



Tentative Programme

Challenges Annual Forum 2023

“Towards stronger global-regional peace and security partnerships”

26-27 October 2023, Addis Ababa

Day 1

08:30-09:30

Registration & Coffee

09:30-10:00

Official Welcome

Bankole Adeoye | Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union Commission

Mesganu Arenga | State Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Stian Christensen | Ambassador of Norway to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU and UNECA, Co-chair of the Group of Friends of the AU-UN Partnership

Pernilla Rydén | Director, Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS)

10:00-10:15

Keynote Address: the AU-UN peace and security partnership in tomorrow's world

In a time of increased global tension, the UN needs to consider how it does business. Most naturally, the world organisation would turn to regional and sub-regional organisations to secure peace, security and development. What are the challenges and opportunities for moving this forward?

Fonteh Akum | Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria, South Africa

10:15-10:45

Break

10:45-12:00	<p>High-level Panel: UN support to AU and African-led peace enforcement operations</p> <p>This session will unpack the recommendations made by the UN Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and discuss how the UN can better support the AU and sub-regional peace enforcement operations, and what opportunities and risks this entails.</p> <p>Jean-Pierre Lacroix Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, United Nations</p> <p>Bankole Adeoye Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union Commission</p> <p>... Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations</p> <p>Atul Khare Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, United Nations</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Per Olsson-Fridh Chair, Challenges Forum Partner Meeting & Folke Bernadotte Academy Director-General</p>
12:00-12:05	<p>Introduction to Working Group Discussions</p> <p>Benoît Pylyser Senior Strategic Adviser, CFIS</p>
12:15-13:45	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
14:00-17:00 (incl. 30 min coffee break)	<p>Working Group Discussions (Closed Sessions)</p> <p>Working group 1: Strategic coherence among global, regional and sub-regional bodies</p> <p><i>Using the example of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), this working group will explore how strategic coherence between the UN, AU, and sub-regional organisations, can be developed and sustained. Where does the host nation and other partners, such as the European Union (EU), fit into such coordination arrangements?</i></p> <p>Chair: Nigeria National Defence College (NDC)</p> <p>Ignite speaker: Cedric de Coning Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and Senior Advisor, African Center for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)</p> <p>Field Perspective: Mpho G. Molomo Head of Mission SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and Special Representative to the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation</p>

Working group 2: Predictable financing of African-led peace support operations

Building on the lessons from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), this session will explore how the UN can finance African-led peace support operations in a more systematic manner.

Chair: Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA)

Ignite speaker: Meressa Kahsu Dessu | Senior Researcher and Training Coordinator, ISS Addis Ababa

Field Perspective: Mohammed El-Amine Souef | Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) to Somalia and Head of the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)

Working group 3: Addressing capability gaps more systematically

Anchored in a concrete case study of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) of the Lake Chad Basin Commissions (LCBC), this working group will discuss how partnership arrangements, including with UN, EU, AU, can help to address technical and capability gaps of sub-regional peace operations more systematically?

Chair: Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)

Ignite speaker: Freedom Chukwudi Onuoha | Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Nigeria

Field Perspective: Mamman Nuhu | Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission of the Multinational Joint Task Force

17:10-17:40

Fireside chat: Peace operations in the absence of host state consent

How to undertake peace operations in the absence of host state consent, or more broadly in non-permissive environments, where the consent of the state or non-state armed actors that are in control of certain areas are lacking, limited or uncertain.

Alhadji Sarjoh Bah | Director of Conflict Management within the Political Affairs Peace and Security Department, AU Commission

Cedric de Coning | Research Professor, Research group on peace, conflict and development, NUPI

19:00

Reception hosted by Hans Henric Lundquist, Ambassador of Sweden to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU, IGAD and UNECA

Day 2

09:25–9:30

Welcome Day Two

09:30–10:30

Youth, Peace and Security

An innovative spotlight presentation, followed by a moderated discussion on how peace operations can foster youth inclusion and leverage the power of youth.

Spotlight presentation:

Rehema Mussanzi | Executive Director at Centre for Conflict Resolution (DRC)

Discussants:

Nothando Maphalala | Political Affairs Officer and Special Assistant to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Political), UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Mouna Dukunde | Associate Civil Affairs Officer, UN Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

Julius Kramer | Former Youth, Peace and Security Adviser United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) (*video recording*)

Moderator:

Cynthia Chigwenya | African Youth for Peace Ambassador for Southern Africa

10:30–11:00

Break

11:00–12:00

Plenary: Expert discussion on key takeaways

Moderated reflection on the key working group conclusions and CAF23 key takeaways.

Andrew E. Yaw Tchie | Senior Research Fellow, NUPI

Wandile Langa | Programme Officer, ACCORD

Andrews Atta-Asamoah | Programme Head, Africa Peace and Security Governance Programme, ISS

High-level commentators on the key take-aways:

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga | Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

Alhadji Sarjoh Bah | Director of Conflict Management, Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS) Department, African Union

Moderator:

Pernilla Rydén | Director, CFIS

12:00–13:30

Lunch

13:30–14:30

High-level Panel Discussion: Towards more systematic financing of AU peace support operations mandated by the UN Security Council

The UN Secretary-General has called for a new generation of peace enforcement missions, led by regional forces, with guaranteed predictable funding from the UN. This session will discuss where we stand and what's next with the framework resolution on financing of African Union peace support operations mandated by the UN Security Council.

Harold Adlai Agyeman | Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations

Roland Kobia | Representative of the European Union Delegation to the African Union a.i.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix | Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, United Nations

Bankole Adeoye | Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union Commission

Moderator:

Vasu Gounden | Executive Director, ACCORD

14:30–14:45

Break

14:45–15:45

Official Closing

Pernilla Rydén | Director, CFIS

Fonteh Akum | Executive Director, ISS

Vasu Gounden | Executive Director, ACCORD

Kari M. Osland | Director, NUPI

Moderator:

Linda Darkwa | Coordinator, Training for Peace