

IPSS in 2015

# Review Letter



**Academic  
Programmes**

**Communications  
and Profile  
Management**

**Research, Policy  
Analysis and  
Dialogues**



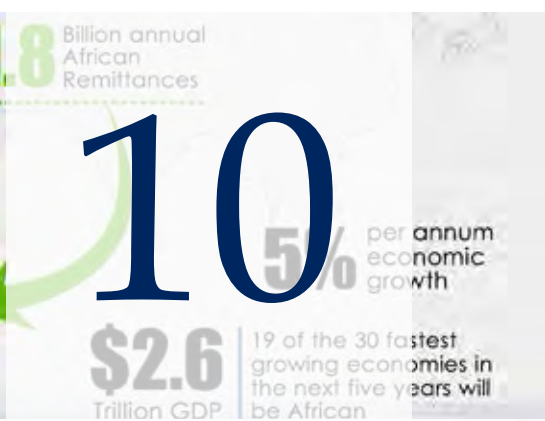
INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES  
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY





IPSS in 2015

# Review Letter



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## Message from the IPSS Director Dr. Kidane Kiros

Our mission at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies is to offer quality education and capacity training in the specialised field of peace and security to students and other stakeholders. We also aim to foster peace and security through research, dialogues and other outreach activities in Ethiopia and across Africa. In 2014 and 2015, IPSS was ranked among the top 50 think tanks in Africa in the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Index Report.

2015 was yet another challenging year for the peace and security landscape in Africa. The continent faced a myriad of security challenges, which the Institute addressed in a number of different formats. We held discussions on the record-breaking rise in the number of migrants and refugees attempting to reach Europe and the death tolls associated with the dangerous journey; the attempts to extend or remove presidential term limits in several African countries; and the faltering peace processes in Libya, South Sudan and elsewhere. These interactive events were platforms to draw attention to current or emerging peace and security issues, and encourage policy makers to move from norm setting to implementation.

Our five academic programmes continued to grow in 2015. We witnessed 43 graduates from the Executive Master's Programme in Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA), 7 graduates from the Joint MA with Leipzig University, 26 graduates from the Regular MA Programme, and 2 graduates from the Regular PhD Programme. The

success of our students is a direct reflection of the institutional strength we have built over the years and the dedication of our staff in delivering exceptional results.

At IPSS, we deeply value our collaboration with our partners. We served as the 2015 President and host of the 13th Annual General Meeting of the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA). We also jointly hosted a conference on the anniversary of the end of World War II in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia.

As an illustration of the wide spectrum of peace and security areas IPSS engages in, we released several publications in 2015 including *The Intricate Road to Development: Government Development Strategies in the Pastoral Areas of the Horn of Africa* and the *Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) Strategy*, a conflict-mapping database on South Sudan, to name a few.

IPSS extends its gratitude to the partners and friends that supported us this year, from government institutions and development agencies to private corporations and non-profit organisations. To our friends in the public and private sectors - we look forward to another year of collaboration and success! ■



## Message from the APSP Director Michelle Ndiaye

The Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP) aims at building the capacity of the Institute in its role as a think tank for the African Union Commission and for Regional Economic Communities (RECs). APSP was launched in 2010 as a collaborative project between the African Union, IPSS and the Government of Germany through GIZ. APSP has since grown to include several other partners, from national governments and development agencies to regional organisations to research institutes.

In 2015, APSP was engaged in a number of projects and activities, with a focus on African-centred solutions to peace and security Africa through applied research, dialogues and policy-oriented recommendations. To achieve this goal, we organised four briefing sessions, four lectures, seven special events, a workshop on African-centred solutions, and finally, the 4th annual Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa.

Organised under the theme 'Secularism and Politicised Faith', the 4th Tana Forum gathered 220 participants from a wide variety of backgrounds, including six heads of state, representatives from continental and regional institutions, the private sector, the media, civil society and academia. The Tana Forum has become a unique and veritable platform for keen debate among participants on trending peace and security issues as well as concerns in Africa. This year's theme was particularly instructive in view of the proliferation of faith-inspired movements engaged in activities that have far-reaching and profound implications on the security landscape across the continent.

In Education and Professional Development, our flagship Executive Master's Programme in Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA) accepted its 11th cohort and continued to build the capacities of mid- and high-level professionals working in peace and security. The programme also received international accreditation from the German-based Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN) for its work in education, training and applied research.

*Borders in Africa: An Anthology of the Policy History* edited by Professor Anthony Asiwaju, was a product of our partnership with the African Union Border Programme (AUBP). The book reaffirms the strategic significance of borders in the quest for peace and security in Africa and underscores the importance of transforming our borders from barriers into bridges.

In 2016, we plan to further build IPSS' institutional capacity through coordinated efforts in strengthening our programmes and contributing substantively to dialogues on addressing peace and security challenges in Africa. We also expect to forward more concrete policy recommendations on chosen peace and security topics to our partners at the regional, continental and international levels to make peace in Africa a reality.

I would like to echo Dr. Kidane in extending my sincere gratitude to our friends and partners for supporting us in 2015. I hope you enjoy this review letter! ■

### PhD in Peace and Security Studies

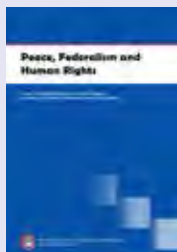
The PhD Programme in Peace and Security Studies is currently in its fifth year since its launch in 2010. The programme, which is specific to Ethiopia, has become an invaluable graduate resource within the framework of Addis Ababa University. Students choose to study a variety of topics, including disputes over the River Nile, the Ethiopia-Eritrea war, ethnic conflicts and federalism in Ethiopia, and the conflict in Somalia and South Sudan among others.

