



INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES  
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY



MIKTA  
New Innovative Partnership

## **MIKTA-IPSS Joint Seminar Report**

### **‘New Multilateralism: The Role of New State-Led Coalitions’**

18 December 2017

Radisson Blu Hotel

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## Acronyms

APSP	Africa Peace and Security Programme
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BRICS	An association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CAR	Central African Republic
EU	European Union
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPSS	Institute for Peace and Security Studies
MIKTA	The partnership among Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UN	United Nations



## I. Introduction

In partnership with MIKTA (the partnership among Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia), IPSS organized a seminar on 'New Multilateralism: The Role of State-led Coalitions' on 18 December 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at Radisson Blu. This is the report of the high-level seminar.

## II. Background

The rise of globalization is a substantial issue and the consequent growth of governance mechanisms above and below the state suggests the need for new paradigms. Moreover, an escalation of environmental concerns and the emergence of disputes over international agreements, such as between, trade and the environment, trade and property rights, and trade and public health, continue the traditional debate over the social effects of macroeconomic stabilization policies.

The world also continues to witness challenges which have not been fully addressed due to the lack of consensus among stakeholders and insufficient commitment of necessary resources: conflict prevention and civilian protection in the conflict areas, countering terrorism and climate change, addressing threats from communicable diseases, to name a few.

These trends call for new approaches to global multi-lateral cooperation to bridge and catalyze action on key questions. One such approach is MIKTA, an innovative partnership that brings together Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia into a multilateral coalition in different sectors with shared key values and interests. Each member is a significant economic power and plays a pivotal strategic role in its respective region. All are open economies in favour of free trade and foreign direct investment and are anchored in democratic political systems. Furthermore, MIKTA members have economies with high growth potential, strong domestic markets that are able to moderate inflation, and a rising population with increasing purchasing power. The MIKTA countries together represent 8% of the world GDP (\$5.8 billion), making up the third biggest global economy. Additionally, with around 520 million inhabitants, they represent 7% of the global population.

MIKTA's goal is to consult and lead dialogue on a range of issues in order to promote consensus and advance the common interests of the broader international community. As such, the coalition is geared towards strengthening bilateral relations and political dialogue between its members, and promoting consultation and coordination on common interest multilateral issues including the G20 and the UN, with the aim to develop solutions to major global challenges and foster joint cooperation projects. Accordingly, it has seven priority areas;



- i) International energy governance and energy access;
- ii) Global security and counter-terrorism;
- iii) Peacekeeping;
- iv) Trade and the economy;
- v) Gender equality;
- vi) Democracy, human rights and good governance; and vii) Sustainable development.

Thus, the question is how can other continental and regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and its member states cooperate on a similar basis and consequently forge partnerships with MIKTA in order to maximize efforts and impact socio-economic development in different areas of common understanding?

The objective of the seminar was to introduce a new multilateral initiative to an African audience and provide a platform for dialogue on how to deliver more effective multilateral outcomes through the use of new, regional power-led coalitions like MIKTA.

### III. Presentations and discussions on ‘New Multilateralism: Under the State-led Coalition’

#### Session 1: Opening Remarks

Dr. Kidane Kiros, Director, Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University gave the first welcome remark. He stated that the framework of international system is changing moving from unipolar to multipolar structure. He also stressed that the initiative of MIKTA partnership will help to assess critically the challenges and opportunities of multilateral partnerships and coalitions in relation to enhancing peace, stability and development in the world in general and in Africa in particular. Dr. Kidane mentioned that the main objective of the conference was to introduce this new multilateral initiative to an African audience and provide a platform how to deliver more effective multilateral outcomes through the use of MIKTA. He further pointed out that the initiative was conceived by the MIKTA ambassadors based in Addis who consulted and partnered with IPSS on how best they could introduce MIKTA as an emerging multilateral coalition partner to a wider Addis-based constituency. He considered this joint cooperation as one of the roles of academic institutions such as IPSS. Dr. Kidane ended his address by thanking all members of MIKTA ambassadors, participants and IPSS staff for taking the initiative, attendance and organizing the conference, respectively.

