

The Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development



Fourth Edition

Africa in a Changing World: Re-envisioning
Global Governance for Peace and Development

Cairo, 2-3 July 2024

PROGRAM



PEACE. PROGRESS. PROSPERITY.



ASWAN
FORUM

FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
مجلس الحوار والتنمية المستدامة

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Africa in a Changing World: Re-envisioning Global Governance for Peace and Development

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PROGRAM



ASWAN FORUM
SECRETARIAT

Tuesday 2 July 2024

7:30 - 9:15 Registration and Coffee

Conrad Ballroom Entrance & Foyer

9:30 - 9:45

Conrad Ballroom

KEYNOTE OPENING SPEECH

Sameh Shoukry

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

9:45 - 11:00

Conrad Ballroom

OPENING SESSION

Worlds Apart? Connecting Peace, Security and Development in a Fractured World

The world is going through a period of great turbulence and uncertainty with geopolitical tensions and polarization fueling mistrust and hindering collective responses. International politics are increasingly turning into a zero-sum game, jeopardizing cooperation and eroding trust in the ability of the multilateral system to deliver on its promise of sustainable peace and development for all. Conflicts are on the rise worldwide, some with far reaching global impacts and devastating development and humanitarian consequences, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the war in Gaza, and the conflict in Sudan. As a result, the world in general, and Africa in particular, are moving further away from fulfilling the promises of Agendas 2030 and 2063.

From Africa's viewpoint, existing structures and frameworks of global governance are falling short of ensuring a just and fair global order, with growing disillusionment over double-standards. As a result, African leaders are increasingly asserting their voices in ongoing global debates on reforming multilateralism and global governance. In view of the upcoming Summit of the Future, this session aims to contribute to these debates, with a particular focus on Africa's perspectives and priorities in the areas of peace, security and development.

Speakers

Moussa Faki Mahamat - Chairperson, African Union Commission

Ahmed Aboul Gheit - Secretary-General, League of Arab States

Sameh Shoukry - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

Christoph Heusgen - Chairman, Munich Security Conference

Moderator

Comfort Ero - President, International Crisis Group

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

Conrad Ballroom Foyer

11:30 - 12:30

Conrad Ballroom

PSC DIALOGUE

20 Years of the AU Peace and Security Council: The Future of Africa's Peace and Security

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) since its launch on 25 May 2004. Throughout the years, the PSC, as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) decision-making pillar, has made significant strides in addressing conflicts and promoting stability across the continent. However, there are significant gaps in the implementation of its Protocol and its Communiqués. As the nature of peace and security challenges in Africa have evolved over the years, a stocktaking process of the PSC's capacity to deliver on its mandate is timely more than ever, and is a process that has already been formally embarked upon by the PSC.

Building on the outcomes of the 20th Anniversary High-Level Colloquium held by the African Union Peace and Security Council in May 2024 under the theme: "20 Years of the AU PSC as a Standing Decision-Making Organ: the Next two Decades of the Peace and Security We Want in Africa," and the Dar Es Salaam Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the PSC, this session provides a platform to reflect on the Council's notable achievements and challenges. The session will therefore shed light on emerging challenges to African peace and security, and discuss measures to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture to make it more responsive to evolving threats, including through the reform of the African Peace and Security Council.

Speakers

Robert Dussey - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration, Togolese Republic

Ramadan Mohamed Abdallah Goc - Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Republic of South Sudan

Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner - Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Francophonie, the Democratic Republic of Congo

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

Moderator

Ashraf Swelam - Assistant Minister for African Organizations and Communities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

12:45 - 14:00

Conrad Ballroom

FLAGSHIP THEMATIC SESSION

The Peace-Development Nexus in Africa from Policy to Practice: Scaling up Partnerships and Advancing Integrated Solutions

The global landscape has been witnessing rapid changes, with complex and evolving political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian challenges –all requiring more integrated approaches to accelerate the shift towards advancing the sustainable peace and development nexus. In most conflict-affected contexts, however, interventions by humanitarian, development and peace actors remain siloed, with considerable resources allocated to address a subset of a much more complex and multi-layered reality, leading to these interventions falling short. Despite a general consensus on the imperative of adopting a nexus approach to facilitate collaboration across various stakeholders and balance between addressing immediate needs and long-term investments, implementation remains fragmented.

