integration through the African Union and sub-regional bodies. Additionally, experience of national and sub-national parliaments regarding regionalization could be discussed. Can the AU as a regional organization take the lead in solving regional problems? How can the relationships and activities of the AU and Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) be more effective, coordinated, complementary and synergetic? Can the ECA and the ADB serve as facilitators of regional integration? What lessons can be learned from the regional integration experience of ASEAN, the EU, Mercosur, and NAFTA?

Question 3: What lessons can be learned from the practices followed in the course of international cooperation involving federal type states?

The third Work Session of this topic addresses the fact that membership in supra-national organizations impacts national and sub-national institutions. The traditional partners of the international community are national or central governments. Multilateral decisions are typically made with national government participation. However, there appears to be an emerging trend to recognize sub-national units as legitimate players in the international arena, with or without the approval of the national state. Examples include bilateral treaties with other sub-national units and participation in multi-lateral consultations. Regionalization and globalization have a significant impact on such arrangements. The deeper the regional integration, the greater the impact on federated and decentralized member states. In some cases, as in a number of federations in the EU, special arrangements have been put in place at the regional and/or member state level to account for the internal structure of member states. There may be lessons to be learned from this experience as Africa moves toward greater regional integration through the AU and sub-regional bodies, such as SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA and IGAD as well as inter-regional bodies (e.g., IBSA).

Topic 3: Unity in Diversity through Federalism


The third topic of the conference comes back to the citizens and communities of federations. It looks at the relationship between unity and diversity during formation processes, at challenges to federations in the course of their evolution, and at best practices regarding the protection of minorities within federations.

Federations differ in the depth and basis of their diversity (ethnic, linguistic, religious, regional, cultural, historical and political). Consequently, divergent patterns among federations are created. For instance, there are variations among homogeneous and heterogeneous federations, 'coming together' and 'holding together' federations. These different configurations have important ramifications for the design and development of institutions in federations.

As they evolve, federations encounter various diversity-based challenges that end up producing major changes in the design and operation of federal institutions (e.g., U.S.A., Canada, India and Nigeria). In extreme cases, the complications and intricacies of the challenges require novel, complex and controversial institutional arrangements, including combining territorial and non-territorial forms of federalism (Belgium), making power-sharing, self-determination and autonomy arrangements at multiple levels of government (e.g., Sudan, Ethiopia) and creating internal and external institutions of conflict mediation (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Question 1: How can the imperatives of unity and diversity be reconciled during the formation of federations?

The focus in the first Work Session on this topic lies clearly in the formation process. While diversity can be framed as an asset for any given political system, diversity, especially ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity, requires special attention in the design of a federation in order to ensure peace, stability, and equity regarding development. What is the experience in reconciling unity and diversity within federal or decentralized states (e.g., in Uganda, South Africa, Ethiopia)? What options and mechanisms exist for managing the multifaceted challenges associated with the transition to federalism? What role do good governance and development play in the transition to federalism? Such challenges can include processes for crafting the federal constitution, especially where there is no consensus among the various actors; establishing the principles for constituting or re-organizing the constituent units; creating new institutions of self-rule and



shared rule; building institutional capacities for multi-level governance; and resolving the balance between constituent unit autonomy and central government authority (e.g., Canada, Nigeria).


Question 2: What kinds of policies are favorable for maintaining unity in diversity in the operation of a federation?

Building on the first session, which explores the design of the constitutional framework for the protection and strengthening of unity in diversity, the second Work Session explores the importance of the policy level for managing diversity in the operation of federations. In order to strengthen unity within diversity, it is necessary to encourage the constituent units to feel united. This requires not only equal rights but also equal access to services and economic and political resources. Given the historical and empirical evidence that tolerance and mutual respect - the basis for unity in diversity - are likely to increase with greater development, provided that the access to this development is possible for all groups, this issue has a strong relationship with the cross-cutting topic of development. This Work Session therefore looks into policies being implemented in order to achieve this goal. Among these policies are national and sub-national health, education, infrastructure and language policies that provide for equal access (e.g. India, Ethiopia). These policies and strategies regarding economic development will be compared to learn about best practices to strengthen unity and diversity.

