



Concept Note | Short Online Course | Human Security and Development | 18 to 22 April 2022

1. Background

Since the end of the Cold War, the notion of security has been reconceptualised to include human security. The concept has progressed significantly because the theory of securitization has expanded beyond its applicability to states and societies to place the human being as its referent object. The United Nations General Assembly (UN GA) Resolution 66/290 notes that: “human security is an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people.”¹ It calls for “people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people”²

This approach aims to guarantee the rights of individuals to freedom from fear and want since its fundamental concern is with human life and dignity. With its human-centric approach to security, it aims to protect human beings from threats and dangers such as violent conflicts, crimes, natural disasters, poverty and the like, which hamper the prospects for peace, security and sustainable development.

Contemporary security concerns insecurities driven by non-military challenges, like meeting people’s basic needs; therefore, security is inextricably tied to development. Yet, despite the shift in perspective, there is still little consensus regarding the nexus between human security and development. Assessing the linkages between socio-economic development and human security that engenders a better understanding of people’s needs and concerns and how to meet these needs efficiently abounds in literature. However, making practical effort to meet these challenges remains elusive.

The African Union (AU) also recognizes the gap in analysing and responding to the human-centred analysis of security. According to a press release from an AU and UN consultative

¹ United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2022, accessed 15 March 2022, <https://www.devex.com/organizations/united-nations-trust-fund-for-human-security-untfhs-125981#:~:text=As%20noted%20in%20General%20Assembly,context%2Dspecific%20and%20prevention%2Doriented>

² Ibid



meeting on the Joint Efforts Towards Developing an African Human Security Index³, only a few tools comprehensively measure human security at a global level, and none are specific to the African context. Thus, a proposal for an African Human Security Index (AHSI) was set forth “to provide a holistic assessment of human security through the seven dimensions of economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security”⁴. The AHSI aims to outline the human security approach and elaborate on the use of human security as a tool for developing effective policies and programmes for achieving Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁵

The interconnection between security and development while seemingly clear is also complex. For example security threats can have socio-economic implications and underdevelopment can lead to conflict, and conflict can undermine development. Thus, the conventional notion of security and its interlinkages with development should be holistic to encompass the enhancement of people’s livelihoods.

During the course participants will be introduced to extant debates on the notions of security and development, practices and methodologies. We would further examine notions of these concepts in a comparative lens to inquire if their interpretations and applicability differ regionally (Africa, Europe, Americas, etc.).

2. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will:

- Interrogate and understand human security and development in terms of concepts, practices and methodologies
- Develop an awareness of the nexus between human security and development; and
- Grasp an overview of Africa’s position of the concept of human security and development.

3. Course Structure and Methodology

The training is structured as a five (5) day online course, with a participatory and self-reflection learning approach.

³ African Union. (2020, 5 March). AU AND UN Join Efforts towards Developing an African Human Security Index. African Union, Press Release. Accessed date 15 March 2022, <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20200305/au-and-un-join-efforts-towards-developing-african-human-security-index#:~:text=Therefore%2C%20the%20proposed%20African%20Human,community%20security%2C%20and%20political%20security.>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid



The teaching methodology will combine lectures, group discussions, and practical applications through case studies. In addition, participants admitted into the training programme should be prepared to present short technical reports on their experiences on the course theme.

4. Target Audience

The course targets experts and African professionals, for example, those working at the AU, RECs, or African civil society organizations. International applicants working for governmental, inter-governmental or multilateral agencies with a keen interest in African peace and security issues are equally encouraged to apply.

5. Admission Requirements

Applicants must have:

- At least five years of work experience in the fields of peace, security and development, democracy and governance issues, or related fields;
- A minimum of a first degree; and
- Good command of the English language, **which is the medium of instruction.**

6. Date

18 to 22 April 2022

7. Tuition Fee

500 USD

8. Application Deadline

8 April 2022

9. Contact Person

For any inquiries, please contact the Programme Coordinator, Mahlet Fitiwi: mahlet.f@ipss-addis.org