



Peace & Security Study Tour to Germany

SUMMARY REPORT **JUNE 2019**

Exchange on Experiences
and Best Practices in
Research and Policy Advice



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Introduction

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) invited representatives from its two long-term partner institutions, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) and the African Union's Peace and Security Department (AU-PSD), to take part in a five-day study visit to Germany in June 2019. The delegation comprised of 10 experts; IPSS was represented by eight middle and senior managers from research, training and institutional development while the AU was represented by two senior-level staff from its Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division (CEWS). The visiting delegation was led by Shewit H. Desta, Conflict Early Warning and Preventive Diplomacy Officer at CEWS and Dr. Yonas A. Adeto, Associate Academic Director at IPSS. It was also equally comprised of women and men. The group was accompanied by David Nii Addy, Head of GIZ AU Programme on Peace and Security and Onike Shorunkeh-Savyerr, Advisor, GIZ Support to IPSS.

This report briefly outlines the background, rationale and objectives of the tour, followed by an overview of the exchanges that took place with different German stakeholders and the possibilities for cooperation and partnership that emerged as a result. It further summarizes the outcomes and concrete points for action and follow-up.

Background and Rationale

For many years, the Government of Germany has been supporting the African Union Commission (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in their efforts to further develop the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). GIZ, commissioned by BMZ, has been implementing a joint programme entitled “Supporting the African Union (AU) in the Area of Peace and Security” since 2012. The first module works closely with different divisions of the AU-PSD to promote conflict prevention and resolution through preventive diplomacy, mediation, peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction measures. The second module supports IPSS in the areas of advanced education, research, and policy dialogue, thereby strengthening the capacities of relevant stakeholders and contributing to the development of African solutions to African problems.

Strengthening human capacities and expertise within institutions that deal with peace and security issues, in particular the APSA, is a priority for many development actors. Yet, to date many African professionals in the sector lack opportunities for regular peer-to-peer exchange and systematic learning, which are important prerequisites for cross-regional and inter-institutional knowledge production and the formulation of evidence-based policies to promote peace and security in Africa. In all its interventions, capacity development is therefore a fundamental component of GIZ support. This includes different activities aimed at the individual and institutional level, such as trainings, organizational development measures as well as networking activities.

It is against this background that the two GIZ projects collaboratively organized the study visit. To ensure that participants’ needs and interests were reflected in the programme, several pre-departure meetings took place in Addis Ababa that influenced the design of the final agenda.

Objectives

The main objective of the study visit was to provide IPSS and AU staff with the opportunity to exchange and interact with German experts from think tanks and academia working in the same field. Through these engagements, it was anticipated that participants share experiences from their own work and gain important insights into the role, impact, work modalities and funding mechanisms of research and policy institutions in Germany and share experiences from their own work.

Specific Objectives:

- ▶ Interact and network with representatives from German academia, development and foreign policy institutions
- ▶ Gain an understanding of current work areas and priority issues addressed by German institutions dealing with issues such as conflict prevention, early warning and mediation in Africa.
- ▶ Explore opportunities for partnerships and technical as well as financial cooperation.
- ▶ Strengthen ties between GIZ and two of its longstanding partners as well as promote institutional and individual relationships between IPSS and AU.



Overview of Stations

The study visit took place between 1-8 June 2019 and consisted of visits to 12 institutions in four German cities.

2-4 June, Berlin

On 2 June, after a welcome briefing session, the group embarked on a city tour that focused on Berlin's post-1945 history. The tour provided insights into Germany's more recent experiences with conflict, peace and reconstruction and highlighted why the promotion of global peace and a rules-based global order is one of Germany's key foreign policy objectives. Ending with a welcome dinner hosted by GIZ, the first day provided an opportunity for participants to become further acquainted with each other.

The programme officially began on Monday, 3 June at the **Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the BMZ**, where the group was hosted by Division 210 "Cooperation with Pan-African Partners". A presentation on the Ministry's framework for cooperation with Africa and the AU in the areas of peace and security touched upon national development policy guidelines such as 2017 the "Marshall Plan with Africa"

and Germany's contribution to the European Union's (EU) African Peace Facility. After the presentation, the participants gave overviews of their respective work areas. While the AU delegates focused on current developments within the APSA and the Continental Early Warning System, the IPSS representatives elaborated on current research and dialogue activities, such as the Country Conflict Insights and the Tana Forum, and as well ongoing activities in their training and educational development unit. A frank conversation ensued about Germany's motives for supporting the implementation and further development of the APSA and how BMZ sets its priorities in coordination with and vis-à-vis other actors. Both sides agreed that there should be more of such encounters, as they can enhance trust and mutual understanding between donors and partners and allow for a shared assessment of how well the cooperation is working and where its successes as well as bottlenecks lie.