This session aims to advance the discussion on operationalizing the peace-development nexus in Africa, a key priority of the Aswan Forum since its inception in 2019, within the broader framework of integrated and holistic responses, and in line with Agendas 2030 and 2063: The Africa We Want. It will shed light on lessons learned and best practices from regional, national and local initiatives, and present actionable recommendations on bridging the gaps between policy and practice. It will also highlight new and innovative partnerships in advancing integrated solutions across the peace-development-humanitarian spectrum.

Speakers

Salah Jama - Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Republic of Somalia

Nardos Bekele-Thomas - Chief Executive Officer for the Africa Union Development Agency- New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA- NEPAD)

Amy Pope - Director General, International Organization for Migration

Cristina Duarte - Under Secretary General and Special Adviser for Africa, United Nations
Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade - Vice-President for the Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Complex, African Development Bank Group

Abdallah Al Dardari - Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Regional Bureau for Arab States, the United Nations Development Programme

Moderator

Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade - Vice-President for the Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Complex, African Development Bank

SIGNING CEREMONY

Memorandum of Understanding between CCCPA & AUDA-NEPAD

14:00 - 15:00 Lunch

Solana Restaurant

14:00 - 15:00

Nile Ballroom

LUNCH ROUNDTABLE



NeTT4Peace in An Evolving Peace and Security Landscape in Africa

Informal Policy Dialogue with the Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security (DPAPS) of the African Union Commission and African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace) Members

15:00 - 15:30

Conrad Ballroom

SPOTLIGHT

The Global Financial Architecture Reimagined: Connecting Reforms to the Prevention Agenda

In a global landscape characterized by rising geopolitical tensions, great power competition, increasing systematic risks and global shocks, it is critical to ensure that the global system remains resilient and able to safeguard the most vulnerable countries effectively and adequately. The global financial architecture that was created after the Second World War does not reflect today's realities and is no longer able to respond to, mitigate or prevent contemporary threats. As such, calls for reforming the global financial architecture have been front and center of global conversations, including at the recent African Union Summit in February 2024 and in the context of the Summit of the Future. These calls are not limited to representation in decision-making and voting rights, but also extend to issues of aid conditionality, increasing Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) operational and financial capacity, alleviating sovereign debt burdens, and prioritizing initiatives that would integrate the most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa.

Recent global shocks have demonstrated the dire need for a transformative reform of the global financial architecture and its instruments to be more fit-for-purpose in the face of global challenges. By 2030, 60 percent of the world's poor will be living in fragile and conflict affected settings, predominantly in Africa. In this regard, it is crucial to highlight that there is little connection drawn between the reform of the global financial architecture on one hand, and current global efforts to strengthen conflict prevention and the peacebuilding architecture, on the other. This dialogue will provide the opportunity for a strategic reflection on how to enhance the global financial architecture's link with peace, security, and development, so it is better positioned to respond to African needs and priorities, including the growing needs of countries in fragile and conflict affected settings. In the same vein, the dialogue will provide actionable steps in perspective of the Summit of the Future and beyond, towards synergizing the reform of the global financial reform architecture with the prevention agenda, UN Agenda 2030, and AU Agenda 2063, in a manner that enhances crisis prevention, supports stabilization efforts and contributes to conflict prevention across the continent.

Speakers

Cristina Duarte - Under Secretary General and Special Adviser for Africa, United Nations

Mahmoud Mohieldin - Executive Director, International Monetary Fund / United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Development Agenda

Moderator

Hodan Osman - Governor, Somali Development and Reconstruction Bank

15:45 - 16:45

Conrad Ballroom

THEMATIC DISCUSSION & LAUNCH EVENT

The Continued Rise of Extremism Leading to Terrorism: Featuring the Launch of the African Network on Preventing & Countering Extremism Conducive to Terrorism

While there has been an overall reduction in the impact of terrorism globally, the African continent continues to suffer greatly from the spread and expansion of terrorist organizations. Despite ongoing efforts in responding to the terrorist threat across the continent, responses have remained heavily security focused, falling short of addressing

the root causes and developing and implementing integrated approaches that achieve sustainable outcomes. This session will focus on efforts and needs in addressing the existing and evolving trends of terrorism in Africa, including the impact of ongoing conflicts in and around the continent on increasing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to extremism leading to terrorism. It will discuss ways to advance collective and integrated solutions for preventing and countering extremism conducive to terrorism - in a manner that meets the needs and realities on the ground.