Question 3: How can federations protect and accommodate minorities and disadvantaged groups?

During the third Work Session, participants will discuss the mechanisms federations apply in order to protect and accommodate minorities and disadvantaged groups, notably women. In most federations there are various forms of minorities and disadvantaged groups: national minorities, minorities within minorities, territorially dispersed minorities, non-territorially dispersed minorities, and others.

Among other aspects to be considered are mechanisms to guarantee equal access to basic services for all groups living within the federation, mechanisms to provide all groups with equal access to economic and political decision making processes, arrangements for affirmative action to protect the rights of minorities and disadvantaged groups, policies for effective communication where multiple languages are spoken, and mechanisms to ensure equal inclusion of all groups in development policies (e.g., Tanzania, Ethiopia, India). Case studies are expected to highlight institutional



and constitutional mechanisms as well as their practical implementation in federations to address the concerns of minority and disadvantaged groups.

Topic 4: Federalism and Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanisms

Whether federations have been established by a 'coming together' or a 'holding together' process, all federations encompass conflicting interests. These conflicts can be deep-rooted, socioeconomic conflicts or conflicting interests of different levels of government. Both types of conflict will be addressed within this topic. The three issues proposed for discussion under this topic are (1) the factors that have proven key to success or failure in reversing deep-seated conflicts, (2) experience with last-resort mechanisms, and (3) the way federations handle security issues.

Question 1: What factors have proven key to the success (or failure) of federalism to play its potential role in reversing deep-rooted conflict?

On this question, the case studies will present examples where federal arrangements were chosen in order to resolve deep-rooted and even violent conflicts (e.g., Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, UK/Scotland and Nepal). Some are widely perceived as working to moderate violent conflict, some have failed, and for others it is still too early to tell. What key factors have contributed to successes or failures in these cases? This could range from political culture to leadership, to the development and behavior of key institutions (political parties, civil society), to more inclusive symbols and education curriculum, or even to the design of the federal arrangements themselves.

Question 2: What have been the experience and results in the use of 'last-resort' mechanisms (e.g., courts, second chambers) in resolving significant conflicts in federations?

Constitutions set out a variety of 'last resort' mechanisms to settle conflicts of various types, notably 'vertical' jurisdictional conflicts and inter-state conflicts. Therefore, the second question of this topic examines the experience in the use of 'last-resort' mechanisms (e.g., courts, second chamber, referenda) in resolving significant conflicts in federations. Such mechanisms include supreme courts (the USA), special constitutional courts (Ger-

many and South Africa), the second chamber and the House of Federation (Ethiopia), and referenda (Switzerland). Case studies should also look into the actual experience in terms of (1) the 'background story' of how and why the conflict came to the 'last resort' stage (as opposed to alternatives such as negotiated settlements), (2) how the design affects behaviors of different actors, and (3) the impact of decisions for ongoing federal relations.

Question 3: What lessons can be learned from how federations deal with security matters, including intergovernmental relations and traditional institutions and practices at the national and other levels?

The third Work Session of the fourth topic considers managing security in multi-level governance systems. Security is receiving increasing attention in the face of porous national borders, trans-border issues at the regional level and in the face of the globalization of crime and terrorism. All these create new challenges in all federal systems for intra-governmental and intergovernmental coordination (including supranational coordination) (e.g., Nigeria, USA, Mexico, Canada). In post-conflict federations, the very conditions of the conflict create heavy security burdens that require coordination and capacity at different levels, even among previous antagonists. Many countries are experimenting with more recognition and better integration of traditional conflict resolution options within an intergovernmental framework with other 'formal sector' security and peace-building approaches. The rationale of federal systems implies shared responsibility for many aspects of security, and, in any case, requires coordination of policy, institutions and information.