Over the past four years, several international scholars in peace and security studies have taught courses at IPSS, including lecturers from Bradford University, UK; George Washington University, US; Leiden University, The Netherlands; UN University for Peace, Costa Rica; and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy. In 2015, 2 PhD students graduated from the programme, 8 students defended their proposals, and 3 students received DAAD scholarships to continue pursuing their studies. ■



**Yonas Tariku**  
PhD Programme Coordinator

### 1st Peace, Federalism and Human Rights Conference



Download the anthology:  
[www.ipss-addis.org/publications](http://www.ipss-addis.org/publications)



IPSS organised its first Graduate Conference on Peace, Federalism and Human Rights on 12-13 August 2015. The conference attracted 43 abstracts, from which 19 were selected for presentation. PhD students had the opportunity to critically engage on current developments and theoretical issues based on the following themes:

- Peace, Conflict, Human Security and Sustainable Development
- Federalism, Management of Diversity and the Quest for Local Development
- Human Rights and Social Justice. ■





## MA in Peace and Security Studies

This course is especially dedicated to producing a global perspective for students whose international experience is mostly limited. The programme’s faculty coordinates regular visits from international experts, authorities and practitioners in peace and security. Visiting scholars from several universities participate in the programme, including the University of Peace, Costa Rica; Lund University, Sweden; and Bradford University, UK. In 2015, 26 students graduated from the programme.

Topics selected for 2015 Master’s theses were diverse and compelling, and tackled issues such as: The African Union’s responsibility to protect and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, rural land conflict management in Ethiopia, and an analysis of climate change as an indicator of conflict in the IGAD region.

The Master’s programme delivers excellent career prospects. Our alumni continue to find prominent positions in the field of peace and security. Former students include the Ethiopian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, the Minister of Commerce in Ethiopia, and the Director General of the Ethiopian charter of the UN peacekeeping forces. ■



Students are at the centre of the teaching-learning process at IPSS.



**Yonas Adaye Adeto**  
Associate Academic Director/  
MA Programme Coordinator



Graduates of the Regular MA Programme pictured at their graduation ceremony in July 2015

### Joint PhD and MA in Global Studies

Global Studies is a dynamic international study and research field, which deals with the scientific analysis of globalisation processes from a comparative and historical perspective. There is increasing demand for research on Africa's place in the global order, which is experiencing substantial changes. The Joint Programmes in Global Studies run by IPSS and the University of Leipzig is offered to exceptional African students to enable students to "think globally".

The first cohort of students in the IPSS-Leipzig Joint MA Programme graduated in February 2015 in Addis Ababa, in a ceremony that was attended by the mayors of Addis Ababa and Leipzig. Addis Ababa mayor Deriba Kuma said his city was privileged to host Leipzig delegates, thus strengthening the relationship between the two cities. ■



Situating Africa into the academic discourse on globalisation.



**Dr. Solomon Hassen**  
Coordinator,  
IPSS/University of Leipzig  
Joint Global Studies Programmes



The 2015 graduation ceremony was opened by a riveting performance from the Leipzig youth orchestra



## Executive Master's in Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA)

MPSA, a flagship IPSS programme established in conjunction with the African Union (AU), aims to identify and meet the training needs of senior level staff of the African Union, regional institutions, national governments, multilateral agencies and civil society organisations on pressing peace and security issues. The uniqueness of the programme derives from the conscious decision to place Africa at the centre of debate and pedagogy in the search for timely and creative solutions to the continent's myriad security and development challenges.

The MPSA programme has so far trained 158 practitioners gathered from continental, regional and national institutions all over Africa. The programme is widely commended for the role it plays in meeting the intellectual challenge in Africa and the methodology it employs in delivering its courses. In July 2015, 43 students from cohorts 6 to 10 successfully graduated from the programme. In addition, for the first time since the programme's launch, the 10th MPSA cohort featured a 50% gender balance and successfully achieved a 98% graduation rate. ■



MPSA is the premier and foremost hands-on training programme on peace and security in Africa.

**Prof. Charles Ukeje**  
Senior Advisor, Education and Professional Development



### MPSA Receives ACQUIN Accreditation

In September 2015, the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance (ACQUIN) in Germany awarded an international accreditation to MPSA after assessing the admissibility of the MPSA programme in terms of quality, coherence and consistency of the concept, coherence of implementation and the competence and capacity of the degree programme. "The accreditation is a call to do more - run a world-class programme that puts Africa's peace, security and development at the centre stage," said Prof. Charles Ukeje. ■

## Policy Dialogues

Policy dialogues at IPSS invite experts from around Africa to discuss and provide policy recommendations on pressing peace and security issues in the continent.

## Briefing Sessions

IPSS briefing sessions are designed as panel discussions with the objective of drawing attention to current or emerging peace and security issues and deepening participants' understanding of peace and security in Africa. The sessions are interactive, fostering the exchange of ideas between the panellists, the moderator and the audience. They aim to influence policies at the national, regional and continental levels, and encourage policy makers to move from norm-setting to implementation.

## Lecture Series

IPSS lectures place a spotlight on recent and relevant publications dealing with specific peace and security issues in Africa in order to foster academic debates amongst the peace and security community in Addis Ababa. They aim to encourage further scholarship on the presented topic of discussion.



Since 2011, IPSS has been a leading institution in promoting knowledge about African solutions to peace and security.