The keynote address was given by Ambassador Markos Tekle, Director, Ethiopian Foreign Service Training Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the MIKTA conference. Ambassador Markos praised the MIKTA



Ambassadors in Addis Ababa and IPSS for organizing the conference. He further informed participants he first heard about MIKTA in 2016 in Kampala, Uganda where he attended an international conference on diplomatic academy associations and he now really understands how the middle power cooperation is important to balance and offer opportunities for developing countries. Ambassador Markos further stated that middle powers are characterized by being intermediary coalition-builders and argues that he is confident about the effectiveness of multilateralism. Ambassador Markos further mentioned that this also gives alternatives for developing nations for more cooperation of peace and development partnerships. Therefore, he suggested that there is a need for MIKTA countries or the MIKTA association to focus on energy, fight against terrorism and security, commercial and economic cooperation, good governance and democracy, sustainable development, gender equality, peacekeeping operation issues to further enhance their cooperation at international level. The Ambassador further noted that MIKTA should be an alternative forum that promotes the most pressing global issues of present time to be able to achieve sustainable development goals. To be able to achieve this, he reiterated that there is a need for a lot of international cooperation using a wide range of instruments and means of development that support broader engagement and participation.

Ambassador Markos further shared that Ethiopia is implementing its 5 year national development plan with the broad objective of addressing development challenges including poverty and ensuring sustainable development. According to him, the country is also seeking to achieve a high quality environment and stable economy and currently is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In addition, the Ambassador noted that the Ethiopian government believes that regardless of efforts achieved so far, the support of development partners is critical in order to achieve its overall development objectives. He emphasized that partnerships should help marginalized and least developed countries play active roles in sustainable global socio-economic development through collective actions. He further stated that Ethiopia has historic and excellent relations with all MIKTA member countries and that some of them are already investing in different parts of the country. Ambassador Markos stated that MIKTA should also consider providing training for diplomats and young leaders of African nations to better understand the potentials and opportunities that middle powers and coalitions could contribute to global development. The Ambassador concluded by wishing the conference and participants successful deliberations and fruitful discussions and outcomes.

Ambassador Fatih Ulusoy of Turkey to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) followed up with a press briefing where he gave an outline of MIKTA objectives and efforts. Ambassador Ulusoy introduced the MIKTA member countries which includes: Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia. He also mentioned that the forum will focus on its own consolidation in the coming years before opening up to new members. Eventual proposals to expand the membership or to invite observers could however be considered by foreign ministries noting that the forum currently comprise liberal democracies of similar size economies which share global and regional interest.



Ambassador Ulusoy informed members of the press that although the ground work of MIKTA began in 2012 in the margins of the G20 meeting, it was officially established in September 2013 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. He further informed that the five members of MIKTA represent a diverse group of countries with different cultural, historical and religious background and are located in different corners of the world.

Despite the different geographical locations, the Ambassador noted that MIKTA countries have shared values and interests which transcend their diversity. He stated that MIKTA member countries are democratic and open economies and favor free trade and foreign investment. The Ambassador further informed participants that MIKTA countries represent 8% of world GDP which is US\$ 5.8 billion and 520 million inhabitants representing 7% of global population. He further stated that MIKTA countries are also active contributors in major international forums. He added that they have both the will and the capability to contribute to protecting public goods and strengthen global governance. Working together with multilateral partners, The Ambassador elaborated that he believes MIKTA can play a constructive role in international agendas and exert greater influence.

Ambassador Ulusoy also explained that MIKTA members have identified priorities that fall under its core mandate. In 2017, under the chair of Turkey, MIKTA focused on three priorities that included: combatting terrorism, migration, refugee crisis and economic cooperation. Ambassador Ulusoy noted that present international peace and security challenges are often characterized by asymmetrical trade and unpredictable complex crises which also undermine sustainable development in many parts of the world.

Ambassador Ulusoy confirmed that MIKTA members reaffirm to the UN General Assembly Resolution 69/3/127 of July, 2015, Addis Ababa, which is an integral part of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Looking ahead, Ambassador Ulusoy concluded that MIKTA will place special emphasis on new ways of working and outcomes of the work of the first World Humanitarian Summit which aims to coordinate humanitarian and development aid in a more coherent and systematic manner.

## **Session 2: MIKTA as a New Global Multilateral Actor**

The presenters on this session were Dr. Jochen Prantl, Deputy Director (International Engagement), Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University and Mr. Yoon, Director for Policy Analysis in the Foreign Ministry of Republic of Korea under the moderation of Amb. Mark Sawers, Australian Ambassador to CAR, Djibouti, Ethiopia and South Sudan; Permanent Representative to AU, UNECA and IGAD.