Topic 5: Fiscal Federalism and Equitable Development


The fifth topic, fiscal federalism and equitable development, relates to the question of development conditions and influencing factors. Participants with experience in this area will discuss (1) how conflicting interests regarding the allocation of responsibilities, functions and revenue sources can be accommodated to promote equitable development in a federation, (2) the promotion of fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency, and (3) how national and regional interests regarding natural resources can be reconciled.

Question 1 What factors can guide the assignment of responsibilities and revenue-raising powers towards promoting equitable development and reducing potential fiscal conflicts?

One of the central issues in the theory of fiscal federalism is the assignment of competencies to different tiers of government. The literature on this topic provides various guidelines and arguments in allocating expenditure responsibilities and financial resources. Despite following these guiding principles, established and potential federations face the challenge of finding a balance between economic principles of equity, efficiency and effectiveness in allocating powers and resources as well as the political demand for locally responsive government. This could be more challenging for developing and diversified/multicultural federations in their efforts to balance the political commitment to build an economic union and the need to preserve local autonomy/diversity, with the ultimate objective of achieving sustainable development. It requires not only economic but also political and legal/constitutional considerations to guarantee the political decision-making power. Because fiscal imbalances have usually proved to be a threat to their stability, federations have often employed inter-governmental transfers to find a balance between the revenues and the expenditure responsibilities of constituent units. In most federations, and particularly in developing federations like Ethiopia, these transfers have been needed to address disparities in economic development and to strive for an equitable provision of services such as education, health and infrastructure development in the constituent units. There can sometimes be tensions between the need for an effective management of the national economy and priorities for regional development. Case studies will demonstrate mechanisms used in long-standing and emerging federations and elaborate on the effects of these arrangements on equitable development (e.g., Australia, Germany, Ethiopia).

Question 2 How can federations promote fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency in a context of fiscal interdependence between levels of government?

The second Work Session under this topic considers issues of fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency. Federations usually devolve large spending and financial responsibilities to constituent units. Moreover, federal governments also usually make large transfers for equalization purposes and nationally defined priorities. While constituent units enjoy constitutional autonomy in managing of their resources, federal governments may impose conditions on transfers, including policy conditions and




those relating to accountability and transparency to avoid misspending of transfers. Experience sharing on the issue of the appropriate balance of conditional and unconditional transfers to ensure both autonomy and accountability is desired. In some federations there have also been issues of borrowing by constituent units affecting the national economy. These raise the question of how to engage constituent units in the preservation of the financial equilibrium of the whole public sector. Case studies are expected to highlight various instruments, both informal and formal, that federations have developed to address these issues. With respect to the cross-cutting issue of development, the comparison of different cases should highlight best practices for equitable and sustainable development.

Question 3 How can federations or potential federations work to reconcile regional and national interests, both economic and environmental, in natural resources such as oil, gas, minerals, water and forests?

The last Work Session turns to dealing with natural resources. Natural resources are important in many established federations and in countries debating federal arrangements (e.g., Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil, Iraq, Canada). This may be because resources such as oil and gas, minerals (copper, diamonds), etc. and even agriculture and forestry are an important or dominant source of government revenue. Such resources are usually regionally concentrated. Producing regions, local communities and pastoralists may make claims regarding the control and access to these resources, the protection of the local environment, and benefits from associated revenues. The national interest may include equitable development across the country and between generations, as well as sound fiscal management (including using stabilization funds). While not usually a major revenue source, water can be the object of conflicts between constituent units over its use, especially for agriculture in arid and semi-arid regions.

Structure and Setting of the 5th Conference

The structure and procedures of the 5th International Conference on Federalism serve the mission of the conference to bring experts and practitioners from all over the world together to share their experience. The structure and procedures have been developed with the aim of facilitating dialogue and interaction on the experience of the hosting country, Ethiopia, Africa and the rest of the world.



The 5th International Conference on Federalism will be held over three working days from 14 to 16 December 2010. This will include two sessions devoted to addressing general issues of federalism and one cultural session aimed at providing participants with a glimpse of Ethiopia's fascinating cultural richness and diversity. The substantive work of the conference will be organized around Topic Plenaries and Work Groups, collectively called the Work Sessions.

