Priority Areas for the Research Unit, Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP),
Institute for Peace and Security Studies

- **AU/RECs | Governance, peace and security**: African Peace And Security Architecture (APSA), African Governance Architecture (AGA), APSA-AGA merger, conflict and response/interventions, transitional justice, Unconstitutional Change of Government (UCGs), regional integration and fragmentation (see [here](#) for the Unit’s conceptual subscription to the meaning of fragmentation). This aspect covers APSA and AGA actors and the APSA-Aga merger, as well as conflict early warning and response (this may also include how intelligence is deployed by governments and utilised by conflict interventions at regional and continental level).

- **Youth/Women peace and security (Y/WPS)**: The focus here is on the African Union (AU)’s agenda, including AU normative and legal frameworks, the AU’s Youth for Peace (Y4P) Programme and Gender, Peace and Security Programme (GPSP). This also includes frameworks and programmes of RECs and national governments as it relates to the AU’s framework.

- **Environment, climate and resources**: The focus here is on conflict causes/drivers, displacements, state-society-corporation relations within the human security context.

- **Inclusion**: This is as regards its link with political dynamics and nuances of social structures, and its impact on conflict and peace processes.

- **Terrorism and Violent Extremism (T/VE)**: Within the African context in all its dimensions.

- **Border**: (il)legal, (in)formal or forced movements of humans and things and its impact on peace and security.

- **Local conflicts in West Africa, Central Sahel and the Horn of Africa**: Ones with regional implications

- **Technology, peace and security**: digital/cyberspace (social media inclusive) and its linkage with human rights and security; as well as utilising technology for policy simulation.

- **Transnational organised crime**: Dynamics and networks in terms of how it drives instability/constitute a conflict threat to AU member states.

- **Changing Global Order**: Implications for Africa/AU relations with international and regional actors within the peace and security context.

The approach and context of every submission should stay within one or more of the following framings: African-Led Solutions, multistakeholder approach, multilateralism, and local ownership of peace and security. It must be policy-oriented and be forward looking.