**Dr. Amr Abdalla**  
Senior Advisor for Research, Policy Analysis and Dialogues





## Briefing Sessions

### Seminar with Lakhdar Brahimi and El-Ghassim Wane and Students from Sciences Po Paris

On 27 February 2015, IPSS hosted former UN Special Envoy to Syria Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, a group of his students from the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po Paris, and Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, Assistant Secretary-General of Peacekeeping Operations at the UN and the former Director of the Peace and Security Department at the Africa Union. The discussion identified several peace and security challenges in the continent, including issues of governance, the exclusion of groups from political involvement, the fragility of African states, the spillover effect of conflicts, the use of religion as a mobilising factor, and hurdles in democratisation processes. ■



Left to right: Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, Professor Kuruvilla Mathews, Mr. El-Ghassim Wane



## Spotlight on Migration: Causes, Consequences and What the AU Can Do

Migration was one of the most significant global issues in 2015. Thousands of African migrants and refugees made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean, often with devastating consequences. Following the sharp rise in irregular migration from Africa and the Middle East to Europe, IPSS organised a briefing session on the topic of migration in December 2015. The session, moderated by Tsedale Lemma, Editor-in-Chief of the Addis Standard, featured two panellists, Dr. Mehari Tadelle, Former Programme Coordinator for Migration at the African Union, and Philip Jusu, Migration Manager in the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union. ■



Dr. Mehari Tadelle



Ms. Tsedale Lemma

## Extending Presidential Term Limits in Africa: The Will of the People or Abusive Constitutionalism?

Between 1990 and 2011, out of the 33 African countries with presidential term limits, 12 African countries successfully amended their constitutions to remove or extend term limits and 5 attempts were unsuccessful. In the preamble of the African Union’s Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (AU Charter), the AU expresses concern about unconstitutional changes of governments, which are considered the essential causes of insecurity, instability and violent conflict in Africa. The briefing session discussed Article 23 of the AU Charter, which defines an unconstitutional change of government as “any amendment or revision of the constitution or legal instruments, which is an infringement on the principles of democratic change of government.” The session featured three panellists, Dr. Solomon Dersso, Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights; Dr. Boniface Dulani, Lecturer at the University of Malawi and Fieldwork Operations Manager at Afrobarometer; and Ms. Amandine Rushenguziminega, Programme Associate at the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU). ■



Ms. Amandine Rushenguziminega and Dr. Solomon Dersso



Ms. Michelle Ndiaye

## Silencing the Guns: How African States Control Small Arms



Raheemat Momodu, ECOWAS Representative to the African Union

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are considered to be one of the largest sources of insecurity in Africa. One of the goals of AU Agenda 2063 is to “Silence the Guns” by 2020. Security challenges that need to be addressed include the marking, tracing and collecting of illicit SALW possessions, and the professional physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) of government held depots. Furthermore, structural challenges, such as the promotion of the rule of law, the fight against corruption, the expansion of conflicts beyond national borders and the radicalisation of groups that have an impact on the spread of SALW need to be dealt with.



Participants at the briefing session

The session featured the following panellists: Ms. Olatokunbolge, Director of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC); Mr. Oluwafisan Bankale, Programme Officer, Small Arms Division, ECOWAS Commission; and Mr. Anzian Kouadja, Deputy Executive Secretary, Small Arms Commission, Côte d’Ivoire. ■



Prof. Kuruvilla Mathews

**Identity-Based Federalism as Peace-Building and State-Building: Prospects and Challenges for South Sudan and Somalia**

“On its own, federalism is neither the answer nor the cause of the issues that arise in diverse societies.”

- Jan Erk, Professor of Political Science at Leiden University, The Netherlands



Left: Brigadier General (Ret.) Julius Maada Wonie Bio

**Mediating Civil War - Peace Settlement in Africa: The Case of Sierra Leone**

“ECOWAS played a key role in the mediation process..the UN also had an important contribution that continues to date.”

- Brigadier General (Ret.) Julius Maada Wonie Bio, former President of Sierra Leone



Right: Dr. Mark Farha

**The Spread of Sectarianism after the Arab Spring: Sources and Solutions**

“Sectarianism is a result of coercive secularisation, the existence of collapsing states, or weak states.”

- Dr. Mark Farha, Assistant Professor of Government at the School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar



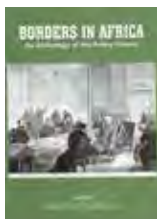
Right: Dr. Abdullah Antepli

**The Role of Faith Communities in Social Change: Experiences from the US**

“Violence is essentially a human problem not a religious problem...the creation of violence is not only a religious problem but one created by a global societal failure.”

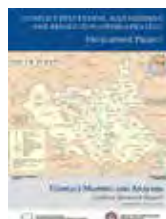
- Dr. Abdullah Antepli, Chief Representative of Muslim Affairs, University of Duke and faculty member of the Duke Islamic Study Center





## Borders in Africa: An Anthology of the Policy History

Edited by Prof. Anthony I. Asiwaju



## Conflict Mapping Exercise for South Sudan



## Report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa



## The Intricate Road to Development: Government Development Strategies in the Pastoral Areas of the Horn of Africa

Edited by Yohannes Abera and Mohammed Abdulahi



## Report of the IPSS-ZIF Roundtable on Trilateral Cooperation in Peace Operations in Africa



## Anthology on Peace, Federalism and Human Rights



## The Future of African Peace Operations: From the Janjaweed to Boko Haram

Edited by Cedric de Coning, Linnea Gelot and John Karlsrud



Visit [www.ipss-addis.org/publications](http://www.ipss-addis.org/publications) to download these and more publications.



