



Tana High-Level Forum  
on Security in Africa



**Pre-Tana Regional Multi-stakeholders Forum**  
**Human and Drug Trafficking in Africa: Unlocking Human Freedom**  
**19 August 2021**  
**Hybrid Forum Sheraton Hotel and Zoom**  
**Concept Note**

**I. Introduction**

The 10th edition of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa will take place on 25-29 October 2021 in Bahir Dar in a hybrid format under the theme, "Managing Security Threats: Building Resilience for the Africa We Want". In line with this, the Tana Forum Secretariat in partnership with Humanity United is organising a regional multi-stakeholders Pre-Tana Forum on the theme " Human and drug trafficking: Unlocking Human Freedom".

**II. Background**

Drug and human trafficking is not only a global issue affecting everyone from all corners of the world but also an extensive and prevalent threat to peace and security in Africa. The challenges of drug trafficking has risen above all five regions of the continent where some are experiencing a rapid and disastrous decline. Besides engaging in illegal cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of prohibited substance, drug trafficking fosters other forms of crime, such as money laundering, corruption etc. It is also employed to raise income necessary to acquire weapons either by corrupting government officials responsible for the enforcement of law, the military or by misusing funds allocated to conflict resolution. This among others further set hurdles and lengthen the duration of armed conflicts making them more fatal. It is also an ideal source of money for terrorist groups, sustaining crime, criminal acts and deteriorating the rule of law. The continent is not only a major transit route in the international trade of controlled drugs but also major consumer and distributor. Coupled with the youth bulge and growing level of unemployment, this scenario pauses further threats to security in Africa.

On the other hand, regardless of the various initiatives taken by the African Union including Ouagadougou Action Plan, the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, in 2006, and the African Union Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) in 2009, human trafficking remains a growing threat in Africa. Millions of men, woman and children are trafficked to the Western Europe and the Middle East from Africa. Women and children are also victims of intra-regional trafficking for purposes of agricultural and domestic work, prostitution including inscription in the military especially in the sub-Saharan region. Researches indicate that close to 3.7 million people in Africa live in modern slavery at any given time generating close to 13.Billion USD. The stringent fact about human trafficking is the fact that the close family members, relatives, friends and communities are the ones at the centre, more than half of it being female actors. Organized criminal groups are also recognized to take part in the human trafficking for various forms of exploitation



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making it more complex and threatening. This situation is further worsened by the impacts of the Covid-19 and other health pandemics leaving devastating impact on the trafficked ones.

It is with this background that the Tana Forum Secretariat in partnership with Humanity United is organizing this multi-stakeholder pre-forum.

### III. Objectives

Generally this regional multi-stakeholders forum seeks to provide a platform for dialogue on the threats drug and human trafficking poses to peace and security in Africa. It aspires to recognise and complement ongoing initiatives and measures and efforts to curb drug and human trafficking in Africa and also enrich the various discussions of 2021 Tana forum.

Specifically it will focus on

- Unpacking the levels and impact of drug and human trafficking on peace and security in African communities, identifying the root causes and contributing factors such as poverty, unemployment, impact of COVID-19 and other health pandemics;
- Current situation and regional responses to human and drug trafficking including reform of laws, prosecution of criminals, disruption of network of crimes, coordination among countries of destination, transit and origin,
- Identifying challenges faced and lessons learnt and acknowledge positive results achieved (COVID -19 and measures put in place to curb the impact, changing nature of criminals, rehabilitation and other mitigating measures available, modification of tactics, data generation and sharing on drug and human trafficking, corruption and good governance);
- The role of AU, member states and RECs/RMs, communities and other stakeholders and how they further collaborate to curb the effects of drug and human trafficking in Africa.

### V. Expected Outputs

These include:

- An outcomes document to be shared with peace, security and other stakeholders;
- Video recordings to be shared on IPSS and Tana Forum social media;
- Coverage of the dialogue proceedings on IPSS and Tana social media platforms;
- Virtual dialogue between States, RECs and the AU on the theme;
- Sustainable and practical policy recommendations targeting stakeholders.

### VI. Proposed Approach

The format of the dialogue will comprise experts, political and technical consultations resulting in practical recommendations and networking opportunities for stakeholders working in the field of prevention of drug and human trafficking as well as peace and security.



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## VII. Participants Profile

Participants will include representatives from AU Member States, AUC, RECs/RMs, experts, youth organizations, women's networks, funding partners, development partners, representatives of foreign governments, research organizations, think tanks, academics as well as media.

## VIII. Sources

- [https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/reports/36768-rp-aupa\\_on\\_drug\\_control\\_2019-2023\\_final\\_with\\_foreword\\_-\\_english\\_.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/reports/36768-rp-aupa_on_drug_control_2019-2023_final_with_foreword_-_english_.pdf)
- <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/drug-trafficking/index.html>
- <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/interdiction-efforts-adapt-drug-trafficking-africa-modernizes/>
- <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/african-court-of-justice-and-human-and-peoples-rights-in-context/human-trafficking-in-africa/9CDA6F771919FB283583F5C4196678B0/core-reader>
- <https://www.intechopen.com/books/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/the-conundrum-of-human-trafficking-in-africa>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1095472>