



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT: A PHILOSOPHICAL EXPLORATION**

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

July 20-21, 2026

Organized by: The Department of Philosophy, Addis Ababa University (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); The McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values at the Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C., USA); and The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (Washington, D.C., USA)

Venue: Professor Bahru Zewde Hall, College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Addis Ababa University

Day One: Monday, July 20, 2026

8:30 - 9:00 Registration:

9:00 - 9:30 **Opening Session**

Moderator: Dr. Getahun Dana, Addis Ababa University.

9:00 – 9:10 Dr. Ezana Amdework, Executive Dean, College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Addis Ababa University

- 9:10 – 9:20 Dr. Jeilu Oumer, Academic Vice President of Addis Ababa University
- 9:20 – 9:30 Professor William Sweet, Vice President of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP)

Dr. Yeping Hu, Executive Director of McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values, The Catholic University of America

9:30 – 10:00 Philosophy with Children

Moderators: Professor Mogobe Ramose and Dr. Getahun Dana

10:00 – 11:00 Session I. Intercultural Philosophy and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Professor Workineh Kelbessa, Addis Ababa University

- 10 – 10:30 Peacebuilding and Reconciliation through Intercultural Philosophy
Professor William Sweet, St. Francis Xavier University
- 10:30 – 11:00 Legitimizing Reciprocity: New Frameworks for Cooperation between the European North and the African South
Professor Alberto Pirni, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies

11:00 -11:30 Group Picture + Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Session II. Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Professor João J. Vila-Chã, Pontifical Gregorian University

- 11:30 – 12:00 Sustainable “Development” founded on Unsustainable Foreign Debt Repayment
Professor Mogobe Ramose, University of Pretoria
- 12:00 – 12:30 Extracting Wealth, Exporting Harm: Multinational Corporations and Africa’s Fight for Environmental Justice.
Professor Workineh Kelbessa, Addis Ababa University
- 12:30 – 13:00 Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development
Professor Robin Attfield, Cardiff University

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Session III. Technology and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Professor Bekele Gutema, Addis Ababa University

- 14:00 – 14:30 Democracy and Populism in Science and Technology Policy
Professor Riccardo Pozzo, Tor Vergata University of Rome
- 14:30 – 15:00 The Pragmatic Role of Philosophy in the AI Ethics and Sustainable Development.
Mr. Esayas Banacha, Addis Ababa University.

15:00 – 16:00 Session IV. Peace, Conflict, and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Dr. Fasil Merawi, Addis Ababa University

15:00 – 15:30 From the Balance of Power to Federative Solidarity: The Difference between Overcoming War and Achieving Peace

Professor João J. Vila-Chã, Pontifical Gregorian University

15:30 – 16:00 Restorative Justice as a Philosophical Pillar for Peace Advocacy in Ethiopia: Healing Historical Wounds, Empowering Youth, and Advancing Sustainable Development

Mr. Ashenafi Didimos, Addis Ababa University

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 Session V. Intergenerational Justice and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Professor William Sweet, St. Francis Xavier University

16:30 – 17:00 Reconciling Environmental Moral Crossroads for Intergenerational and Environmental Justice

Dr. Andebet Hailu

17:00 – 17:30 A Quest for Intergenerational Justice in Africa: A Philosophical Exploration into the Ontology of Global Justice

Mr. Eyasu Berento, Addis Ababa University

17:30 – 18:00 A Philosophical Reflection on Global Economic Injustice: The Case of the Transnational Discourse of T3 ‘Conflict Minerals’ in Eastern Congo.

Dr. Eskender Sintayehu, Adama Science and Technology University

19:00 – 21:00 Reception

Day Two: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

9:00 – 11:00 Session VI. Identity, Decolonization, and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Professor Riccardo Pozzo, Tor Vergata University of Rome

9:00 – 9:30 The Problematic Nature of National Identity in Ethiopia

Dr. Yerasework Kebede Hailu, University of South Africa

9:30 -10:00 Navigating Competing Paradigms in Ethiopian Education: Crisis of Subjectivity, Emancipation and a Utopian Future.

Dr. Fasil Merawi, Addis Ababa University.

10:00 – 10:30 Epistemic Injustice, Colonial Dichotomies, and Mental Decolonization: Rethinking the Marginalization of Dubusha for Sustainable Peace in Ethiopia.

Dr. Getahun Dana, Addis Ababa University

10:30 – 11:00 Harmony and Unity of Heaven and Human: A Confucian Perspective on Sustainable Development
Dr. Hu Yeping, The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) and CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:00 Concluding Session

Professor João J. Vila-Chã, Vice President of The Council for Research In Values and Philosophy

Professor Workineh Kelbessa, Addis Ababa University

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 18:00 Culture Execution

1. The Ethnographic Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies.
2. Adwa Victory Memorial Museum
3. National Museum of Ethiopia

Each speaker will have 30 minutes: 20 for their presentation and 10 for discussion.