Tana Forum Concept Note

1. Introduction: concept and origin

With a view to contributing to the implementation of the AU Tripoli Declaration of August 2009, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at Addis Ababa University has taken the initiative to convene an annual high-level forum on security in Africa. The initiative is a response to the Tripoli Declaration that appeals for "African-centred solutions", and designates peace and security as a collective "intellectual challenge".

The Forum is an independent initiative of the IPSS and of eminent African personalities, including the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi. The Forum is an informal gathering of African decision makers, peace and security stakeholder groups, and their large constituencies for an open discussion of security issues and challenges on the continent.

2. Overall mission and objectives

African peace and security issues are normally discussed in formal meetings of appropriate institutional frameworks at AU, RECs/RMs and national levels. The Forum aims at:

- Providing opportunities to decision making leaders and institutions to exchange experiences and insights on peace and security issues among themselves in view of taking home inspirations and practical lessons;

- Giving opportunities to political decision makers to interact and consult with a broad-based African constituency as well as with key global actors;

- Contributing to a substantive African open debate on peace and security issues of key and strategic importance to the continent and its regional institutions;

- Communicating with, and listening to, "profound Africa" on various dimensions and components of peace and security in the continent, thus facilitating an inclusive dialogue among governments and other African security stakeholder groups;

- Sensitising and mobilising other stakeholders, actors and the overall African opinion for large ownership of Africa-owned solutions on peace and security.

The Forum is an annual event that gives opportunities to African decision makers (chief executives) and peace and security stakeholder groups to exchange ideas on current peace and security trends in Africa.

3. Expected results

In achieving its mission and specific objectives, the Forum will result in:

- The conceptualisation of peace and security matters from an African perspective. In that endeavour, substantial attention will be given to the emerging body of African-grown approaches to peace and security challenges and prospects;

- The building of a strong and broad-based constituency for peace and security through the establishment of non-threatening platforms for dialogue, networking and exchange of information between policymakers, researchers and practitioners. To sustain such platforms, a cross section of leaders from different sectors will be called upon to act as champions with a view towards building an African voice for both the African and global security agendas;

- Progressively engaging Africa in the strategic and pro-active management of peace and security in the continent. Key to that effort will be the development of foresight capacities throughout relevant African organisations in the realm of public, private and civil society sectors. Equally important will be the development of strategic planning capacities and skills for the operationalization of national, sub-regional and continental long term visions.

4. Conference strategy

Participation: The Forum will bring together high-level decision makers on peace and security from the government/political sphere (HoSG, AU organs and RECs), non-AU regional institutions, the private sector, critical segments of continental/regional civil society networks, as well as peace and security experts/resource persons. Representatives of select stakeholders in global peace and security will also be invited.

Discussion format: Discussions will be designed in order to: (i) share views and experiences in an informal and independent manner, (ii) be action oriented and forward looking, and, most importantly, (iii) keep the essence of its concept: a consultative forum that is not intended to become a decision making forum. The main format will be panel discussions and interaction with the floor, and introductions to these discussions are expected to be short statements.

Impact and effectiveness: The Forum shall be convened on an annual basis, thus becoming an institution in its own right. This will contribute to a continuous dialogue (Africa communicating with herself) among African top leaders and various stakeholder groups. It will enable leaders to explore options for innovative and joint action in peace and security. The Forum will also allow for trust building among key players who would often only meet in settings that are mediated by diplomatic protocol. Altogether, it shall contribute to enabling African leaders to develop and implement adequate and pro-active initiatives in peace and security on the continent.

5. Tana Board

Current members serving for a three year term (2016-2019):

- H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (current Forum Chairperson).
- H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda, Former President, Malawi.
- H.E. Luisa Diogo, Former Prime Minister, Mozambique.
- Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, Former UN Secretary General and Special Envoy, Algeria.
- Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos, Special Advisor on Foreign Policy to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.
- Ambassador Soad Shalaby, Director, Women Business Development Center, Egypt.
- Dr. Hashim Mohammed Tewfik, Deputy Director General of NISS and Assistant Professor at Addis Ababa University Institute of Federalism Studies, Ethiopia.
- Mr. Alain Foka, Journalist, Radio France Internationale, France.
- Professor Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Professor of philosophy and history of logic, Columbia University, USA (Senegal).

Members who served on the inception Board for five years (2012-2016):

- H.E. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation and former President of the Republic of South Africa.
- H.E. Pierre Buyoya, Special Representative of the AUC Chairperson/Head of the African–led International Support Mission in Mali (AFRISMA) and former President of the Republic of Burundi.
- Professor Andreas Esheté, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia with the Rank of a Minister (Former Forum Deputy Chairperson).
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Ethiopia.
- Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, former United Nations and Arab League Envoy to

Syria and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Algeria.

