

High Level Dialogue on the Margins of the 39<sup>th</sup> AU Summit  
**Forces for Peace: Realities of Peace Support Operations in Africa**

11 February 2025, Hyatt Regency Addis, 09:00 a.m.- 12.00 p.m.

Concept Note

Africa is in the middle of transition for peace support operations (PSOs). The UN has not deployed a new mission since 2014, and traditional European and American sources of support for African PSOs are no longer forthcoming as in the past. Despite these challenging circumstances, the need for these mission remains but such need comes with distinct dimensions of shared challenges. Overshadowing all other discussions is the centrality of funding. Despite the optimism that the resolution 2719 generated when passed in 2023, implementation remains elusive. Complicating matters further: while the resolution was aimed at funding AU missions, it is the sub-regional Regional Economic Communities and bilateral deployments that dominate PSO on the continent today. Yet funding is not the only thing that the UN can or should provide. The transfer of UN funding must come alongside institutions, standards, and operational procedures that hold missions accountable. In addition to the immediate suffering of the victims, harm to civilians by a mission through abuse or collateral damage threatens the mission's legitimacy. Without protecting the most vulnerable from the missions themselves, the cause of peace is undermined. While much of the discussion on PSOs focuses on these international structural issues, it is ultimately dynamics on the ground that determine the success or failure of a mission. In all missions, good relations with the host government are at the core. If a PSO is deployed with an offensive mandate, it must be prepared to fight and win on the battlefield. This is easier said than done, especially in an environment of constrained resources.

With these in view, FES brings to you, "[\*Forces for Peace: Realities of peace support operations in Africa\*](#)" — a new publication with leading African and international experts analysing these issues. The publication was first launched during the UN Peace Operations Review Week which unfolded in New York in 2025. The second launch is set to take place in **Addis Ababa on 11 February 2026 from 8.30 a.m. until 12.00 at Hyatt Regency** in partnership with the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University.

By holding this dialogue on this recent publication in the days leading up to the 39<sup>th</sup> AU Summit both IPSS and FES hope that the research and its outcomes complement conversations of the Summit and will also be used by policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders to inform decisions and practices.