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Institute for Peace
& Security Studies
Addis Ababa University



IPSS Briefing Sessions
**The New AU Continental Strategy for Better Integrated Border Governance:
How can it contribute to Agenda 2063?**
April 27 2021 | Virtual
Concept Note

Introduction

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies with the support of the German Cooperation will organize a virtual briefing session on the theme 'The New AU Continental Strategy for Better Integrated Border Governance: How it can contribute to Agenda 2063'. This Concept Note is developed to guide this session.

Background

Africa has been dealing with border disputes since the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in the 1960s. Recognizing the importance of border governance in peace and security and following the OAU, the African Union (AU) committed itself to a progressive border agenda. The African Union Border Programme (AUBP) was officially established in June 2007 by the Conference of Minister in charge of Border Issues and endorsed by the Executive Council during its 11th ordinary session held on 25-29 June 2007 in Accra (Ghana). This mechanism with a vision of "a united and integrated Africa with peaceful, open and prosperous borders" focuses on preventing and resolving border-related disputes and promotes cross-border cooperation for Africa's integration agenda both at regional and continental levels.

The recently launched African Union Border Governance Strategy (AUBGS) is a vital breakthrough in the operation of the African Union Border Programme, along with existing political and legal mechanisms adopted by Member States that direct border management efforts. These include the AU Constitutive Act (Article 4 b and f), the 1964 Cairo Resolution [AHG/Res. 16(1)], subsequent Ministerial Declarations on the AUBP (2007, 2010, 2012, and 2016), and the AU Convention on Cross Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention).

The Strategy offers alignment and harmonisation of border strategies at continental, regional, and national levels for the AU, Member States and the



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Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to grow a collective and comprehensive governance of borders pushing the African Union's Agenda 2063 further. In addition, the Strategy aims to advance the border governance competences of the AU Member States and detects openings and main concern areas of commitment for the future.

I. Briefing Session Objectives

The briefing session has the following objectives, to address:

- The current border disputes in Africa and initiatives of the AUBP to solve them as well as strategies employed by the programme to prevent future disputes;
- The nexus of border governance and Africa's increasing integration;
- The mechanisms of cooperation between Member States, AU, RECs and partners in the implementation of the AUBGS.

II. Proposed Approach

The briefing session serves as a platform for political and technical consultations that aim to encourage practical policy recommendations as well as a networking event for stakeholders working on the African Union Border Programme.

V. Expected Outputs

The followings are expected outputs of the high-level dialogue:

- Practical policy recommendations targeting key actors and stakeholders;
- Coverage of the dialogue proceedings on IPSS social media platforms

VI. Participants Profile

Relevant stakeholders and policymakers from the AU (AU Commission, AU member states) and Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), international organisations, the diplomatic community, civil society organisations as well as students will take part in this briefing session.