### 2nd AfSol Workshop

IPSS launched the AfSol (African Solutions) Workshop Series to provide leading African institutions, especially the AU and RECs, with state-of-the-art knowledge and expertise on how to grapple with the intellectual challenges provoked by the quest for African solutions in peace and security. The 2nd AfSol Workshop, which took place on 6-7 March 2015, brought together a mix of experts drawn from civil society groups, academia, practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders. The broad objective of the workshop was to build upon the modest successes recorded during the inaugural workshop (held in September 2014) by moving from theory to practice.

As AfSol continues to build on the conceptual grounds and pillars identified in the first workshop – namely ownership, shared values and commitment – this piece takes stock of the highlights of AfSol II by synthesizing the common threads and debates addressed. It also proposes integrating evaluation mechanisms as a forward-looking step for future AfSol workshops.

#### The importance of demand-driven solutions

The workshop case studies once again highlighted the importance of conducting a needs analysis, learning and understanding of the conflict context, listening to the individuals/groups affected by the conflict and tailoring programmes that fit the specific needs. In basic political economy terminology, this approach places a premium on the demand side of the supply-demand-chain of distribution formula. Experts at AfSol II insisted on the importance of including indigenous expertise and an understanding of the terrain before curating responses. Several interventions during the workshop highlighted the importance of combining grassroots-level work with state-level resources to maximise efficiency and insure implementation.

#### Replicability

Given the experts' stress on the uniqueness of each case study, a recurrent question was posed - to what extent can AfSol solutions travel across cases in order to inform more standardised operating procedures? This conundrum, between advocating for custom-fit, demand-driven, context-specific solutions and the necessity to expand the scope beyond sporadic isolated case studies, is worth paying attention to. A reasonable way out of this catch-22 situation is to adopt a pragmatic approach where paying attention to local contexts does not mean being closed to communicating and learning from other examples.

The challenge in applying solutions that worked in a specific case to other cases without serious

needs-analysis and careful implementation can lead to unintended consequences. These can be significantly reduced if one pays close attention to past experiences and learns from them.

### External African-centered solutions: How African are they?

Another recurrent concern expressed at AfSol II revolved around the question of African-ness in Africa-centered solutions. Existential dilemmas of organisations in terms of dependency on external funds as well as military equipment and manpower for the realisation of APSA and ASF, were brought up as major challenges to the total independence of AfSol or similar endeavours. This, and other elephants in the room such as the question of sovereignty and interventionism, were also highlighted. One way forward is to adopt a pragmatic stance with regards to funding sources so long as the principles and core values are negotiated. Whereas the financial autonomy of African solutions is extremely crucial and the ideal-type of AfSol would not have to depend on external resources, the case in point is that the current realities of who is willing to fund initiatives calls for a more pragmatic approach.

### Evaluation mechanisms

Missing from the conversation on how to draw lessons from the successful stories of African-centered solutions for the purpose of replicability is evaluation mechanisms. How do we know that a given project resulted in a solution or in further complications? There needs to be an evaluation mechanism integrated within the mandate of any given prospective solution or policy. The evaluation mechanisms should not be started years after a certain project has been implemented but need to work hand in hand with its implementation. AfSol's three core pillars are a good start for a standardised evaluation mechanism. One can ask following questions in order to assess each solution within its unique context:

1. Does this project emphasize the demand-driven needs?
2. Does this project respect the shared values?
3. Does this project meet the expectations set in the first two questions?

The greater advantage of keeping evaluation as an on-going process from the beginning lies in the fact that close follow-up allows for adaptation. If for instance at a given phase of implementing a solution, evaluation teams judge that one (or more) of the three core pillars is not successful, the project leaders are incentivized to revise, adapt and improve their prospective solutions. In sustainability literature, this is commonly referred to as "Adaptive Management". Its goal is to argue against mega-projects because their unintended consequences tend to be large-scale and difficult to mitigate.

From a sustainable adaptive management perspective, small-scale solutions with their unanticipated consequences are manageable and fixable without extravagant costs. The evaluation teams, for the purpose of efficiency and efficacy, have to present no risk of conflict of interest with any given project. For this reason, an eclectic team of experts can be designed to evaluate different projects assigned randomly or blindly. ■



Dr. Martha Mutisi, Manager, Interventions Department, ACCORD



# 4<sup>th</sup> TANA High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

## 4th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

### Secularism and Politicised Faith

It is a paradox of our time that the rise in secularism in some parts of the world coincides with the rise of religious extremism in others. In Africa, the manipulation of religion to meet political ends, address grievances, recruit disenchanted youth that disrupt societal harmony, and widen existing tensions is on the rise as seen in the Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan. The 4th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa took place on 18-19 April 2015, under the theme 'Secularism and Politicised Faith'. The theme was both relevant and timely, as politicised faith has grown to become a critical concern for peace and security in Africa.

The 2015 Forum was instrumental in filling the intellectual gap of these highly sensitive and often emotionally charged notions, and discussing ways of transforming them into concepts that promote peaceful existence. Heads of State and Government, eminent African personalities, civil society leaders, policy makers and representatives of various stakeholders, addressed the separation of religion and politics as well as the neutrality of the state in dealing with faith-related issues.

#### Recommendations

1) It is stressed that there is need for early identification of religious beliefs, tenets and practices capable of putting state and citizen's

security at grave risk through innovative and robust policy frameworks and early warning systems;

2) It is recognised that diversity is a unique feature of the African society and social experience. There is urgent need for African leaders to take cognisance of this diversity, and know how to manage it through inclusive multi-stakeholders dialogue aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence amongst different groups.