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Bundesministerium für
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und Entwicklung



The **Berghof Foundation**, is a privately-funded, non-profit German think tank working on violence prevention and conflict transformation. The group was welcomed by Executive Director Hans-Joachim Giessmann and researchers from different departments who spoke about the history and work areas of the organization. Among the research projects briefly presented were projects on (re)conciliation and mediation efforts in Somalia, the re-integration of female combatants in post-conflict countries in Asia and Africa, and the “Horn of Africa Dialogue” which aims at fostering political dialogue and cooperation on shared challenges such as violent conflicts, terrorism and migration in the region. The delegates then shared with the Berghof researchers some of their own observations and perspectives on conflict dynamics in the Horn and discussed the possibility of collaborations in research and data sharing.

At the **Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES)**, Elisabeth Braune, Project Manager in the Department for Sub-Saharan Africa, elaborated on the history and institutional set-up of political foundations in Germany before giving an overview of the FES’ work in Africa and with the AU. She highlighted activities in the areas of peace and

security, particularly a scenario-building exercise on the APSA which is being conducted by the FES AU Office. With the aim of developing future scenarios based on the analysis of current conflict dynamics in Africa, the exercise seems closely related to CEWS’ early warning activities, especially its “horizon scanning” exercises and assessments of countries’ vulnerabilities and resilience. The presentation sparked a lively debate on how synergies can be better used and duplication of efforts can be avoided. Here, the importance of continued inter-institutional exchange was emphasized by all. The delegates expressed their interest to learn more about the ongoing scenario-building exercises and offered to input their expertise.

On 4 June, the delegation was hosted by the **German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)**, a renowned policy think tank focused on international security policy. Commissioned by the German parliament, it primarily advises German policymakers but also engages with international organizations such as the EU, UN and NATO. Among the hosts were Annete Weber, Senior Fellow, Research Division “Middle East and



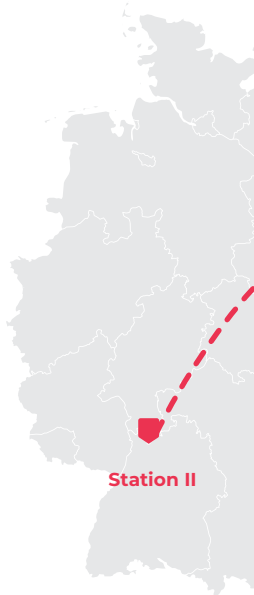
Africa”, and Nadine Biehler, an Associate in the Research Division “Global Issues”. Their input focused first on how the institution operates as well as their ongoing research in the areas of peace, conflict and a new project on migration governance in Africa. After presenting on their own work, the delegates expressed specific interest in the funding modalities of SWP and how it maintains institutional independence while being state-funded. They also highlighted the importance of including more African voices in research on Africa through collaborating with researchers and academic institutions from the continent and through diversifying staff at institutions such as SWP.

At the **Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)**, Dr. Marlien Schlapphoff, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, gave a general introduction to the work of ZIF, which deploys civilian personnel in Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and election observation missions. This was followed by presentations by Brigitta von Messling, Deputy Head of ZIF’s Training Department, on ZIF’s approach to training and then by Fabian Metze, ZIF Project Manager on their support to the African Standby



Capacity within the GIZ-funded APSA support project. The short inputs from IPSS and AU were followed by an expression of admiration by the hosts for the positive role played by IPSS in promoting African-led research on peace and security issues through publications such as the African Solutions (AfSol) Journal and the APSA Impact Report. They also lauded the work of the AU in the area of conflict prevention and showed great interest in collaborating with the two respective institutions.

At a brown bag lunch organized by the Directorate General for Humanitarian Assistance, Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Post-Conflict Reconstruction at the **German Federal Foreign Office (AA)**, the AU delegates spoke about the different APSA instruments, particularly CEWS and how the data and analyses produced by early warning experts are disseminated and used by policymakers. The good practices and lessons learnt shared by the two experts were highly appreciated by the German counterparts, who are further developing their own early warning system.



The IPSS delegates then joined them at the Foreign Office for a larger exchange hosted by Gudrun Masloch, Deputy Head, Division 320 “African Union, Southern Sahara, Great Lakes” and colleagues from other divisions. The group learned that Africa is a key area for the German Government’s efforts to promote conflict-prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding, the major goal being to strengthen ownership among African partners to carry out successful crisis prevention and response. The ministry’s policy priorities, reflected in documents such as the “Policy Guidelines for Africa” (2019) and “Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace” (2017), were introduced as well as Germany’s coordination and cooperation mechanisms with the UN and EU. While gaining a better understanding of Germany’s foreign policy vis-à-vis Africa, the AU and RECs, the delegates also provided first-hand insights on trends and current debates on peace and security in the African context.

