



# **PAPS Unveiled: Understanding the AU's Framework for Promoting Peace and Security**

## **I. Background and Introduction to the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)**

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) is a reputable academic institution and think tank in Africa that excels in peace and security matters. Through its three main pillars of academic programs, evidence-based research and policy analysis, and outreach activities, IPSS collaborates with various governmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out its activities.

IPSS was recognized as one of the top 49 academic institutions in 2018 and has a diverse staff with extensive experience in academic research, training, and policy dialogues. As a leading institution for knowledge production and dissemination in the peace and security field, IPSS is committed to working closely with various continental organizations, embassies, governmental, and non-governmental organizations to fulfil its mission. Its excellence in peace and security issues across the continent is well-known, and it continues to be a driving force in the field.

The collaboration between IPSS and the AU was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2010. IPSS has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing programmes by the AU as part of the Africa Peace and Security Programmes (APSP). This mandate was renewed in May 2018, solidifying IPSS's crucial role in promoting peace and security in Africa.

## **II. IPSS capacity and strength in the field of training/ short courses**

Africa faces increasingly complex peace and security challenges, and there is a shortage of human resources to address them. To help bridge this gap, the IPSS focuses on developing knowledge and skills in the field of peace and security. IPSS offers both short-term and long-term training and capacity building and can leverage its extensive experience in giving training in the field of peace and security. The institute has access to a broad network of experts from across Africa and beyond who provide scientific and educational support in various peace and security topics.

The Institute's formal working relationship with the AU Commission, specifically with the Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS), positions it to provide cutting-edge training for peace and security practitioners in a highly organized and productive manner. In addition, IPSS frequently receives requests to provide various short courses on peace, security, and related topics for mid-management in Africa.



As a Pan-African institute, IPSS strives to improve the skills and knowledge of officials working in peace and security fields. IPSS offers tailored short courses that cater to the specific needs of each institution we serve. Our courses are highly practical, action-oriented, and promote knowledge-sharing practices. Moreover, our courses are designed to maximize participant interactions and expert dialogue, rather than relying on traditional lecture-based training. The goal of IPSS is to enhance human capital development and productivity.

### **III. Rationale and objectives of the short course**

The PAPS is responsible for enhancing peace, security, and stability in Africa. The department achieves this by monitoring political developments and security threats, overseeing the AU's Peace and Security Council (PSC) and early warning mechanisms, promoting conflict prevention and resolution, and guiding security sector reform efforts across the continent.

It was established to oversee the implementation of the AU's mandate of promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa. Since then, the AU has made significant strides in advancing its goals with the support of the PAPS department and other key departments within the AU's structure. While the AU has made significant progress in promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa, it operates in a complex geopolitical environment both internally and externally. Meanwhile, the PAPS department is inundated with unfolding conflicts and security threats constantly, limited human capacity, constraints emanating from a lack of compliance and implementation mechanisms, fragmented political landscapes on the continent, resource constraints, complex regional dynamics, and peacekeeping operational challenges, among others.

This course, therefore, aims to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of PAPS's frameworks, dynamics, potentials, and challenges. It seeks to impart both analytical and practical knowledge of PAPS, enabling participants to make informed and impactful assessments of the PAPS, including contributions towards its improvement in relevant contexts.

To achieve this overarching goal, the course has several specific objectives:

- To provide an overview of the AU's mandate, priorities, and structures related to PAPS to help participants understand the institutional framework within which the PAPS operates.
- To explore the conceptual and institutional mechanisms underpinning the PAPS structure, including examining the key concepts and principles of peace and security, governance and conflict prevention, and conflict management.
- To review the challenges and opportunities of functioning of the PAPS including the various factors that can impede or facilitate its success, as well as political, economic, and social dynamics.
- To understand the roles and responsibilities of various actors involved in the AU,



including African governments, regional organizations, and international partners.

- Strengthen participants' intercultural persuasions and competencies.
- Enable participants to expand their professional networks.

#### **IV. Course methodology**

In rolling out this training course, our team of renowned experts will make extensive use of innovative adult education pedagogic approaches that enhance the learning experience; experts' inputs and experience sharing with experiences of practitioners and scholars; peer exchanges from relevant practitioners working directly on instruments, tools that deal with prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts.

#### **V. Target participants**

- Mid – senior level participants.
- Newly deployed diplomats/experts starting their work with/at the AU or have extensive collaborative work with the AU and RECs.
- Advisors seeking to understand and enhance their comprehension of how the AU PAPs and related structures/organs functions.

#### **VI. Date**

18 – 22 September 2023

#### **VII. Tuition fee**

3,000 USD

#### **VIII. Deadline for application**

8 September 2023