



TANA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON SECURITY IN AFRICA

The High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

Lake Tana, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Agenda

“Secularism and Politicised Faith”

18 – 19 April 2015

Programme Director: Mr. Abdul Mohamed, Chief of Staff, African Union High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan and member of the Tana Forum Technical Committee

Chief Rapporteur: Prof. Amr Abdalla, Senior Research Advisor, Africa Peace and Security Programme, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, IPSS

TIME	FRIDAY 17 April 2015
14.00 – 18.00	Pre-Forum events in collaboration with Bahir Dar University: African Vice-Chancellors debate and Public Lecture on the 2015 theme
16.00 – 20.00	Arrival of participants, registration and welcoming cocktail

TIME	DAY ONE: SATURDAY 18 April 2015
08.00 – 10.30	Arrival of participants and registration

11.00 – 12.30	<u>Special Event: The Annual Meles Zenawi Lecture Series 2015:</u> Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance: Reflections on the Legacies of President Kwame Nkrumah Programme Director: Mr. Abdul Mohamed
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Introductory Remarks on “Historical Perspectives of Pan-Africanism”
by President Thabo Mbeki, Former President of the Republic of South Africa

“Reflections on Late President Kwame Nkrumah ‘s Pan- Africanism Legacy”
by Ali Mufuruki, Founder and Executive Chairman of InfoTech Investment Group LTD and Trustee of the Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS)

12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
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14.00	OPENING SESSION: Chairperson: Prof. Andreas Eshete, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia with the rank of a Minister and Deputy Chairperson of the Tana Forum
14.00 – 14.10	<u>Introductory Video:</u> 2015 Theme and Highlights of the 3 rd Tana Forum
14.10 – 14.30	<u>Welcome Address:</u> by H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and host of the THLF.
14.35 – 14.50	<u>Tana Forum Partner’s Remarks:</u> “Experience sharing on European Secularism” by H.E. Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
15.00 – 15.30	<u>“The 2015 State of Peace and Security in Africa”</u> by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the Tana Forum Board
15.30 – 15.50	Break
15.50	SESSION I: Heads of States/Governments Debate Chairperson: President Benjamin Mkapa, Former President of the Republic of Tanzania
15.55 – 16.45	<u>Format:</u> Moderated debate on: “Secularism, Politicised Faith and Security” <u>Panelists:</u> Heads of State and Governments Session Statement: “Movements or organisations that claim a religious motivation are making headlines in the ways they engage the state as well as individuals and groups who do not share their faith and practices. The activities of such religious movements have far-reaching implications for secularism, security and stability in an increasing number of African states” Guiding Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What are the <u>most promising approaches</u> for state action in response to these emerging threats?○ What are the <u>key problems</u> to be dealt with?○ What should <u>be done now</u> – especially at regional and continental levels?
16.50 – 17.45	<u>Q&A Session with Plenary</u>
17.50 – 18.05	Summary of Day One and Setting the Stage for Day Two, by Charles Abugre, Chairperson, Tana Forum Technical Committee



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18.05	End of Day One
18.00 - 19.30	Networking, Bi-laterals, Media Interviews and Meetings
19.30	<u>Gala Dinner</u> hosted by the Amhara Regional President, Bahir Dar

TIME	DAY TWO: SUNDAY 19 TH April 2015
07.30 - 9.00	Networking Breakfast
08.00 - 9.00	<u>Special Event</u> : Tree planting ceremony by Heads of States/Governments and inauguration of the Tana Forum Park

9.15	<u>SESSION II</u> : "African Secularisms and Faith-branded Security Threats" <u>Chairperson</u> : H.E. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security, African Union Commission.
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09.15 - 10.20 Format: Panel Discussion

Panelists:

- His Highness, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON Sarkin Kano, Emir of Kano, Nigeria
- Prof. Amina Mama, Professor in Women and Gender Studies, University of California at Davis, USA
- His Eminence, Archbishop Valentine Mokiwa Bio, President of All Africa Conference of Churches, Kenya
- Dr Alioune Sall, Executive Director, African Futures Institute, Afrique du Sud

Session Statement: "Some parts of Africa have been overwhelmed by political violence with religious or simply faith-branded dimensions. Driving this violence are local, national and global actors, issues and ideologies that are intricately interwoven. Governments, civil society and communities are surprisingly locked in the battle of ideas, wit and a variety of other contestations on the ground."