3) It is recognised that there is need to reinforce the AU and RECs in order to forge greater, and closer, continental integration agenda;

4) It is noted, with urgency, the need for African states, civil society institutions and faith-based organisations to be vigilant about the role and activities of radicalised movements that ultimately endangers the lives of all citizens;

5) Efforts being made by states, organisations and private individuals are acknowledged but such must ultimately ensure that the voices of marginalised groups are amplified and their expectations met at every level in public policy decision-making, planning, implementation and monitoring initiatives. In this aspect, there is an urgent imperative for the full emancipation of women who constitutes more than half of the continent's population but still lack access and

acceptance;

6) It is requested that states and responsible institutions show greater commitment to tackle corruption in order to free more resources for critical peoples-focused developmental interventions;

7) Achievements in various social and economic sectors across Africa are noted, but we urge governments to demonstrate greater commitment towards monitoring and implementing values of human rights, inclusion, equity and rule of law. There is need to ensure the supremacy of the law across all sector and a constitutional order that protects everyone;

8) It is noted with deep concern that the insecurity that continues to affect the continent through the criminal and heinous attacks credited to groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab in the name of religious continues unabated. For the most part, the targets of opportunity for such ill-motivated attacks have almost always been the most vulnerable members of societies: women, children, youth and the aged. African states are urged to be more proactive, consistent and alert in securing and ensuring the security of lives and properties of all citizens from such groups;

9) It is hoped that the enhancement of security should not be at the expense of democratic freedoms or Pan-African solidarity at the national, regional and continental levels. Rather than pursue initiatives that stifle or restrict intra- and inter-state mobility, greater openness within and between African states should be encouraged or promoted. There is need by African states to provide adequate responses to large-scale cross border challenges such as terrorism and public health threats through greater and deeper cooperation;

10) Current efforts being undertaken by the AU to ensure peace and security on the continent is recognised and appreciated. The umbrella continental institution must deepen its work with states and other stakeholders to incorporate civic education into school curriculum at all levels to raise civic consciousness and promoting unity among citizens; including but not limited to formal education. ■

## Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

Organised by the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa and the West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP), the event brought together major West African actors from government, civil society and the media to discuss how a multiplicity of stakeholders could contribute to managing the tensions between secularism and politicised faith in West Africa and how this might assist in fostering peace and security in Africa. The dialogue, which took place on 24-25 February in Accra, Ghana, was one of a series of pre-Tana Forum events.

“We are delighted to bring the Tana Forum to West Africa for the first time this year,” said Michelle Ndiaye, Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat. “The discussions on secularism and politicised faith are very relevant to the region as recent events in the Sahel region and the postponement of elections in Nigeria due to security fears brought about by Boko Haram have brought these issues into the public spotlight.”

Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director of WANEP, said the dialogue was taking place at a time when states and citizens were at a crossroads, considering the present peace and security threats in West Africa. “If we continue to sing the chorus of African solutions to African problems then we must continue this kind of engagement that enables us to reason together as a people with one common agenda and to deliberate on the best strategies to respond to our internal challenges”, he remarked. ■



A participant at the multi-stakeholder dialogue



"I think to be honest with ourselves we need to interrogate, not just state and non-state actors - local or global - but we need to interrogate ourselves, our faith practices and the societies which have been formed out of these broad conditions and out of which these attacks have proliferated."

Amina Mama, Professor in Women and Gender Studies, University of California, USA





"I think it is important to recognise that these groups often might use religious language, they might use religious expressions but their complaints and their discontents are secular. It's about education, it's about health, and it's about opportunities. And the more we focus on that, the more we are able to address their grievances on a long-term sustainable basis."

Muhammad Sanusi II, Emir of Kano, Nigeria





### APN Workshop on linking academia to policy making

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), in collaboration with the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), organised a Writing and Dissemination Workshop in Addis Ababa on 2-4 December 2015.

The aim of the training workshop was to create a forum for APN's individual research grantees and residential postdoctoral fellows to reflect on their experiences in writing and disseminating research, as well as to connect them to mentors in their respective research projects. Several PhD students at IPSS also participated in the workshop. Through a series of presentations and one-on-one interactions with experts in the field of peacebuilding, participants were given practical skills to translate their evidence-based research into high-quality, peer-reviewed publications following their six-month fieldwork and three-month postdoctoral residences, respectively.

Lectures were delivered by Professor Gilbert Khadiagala, University of the Witwatersrand; Professor Said Adejumobi, UN Economic Commission for Africa; Professor Kenneth Omeje, APN 2013 grantee/University of Bradford; Dr. Duncan Omanga, APN 2014 grantee/current Cambridge fellow; Dr. Charles Ukeje, APN 2014-2016 collaborative working group grantee/IPSS; and APN advisory board member Dr. Devon Curtis, University of Cambridge.

Launched in 2012, APN supports independent African research on conflict-affected countries and neighbouring regions of the continent as well as the integration of African knowledge into global policy communities. Speaking at the workshop, SSRC Programme Director Dr. Cyril Obi said, "The APN will continue to support research in the continent and collaborate with research institutes in Africa such as IPSS."

The workshop deliberated on different strategies researchers

need to follow in disseminating their research. "Researchers have to publish their works, but they must choose journals and publishers that have credibility and sound peer review mechanisms," said Dr. Kenneth Omeje, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bradford. Duncan Omanga (PhD) added, "Social media has a great impact in disseminating information; researchers need to be active on social media platforms in order to more broadly share their work."

Presentations engaged participants with a critical understanding of the context and politics of the conflict and peacebuilding nexus in Africa, and how best to promote their findings within such an expanding network. The lectures were given by leading scholars and experts in African peacebuilding, many of whom serve on international and regional peer-reviewed journals and other publications (as either editors or editorial board members) and are experts in digital communications. Topics





covered included the changing dynamics of conflict of Africa, the gaps in African peace and security research, strategies for disseminating research in peer-review publications and social and mainstream media, and how to transform research findings into policy inputs. The presentations were followed by question-and-answer sessions and lively debates among participants.