The session will also feature the launch of the African Network on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism, a new initiative by the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, spearheaded by the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA) and partners to bridge the gap between theory, policy and practice - in line with the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the United Nations Counterterrorism strategy that reaffirms the importance of coordinated efforts in preventing and combating terrorism.

Speakers

Mahamadou Oumar Kone - Minister of Religious Affairs, the Republic of Mali

Abdullahi M. Nor - Senior Advisor to the President of Somalia for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the Federal Republic of Somalia, and Director, Tubsan National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Mahmood Ali Youssouf - Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Djibouti

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

Ghada Waly - Executive Director, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Fatima Akilu - Executive Director, Neem Foundation

Moderator

Ahmed Abdel-Latif - Director General, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding and Executive Director, Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development

15:45 - 17:00

Nile Ballroom

THEMATIC ROUNDTABLE

(in partnership with UNU and UNDP)



Global
Challenges
Foundation



UNU
CPR

Re-envisioning Peacebuilding at the Summit of the Future and Beyond

In a moment marked by geopolitical tensions and escalating violent conflicts, the urgency for a reinvigorated global governance system, with conflict prevention at its center stage, has never been greater. The Summit of the Future and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review provide an opportunity to strengthen global prevention and peacebuilding tools including through enhancing the relationship between the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), as well as increasing peacebuilding financing and leveraging existing regional frameworks and toolboxes. As the continent most affected by conflict, Africa has a major stake in bolstering prevention and peacebuilding approaches. With the view of offering a platform for an African reflection on global governance and amplifying Africa's voice in the lead up to the Summit of the Future and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, this session aims to advance African perspectives on enhancing multilateral peacebuilding efforts. The session will also put forward strategies to strengthen regionally-led prevention and peacebuilding efforts, including through capitalizing on the African Union's continental

structural conflict prevention frameworks and its revised Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy. In doing so, the session will generate actionable proposals for enhancing the UN-AU partnership in responding to today's interconnected challenges.

Opening Remarks

Ramadan Mohamed Abdallah Goc - Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Republic of South Sudan

Kenyah Ballay - Minister of Planning and Economic Development, the Republic of Sierra Leone, Chair, G7+

Elizabeth Spehar - Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations

Fatima Mohammed - Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations

Discussants

Jerobeam Shaanika - Head of Multilateral Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of Namibia; **Zaheer Laher** - Chief Director, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, United Nations Political, Peace and Security; **Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre** - Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism; **Mamman Nuhu** - Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission, Multinational Joint Task Force; **Itonde Kakoma** - President, International Organization for Peacebuilding; **Libakiso Matlho** - Executive Secretary, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre, African Union; **Jevin Pillay** - Permanent Representative of Southern African Development Community to the African Union; **Andrea Prah** - Senior Researcher, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, Member of the Strategy Group, African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace); **Eugenia Kayitesi** - Executive Director, Institute of Policy Analysis & Research, and Vice-Chair, the African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace); **Mpule Kgetsi** - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Southern African Region.

Moderator

Mohamed Idris - Member of the Seventh Advisory Group, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

16:45 - 17:00 Coffee Break

Conrad Ballroom Foyer

17:00 - 18:00

Conrad Ballroom

REGIONAL FOCUS

Navigating Stability: Quest for Peace in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea

The Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region is embroiled in a complex web of interconnected threats and recurring conflicts, marked by surging terrorism; soaring displacement and a dire humanitarian situation, with populations across the region suffering from acute food insecurity and severe climate shocks. Since the conflict broke out in Sudan, efforts to secure a ceasefire have been illusive, leaving millions of people forced to flee their homes, resulting in the largest displacement crisis, with reverberations of the conflict extending to neighboring countries posing serious implications for the stability of the region and the continent at large. Meanwhile, Somalia continues to grapple with its own distinct set of challenges, on top of which remains the violence spurred by al-Shabaab, as the country forges its pathway towards stability and development.

These humanitarian and security challenges are deeply intertwined, creating a vicious cycle of instability that has proven difficult to break. The plethora of responses and approaches that have emerged in the face of these compounded challenges remain fragmented, with silos between security and development responses, in addition to external interference, ultimately hindering its ability to break out of the cycle of fragility and conflict. Through examining the aforementioned threats and their interconnections, this session seeks to identify viable pathways forward, with a focus on building resilient state institutions and harmonizing existing responses with the view to achieve long-term sustainable peace and development in the region.

