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GENERAL CONFERENCE NAIROBI-KENYA

**28<sup>TH</sup> IPRA  
GENERAL  
CONFERENCE**

on,

**PEACE TECHNOLOGY**  
*POSITIONING FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION  
AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN FOSTERING  
GLOBAL PEACE*

**11–15 JANUARY 2021**

**NAIROBI, KENYA**

[www.ipra2021.org](http://www.ipra2021.org)

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## 28TH IPRA GENERAL CONFERENCE

### PEACE TECHNOLOGY:

*Positioning Fourth Industrial Revolution and Emerging Technologies in Fostering Global Peace*

**NAIROBI, KENYA  
JANUARY, 11—15, 2021**

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and its attendant emerging technologies has evolved rapidly over the past seven years compared to the first, second and third mechanized, mass and automated production respectively experienced in the 1950s which currently has an audience of about 50 million users. With the continued growth of human activities, development of more sophisticated war technology and their damaging effects to the natural habitats, both the global north and global south continue to suffer the intensity of these extremities such as floods, wild fires, typhoons and other global warming indicators. As the climate crisis continues to threaten human race, the unprecedented growth in technology is expected to reach its peak within the next decade.

The dawn of new era, presents technology as a tool to solve human problems amidst unpredictable socio-economic and political times in seeking global peace. This couples to the uncertainty of a world already unsettled by resurgent geo-political conflicts, terrorism and its disruptive networks, climate change and its disastrous effects, ecosystem restoration and other global challenges such as emergence of deadly epidemics and pandemics. New technology continues to be invented at an unmanageable rate with limited debates on its collateral impact on development, peace and security and human rights. The growing threats of emerging technologies such as drones and artificial intelligence, being used by insurgent groups to scale up attacks remains a serious global security concern. Social media, on the other hand, has become a new platform to spread propaganda, target youth into armed extremism, threaten and silence other vulnerable groups in Society and is an increasing contributor to violence in all forms. Technology has been used to exacerbate conflicts and it is time the same is amplified for Peace.

The 2019 Carnegie AI Global Surveillance Index reports that 75 out of the 176 countries use artificial intelligence technologies for surveillance and warns that 'democracies are not taking adequate steps to monitor and control the spread of sophisticated technologies.

As new technology unfolds, the UN general assembly declared 2021 – 2030 the decade on ecosystem restoration with an emphasis on scaling up of restoration work to address the severe degradation of landscapes including the wetlands and aquatic ecosystems worldwide. Though international efforts are being made to preserve and protect the existing forest cover and the general ecosystem, much remains to be done and adequate measures taken to tackle the adverse effects of climate change and global technology revolution.

The UN resolution 74/64 of 12 December 2019 recognises that young people are key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. The youth, being key drivers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology revolution, should maximize on innovation to detract from drugs, criminal activities and address social and economic issues affecting them through responsible use of ICT.

In response to these challenges, it is expected that the 28<sup>th</sup> IPRA General Conference in Nairobi, Kenya will delve on the imperatives of Information, Communication and Technology evolution and the emerging ones, discussing their use as peace tools rather than war aggravates with the objective of addressing, improving and complimenting efforts on regional and international peace and security.

The Global challenge encompassing governments, civil society, the academia, and the industry itself, therefore is to advance the moral backbone of technology revolution. The call to action is for policy-makers, the international community and all stakeholders to proactively manage emerging digital divide in all its new and old dimensions, brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution so that it does not exacerbate inequality and make growth less inclusive, with severe human security consequences while also curbing environmental disasters.

It is also expected that the 28<sup>th</sup> IPRA General Conference will deliberate on the socio-economic impact and mental health factors resulting from the fourth industrial revolution and its attendants and derive measures that can be undertaken by the various stakeholders to control and better manage the destructive effects.

Surrounded by countries emerging from decades of civil strife, the hosting of the conference in the East Africa region, more so Kenya, remains significant. The country has hosted many refugees from these conflict zones and has also been instrumental in peace mediation, peacekeeping missions and reconciliation efforts in the region and across Africa.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Biennial IPRA General Conference therefore invites scholars, practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to

present papers and proposals that will examine inter-(multi)disciplinary discourses and research on digital revolution post-industrialization along the tracks of technology, legal frameworks, environmental, political, socio-cultural and economics. IPRA 2021 General Conference aims to discuss the fragmented space of use of data during disaster responses, the pros and con of accelerated development resulting from the growth of human activities, continued negative pressure on natural resources and ecosystems so as to entrench a new narrative for inclusive and just globalization and discuss the greater impact on economic, job-market, social and political peace and stability.

**The IPRA 2021 Nairobi Conference welcomes research papers/proposals that will explore the following Major Thematic Areas alongside addressing other sub-themes within its various Commissions:**

- ◆ Peace Technology in the Anthropocene
- ◆ International Humanitarian & Human Rights Law, Arms Control and Technology Revolution
- ◆ Sociology, Information Technology and Peace
- ◆ Climate Change, Community Data, Early Warning Systems
- ◆ Forensic Science and Counter-Terrorism
- ◆ Media, Virtual Network and Education
- ◆ Mental Health, Spiritual Security and Spiritual Intelligence
- ◆ Sports Science and Peace
- ◆ Global Trade, Corporate Surveillance and Peace

### IPRA COMMISSIONS ([www.iprapeace.org](http://www.iprapeace.org))

Media, Conflicts & Journalism (MCJ)

Development, Political Economy and Sustainable Peace (DPESP)

Gender and Peace (GEP)

Peace Education (PEC)

Peace Theories & History (PTH)

Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene (PEA)

Human Security and Society (HSS)

Pathways Towards Peace and Justice (PPJ)

Youth, Sports & Peace (YSP)

Nonviolence & Peace Movements (NPM)

For more information, visit or contact us on:

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