Dr. Prantl reflected that multilateralism is not about institutions, but the underlined rules of the game used for global governance. He mentioned that there has been much talk about the end of the Washington consensus particularly after the global financial crisis in 2008/2009. There was talk then about the rising Beijing consensus which is gaining ground. He also gave a brief introduction to multilateralism. He pointed to increasing talk about the issue of imperative strategic diplomacy in countries and gave specific examples from Australia.

Dr. Prantl also addressed the issue of multilateralism as a set of puzzles that have faced international cooperation today in how to cooperate when addressing urgent international problems while global order is in transition. He further reflected on the issue of coalitions as being channels to negotiate new rules of the game that helps to facilitate transition from an old order to a new global order. This, he explained, is the best perspective that coalition should address to help facilitate peaceful change. He argued that multilateralism enables and strengthens institutional systems. He also counter argued however that this kind of system is now challenged by other normative ideas in particular the idea of capitalism. Dr. Prantl further stated that globalization is not something that always produces winners; it also produces a lot of losers too. He informed participants that state relationships have hard governance institutions and soft governance institutions. From his point of view, hard governance institutions would be something the old liberal institutions including the post-World War II architecture such as the UN, AU and others.

Contrarily, Dr. Prantl attributed soft governance to institutions such as BRICS, MIKTA, EPSA and others. He posed some questions, such as how do we address complex issues such as peace? What can we do with the institutions we have? He further explained that in all this, nations should care about positive peace, which namely involves social justice and goes beyond the absence of war. Dr. Prantl further informed that MIKTA can play a specific role in this very diverse and complex environment through coalitions, bilateral relationships and facilitator role to help promote consultation on key multilateralism. He informed MIKTA ambassadors and participants that MIKTA has moved from just being an acronym to a level where it is able to take on projects and offer Africa and the world a series of solutions and play a facilitator role in urgent problems.

The second speaker, Mr. Yoon Ji Wan, outlined MIKTA's achievements since its initiation. He mentioned that MIKTA has tried to build a bridge between different worlds and set an agenda on global issues. He further informed that MIKTA achievements include milestone operation documents such as the vision statement (2015) priorities (2016) guidelines (2017). He also shared MIKTA positive efforts on North Korea, Iraq and Israel. Mr. Yoon also informed participants on the future of MIKTA identity and level of participation. Finally, Mr. Yoon concluded his presentation by outlining MIKTA's challenges as follows: lack of institutionalization, expanding agenda, domestic support and diversity.



### Session 3: The African Union as a Global Multilateral Actor

The second session had two panellists; H.E. Mr. Thomas Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson, AUC and Mr. Patrick Gonzague H. Balagizi, Chief of Protocol & Public Relations, peace and security analyst, Embassy of DR Congo, Ethiopia. The session's discussant was Ms. Michelle Ndiaye, Director, Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP), IPSS; Head, Tana Forum Secretariat. It was moderated by Ambassador Mark Sawers, Australian Ambassador to CAR, Djibouti, Ethiopia and South Sudan; Permanent Representative to AU, UNECA and IGAD.

In his presentation, Mr. Quartey affirmed that Africa needs partners, but there is only so much they can do for the continent. Africa needs to attain an agenda for a democratic and united front on key development issues. He expressed sadness that today, there are several African youth are risking their lives trekking for better opportunities in the west and the north. Mr. Quartey recommended that the AU member states need partners such as MIKTA to help the continent refocus and invest their time and resources on education and skills training as the bridge to development.

In his presentation, Mr. Patrick Gonzague posed more questions than answers to MIKTA member countries. The following were some of his questions:

- What is MIKTA looking for exactly?
- Is MIKTA looking for formal coalitions or informal partnerships with the AU member states or institutionalized partnerships?
- Is MIKTA ready to embark on the Agenda 2063 with the different levels of objectives or it is just a platform?
- What is MIKTA's leverage compared with the BRICS or other platforms of partnerships in Africa?
- What does MIKTA want from Africa?
- Why did MIKTA come into existence?
- What is the benefit of having a MIKTA partnership for African countries?
- What is MIKTA's modality to engage in Africa? Is it AU level or bilateral level?
- What role does MIKTA play in peacekeeping operations in Africa?
- How does MIKTA perceive the AU as a regional entity in this changing world?
- Does MIKTA have a common position on UN Security Council reform with regard to the category of membership in terms of veto power and other relations?
- Does MIKTA have globally agreed definition on terrorism?
- Does MIKTA have space for an African membership as a continental representative?
- Why have much attention been given to the integration of Africa? If it is integrated, is it a pan - African integration or regional integration?
- What are the modalities of MIKTA's relations with formal, informal, institutionalized and non-institutionalized states?