Speakers

Ramadan Mohamed Abdallah Goc - Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Republic of South Sudan

Suleiman Mohamed al-Dabello - Peace Commissioner, National Peace Commission, the Republic of Sudan

Shinsuke SHIMIZU - Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Japan

Hanna Tetteh - Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Horn of Africa, United Nations

Raouf Mazou - Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Fauziya Abdi - Founder and President, Women in International Security, Horn of Africa

Moderator

Khaled Okasha - Director General, the Egyptian Center for Thought and Strategic Studies

19:00 - 21:00

RECEPTION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION (NMEC)

"Ancient Egypt: A Journey of Heritage and Peace"

A Talk by Professor Khaled El-Enany , Former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and Egypt's Candidate for the UNESCO Director-General Post

Presentation of the Aswan Award for Post-Conflict Reconstruction & Development

Wednesday 3 July 2024

8:00 - 9:00

Nile Ballroom

BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE

(in partnership with APRM and AU PAPS)



APRM
African Peer Review
Mechanism



Implementing the African Union's Structural Conflict Prevention Agenda: Quo Vadis?

Strengthening conflict prevention is a key priority in efforts to advance sustainable peace and development internationally and in Africa. It is receiving renewed attention in the context of the preparations for the Summit of the Future. In Africa, Agenda 2063 - Africa's blueprint for socioeconomic and political integration- has equally emphasized the necessity of supporting member states against fragilities and vulnerabilities. In 2019, the Aswan Forum's conclusions invited African countries to "make use of the suite of instruments that the AU continental Structural conflict prevention framework makes available including the Country Structural Vulnerability Assessments (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategies (CSVMSs), that help in identifying and addressing root causes and structural drivers of conflict and violence."

Five years after the first edition of the Aswan Forum, this session will take stock of efforts by the AU and RECs towards implementing CSVRA/CSVMSs in African countries, bringing forward lessons learnt and persistent challenges. It will also put a spotlight on the role of different stakeholders including youth and women in conflict prevention as well as strengthening national resilience.

Speakers

Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre - Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism

William Azumah Awinador-Kanyirige - Senior Governance and Peacebuilding Advisor, Office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union

Mamman Nuhu - Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission, the Multinational Joint Task Force

Elizabeth Spehar - Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations

Hawa Sally Samai - Executive Secretary, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, the Republic of Sierra Leone

Paul-Simon Handy - Regional Director East Africa and Representative to the African Union, Institute for Security Studies and Vice Chair, the African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace)

Moderator

Ashraf Swelam - Assistant Minister for African Organizations and Communities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

9:00 - 9:15

Conrad Ballroom

CRSP SPOTLIGHT



COP27
Climate Change
Conference of Parties
2022



CRSP
Climate Resilience to Sustainable Peace

Advancing Climate, Peace and Security in the COP Space

Mohamed Nasr - Director of the Department of Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt and Chief Negotiator for COP27 Presidency

Eshad Iskandarov - Special Envoy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Senior Adviser to the COP29 Lead Negotiator

9:15 - 10:15

Conrad Ballroom

THEMATIC SESSION

(in partnership with AU PAPS)



Cultivating Consensus: Towards a Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security

Africa is at the forefront of the confluence of the adverse impacts of climate change with fragility, conflict, and instability. As a result, livelihood insecurity and climate-induced displacement in Africa are on the rise. Concurrently, Africa faces the challenge of ensuring that efforts to address the climate, peace and security nexus are concerted, holistic and integrated, with the aim of bridging implementation, programming, and funding siloes. There is a pressing need to advance African-owned peace-positive climate responses that not only advance climate resilience, but also leverage context-specific peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts. The COP27 Presidency initiative Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP) provided a contribution to achieve this aim. In the same vein, the much-anticipated Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security represents a milestone step towards African-owned peace-positive climate responses. Against this background, this session will feed into the consultation process leading up to formulation of the Common African Position, and beyond. It will also provide concrete recommendations on pathways to advance Africa's role as a driving force behind a global shift towards a more resilient, sustainable and peaceful future.