IPSS Director Kidane Kiros presented the institute's different projects and activities across Africa, remarking that, "IPSS is currently engaged in education, research and outreach in Africa through its Executive Master's in Managing Peace and Security Africa (MPSA), African-Centred Solutions (AfSol) Workshop Series, and the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa".

Workshop participants also focused on the need for researchers to influence policies through their work. "We need researchers to see themselves not only as scholars but also as

interlocutors within the public space," said Dr. Charles Ukeje, Senior Advisor for Education and Professional Development at IPSS. "For researchers to see themselves as interlocutors, they must be grounded in the socio-realities of the environment they live in."

Participants also noted that even if the need to create a strong link between researchers and practitioners is imperative, there are a number of challenges involved in the process. Among them, the hesitance from policy makers to closely collaborate with researchers was underscored. Participants also called for the APN and IPSS to organise a forum for researchers from different institutes and universities in Africa to discuss peace and security issues in the continent.

APN worked with IPSS to coordinate a visit to the African Union, where participants had a firsthand exposure to the inner workings of the AU's peace and security and political affairs

offices. Participants also paid a special visit to the Situation Room, a special feature of the AU that operates on a 24/7 basis, allowing analysts to quickly monitor, gather, and assess information across Africa on dynamic indicators of conflict, structural indicators, and country profiles. AU staff emphasized the role of academics in publishing books and journals to help inform the policymaking community, stressing the need for more bridges between policy and scholarly communities. They also spoke to the gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed in order to help policymakers tackle peace and security on the continent, such as cyber-terrorism, climate change, China and maritime security.

Overall, participants felt the mentoring they received to be useful and informative, and they left the event feeling excited by the prospect of their research being translated into material that could be used to influence policy. ■



### Dr. Abdalla makes contribution during open PSC session

In January 2015, Prof. Amr Abdalla, Senior Advisor for Research, Policy Analysis and Dialogues, presented a series of recommendations on the prevention, monitoring and intervention of election-related conflicts in Africa to the 479th Open Session of the Peace and Security Council at the African Union. IPSS is officially mandated by the AU's Executive Council to take up the intellectual challenge of finding African-led solutions to peace and security in Africa. ■

### Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II



Mr. La Yifan



Professor Habtamu Wondimu

In July 2015, IPSS, in collaboration with the Embassy of China to Ethiopia, organised a workshop to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the war against fascism. The event was attended by Kidane Kiros, IPSS Director; La Yifan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia; Mr. Debele Barud, Secretary General of the Ethiopian House of Federations; Kuang Weilin, Ambassador of China to the African Union; Daniel Mesfin, President of the Association of Ethiopian Patriots; and Dr. Khabele Matlosa, Director, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission, among other participants. ■



Ambassador Soad Shalaby



Dr. Kidane Kiros

## 13th APSTA Annual General Meeting

In 2015, IPSS served as president of the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) and host of the APSTA Management Committee meeting and the 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM). APSTA members, the African Union Peace and Security Department, different UN agencies, and Ethiopian government officials attended the AGM, held under the theme, “Towards Integration and Multidimensionality in African Peace Support Operations”.

Michelle Ndiaye, Director of the Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP) at IPSS, developed the lead paper, which served as a discussion paper for the various sessions of the AGM. The paper explored the feasibility of producing an African model of peace operations in the wake of complex security environments that have high demands on peace operations in Africa. Before handing over the presidency to Egypt’s Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), IPSS contributed significantly to strengthening the internal working processes of the APSTA Secretariat. ■



## Colloquium on Borders in Africa

In October 2015, IPSS co-hosted a two-day colloquium on African borders with the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), supported by GIZ. Academia, policy makers and stakeholders from different parts of Africa and beyond presented papers and gave recommendations to the AUBP. The papers were later published in a volume titled “Borders in Africa: An Anthology of the Policy History”, edited by Prof. Anthony Asiwaju. ■



### IPSS-ZIF Roundtable on Peace Operations

In October 2015, a two-day roundtable on Trilateral Cooperation in Peace Operations in Africa was organised by IPSS and the Berlin-based Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF). The diverse audience of 45 participants included officials from the African Union (AU), European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN), as well as representatives from the current peacekeeping missions in Mali (MINUSMA), Somalia (AMISOM) and the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

The roundtable discussed ways of enhancing peace operations in Africa using the trilateral partnership between the AU, UN and EU. The report includes further reflections on the deployment of Peace Support Operations (PSOs) under the presence and endurance of asymmetric threats; the challenges of smoothly transitioning from one mission to another; and the absence of mechanisms to ease partnerships on the ground.

The report makes 8 important recommendations on making the partnership between the AU, UN and EU more practical:

These recommendations are summarised below:

- 1. Cooperation starts with prevention:** To limit the deployment of any PSOs, the UN, AU and EU should work on and share conflict prevention mechanisms.
- 2. Enhance understanding of partnerships:** Modalities of partnerships between the three organisations should be explored so as to produce effective PSOs and showcase Africa as a partner.

**3. Trilateral partnership is always context-specific:** Models of deployment of PSOs should not be pre-determined; rather enhanced to be more flexible and adjustable to the peculiarities of the ongoing conflicts on the ground.

**4. Develop frameworks that bring the three organisations together at political-strategic and operational levels:** The UN, AU and EU need to develop and enhance a framework at political-strategic and operational levels when it comes to cooperation on peace and security issues in Africa.

**5. Understand what each organisation brings to the table, and how:** For effective trilateral cooperation and intervention in peace operations, the UN, AU and EU have to understand each other's capabilities and capacities.