Other questions from the floor included:

- What is the workable plan to make MIKTA work?
- How do MIKTA countries manage their own differences on integration and integrate this with the AU?
- What is MIKTA's plan on gender equality in relation to the seven priorities?
- Will MIKTA give more to the African states on dialogues and partnerships?

The presenters stated that the old notion of liberalism seen both at the domestic and international levels cannot ignore policy-making and crafting strategies on global governance. It was stated that MIKTA is not an exclusive platform and is always open to different ideas, consequently holding regular consultative dialogues with partners to deepen discussions and get different perspectives.

Ms. Ndiaye contributed that it is important to revisit the work of AU today as a global player by looking at the continental goals. She explained that Africa should be able to engage in the global discourse and identify the role of the AU in the era where innovative powers and coalitions work side by side in contested spaces to seek solutions to political and developmental challenges.

In his response to questions raised by participants, Mr. Quartey stated that Africa has been one of the beneficiaries of multilateralism. He further added that the UN places the UN charter on international relations/interactions as the basis for the rule of law. Mr. Quartey stated that Africa has a lot of possibilities to rectify its international relations and international laws to be able to address current and future injustices on the continent including through partnerships with platforms such as MIKTA.

Mr. Quartey further reflected that in the new era of global multilateralism, the AU has a key role to play. Mr. Quartey informed participants that one key feature differentiating the AU from its predecessor the Organization of African Unity (OAU) is that the AU is much more concerned in integration, unity, socio-economic and development of the continent. He further stated that there is need to talk about African integration as it is understood that somehow the continent is not entirely integrated or that some part of integration have either been compromised or lost.

Mr. Gonzague also contributed that platforms such as MIKTA have a great role in contributing to peacekeeping in Africa in order to have prosperous and peaceful societies. Mr. Wan stated that MIKTA's first steps in its coalition efforts with African states would be to convince the stakeholders to voice their opinions and harmonize them. Ambassador Sawers affirmed to the fact that the world does not need new institutions. The Ambassador further explained that one unique aspect of MIKTA is their important principles which include informality, flexibility and its ability to adapt. MIKTA is all about creating learning and



experience-sharing conversations on how to work together to bridge some of the identified development, peace and security challenges and injustices through multilateral systems. Ambassador Sawers responded to the question of whether integration or development should come first? He argued that the African context is different from that of Europe and Asia, therefore the more integration, the greater the development.

#### **Session 4: The Role of Academic Institutions in Building New Coalitions**

The session was presented by Kidane Kiros, PhD, Director; and moderated by Dr. Yonas Adaye, Associate Academic Director; both from the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University.

Dr. Kidane informed participants that one of the role of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University (AAU) is to partner and engage with similar-minded organizations and coalitions such as MIKTA in order to realize its vision of becoming a premier higher learning and research institute on peace and security studies in Ethiopia and Africa. He further explained that IPSS does this through education, research, dialogues and professional development. Dr. Kiros stated that although the institution is based in Ethiopia, its activities and practices do not only compete on a continental but international level. Dr. Kiros emphasized that IPSS tries to engage and reconstruct itself in its methodologies and approaches to be able to deal with varied peace and security challenges. He stated that academic institutions build and facilitate new coalitions with other academic and non-academic institutions. He further exclaimed that the three pillar activities of any academic mandate should be teaching, research and community service; which are all being undertaken at IPSS. Finally, Dr. Kidane concluded that IPSS could play a key role in facilitating and promoting coalitions through its programmes, dialogues and other activities in the peace and security sector as gaps and challenges do exist. He hoped the MIKTA platform will help address these challenges and gaps through networking, coalitions and partnerships.

Both Dr. Yonas and Dr. Kiros responded (summarized in brackets) to the following questions from participants:

- How can one access the institute and its activities ?(website, direct visits to the institute);
- How long the Institute has been in existence? (since 2007);
- What are the sources of financial support? (university, multiple funding partners – project and programme based);
- What is the freedom that IPSS has when dealing with peace and security issues? (Has academic freedom, non-partisan, autonomous status).
- Can international participants participate in IPSS activities/projects? (Yes, all continental projects/programmes).