Speakers

Salah Jama - Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Republic of Somalia

Hawa Aw - Executive Secretary, Liptako-Gourma Authority

Alhadji Sarjoh Bah - Director of Conflict Management, Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga - Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union

Simone Mbodé Diouf - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Western African Region, African Union

Mohamed Khalil - Lead on Strategic Governmental Relations, Green Climate Fund

Moderator

Rania Ahmed Sharshar - Director of Climate Action, International Organization for Migration

9:00 - 10:15

Nile Ballroom

THEMATIC ROUNDTABLE

(in partnership AU PAPS)



Rebuilding Hope: Advancing Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa

In 2024, the revised African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) policy was adopted, bringing a more holistic framework across the entirety of the peace continuum; and steering away from linear conceptions of conflicts and offering space for dynamic, sufficient and timely responses at the various stages of conflict. In line with Egypt's championship of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) efforts in Africa, and with the establishment of the AU PCRD Centre in Cairo, there is a timely opportunity to further advance PCRD efforts across the continent.

The real work of translating policy to practical implementation is yet to materialize and faces significant challenges, particularly securing adequate, predictable and sustainable resources, amidst a financing landscape marked by diminishing resources. This requires new and innovative partnership including working closely with a range of actors such as development banks and the private sector. It also requires better positioning PCRD vis-a-vis other relevant international and continental frameworks and mechanisms. Against this backdrop, this session aims to outline priorities and actions for scaling up the implementation of PCRD efforts in Africa. It will identify key avenues for resource mobilization and innovative partnerships with a view towards building lasting peace and development in Africa.

Speaker

Hawa Sally Samai - Executive Secretary, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, the Republic of Sierra Leone

Discussants

Ahmed Abdel-Latif - Director General, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding and Executive Director, Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development

Dagmawit Moges Bekele - Director, Peace Fund Secretariat, African Union

Jean Van Wetter - Chief Executive Officer, Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency

Yero Baldeh - Director, Transition States Coordination Office, African Development Bank Group

Habib Ur Rehman Mayar - Deputy Secretary General, G7+

Yuko DOHI - Senior Advisor, Governance and Peacebuilding Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Solomon A. Dersso - Founding Director, Amani Africa, Member of the Strategy Group, African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace)

Moderator

Libakiso Matlho - Executive Secretary, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre, African Union

THEMATIC SESSION

New Horizons: Towards Fit-for-Purpose Peace Operations in Africa

Peace operations in Africa have been evolving in the past few years to address the changing dynamics of conflicts and security threats across the continent. The termination of two of the United Nations' longest peacekeeping missions in Africa, MINUSMA in Mali and MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is an important development reflecting the challenges faced by UN multidimensional peacekeeping missions in the current conflict landscape.

Concurrently, we are witnessing growing momentum to deploy African-led peace support operations by regional organizations like the African Union (AU), sub-regional bodies, and ad hoc coalitions. In December 2023, the Security Council adopted UNSCR 2719, which provides AU-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs) with access to UN-assessed contributions on a case-by-case basis for the first time. Consultations are underway to operationalize the resolution.

Against this background, the session will discuss the future of peace operations in Africa, reflecting, in perspective of the Summit of the Future, how best to ensure future interventions, including new forms of regional and sub-regional operations, are best

10:30 - 11:45

Conrad Ballroom

10:30 - 11:45

Conrad Ballroom

positioned to effectively tackle future peace and security challenges. In this regard, it will examine the new chapter for peace operations in Africa that is taking shape after the adoption of UNSCR 2719, including possible modalities, mandates, and timeframes of future AU PSOs as well as sequencing of different interventions, zooming in on the case of Somalia in the post-ATMIS era.

Speakers

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

Alhadji Sarjoh Bah - Director of Conflict Management, Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission

Mohamed El-Amine Souef - Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga - Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union

El-Ghassim Wane - Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Comfort Ero - President, International Crisis Group

Riccardo Mosca - Deputy Head, the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

Moderator

Mohamed Idris - Member of the Seventh Advisory Group, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

11:45 - 12:15 Coffee Break

Conrad Ballroom Foyer

12:15 - 13:30

Conrad Ballroom

REGIONAL FOCUS

Evolving Realities in the Sahel: Pathways for New Partnerships

The Sahel region continues to grapple with a wide range of compounded and interconnected challenges shaping the region's security and development prospects. The proliferation of armed conflicts and surge in terrorism continue to plague the region, and are further aggravated by climate change and competition over scarce natural resources. Geopolitical competition and political instability have further complicated regional dynamics, undermining efforts to create conditions conducive to sustainable peace. Amidst these challenges, the situation in the Sahel stands at a critical juncture as countries and partners seek new pathways for cooperation and partnerships. The countries of the Sahel have taken steps to coordinate their efforts in order to meet the challenges facing the region. This session will provide a timely opportunity for a dialogue with the countries of the Sahel on key elements that could underpin future engagement in the region. The session will discuss pathways on reforging cooperation strategies and modalities of engagement that are mutually beneficial, and are responsive to pressing challenges facing the region and limit the spiral of spillover across the continent, and beyond.