**6. Joint planning teams or the ability to plan in a joint manner from the beginning:** Joint planning from the beginning as well as the development of mechanisms for transitioning from one operation to another can bring about effective peacekeeping operations between the three organisations.

**7. Include the regions:** The trilateral partnership between the UN, AU and EU in Africa should incorporate Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for further effective peace operations on the continent.

**8. Engage Member States jointly:** Peace operations deployed by the three organisations are likely to be successful with the UN, AU and EU engaging in a coordinated manner so as to develop and enhance the required capacities for planned operations. ■



## President Pierre Buyoya on the Malian peace process

In October 2015, H.E. Pierre Buyoya, former President of Burundi and the AU’s High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, visited IPSS and spoke to participants in the Executive Master’s in Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA) Programme. Buyoya expressed his optimism that the peace agreement signed on 15 May between the Malian government and a coalition of rebel movements would result in enduring peace and stability. Speaking about future security threats in the Sahel, Buyoya cited elections as the main potential cause: “Elections will be the next security threat in the Sahel region and preventive diplomacy needs to be employed by the AU early on,” he stated. ■

## Demonstrating impartiality and capacity to listen are salient virtues

In March, the 10th MPSA cohort attended a discussion with Abdul Mohammed, Chief of Staff and Senior Political Adviser of the AU High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan. Mohammed shared a presentation on the issues and challenges associated with political missions and mediation in Africa. He shared that a mediator’s point of entry in any mediation process is to have the correct definition of the problem and to own the narrative. By clearly defining the problem, a skillful mediator will better understand the framework guiding the process and the limitations imposed by circumstances from within and outside.

Drawing examples from his front-row involvement in the AU-led mediation process in Sudan and South Sudan chaired by former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, Mohammed identified some of the major challenges in mediation, including how perpetual disagreements between parties sometimes complicate, or prove treacherous to, the mediation process. Because a mediator is expected to be a neutral interlocutor managing a spectrum of stakeholders and interested partners, demonstrating impartiality and a keen capacity to listen become salient virtues. ■



Mr. Abdul Mohamed

# Regional conference asserts need for national regulatory framework for PMSCs

The Regional Conference on PMSCs was organised by the Government of Switzerland, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and IPSS. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to debate on the regulation and oversight of the private military and security companies (PMSC) industry, both at the national and regional levels; to gain perspective on states' interactions with PMSCs; and to promote good practices on the basis of the Montreux Document on pertinent international legal obligations and Good Practices for States related to operations of PMSCs in armed conflict ("The Montreux Document"). The Regional Conference gathered over 80 participants from 16 States, as well as the African Union, international and regional organisations, civil society, industry and other experts on PMSCs.

PMSCs are private business entities that provide military and/or security services, irrespective of how they describe themselves. Military and security services include, in particular, armed guarding and protection of persons and objects, such as convoys, buildings and other places; maintenance and operation of weapons systems; prisoner detention; and advice to or training of local forces and security personnel.

PMSCs are a growing global phenomenon; this is due to several patterns: the downsizing of militaries and the subsequent over-supply of demobilised military personnel, the involvement of companies in training activities as part of security sector reform (SSR) initiatives, the growing insecurities experienced by personnel involved in humanitarian aid, and the general economic trend towards privatisation. In some countries, companies primarily focus on residential or private guarding, while in others, the protection of crucial sites such as extractive mining sites is of primary concern. PMSCs have also been hired to provide training to national militaries, as part of development assistance. Both internationally owned companies and domestic companies are present in the African context, and these businesses often employ more individuals



Dr. Sunday Okello, Assistant Professor, IPSS

than local police forces. As a result of this evolving security landscape, valid concerns over ensuring the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law have arisen, especially when PMSCs operate in areas of armed conflict but also more broadly – both in post conflict situations as well as in states enjoying peace and stability.

The PMSC industry is regulated through a wide variety of state legislation, including through laws and policies that determine whether private security personnel are permitted to carry arms, and how PMSCs should interact with other (state) institutions, such as the state police. To complement state efforts, the Montreux Document was initiated by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as an intergovernmental document to promote respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law whenever PMSCs are present in armed conflicts. Today, the Montreux Document is supported by 54 states, five of which are from Africa (Angola, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Uganda) and is also supported by three international organisations (NATO, OSCE and EU).

During his keynote address, Dr. Tarek Sharif, Head of the Defense and Security Division of the African Union Peace and Security Department, expressed that “PMSCs could potentially undermine the established law and order if they remain unregulated and unmonitored. In this regard, PMSCs may pose a risk to the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of AU Member States, and to the social and economic development of civilian populations.”

Although the Regional Conference did not adopt formal conclusions, participants of the Regional Conference shared the following reflections on the way forward:

