

Virtual Tana Forum Side Event

Rebuilding after COVID-19: Lessons for Effective Governance and Sustainable Peace and Development in Africa (CDC).

19 October 2020

Time 17:00 - 18:00 (GMT+3)

Concept Note

I. Introduction

Due to COVID – 19, under projected scenarios for contraction of growth, cumulatively, Africa’s GDP losses could range between \$173.1 billion and \$236.7 billion in 2020–2021 according to the African Economic Outlook 2020 Supplement (<https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/african-economic-outlook>)

Countries with poor healthcare systems, those that rely heavily on tourism, international trade, and commodity exports, and those with high debt burdens and high dependence on volatile international financial flows are the worst affected.

The overall impact of the pandemic on socioeconomic outcomes remains uncertain. It will depend crucially on the unfolding epidemiology of the virus, the extent of its impacts on demand and supply, the effectiveness of public policy responses, and the persistence of behavioral changes.

Rebuilding after COVID – 19, would require a purposeful and political commitment of AU Member States to recover economies and to prepare for further hazards such as impacts of climate change, for example severe droughts, cyclones and flooding among others, including violent conflicts. It also requires effectiveness public policy responses on health, education, economics, social aspects and political behaviors. In a nutshell, an effective governance and sustainable peace and development agenda can see Africa easily positioning itself to rebounding back strongly. .

II. Background

COVID 19 has had a ravaging effect on the social, economic and political fronts on the African scene. It’s effects are felt both in the immediate and long terms.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the pandemic could kill between 83,000 and 190,000 people in 47 African countries in the first year, mostly depending on governments’ responses; and the socio-economic impacts could “smoulder” for several years. Besides the health sector in most African countries having been caught unawares it has also had impacts on capacities of countries to provide services to its most vulnerable, and to maintain social safety nets where these had been in existence.

Countries have found themselves in catch 22 situation in terms of their external debt repayments. There is a need for an across-the board debt standstill for African countries as well as comprehensive options towards debt sustainability and solutions for structural issues in the international debt architecture. Increased resources from the multilateral lending agencies, including through raising IMF Special Drawing Rights, will be critical to Africa's success in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic.

Governments need to pay attention to communities where risks are most acute, strengthening social protection systems and safeguarding access to food and nutrition for the most vulnerable groups, especially young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, older people and other at-risk groups

At the same time maintaining peace and security in Africa remains paramount. Priorities in this regard include silencing the guns, implementing the Secretary-General's and the African Union Commission Chairperson's appeal for a ceasefire, sustaining peace processes and critical peace operations. The response to COVID-19 needs to be "conflict-sensitive" and avoid generating new tensions.

Inclusion and participation of women and youth, and respect for human rights need to be upheld in the delivery of COVID-19-related services and in the fight against the virus. Recovery from the crisis must lead to more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies.

III. Rationale

Given the situation Africa finds itself in under these prevailing conditions and circumstances of COVID – 19, it is important that solutions are proffered through think tanks and the brain capacities and gifts available on the continent to proffer solutions that can lead to Africa coming out of this pandemic much stronger, but also with quick recovery and putting in place mechanisms that would allow prevention, protection and response measures that are fit for the people of Africa.

This side event seeks to provide that exchange of ideas towards recovery efforts and putting in place sustainable plans for the long-term future within agenda 2063, by reflecting on key lessons and key ideas moving forward for Effective Governance and Sustainable Peace and Development in Africa.

IV. Objectives

1. To provide an intellectual platform for seeking practical rebuilding solutions for Effective Governance and Sustainable Peace and Development in Africa following the effects and impacts of COVID – 19.
2. To make concrete recommendations with specific action policy recommendations at the AU level, and AU Member States levels that could aid fast recovery.

3. To create awareness and seek commitment for African citizens, academia, AU Member States, civil society and faith based organisations to rebuild the Africa We Want together, for it to emerge out of this COVID – 19 menace much stronger.

V. Expected Outcomes

- a) Policy and Practical recommendations that could be useful to the AU, AU Members States, Civil Society and Faith Based organisations to work together for an Africa we Want.
- b) More awareness and further commitment from stakeholders for an Effective Governance and Sustainable Peace and Development Agenda emerging from lessons learnt from COVID -19 response.

VI. Participants profile

Policy makers, African Union Institutions, Academic and research think tanks, representatives of the ordinary African citizens through CSOs, and Faith Based Institutions.

VII. Date and venue

19 October from 17.00-18.00 hours EAT, Online



Tana High-Level Forum
on Security in Africa



+251 (1) 11 245 660
tanaforum@ipss-addis.org
www.tanaforum.org

Addis Ababa University
P. O. Box: 1176
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia