

IPSS - MIKTA Joint Seminar
“Multilateralism Seen through the Eyes of MIKTA”
17 November 2022 / Ras Mekonnen Hall/AAU
Concept Note

a. Introduction

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) was established at Addis Ababa University (AAU) in 2007 following a tripartite agreement among AAU, the Royal Danish Embassy in Ethiopia, and the University for Peace Africa Programme. The initial vision of creating a premier higher learning and research institution on peace and security studies in the Horn of Africa received further stimulation when AAU named IPSS as one of its five Centres of Excellence in 2010.

Since its inception, IPSS has promoted peace and security through research, education, and outreach. IPSS provides above-standard academic and professional training for conflict analysis and conflict prevention, management, resolution, and peace-building with an all-African outlook. The Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP) is a joint programme of the African Union and Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University, mandated by the African Union Executive Council Decision (AU) (EX.CL/567 (XVI)), and the follow-up Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two institutions, to take up the intellectual challenge of defining African-centred Solutions (AfSol) through training, research and advocacy around African peace and security issues. With the mandate from the AU, IPSS has positioned itself to provide a veritable and honest platform for the incubation and exchange of innovative ideas, and translating such ideas into concrete action. Accordingly, the institute organises different forums (conferences, panel discussions, briefing sessions, and seminars) to conduct and disseminate research and expertise and to promote values of a democratic and peaceful society. With its activities, IPSS reaches out to communities as much as to international and African institutions to build a community of knowledge and practice for solving contemporary challenges to peace and security in Africa.

MIKTA is an informal consultation and coordination platform among Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Türkiye and Australia. MIKTA was initiated by the Foreign Ministers of the MIKTA member countries on 25 September 2013 on the margins of the 68th UN General Assembly. MIKTA members are strategically located and strongly linked to their surrounding regions. MIKTA countries are also like-minded on many of the global challenges of our time and are active contributors in international fora. MIKTA aims to contribute constructive solutions to regional and global challenges as well as enhancing effectiveness of global governance. Therefore, MIKTA aims at strengthening its cooperation in order to raise its voice on global issues and gain influence within the international organisations. MIKTA countries also work to strengthen their economic and political ties. MIKTA activities are coordinated by the MIKTA Chair, which is appointed each year on a rotating basis (Türkiye assumed the MIKTA Chairmanship on March 7, 2022). The chair works to promote MIKTA's core priorities (reform of international energy governance and the promotion of energy access, counter-terrorism and security, peacekeeping, trade and the economy, gender equality, good governance, human rights and democracy, sustainable development) and to drive multilateral collaboration and outreach on these and on other topics.

IPSS in collaboration with MIKTA has organized a joint seminar on the theme “Multilateralism Seen through the Eyes of MIKTA” which will take place on 17 November 2022. This concept note is developed to guide this event.

b. Context and rationale

With the everchanging global order, the importance of multilateralism in a multipolar world is at times put into question. However, MIKTA countries believe that the changing international distribution of power requires both formal and informal international multilateral institutions as balancing and stabilizing agents.

Multilateralism can serve to mitigate the political fracturing of the world into competing poles. In this, it is important to ensure that multilateralism and multipolarity are complementary. With the increase in insecurity factors – conflicts, global health crises, financial crashes, climate change, food security, natural disasters as well as disruptive technologies – global crises are requiring multi-faceted, overlapping and far-reaching responses. In this regard, it is possible to state that although the global order seems predisposed to create competitiveness and contention between states, the need for cooperation remains unavoidable. In the new global order, the rise of new powers, non-state actors and regional organisations are shifting the dynamic of global governance.

In this context, the seminar will focus on the different approaches of MIKTA countries, that all originate from different geo-political environments, to multilateralism and how they see the role MIKTA can play in the international global order.

c. The focus area of each country's intervention is presented below:

Mexico

Mexico reaffirms multilateral conviction and works with our MIKTA colleagues from Indonesia, Korea, Türkiye and Australia to deepen its relation with Ethiopia and the African Union.

Mexico have tried to do so more specially since the election of our country as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2021-2022. Considering that more than half of the Security Council agenda items have to do with Africa, we have tried to bring African perspectives into account at the Council. One of Mexico's priorities in matters of peace and security is combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in which we share views with the African Union's initiative for Silencing the Guns. We have also held meetings with the elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council in Addis Ababa: the E-10 group.

Mexico is also one of the countries that have adopted a feminist foreign policy. Last year we co-hosted with UN Women and the Government of France the Generation Equality Forum. We aim to incorporate a gender perspective in all our work to promote education, nutrition and health in Africa.

Finally, my country has been hosting Ethiopian researchers and technicians who travel to receive training within the framework of a cooperation agreement with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). CIMMYT has its main headquarters in Texcoco, Mexico, and its most important office in Africa is located in Ethiopia.

Indonesia

This year, 2022, Indonesia is the Chair of the G-20. The G-20 Summit will be held in Indonesia on November 15-16, 2022. In 2023, Indonesia will become the Chair of ASEAN. Indonesia has very important and extensive experience in building the national economy and advancing the regional and global economy. From this experience, Indonesia emphasizes the importance of road and strong multilateral cooperation. MIKTA is one of the important multilateral cooperation in advancing the global economy.

Republic of Korea

The international community must work together in responding to global challenges. MIKTA shares the value of multilateralism in addressing global challenges because they cannot be effectively tackled by countries acting alone. Together with MIKTA, Korea will continue to play an active role in strengthening multilateral cooperation to make the world better; it will contribute to ensuring international security and sustainable development.

Türkiye

As the founder and member of numerous regional and international platforms, Türkiye attaches the utmost importance to multilateralism and joint efforts to approach common problems. Among these, Türkiye is taking a leading position on initiatives for peaceful resolution of conflicts and mediation. Türkiye carries out this role with a multi-layered and diverse architecture of initiatives including mediation efforts in the field, co-chairmanship of Groups of Friends at the UN, the OSCE, and the OIC, hosting international Mediation Conferences and the "Mediation for Peace" Certificate Program. Most recently, Türkiye has been actively demonstrating its commitment to such initiatives through its efforts to provide a platform for discussions to take place between Ukraine and Russia.

Australia

As a non-nuclear-weapon state, Australia engages with other countries to advocate disarmament and non-proliferation. Australia consistently promotes cooperation within existing disarmament architecture based on the cornerstone Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Australia is involved in numerous bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral treaties and arrangements which seek to reduce or eliminate certain categories of nuclear weapons and to prevent the proliferation of such weapons and their delivery vehicles.

d. Format

The discussion will be held together with Addis Ababa University Institute for Peace and Security Studies. MIKTA Ambassadors will initially present their country's general approach to multilateralism which will be followed by a discussion regarding the everchanging global order and the role MIKTA has created for itself in it. The event will be held under Chatham House rules.

e. Timeframe and location

The half-day event on 17 November 2022 will include overviews by each interlocutor followed by a moderated discussion and a Q&A session at Ras Mekonnen Hall, The Institute of Ethiopian Studies of Addis Ababa University. Following the completion of the discussions, a cocktail will be catered at the venue by the concerned Embassies.

f. Participants

The event will bring together students of Addis Ababa University who focus on international relations and security studies with MIKTA Ambassadors. Other think tanks and diplomatic partners will be invited to the event.