There will be five parallel Work Sessions each day, organized by topic. All participants will be expected to sign up for one of these sessions each day. Each Work Session starts with a Topic Plenary meeting. During the Topic Plenary meeting, the case studies of the day for the particular topic will be presented briefly, and questions from the participants for further discussion will be collected. Case selection is structured in such a way that three perspectives - Ethiopia, Africa and the rest of the world - are adequately reflected through the case studies. Hence, there will be at least three case studies presented in each Work Session. The comments and questions raised by the audience may vary in their character depending on the kind of input the person making a comment or raising a question seeks to make. Questions could relate to reactions to similar issues in other countries, or they could seek advice from the audience concerning a related problem or a related challenge. Although the participants have the opportunity to comment and to ask questions, no discussion will take place during the topic plenary meetings, as the size of the audience does not allow for a thorough discussion. The Topic Plenary sessions will be kept short in order to give enough time for in-depth discussions to take place in the smaller Work Groups that follow.

Each topic plenary will then break out into three parallel Work Groups in order to discuss in depth the questions raised during the topic plenary. The three regional perspectives, Ethiopian, African and international, will be taken into account in each of the workshops. During the workshops, the participants will try to find answers to the questions raised during the topic plenary. Depending on the type of question, these answers could occur in form of advice, if sought, or in the form of the presentation of best practices, if such are available. The workshops will be facilitated by experienced moderators and will be supported by rapporteurs who will analyze and summarize the discussion. All workshops should aim to conclude with a summary or joint position, which will be presented by the rapporteur during the following full-conference plenary.

Finally, at the end of each Work Session there will be a full conference plenary meeting. These will offer the opportunity for all participants to gain insight into the discussions of those Work Sessions they were unable to at-

tend. As all of the topics are related to each other, the summaries will round up the discussions and provide participants with further questions for consideration beyond the conference and new perspectives on the practice of federalism. Figure 1 shows the structure of the Work Sessions.