5 June, Heidelberg

On 5 June, the delegation visited the **Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK)**. The HIIK is an independent and interdisciplinary non-profit association renowned for its annual publication of the Conflict Barometer, a report analyzing trends in global conflicts. The data is used in academic and policy circles around the world, including by the AU and IPSS. Dr. Marilena Geugjes, Co-Editor in Chief, and Anna Feiereisen, Head of Methodology Department, introduced the Conflict Barometer’s history and methodology. This was followed by a presentation from the AU on the CEWS methodology and then an input from IPSS and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) on the APSA Impact Report’s methodology and the latest report’s findings. The AU and IPSS explained how they use and modify the HIIK’s dataset to suit their different research needs, thereby providing valuable feedback to the HIIK researchers. All parties agreed that the exchange





was very constructive and should take place regularly and more systematically. Several ideas for collaboration were formulated, including joint research endeavours and a workshop on data collection and methodology between IPSS, AU, HIIK and ECDPM to be supported by GIZ. Another suggestion was to facilitate internships or student exchanges between IPSS and HIIK, and to involve AU experts as well as IPSS staff and students as volunteer researchers for the Conflict Barometer.

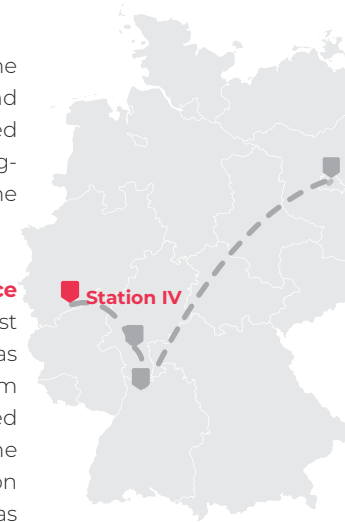
6 June, Frankfurt

On 6 June, the delegation paid a visit to the **headquarters of GIZ** in Eschborn. The group was welcomed by Mathias Muehlhans, acting Head of the Division “Governance and Conflict” in the GIZ Sectoral Department and two senior staff from his division, Christian Mueller and Teresa Krafft. An overview of the mandate and mission of GIZ was followed by presentations on the agency’s portfolio in the areas of security and peacebuilding and inputs from the participants. Both AU and IPSS delegates highlighted how valuable GIZ’s support has been over the years in



building and strengthening CEWS and other pillars of the APSA as well as in contributing to IPSS’ emergence and visibility as a premier African think tank. They expressed their acknowledgements and appreciation for the long-term support and their hope for a continuation of the cooperation in the future.

The group also met with experts from the **Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)**, one of the largest peace research institutes in Germany. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Antonia Witt and Simone Schnabel from the Department “Global Junctions” and was attended by several other researchers. After an introduction to the history of PRIF and its fields of activity, a presentation by the AU on activities in the framework of CEWS was followed by a discussion on the latest APSA impact assessment’s findings by IPSS. The PRIF experts also introduced an ongoing research project on how interventions by the AU and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are perceived in West African countries. They received critical feedback and suggestions from the delegates regarding how to enrich





their approach and methodology. Cooperation in the form of data exchanges and dissemination of findings was highlighted as a potential area for collaboration between the organizations. It was also suggested that PRIF researchers should participate in the workshop with IPSS, AU, HIIK and other stakeholders.

7 June, Bonn

On the last day, the delegation traveled to Bonn for a discussion at the **German Development Institute (DIE)**. The participants were welcomed by Dr. Julia Leiniger, Head of Project “Transformation of Political (Dis-)order” and Dr. Joern Graevingholt, Project Lead “Forced Displacement and Migration” as well as several senior researchers from different departments. Besides getting an overview of the institution’s organizational development over the years, the participants were briefed on different activities focused on Africa, such as their research on EU support to the AU and African Peace Support Operations. Julian Bergmann gave an overview of the research work regarding the European Peace Facility

and Mediation Support. Eva Dick, a Senior Researcher at DIE, spoke about ongoing migration research, whereas other speakers spoke about the institute’s role in the Managing Global Governance Academy and in the establishment of the T20 Africa Standing Group, in which IPSS is also represented. It was emphasized that beyond the existing collaboration as part of the T20 Group, IPSS and DIE could partner in the areas of research, training student/researcher exchanges.

After a working lunch at DIE, the IPSS delegates visited the United Nations Campus to learn about the work of the **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**. A majority of volunteers participating in the programme come from the Global South, including many African countries. Hence, the possibility of enlisting IPSS graduates in the volunteer databank emerged from the discussion and the UNV’s Kenya office was noted as the right entry point for such requests.

Simultaneously, the AU delegates met with researchers from the **Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)** to discuss its Global Militarization Index (GMI) and other BICC research products and provide feedback on the data collection and analysis from the viewpoint of the AU.

