



Programme

Challenges Annual Forum 2023

“Towards stronger global-regional peace and security partnerships”

26-27 October 2023, Addis Ababa

Day 1

12:00–13:00

Lunch at UNECA Conference Centre

13:00–13:30

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)

13:30–13:45

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

13:45–15:00

High-level Panel: UN support to AU and African-led peace enforcement operations

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.

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

Fonteh Akum | Executive Director, ISS, Pretoria, South Africa

Onyinye Nkechi Onwuka | Director Early Warning Directorate, Office of the Vice President, ECOWAS Commission

David Haeri | Director, Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, Department of Peace Operations, United Nations

Atul Khare | Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, United Nations (video recording)

Moderator:

Per Olsson-Fridh | Chair, Challenges Forum Partner Meeting & Folke Bernadotte Academy Director-General

15:00-15:30

Coffee break

15:30-18:00

Working Group Discussions (Closed Sessions)

Working group 1: Strategic coherence among global, regional, and sub-regional bodies

Using the example of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), this session will explore how strategic coherence between the UN, AU, and sub-regional organisations, can be developed and sustained. Where do the host nation and other partners, such as the European Union, fit into such coordination arrangements?

Chair: Johanna Gårdmark | Director, Department of Peace Operations, Folke Bernadotte Academy

Ignite speaker: Ingvild Brox Brodtkorb | Junior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)

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

Working group 2: Predictable financing of AU-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 AU-led peace support operations in a more systematic manner.

Chair: Aditi Gorur | Senior Policy Advisor, US Permanent Representation to the UN in New York

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 session will explore how partnership arrangements, including with UN, EU, AU, can help to address technical and capability gaps of African-led peace operations more systematically.

Chair: Leon Kukuk | Lead Researcher, 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

19:00

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

Day 2

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

Coffee break

11:00–12:00

Plenary: Expert discussion on key takeaways

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

Karishma Rajoo | General Manager Programmes, ACCORD

Cedric de Coning | Research Professor, NUPI

Charlie Hunt | Senior Research Fellow, ISS

Moderator:

Pernilla Rydén | Director, CFIS

12:00–13:00

Lunch

13:00–14:30

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. This session will discuss where we stand and what's next with the framework resolution on financing of AU peace support operations mandated by the UN Security Council.

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

Jean-Pierre Lacroix | Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, United Nations (*videorecording*)

Roland Kobia | EU Ambassador to Ethiopia, Head of Mission of the European Union to the African Union

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

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga | Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the UN Office to the AU

Moderator:

Hanna Serwaa Tetteh | Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa

14:30-15:00

Coffee

15:00-15:45

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

How to undertake peace operations in the absence of host state consent? With growing impatience across Africa over the perceived ineffectiveness of UN peace operations, several host states and populations are turning increasingly averse toward missions. Are peace operations led by regional and/or sub-regional organisations, with stronger local legitimacy, a way to overcome the crisis of consent?

Babu Rahman | Senior Principal Research Analyst, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Linda Darkwa | Coordinator, Training for Peace

Zinurine Alghali | Acting Head, Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), AU Commission

Solomon Ayele Dersso | Founding and Managing Director, Amani Africa (video recording)

Facilitator:

Cedric de Coning | Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and Senior Advisor, African Center for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

15:45-16:00

Official Closing

Pernilla Rydén | Director, CFIS

Linda Darkwa | Coordinator, Training for Peace