Virtual Policy Dialogues of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)
Launch of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Post Conflict Societies
17 September 2020

Background

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of the Addis Ababa University (AAU) is one of the prominent institutions for higher education, research and policy dialogues on peace and security in Africa. IPSS has been hosting the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Center of Excellence (CoE) for post-conflict societies since January 2018, whose major objectives include but not limited to: (a) facilitating and advancing the generation of African-led research knowledge in the broad areas of conflict prevention, management, post-conflict reconstruction as well as development, and (b) disseminating the research outputs by providing platforms for learners and educators at national, regional, continental and global levels. Moreover, the Institute runs the Africa’s Peace and Security Programme (APSP), a joint initiative with the African Union, to take up the intellectual challenges of finding African-led solutions to peace and security problems in Africa. The Institute also serves as a Secretariat for Tana High-Level Security Forum (‘Tana Forum’ for short), which is composed of former and current heads of states/governments of Africa and beyond, leaders of civil society, grassroots, the media and academic institutions and citizens from across the globe. Tana Forum convenes annually to critically deliberate on the pertinent security, peace and development issues in Africa at Bahr Dar, on the edge of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, in the Amhara Regional State of Ethiopia.

Since its selection as a host of CoE for Post Conflict Societies, IPSS has been working in establishing the Centre, developing a background paper, designing a strategic plan and establishing research collaborations with different African and UK universities. The CoE has established a partnership with ARUA and non ARUA African Universities. It has secured research funds that will help the Centre to work on urbanization, migration and conflict in Africa with different African Universities and Sheffield University from UK. Moreover, it has secured a capacity building fund that will strengthen the research capability of the CoE and partner universities in a hub and spoke model.

The purpose of this event is, therefore, to formally lunch the Centre of Excellence. To mark the event, a background paper and the overall strategic research plans will be presented and the invited scholars will convey their thoughts about the research focus on the post-conflict societies and the research priorities of the CoE.