Speakers

Mahamadou Oumar Kone - Minister of Religious Affairs, the Republic of Mali

Hawa Aw - Executive Secretary, Liptako-Gourma Authority

Emanuela Del Re - European Union Special Representative for the Sahel

Jean Van Wetter - Chief Executive Officer, Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency

Moderator

Ihab Awad - Assistant Minister for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

12:15 - 13:30

Nile Ballroom

THEMATIC SESSION

(in partnership with UN Women)



Through Her Eyes: Women's Experiences Across the Conflict Cycle

While the recognition of women's roles during conflict has been the spotlight of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda since its adoption, women's contribution to peace has not been limited to conflict resolution only, but continues to cut across the entire conflict cycle. From Somalia to Gaza and the Democratic Republic of Congo, women have significantly contributed to prevention, resolution and peacebuilding efforts before-, during-, and post-conflict. Women's leadership as well as their participation in formal and informal peace processes in these contexts did not only further their own empowerment and resilience, but also boosted the recovery and prosperity of their communities. Cognizant of the connection between women's leadership and community resilience, this session will put forward pathways towards leveraging women's contribution across the conflict cycle in support of conflict prevention, resolution and recovery efforts. Informed by country experiences, this session will also shed light on best practices and lessons learned from women's engagement as drivers of sustainable peace and development through a comparative lens.

Speakers

Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner - Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Francophonie, the Democratic Republic of Congo

Mona Al-Khalili - Minister of Women's Affairs, State of Palestine

Hawa Sally Samai - Executive Secretary, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, the Republic of Sierra Leone

Effie Owuor - Chairperson of the African Union's Panel of the Wise and Chair of FemWise-Africa

Moez Doraid - Regional Director for the Arab States ad interim, UN Women

Moderator

Fauziya Abdi - Founder and President, Women in International Security, Horn of Africa

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

Solana Restaurant

13:30 - 14:30

Nile Ballroom

LUNCH ROUNDTABLE

From one Agenda for Peace to the Other: Multilateral Peace and Security between Two Eras

14:30 - 15:00

Conrad Ballroom

SPOTLIGHT

Borno of Hope: Driving Local Solutions for Peace and Development

Amidst global conversations on re-envisioning global governance, it is crucial to reconsider "global-local" dynamics. During times of crises and uncertainty, local governments and communities have been, and continue to be, at the forefront of efforts to respond to and overcome emerging challenges, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are not left behind. Interconnected crises including surging conflicts and terrorism, widespread displacement and humanitarian disasters, increased climate impacts, exacerbate fragility and hinder progress to achieve development goals. This accordingly necessitates the adoption of holistic responses that draw on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and puts at the forefront locally driven solutions. The Borno State in northeast Nigeria, dubbed the "Borno of Hope", heralded by many as an exemplification of such local-led efforts in the face of compounded threats, championing home-grown efforts, and offering durable solutions for pathways out of protracted conflict and towards sustainable peace and development. Accordingly, this session will put a spotlight on the Borno of Hope, as a case in point of such dynamics in action, shedding light on key considerations to advance context-specific development solutions while ensuring that the potential of local experiences and voices are captured in broader peacebuilding and sustainable development discussions.

Speakers

Professor Babagana Zulum - Executive Governor, Borno State, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Emanuela Del Re - European Union Special Representative for the Sahel

William Chemaly - Senior Advisor, Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Solutions to Internal Displacement, United Nations

Moderator

Ihab Awad - Assistant Minister for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

15:00 - 16:00

Conrad Ballroom

THEMATIC SESSION

Trade-ing off Conflict: Trade & Investment for Sustainable Peace and Development

Africa is home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population. By 2050, the African continent is projected to reach a population of 2.5 billion, creating the largest workforce globally. As such, Africa presents great potential for durable and inclusive growth – harnessing its rich natural resources, young human capital and strategic location to accelerate productivity, and reverse the prolonged period of slowdown it has endured throughout the past decade. With the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the continent is further conferred with the potential of accelerating regional trade integration, increased foreign direct investment and economic growth that leads to creating employment opportunities for the African population and achieving greater development and prosperity.