## Session 5: Inputs from MIKTA Representatives in Ethiopia

All MIKTA Ambassadors in Ethiopia were panellists in the next session which was moderated by Dr. Pamela Mbabazi, Head of Research at IPSS. The MIKTA Ambassadors on the panel were:

- Amb. Victor Manuel Treviño Escudero, Ambassador of Mexico to Ethiopia;
- Amb. Imam Santoso, Ambassador of Indonesia to Ethiopia;
- Mr. Il Park, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Korea in Ethiopia;
- Amb. Fatih Ulusoy, Ambassador of Turkey to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the Africa Union (AU);
- Amb. Mark Sawers, Australian Ambassador to CAR, Djibouti, Ethiopia and South Sudan; Permanent Representative to AU, UNECA and IGAD.

Ambassador Treviño Escudero shared the Mexico experience of MIKTA. He informed participants that Foreign Ministers of MIKTA met for the first time in September 2013 in New York on the initiative of Mexico's Minister of Foreign Affairs. The meeting had the objective of strengthening the ties between their respective countries; exchanging views, as well as promoting consultation and coordination on issues of common interest. In the meeting, the Ministers stressed that, as established democracies, they play a constructive role in their respective regions, and represent open economies that promote free trade and foreign investment. At the end of this first meeting, Mexico was tasked to coordinate MIKTA's work for the year 2014, South Korea 2015, Australia 2016, Turkey 2017 and Indonesia 2018, respectively. The ambassador further pointed out that having such kind of a forum is very important to help cement and manage coalitions from institutions. Ambassador Treviño Escudero reported on other MIKTA activities that have included a dialogue among leading business people, scholarship programmes, as well as the south-south cooperation. He concluded by saying that MIKTA is a global initiative that is still under construction and constant development, highlighting that the fact that those responsible for the foreign policy of these emerging countries (also known as constructive powers) meet steadily and follow up on the main issues of bilateral relations helps to strengthen and increase the significance of these relations. In that context, Mexico, as part of MIKTA, is looking forward to working with the AU, Ethiopia and other African countries on common areas of interest.

Ambassador Imam Santoso shared that Indonesia's role in MIKTA is both bilateral and multilateral on the international arena. The Ambassador indicated that Indonesia feels that MIKTA is relevant in the international dynamics since its multi polarity is well versed to resolve global challenges. He further added that Indonesia plays an active role in MIKTA to provide support to the global peace and stability. The Ambassador reported that Indonesia as a member of MIKTA had participated in peacekeeping missions in Asia, Europe and Africa. He mentioned that the efforts of Indonesia could support MIKTA in establishing



multilateralism and henceforth contribute to effective global governance structures. Ambassador Imam Santoso concluded that Indonesia has benefited from MIKTA progressing membership and the development of Africa; and he noted that his country is more than ready to share its experiences and learn from others.

Mr. Il Park shared that South Korea believes that regional cross-border and cross-cultural partnerships such as MIKTA should be practiced more in Africa. He also believed that there are many areas of cooperation where MIKTA and the AU and its member countries can work together. Mr. Park remarked that the complementarity in multilateralism is very important to global governance. He appreciated that so many interventions were made in the current world order on people-centered coalitions. He also appreciated the cooperation between MIKTA and IPSS in organizing the initial MIKTA's sensitization seminar in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ambassador Fatih Ulusoy shared the main pillars of the Turkish foreign policy and the role of Turkey as a MIKTA member, particularly in global multilateral coalitions and activities. He also explained the details of Turkey-AU Strategic Partnership as supporters of the philosophy, African solutions to African problems. He pointed that behind the criticisms toward the open trade and investment regime, are the concerns of citizens and businesses that feel left behind in the process of globalization. Ambassador Ulusoy stated we should try to recreate the concept of globalization with a more inclusive perspective by taking good account of criticism.

Ambassador Mark Sawers briefly explained what MIKTA means for the Australian government, stating that Australia have a very deep investment in both bilateral and multilateral coalitions and partakes as an active contributor to international order. The Ambassador further stated that he believes in the multilateral approach as a building block to effective global governance. He also emphasized that Australia sees the value of MIKTA not only as a usual space for multilateralism but rather a serious, detailed and in-depth dialogue platform for Foreign Ministers. He further informed participants that other efforts under MIKTA are based on laws and broader roles in international affairs.

Questions raised following the MIKTA Ambassadors' presentations included:

- Is MIKTA complimentary or alternative to initiatives under the G20 and other similar organizations or does it have a specific role?
- What is the nexus of MIKTA and the involvement of Turkey in relation to Africa?
- How does MIKTA deal with issues of regime change and refugee questions?
- Are there any overlaps between MIKTA security regional agreements and national processes?

