

The Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, and the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) held a conference on **Social Protection in Africa** in Nairobi on 12th and 13th November, 2014.

The focus of the conference, held at the Safari Park Hotel, was evidence-based knowledge and experience in select topics on social protection. Plenary speakers and participants included scholars, national policy actors, development practitioners and private sector organisations.

The conference subjected research findings to peer review processes and based on the recommendations of an editorial committee, some of the papers presented will be published in an edited book volume and or compendium of conference papers for dissemination to various audiences.

The conference focused on eight sub- themes: Political economy and analysis of social protection policy uptake in Africa, the politics of cash transfer programmes, governance mechanism of non-state social protection, and gender and children issues in social protection.

The other themes were: Social protection as inclusive growth strategy, regulatory mechanisms of social protection services, social protection in limited statehoods and social protection as an instrument to promote state-citizens social contract.

Prof Karuti Kanyinga, the IDS Associate Director, and the PASGR Executive Director, Prof Tade Akin Aina, made the welcome addresses. Prof Kanyinga also chaired one of the sessions.