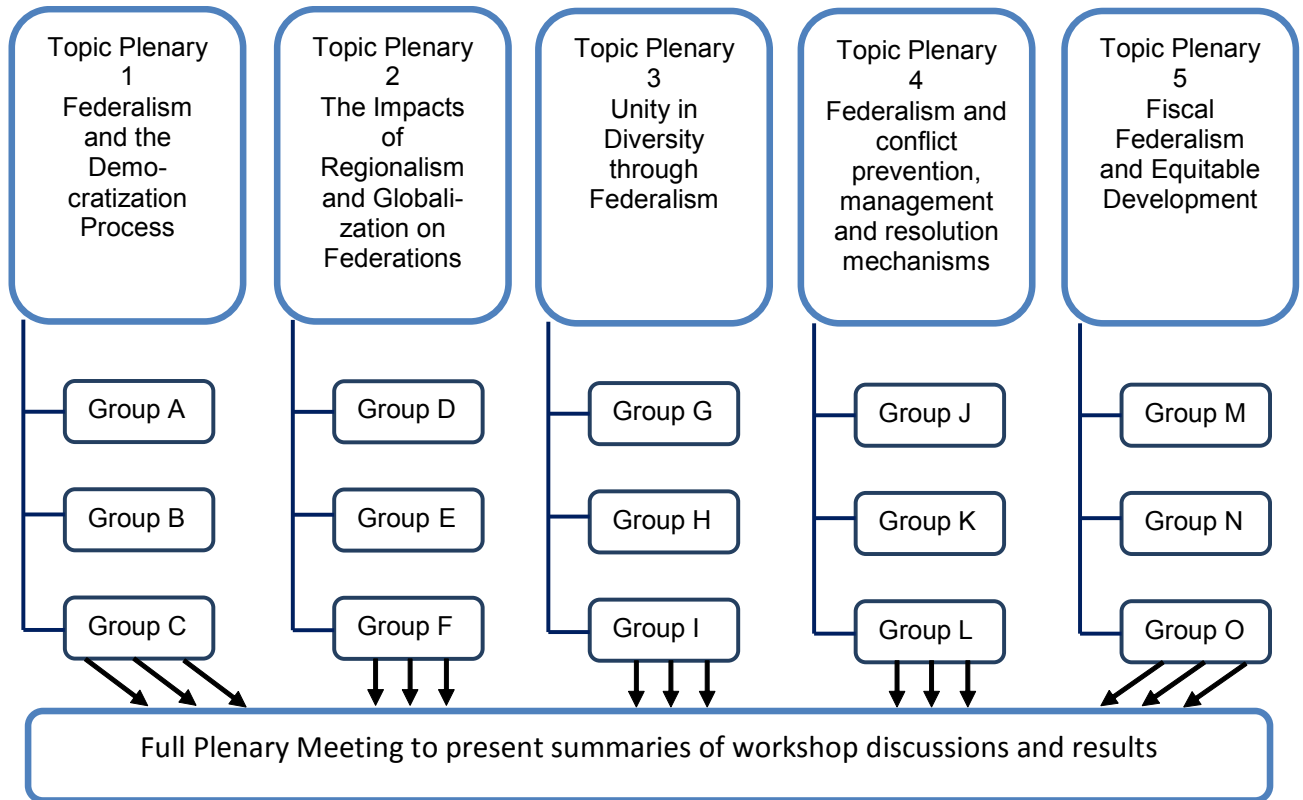


Figure 1: The Structure of the Work Sessions of the 5th International Conference

Call for Case Studies

The 5th International Conference on Federalism seeks to assemble as many different case studies from as many practitioners and experts as possible and is therefore calling for case studies. The focus of the conference is experience sharing, rather than theoretical discussions. Therefore the organizers are seeking fact-based cases, rather than theoretical frameworks. The case studies should try to directly address one of the questions explained above. The time allocated for the presentation of each of the cases will be seven minutes.

Practitioners and experts with experience relating to any of the above-listed topics and questions are welcome to send an abstract by February 15, 2010. The conference seeks a balanced participation regarding gender, professional experience and regions. Hence, women and young professionals are especially encouraged to submit their abstracts.

Abstracts should contain a brief outline (250 word limit) of the case and its relation to the question it is going to address, a short CV of the presenter and, if available, a sample of previous presentations or publications. A team of experts will select the case studies to be presented during the 5th International Conference on Federalism.

Please send abstracts to:

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Acknowledgements

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The Logo

The 5th International Conference on Federalism (ICF) logo embodies the principles and objectives of the conference. Its interlocking puzzle pieces comprise a circular whole, invoking the shape and composition of our globe - one of many nations and peoples - and reflecting the international character of the 5th ICF. The five parts of the puzzle reference the number of International Conferences on Federalism, each connected to and building on the others. All pieces of the puzzle are linked, and yet at the same time, open for the integration of new parts - just as future conferences, new federal states, and new ideas may be integrated into and expand the discussion. The focus on federalism in an African context (and on Ethiopian federalism, particularly) is reflected through the logo's colors, common to many flags across the continent, and through the Ethiopian star, a symbol both of Ethiopia's federal system and of its diversity. The potential for federalism to resolve conflict and build peace is suggested in the embracing character of the single pieces, which, while linked together, are loose enough to guarantee freedom and self-determination. Finally, reference to the people - the most important element of any federal system - is made in the shape of some of the logo's pieces.



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 - Nico Steytler, Director of the Community Law Centre, University of Western Cape, South Africa
 - Ronald L. Watts, Professor Emeritus, Queens University, Canada
 - Rotimi Suberu, Professor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
 - Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor and Professor, Jain University, India
 - Solomon Negussie, Assistant Professor of Law, Ethiopian Civil Service College, Ethiopia
 - Tsegaye Regassa, Assistant Professor, Ethiopian Civil Service College, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
 - Yash Ghai, Scholar in Constitutional Law, Kenya

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