- H.E. Betty Bigombe, Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank Group and former Minister of Water Resources, Republic of Uganda.
- Professor Ndioro Ndiaye, President of the Alliance for Migration and Development and former Minister for Women's, Children's and Family Affairs, Senegal.
- Professor Mahmood Mamdani, Executive Director, Makerere Institute for Social Research, Uganda.
- Dr. Funmi Olonisakin, Director, African Leadership Centre/Conflict Security and Development Group, King's College, UK.

6. The Technical Committee

The Technical Committee advises the Tana Secretariat on the organisation of the Forum. In particular, the Technical Committee aims to advise the Secretariat on procedure and content to strengthen the Forum's capacity to generate fruitful discussions and give participants a meaningful experience. The current members of the Technical Committee are:

- Professor Alioune Sall, Founder and Executive Director, African Futures Institute, (Sénégal).
- Dr. Cedric de Coning, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, (South Africa)
- Mr. El-Ghassim Wane (Chair), Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations, (Mauritania).
- Dr. Hesphina Rukato, Development Consultant, (Zimbabwe).
- Dr. Noha Bakr, Professor Adjunct, Political Science Department, American University of Cairo, (Egypt).
- Dr. Solomon Dersso, Commissioner, African Court of Human and People's Rights, (Ethiopia).
- Ms. Theo Sawa, CEO, African Women's Development Fund, (Ghana).
- Professor Timothy Murithi, Head of the Justice and Reconciliation in Africa Programme, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, (Kenya).

and

- Ms. Michelle Ndiaye (ex-officio), Director, Africa Peace and Security Programme/ IPSS and Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat.

7. The Tana Forum Secretariat

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University acts as the Forum's Secretariat. Parallel to the Forum and hosting its Secretariat, IPSS runs the Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP) as a joint project with the African Union.

APSP aims to build African capacities to develop and implement African-led solutions in peace and security in Africa. In this context, the outcomes of the Forum will inform the Institute's activities in education, research, and policy dialogue. This will further contribute to creating a platform where ideas and synergies on African-centered solutions in peace and security can converge with wider objectives to inform decision-making, policy formulation and implementation at the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional mechanisms (RMs).

8. Conference status

The maiden Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, under the theme "Managing Diversity and State Fragility" took place from 14 to 15 April 2012 in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Current and former Heads of State and Government, distinguished leaders of regional and sub-regional bodies, representatives from the private sector, concerned civil society from Africa, eminent personalities from politics and media, representatives of African and non-African multi-lateral bodies, and other important partners attended the Forum.

The second edition of the Forum took place from 20 to 21 April 2013, in the same location. Stakeholders met to discuss the theme of "Security and Organised Crime in Africa", and to pay tribute to the Forum's greatest champion, the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi.

The third Tana Forum took place from 26 to 27 April 2014, and discussed a timely and salient topic for the continent, the "Impact of Illicit Financial Flows on Peace and Security in Africa". The Forum's annual lecture series also paid tribute to Africa's greatest icon, the late President Nelson Mandela.

The fourth Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa met under the theme of "Secularism and Politicised Faith" and took place from 18 to 19 April 2015. African Heads of State and stakeholders together with eminent religious leaders from all sectors of religion convened in Bahir Dar to discuss the importance of disestablishing state religion and developing an agenda of secularism that underlines tolerance. The Forum's Meles Zenawi Annual Lecture Series paid tribute to the influential advocate of Pan-Africanism, Kwame Nkrumah.

The fifth Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa convened on 16-17 April 2016 under the theme "Africa in the Global Security Agenda". Followi**ng the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, Africa looked at its role in the international sec**urity arena. In addition, the 2016 Meles Zenawi Annual Lecture Series debated on the legacy of Patrice Lumumba.

The 2017 edition of the forum will be convened in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia on 22-23 April 2017 on the theme "Natural Resource Governance''. The focus will go beyond the conventional wisdom that places sole premium on the long-standing contradictions within the extractive 'non-renewable' sector (oil, gas and minerals) in understanding and explaining the challenges of resource governance in Africa. Whereas debates around the governance of natural resources have understandably been fixated with the extractive sector, the 6th Tana Forum will broaden the scope to include issues around the governance of other natural resources, specifically: **(a) land, (b) water, (c) the seas, and (d) forests and biodiversity**. It will seek to understand and explain why the exploitation of these resources are increasingly sources of tension and violence in ways that have profoundly disturbing impacts on peace and stability on the continent.

As per the tradition of the forum, the Meles Zenawi Lecture Series will pay tribute to the **late Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai,** Nobel Peace Laureate, Kenyan environmental and political activist.

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University is hosting the Secretariat of the Tana Forum. Attendance is by non-transferable invitation only and 120 selected floor participants are expected to attend the 2017 edition of the Forum.

For more information please visit www.tanaforum.org or forward enquiries to the organising team at tanaforum@ipss-addis.org / Tel: +251 111 245 660/20.

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