



Executive Master's
Managing Peace and
Security in Africa

Concept Note

**Alumni Event of the Executive Master's in Managing
Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA)**
Are Continental and Regional Institutions fit for Purpose?



IPSS



german
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Supported by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The MPSA programme provides state-of-the-art executive training for professionals working on African peace and security issues. The objective of the programme is to enhance the professional competencies of senior and mid-level officials from the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) working as part of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). It was launched by the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at Addis Ababa University (AAU) following the call by the African Heads of State and Government to address peace and security in Africa as an intellectual challenge (Tripoli Declaration 2009). Since being launched, MPSA has graduated more than 350 professionals from over 49 countries across Africa and beyond.

The success of MPSA is inextricably linked to its cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has supported the programme from the onset – after 13 years of cooperation it is now time to hand the support into different hands. Currently teaching its 18th cohort, the MPSA has many reasons to celebrate. We want to take this opportunity to look back at the successes of the past decade and reflect on the recently held 36th AU Summit with our alumni and to discuss the pertinent question: Are Continental and Regional Institutions fit for Purpose?

Half a century has passed since the Organization of Africa Unity was formed in 1963 and its subsequent transformation to the Africa Union in 2002. From ending colonization on the continent to mediating border disputes, the OAU achieved some remarkable outcomes for its member states. The post-colonial era brought many peace and security challenges at the turn of the century, which required new institutional setups.

In response to this situation, the AU and its partners have been building up the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) since 2002. The five pillars of the APSA aim to provide the AU with comprehensive competencies to prevent and, where appropriate, end violent conflicts. Despite these institutional frameworks, African countries are plagued by a host of challenges, including an increasing regionalization of state-armed conflict, violent extremism and ideological conflict, contested regime transitions and constitutional tensions, intercommunal rivalry and conflict, socio-economic unrest, ethnic tensions, and xenophobia. In addition, there are institutional challenges related to financial dependency on donors and a dearth of human resources. There also remains a need for strengthening the nexus and synergy between the APSA and the Africa Governance Architecture (AGA) following the merged Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS).

MPSA Alumni occupy influential positions within various APSA institutions. We, therefore, want to use this opportunity to candidly discuss the outcomes of the 36th AU summit against the backdrop of the following key questions: Are the institutional architectures designed to prevent and manage threats fit for purpose? What are the challenges in acting at full capacity? What progress has been made regarding the APSA-AGA pillars?

Contacts at IPSS:

Mahlet Fitiwi,
Programme Coordinator,
Education and Professional
Development Unit
P: +251 911 345 136
E: mahlet.f@ipss-addis.org