

## ISSUE BRIEF

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### ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to present the viability of preventative diplomacy in the Eastern African Region. The argument posited throughout is the significance of preventative diplomacy and in particular in the EAR considering the existing mechanisms within sub-regional organisations. The paper takes note of prevention being better if not the best, than curing the disease of violent conflict in our societies. A thread of presentations is shown through section I to section VII. Section I presents the definition, various forms, origins of preventative diplomacy, actors in preventative diplomacy, difference between conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy, problems and challenges of preventative diplomacy and finally its importance. Section II presents the EAR by briefly highlighting the sub-regional organisations within this region: IGAD, ICGRL and EAC. Then section III deals with an application of preventative diplomacy from a bigger world perspective and from an African perspective. The point here is to possibly grasp lessons learnt in the previous application of preventative diplomacy. Section IV presents specific examples of EAR while Section V deals with the challenges of preventative diplomacy within the EAR. Second from last is section VI with a critical analysis on the viability of preventative diplomacy in the EAR. Finally is section VII with conclusion and recommendations. What is preventative diplomacy?