Guiding Questions:



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- What makes faith attractive as a basis for these radical organisations?
- Why does the level of unpreparedness of governments to tackle religious violence in Africa seem so unprecedented?
- What are the prospects of a modern, African secular counter-narrative?

Q&A Session with Plenary

10.25

SESSION III : “Politicisation of Faith, Fundamentalism and Human Security ”

Chairperson: Amb. Lakhdar Brahimi, Former United Nations Peace Envoy to Syria

10.25 – 11.30

Format: Panel Discussion focusing on the following conflict clusters:

- North Africa
- The Sahel Region
- Northern Nigeria and Lake Chad Basin
- East Africa

Panelists:

- H.E. Rachid al – Ghannoushi, Muslim Scholar and Co-founder of Nahdah party, Tunisia
- H.E. Haile Menkerios, U.N. Under Secretary-General, Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and Special Representative to the African Union
- Dr Mamoeketsi Ntho, Researcher and Lecturer in Gender and Development Studies, National University of Lesotho
- Prof Francis Akindès, Prof. of Sociology, Alassane Ouattara University, Cote d’Ivoire.

Session Statement: “Most African states are, in practice, secular; and so they strive to limit the influence of religion within the public sphere. That has been put in question by fundamentalist movements that increasingly command widespread public support despite the roll-back of individual liberties and civil rights, especially for women.”

Guiding Questions:

- What are the prospects of fundamentalist political projects in different African regions?
- Does fundamentalism endanger human security and basic rights; and what



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- should be done about it?
- Does fundamentalism engender political violence? What can be done to ensure it is peaceful?

Q&A Session with Plenary

11.30 - 11.45 **Break**

11.45-13.00 **SESSION IV: "Secularism, Democracy and State Building in Africa: What Futures?"**

Chairperson: Prof Dagmawi Woubshet, Professor of African-American Literature, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA

Format: Moderated Conversation

Panelists:

- Amb. Soad M Shalaby, Director Women Business Development Center, Cairo, Egypt
- Dr Abdelwahab El-Affendi, Reader in Politics, Coordinator, Democracy and Islam Programme, Centre for the Study of Democracy of the University of Westminster, UK
- Collins Etchi Ako, Ph.D. Candidate; International Relations Institute of Cameroon I, University of Yaounde II, Cameroon; Winner of the Tana Forum University Essay competition
- Tayeb Zein al-Abidin, Professor of Islamic Political Thought & Middle East Politics, University of Khartoum, Sudan; formerly Chairman of the Sudanese Inter-Religious Council.

Session Statement: "Economic growth and globalisation provide Africa with opportunities as well as challenges for socio-economic development, to which state and society need to adapt themselves. This, in turn, kindles the promise of all-round prosperity and well-being of citizens that is often tied to the model of a modern, basically secular, and democratic state. Will this model survive the new security threats currently facing contemporary Africa?"

Guiding questions

- Are we facing the ascendancy of non-secular, and possibly anti-modern, alternatives?



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- How can the promise of modernity be held up; ... or should it?
- What is the contribution of African secularism to peace and security on the continent?

Q&A Session with Plenary

13.05-

CLOSING CEREMONY

Chair: Amb. Sahlework Zewde, Under Secretary-General & Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

13.05- 13.20

Closing Remarks and vote of thanks **by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria and Chairperson of the Tana Forum Board**

13.30-13.55

TANA FORUM OUTCOMES HANDOVER CEREMONY

by H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn and H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo **to** the African Union Commission Representatives and the seating Heads of States and Governments.

14.00

End of the Forum

14.15

Press Conference- Tana Forum Board

14.15

Lunch

17.00

Departure to Addis Ababa