MIKTA Ambassadors responded that though they manage to deal with their national contexts, they also always try to find solutions for common challenges. They also stated that the issue of overlapping is not a problem with MIKTA countries as their countries focus more on the level of commitment to deal with challenges. The Ambassadors further pointed out



that if they only focused on differences other than common interest/challenges there be no MIKTA. Finally, Dr. Mbabazi concluded by saying that MIKTA presents another avenue for Africa's engagement in dealing with global issues.

## **Session 6: African Multilateral Coalitions in the UN Security Council: What can be Learned from MIKTA?**

The panellists on this session were Ndongo Dieng, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Senegal in Addis, Ethiopia and Dr. Sunday Okello, Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher, IPSS. The panellists were moderated by Dr. Tigist Yesiwas, Assistant Professor at IPSS.

In his presentation, Mr. Dieng reported on harmonization efforts of African Union Member States in the United Security Council. He further mentioned that in the past two years, the AU has been quietly coordinating and intensifying the voice and position of Africa at the UN Security Council. Key to this unified voice have been the positive dynamics of coalitions between the 03 African members of the Security Council to push forward a common position of credibility at the UN Security Council.

Questions on Minister Counsellor's presentation included:

- What lessons can be learnt from MIKTA on coalitions?
- How can solutions to global problems be sought?

In his presentation, Dr. Okello stated both MIKTA and African countries can learn so much from each other. He pointed out although some of the complex MIKTA issues may not be a priority for Africa, it is important for African countries to draw diverse perspectives from them to broaden horizons. Dr. Okello hoped that MIKTA would consider having African representatives represented on the forum in future.

Dr. Okello also shared his UN peace and security multilateral coalition experiences on Sudan and South Sudan as per the peace agreement signed in August 2015. He further shared that the implementations of the peace agreement have been problematic resulting in the proposal of conducting a revitalization process of the 2015 peace agreement., which was established in 2017. The questions from the floor on the revitalization process included:

- Who are the key partners in the revitalization process?
- Who are the lead mediators?
- Is IGAD in the lead and do they have the authority to determine who should be part of the revitalization process?
- What exactly needs to be revitalized?



Dr. Okello shared that a lot of background initiatives have taken place on the revitalization process such as the pre-forum report of IGAD special envoy that was done alongside the AU-EU partnership summit in Abidjan November, 2017. He also explained that this meeting angered the government of South Sudan who were excluded. In retaliation, the government proclaimed not to attend or accept to be part of the revitalization process. However, they finally gave their consent and a certain statement to remove the previously issued report. Dr. Okello's analysis was that the Government of South Sudan does not want to participate in the revitalization process, further sharing that South Sudan is not only a problem for itself but also for the regional of Africa and the UN. The purpose of revitalization is not only to revamp CPA of 2015 but also target those violating it.

#### IV. Summary of Key Takeaways

Ms. Michelle Ndiaye, Director, Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP), IPSS; Head, Tana Forum Secretariat gave a summary of the seminar's key takeaways.

Ms. Ndiaye summarized that the seminar gave participants a clear picture of international relations today. She stated that the MIKTA context clearly outlines the need for a balance between economic and political equity. The forum also deliberates on how such initiatives can improve global governance by setting norms and new standards of international relations rationale. Ms. Ndiaye mentioned that the context of new multilateralism is something that should be discussed during this era of security threats. She also indicated that MIKTA Ambassador's session clearly tackled multilateralism in relation to current multilateral order, yet the seminar should have further explored the nexus between economic and political equity in the world and its causal effect on global governance. Ms. Ndiaye stated that the role of MIKTA is showing other stakeholders/partners that opportunities to reshape the international order do exist. MIKTA displays to other stakeholders that coalitions and multilateralism is key in addressing common challenges, conversely the seminar identified challenges that MIKTA and other players faces on global governance issues. Ms. Ndiaye advised that the MIKTA forum to go beyond its acronym and look at modalities of engagement not only with Africa, other partners, and the rest of the world. She identified the need for MIKTA to find the balance between formal and informal coalitions as this is a challenge for the forum. Alluding to the missing historical leverage of the African voice in the UN and international community, Ms. Ndiaye suggested MIKTA to analyze this issue of African membership. MIKTA as a relatively new forum had the leverage to incorporate the African voice early to avoid similar challenges. Ms. Ndiaye finally concluded that she believes Africa is open to new avenues/agendas that benefit the continent such as the UN Security Council, WTO reforms and other common interests.



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