Key Outcomes

The study tour provided the AU and IPSS delegates with an intensive yet balanced overview of German research and policy institutions working on various topics within the peace and security arena, such as conflict prevention, early warning and mediation. In the discussions with academics, policy experts and policy-makers, delegates learned about the vital roles these institutions play in the German context, the impact they have on governmental policymaking, how they disseminate their work, and how they operate and finance. In return, the delegates shared experiences and good practices acquired from their own APSA-related work in the areas of research, policy dialogue and training in Africa. These exchanges enabled the delegates as well as hosts to openly exchange views and perspectives in a mutually beneficial setting and to engage in networking. They echoed the need to support research and dialogue towards coherent and harmonized efforts centred on promoting African solutions to the continent's most pressing problems.

The visits to the Foreign Ministry, BMZ and GIZ, in particular, contributed to a better understanding of German foreign and development policy-making vis-à-vis Africa and the AU, as well as GIZ's specific

role and function as an implementing agency. These engagements further strengthened the relationship between German development actors, the AU and IPSS, thereby promoting mutual understanding and trust – which are important milestones for good and effective collaboration. At the same time, the representatives from the ministries and GIZ learned about how their support is perceived by partners. They further received critical but constructive feedback to better inform their interventions and approaches. The time spent together also allowed for institutional and individual ties between IPSS and AU staff to further develop and strengthen. Finally, the technical exchanges were accompanied by several cultural activities which offered insights into Germany's history and socio-cultural set-up and how these shape its policies and priorities.

During the week, all delegates used the opportunity to showcase their individual work and projects. In their feedback, participants stated that the tour had an overall positive impact on their professional as well as personal development. They generally agreed that such a study visit is an effective measure to promote cross-cultural peer-to-peer exchanges as well as to provide learning

and networking opportunities. As a means of making the measure more sustainable, the delegates suggested that it would be beneficial to repeat the exercise and to possibly focus on South-South exchange. Some recommended visiting fewer institutions to allow for more in-depth exchanges and to try and geographically cluster the organizations to reduce travel time. More importantly, the delegates found that participation from the AU and IPSS should be more balanced by involving other AUC Divisions, RECs as well as civil society representatives.

All participants emphasized the importance of maintaining the networks that were developed and of following-up on the partnership opportunities that emerged. As a result of the study tour, two formal partnerships were established between IPSS and DIE and between IPSS and PRIF in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). Along with overall institutional partnerships such as these, the different meetings led to the formulation of several concrete ideas for specific cooperative projects or activities. Listed below are some of these concrete points for action and follow-up, some of which could be practically feasible within ongoing GIZ support frameworks:

Action Points for IPSS, AU and GIZ

- ▶ Follow up on Berghof Foundation's "Horn of Africa Dialogue" project and options for cooperation;
- ▶ Follow up on FES's scenario building exercise on the APSA and options to provide expert inputs from AU and IPSS;
- ▶ Collaborate with ZIF on research (e.g. on observation missions from UN/EU versus AU) as well as communication (e.g. infographics);
- ▶ Consider joint research endeavours with HIIK;
- ▶ Institutionalize data exchanges between HIIK, AU CEWS and IPSS and organize a workshop on data and methodology with IPSS, AU, HIIK, PRIF, ECDPM and DIE to be facilitated by GIZ;
- ▶ Facilitate internships or student exchanges between IPSS and HIIK and recruit IPSS staff, students and AU experts as volunteer researchers for the Conflict Barometer;
- ▶ Cooperate with PRIF in the form of data exchanges, dissemination of research findings and research projects;
- ▶ Promote the exchange of researches between DIE and IPSS (e.g. internships);
- ▶ Continue the dialogue between the German Foreign Ministry and the AU with regard to early warning systems and dissemination of data to policymakers;
- ▶ Continue the existing partnership between DIE and IPSS in the framework of the T20 Africa Group; promote the exchange of researches between DIE and IPSS (e.g. internships);
- ▶ Examine options of enlisting IPSS graduates in the UNV databank with the UNV Kenya office.

List of Participants

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Associate Academic Director, Academic Programmes Department, IPSS

Institutions

Station I – Berlin, 3-4 June 2019

- ▶ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- ▶ Berghof Foundation
- ▶ Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES)
- ▶ German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- ▶ Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)
- ▶ German Federal Foreign Office (AA)

Station II – Heidelberg, 5 June 2019

- ▶ Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC)

Station III – Frankfurt, 6 June 2019

- ▶ Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ▶ Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)

Station IV - Bonn, 7 June 2019

- ▶ German Development Institute (DIE)
- ▶ United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- ▶ Bonn Institute for International Center for Conversion (BICC)





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IPSS

Institute for Peace
& Security Studies
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Implemented by



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