Against this background, this session aims to discuss how trade and investment can unlock Africa's economic potential to create pathways to enhance peace and security, including through public-private partnership. It will also examine existing investment policies and strategies to leverage and incentivize the role of the private sector in sustaining peace

and development. The session will shed light on the continent's quest to reform the global financial architecture and influence decision-making on the global stage that has a direct bearing on its peace and economic development – while drawing on ways to leverage recent strides, such as the AfCFTA, the African Union's membership to the G20 and the expansion of BRICS to include more African countries.

Speakers

Kenyah Ballay - Minister of Planning and Economic Development, the Republic of Sierra Leone, Chair, G7+

Hodan Osman - Governor, Somali Development and Reconstruction Bank

Itonde Kakoma - President, International Organization for Peacebuilding

Maria Antonia Joy Kategekwa - Director, Regional Integration Coordination Office, African Development Bank Group

Adham Abdelaal - Manager AU/AfCFTA Relations and Trade Policy, Afreximbank

Moderator

Dagmawit Moges Bekele - Director, Peace Fund Secretariat, African Union

14:30 - 16:00

Nile Ballroom

ASWAN FORUM YOUTH DIALOGUE

(in partnership with OIF and UNESCO)



Building Peace through Education: African Youth Perspectives

Africa is the youngest continent with 75% of its population under the age of 35 and representing 42% of the global youth population by 2030. Through investing in education, youth can play a transformative role in promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, mutual understanding, and achieving sustainable peace and development across the continent in-line with Agenda 2063, and the African Union's 2024 theme of the year on "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century." Resolution 2535 (2020) in the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda reaffirms the right to education and its contribution to achieve peace and security as well as the need to invest in universal and inclusive education of youth. Furthermore, the new UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development also puts a spotlight on the imperative of education for building peaceful, just and sustainable societies. Despite considerable efforts to enhance access to quality education, the continent is still falling behind in delivering effective education to its population, with persistent challenges that hinder youth's potential, particularly in conflict-affected settings. African youth remain disproportionately affected by violent extremism conducive to terrorism, displacement, forced or voluntary recruitment to armed groups, gender-based violence, and the impacts of climate change.

Now more than ever, we need to shift the narrative from one perceiving African youth as victims and agents of conflict, to one that puts a spotlight on their role as active champions of peace and resilience. In this regard, the dialogue will focus on fostering inclusive education, as a means to building peace and preventing conflict. Accordingly, this dialogue aims to advance African youth perspectives in scaling up holistic innovative solutions in education, particularly in conflict-affected settings, and drawing lessons learned on the role of peace education in enhancing resilience and achieving sustainable peace and development in the continent, as well as outlining pathways for practically incorporating peace education as a potent tool for conflict prevention.

Speakers

Levon Amirjanyan - Representative to the Middle East, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Fatima Kayari Mohammed - Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations

Nuria Sanz - Director, Regional Office for Egypt, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Discussants

Simone Mbodé Diouf - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Western African Region, African Union

Ahmat Yacoub - President, Center for Development Studies and the Prevention of Extremism, the Republic of Chad

Arif Abdeljalil - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Northern African Region, African Union

Eyerusalem Azmeraw - Peace Education Specialist, International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Dauda Gidado - Youth Ambassador, Youth Council, Economic Community of West African States

Aliou Oumarou - Commissioner General, the National Scouting Association, the Republic of Niger

Julien Vikemba - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Central African Region, African Union

Mpule Kgetsi - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Southern African Region, African Union

Moderator

André Abel Barry - Head of the Peace & Stability Unit, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break

Conrad Ballroom Foyer

16:15 - 16:45

Conrad Ballroom

SPOTLIGHT

Youth at the Helm: A Conversation with the Wise on Shaping the Future of Peace, Progress and Prosperity

Speakers

Amre Moussa - Chairman of the International Advisory Board (IAB) CCCPA, Member of the African Union's Panel of the Wise

Effie Owuor - Chair of the African Union's Panel of the Wise, and Chair of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa)

Simone Mbodé Diouf - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Western African Region, African Union

Julien Vikemba - African Youth Ambassador for Peace, Central African Region, African Union

Moderator

Ahmed Abdel-Latif - Director General, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding and Executive Director, Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development

16:45 - 17:15

Conrad Ballroom

CLOSING CEREMONY

"The Aswan Conclusions on Sustainable Peace and Development"

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