




The Africa Launch of the 2023 Global Peace Index

30 June 2023 
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 
Virtual (Zoom) 

Introduction




As a think tank, IPSS regularly organizes report launches to call attention to the most recent and highly relevant reports (not solely related to peace and security) published by international and/or regional organisations with direct and indirect impact on peace and security in Africa. In line with this, it has collaborated with the Institute for Economics and Peace to launch the 2023 version of its Global Peace Index. This concept note is developed to guide this launch.

Background

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is an annual report that provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of peace in countries and regions around the world. The GPI measures the level of peace based on a range of indicators, including levels of violence, political instability, and military spending.

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness. It is the flagship annual report produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) which ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their relative levels of peacefulness. The report presents the most comprehensive data-driven trends analysis to date on peace, the economic value of peace, and how to develop peaceful societies. Like previous editions, the 2023 GPI is an authoritative, editorially independent, and evidence-based annual ranking of 163 of the world's countries according to their relative levels of peace. The report also provides high-level analysis and insight incorporating the factors affecting the world's peacefulness and that have a bearing on peace in the future. The GPI covers 99.7 per cent of the world's population, using 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators, and measures the state of peace. In addition to presenting the findings from the 2023 GPI, the GPI includes analysis of trends in Positive Peace i.e. the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies.

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Africa has been a region plagued by conflicts and political instability for many years. Despite improvements in some areas, the region continues to face significant challenges to peace and security. The Africa Launch of the 2023 Global Peace Index will provide an opportunity to examine the state of peace in African countries and explore ways to address the challenges.




Rationale

Based on empirical data, scientific measurement, and high-quality analysis the GPI performs the following relevant functions:

- Examines the indicators and drivers relating to conflict, violence, and peace in the world – including Africa – thus allowing countries and other partners to identify and mitigate against risk factors.
- Focuses on the factors, challenges, and opportunities relating to peace, conflict, and economic development with focus on individual countries and their respective regions. Special attention is given to the unique vulnerabilities of certain nations.
- Offers a comprehensive account of emerging factors such as ecological factors, economic threats, and political developments.
- Aligns peace metrics to economic performance and other national development priorities such as the SDGs.
- Makes the case for Positive Peace as a forward-looking framework proven to have beneficial impact on economic and human development through reducing conflict and its negative consequences.

Drawing on a well-tested model and the best available data, the GPI Report reliably monitors global and overall progress towards attaining sustainable peace. The 2023 GPI Report aims to provide an indispensable technical tool to support the activities and interventions of government, business, financial institutions, and local actors. In Zimbabwe, this holds even higher potential as a tool for accelerating crucial efforts towards re-engagement with investors and the International community.

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Objectives

Grounded in the evidenced-based findings of the 2023 GPI, the aim of the Launch Webinar will be to:

- Inform participants of the findings of the 2023 GPI.
- Create awareness and initiate conversations on the state of peace in African countries.
- Connect the findings of the reports to current and future development priorities for the Africa continent.
- Provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss the challenges facing peace and security in the region and explore the opportunities for collaboration in promoting peace.




Format

A single webinar will be hosted that will comprise of comprehensive presentations from the IEP, based on findings from the 2023 GPI focusing on African continent. A key feature of the webinar will be a panel discussion - reflecting on this year's report and its relevance to various stakeholders at all levels. The event will also feature a keynote address by a prominent African leader on the challenges facing peace and security in the region. This will be followed by panel discussions featuring experts and stakeholders who will discuss the state of peace in African countries and explore opportunities for collaboration to promote peace.

Date and Time

The Africa Launch of the 2023 Global Peace Index will be a virtual event held on June 30, 2023. The event will be open to the public, and participants will include policymakers, academics, civil society organizations, and members of the media.

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Expected Outcomes

1. Raise awareness on the state of peace in African countries and the challenges facing the region
2. Foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to promote peace and security in Africa
3. Generate media coverage and public interest in the area of peace and security in Africa
4. Identify opportunities for further research and policy development on peace and security in Africa

Target participants

Relevant stakeholders and policymakers from the AU (AU Commission, AU member states) and Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) as well as international organisations, the diplomatic community and civil society organisations

Conclusion

The Africa Launch of the 2023 Global Peace Index provides a unique opportunity to examine the state of peace in African countries and explore ways to address the challenges. By bringing together experts and stakeholders from across the region, the launch will provide a platform for dialogue and collaboration to promote peace and security in Africa.