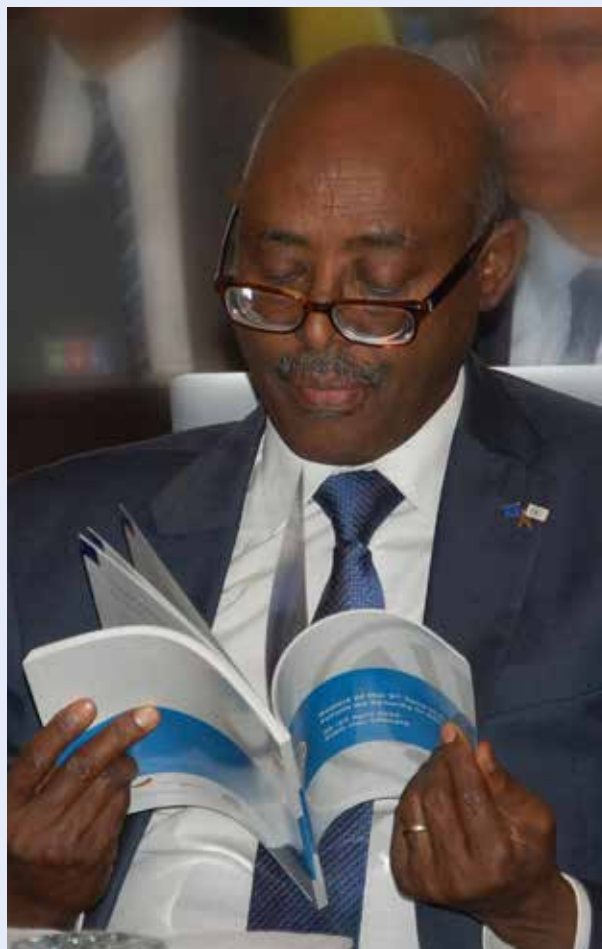
1. There is a need to build research and knowledge on activities of PMSCs at local levels. It was acknowledged by a number of participants that more information, research and knowledge is needed, particularly on local and municipal levels regarding the experiences and challenges with PMSCs.

2. There is a need to increase dialogue and connect with national and local contexts and there is a need to integrate community voices in these discussions. Although international initiatives to regulate PMSCs have often been negotiated with a wide geographical diversity of states, there are challenges in translating these regulatory options for regional and local contexts. On this basis, a number of Conference participants expressed that there should be efforts to connect the international frameworks with all levels of African state security sectors, particularly parliaments, oversight committees, executive branches, line ministries, and police. To increase the role of home governments, specific practical tools can be developed in the form of parliamentary handbooks, contract guidance tools and training manuals which are also in line with international norms and standards.

3. Support for international initiatives to regulate PMSCs could be strengthened amongst African states. Support for regulating PMSCs can be incorporated into a broader approach concerning good governance of the security sector, taking into consideration the significant potential impacts of private actors on human rights and international humanitarian law. There are opportunities for

both regional and national actors to integrate the regulation of the PMSCs into their strategic initiatives. As one example of this, ECOWAS specifically notes the issue as an objective of its Political Framework on SSR/G and cites both the Montreux Document and ICOCA as guidance to support better regulation of PMSCs. African governments can strengthen support for the UN Draft Convention on PMSCs as well as initiatives like the Montreux Document by integrating these issues into their policies.

4. The African Union and Regional Economic Communities could exercise a more active voice in promoting effective regulation on PMSCs. An African policy towards PMSCs could be articulated and the discourse of mercenarism could be updated to address the regulatory challenges related to PMSCs today. ■



Ambassador Tewolde Gebremeskel, Director,  
Peace and Security Division, IGAD



**Getachew Zeru, Regular PhD Programme**

Getachew’s PhD research dealt with the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan over Abyei. He focused on the political and economic dynamics of the conflict with a particular emphasis on the aftermath of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In addition to being the first student to successfully defend his PhD research, Getachew also won a fellowship to attend a three-month research programme at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C., US.



**Abebe Mulat Desalegn, Regular PhD Programme**

Abebe’s research on ‘Building a culture of peace: the roles of higher education in Ethiopia’, integrates conflict transformation with peace education. “Africa’s conflicts are complex, and cannot be solved by purely military means.” Abebe takes a micro-focus to peace studies, stating that it begins with the individual. “If we can change individual attitudes, then we can change our societies.” Abebe credits the commitment of IPSS and resources from the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS) in Copenhagen for enabling him to successfully defend his PhD.



**Tchioffo Kodjo, IPSS-Leipzig Joint MA Programme**

Tchioffo Kodjo, Knowledge Management Specialist at the African Union Commission, published a book on the situation in Mali titled “Mali Conflict of 2012-2013: A Critical Assessment”. The book provides a three-dimensional analysis of the conflict drivers as well a deep assessment of the conflict resolution mechanisms that were set up to restore Mali’s control over its territory. The book critically examines the roles of ECOWAS, the ‘core countries’ (Algeria and Mauritania), the African Union, and France in their responses to the crisis situation.



**Bethlehem Taye, IPSS-Leipzig Joint MA Programme**

Bethlehem Taye is the Director for Research and Publications at the International Leadership Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. “The Global Studies programme enables you to think outside the box by equipping students with different approaches to study globalisation. The exchange semester in Germany showed me the capacity of African students to compete internationally with peers from all over the world.”



**Zekarias Sentayehu, IPSS-Leipzig Joint MA Programme**

“The presence of the African Union in Ethiopia will provide me with the opportunity to play a role in Africa’s peace and security.”





**Ernest Dolo, Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA)**

Ernest won several awards at the 9th Annual Africa Young Graduates and Scholars (AYGS) Conference in Cape Town, South Africa in April 2015. He won awards for Best Engagement, Best Constructive Questioning, and Best Personality at the annual gathering, which brings together participants to engage in critical dialogue about current African realities.



**H.E. Ahmed Issa Awad, Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA)**

In September 2015, Ahmed was accredited as the new Somali Ambassador to the United States. President Barack Obama welcomed Somalia’s new envoy at a ceremony at the White House, where Ahmed presented his credential letters. His accreditation came two weeks after the reopening of Somalia’s embassy in Washington D.C., 24 years after it had shut down.



**Alain Jerome M. Ingoule, Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA)**

Alain was promoted to Rear Admiral of Gabon. With 29 years of experience to his credit, the Admiral serves as the Defense Attaché at the Embassy of Gabon in Ethiopia. ■



MPSA participants celebrating the end of residential sessions in December 2015

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