Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Tana
Forum Secretariat

Concept note | 10th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

Managing Security Threats: Building Resilience for the Africa We Want
| 14-16 October 2022 | Bahir Dar,
Ethiopia/Hybrid
# Table of Contents

I. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 3  
II. Context.................................................................................................................................................. 3  
III. General and Specific Objectives ........................................................................................................... 4  
IV. Tana Forum 2022 Sub-themes and Guiding questions ...................................................................... 4  
   - Sub-theme 1: Unconstitutional Change of Government: “Coup D’État” ............................................. 5  
   - Sub-theme 2: Impact of Global Insecurity in the Continent (Global Insecurity affecting the Continent) ................................................................................................................................. 5  
   - Sub-theme 3: Climate Change, Preparedness, Adaptation and Financing ........................................ 6  
   - Sub-theme 4: Harnessing Africa’s Cultural Heritage for Resilience and Integration ...................... 6  
   - Sub-theme 5: Tana@10 and taking stock of the continent's peace and security landscape: Is the continent worse or better off after ten years? ........................................................................ 6  
V. Tana 2022 Side Events and Related Activities .................................................................................. 7  
VI. Expected Outcomes ............................................................................................................................. 9  
VII. Expected Outputs ................................................................................................................................ 9  
VIII. Forum Strategy (Participation, Discussion format, Impact and effectiveness) .................................. 9  
IX. Institutional and Management Arrangements ..................................................................................... 10  
   1. Tana Board ........................................................................................................................................ 10  
   2. The Technical Committee .................................................................................................................... 10  
   3. The Tana Forum Secretariat ................................................................................................................ 11  
X. Participation .......................................................................................................................................... 11  
XI. Conference Languages .......................................................................................................................... 11  
XII. Dates and Venue .................................................................................................................................. 12
I. Introduction

Intending to play a crucial role in bringing about sustainable peace and contributing to the implementation of the African Union’s Tripoli Declaration of August 2009, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at Addis Ababa University (AAU) convenes an annual security event, the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, or popularly known as Tana Forum. The Tana Forum is an initiative that responds to the Declaration’s appeal for “African-led solutions” and its call for responding to peace and security as a collective “intellectual challenge”. As a result, the annual Tana Forum emerged as an independent platform initiated by IPSS and eminent African personalities, including Meles Zenawi, the late Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Tana Forum brings African leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders to engage and explore African-led security solutions.

The centrepiece of the Tana experience is the baobab tree. Its symbolism of dialogue facilitates an informal and collaborative environment to discuss topical issues related to peace and security. The main Forum is complemented by panel discussions and bilateral talks, leading to frank and candid discussions and experience sharing. The Forum derives its name and takes place each year at Lake Tana in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.

II. Context

This year (2022) marks the 10th anniversary of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa. It coincides in a critical moment in Africa and the world as the COVID-19 pandemic exposed fragilities and divisions while highlighting inequalities, globally and locally. While old fault lines remain, new ones are producing tensions and threats that are converging within - rather than outside- states in a way that is exposing the underbelly of fractured state-society relations.

The signals of threats to peace and security across the African landscape are evident in the decline of democritisation, weakening of critical public institutions, the resurgence of ethnoreligious and other parochial identities, food insecurity and weak preparedness of African state to address its impact and externalities, the proliferation of actors and risks in ways previously not contemplated, and the limitations of reactive, military responses. Yet even at that, the prevailing cloud of uncertainty provides the opportunity to think deeply and act tenaciously to confront such triggers and enablers of today’s insecurities. Understanding Africa’s security threats today also requires rethinking the role of actors and initiatives at national, regional and continental levels and that of international partners in soliciting solutions.

This year’s Tana Forum is invariably about how best to respond resolutely to emerging socio-economic, political, governance challenges or manage such threats in a way that does not lose sight of the continent’s most valuable resource: its citizens. How arts, culture and heritage, as well as resilience in nutrition and food security, the AU theme for 2021 and 2022, respectively, can be harnessed to promote enduring peace considering the continent’s myriad challenges needs to be interrogated. By shifting focus away from states and institutions to citizens who, ultimately, have the legitimacy and influence to make change happen, the course of a better future becomes clearly defined and attainable.

The theme of this year’s Tana Forum is framed around the following issues:

- Building resilience has gained new currency in light of new fragilities imposed by the outbreak and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and state measures to curb it,
- Measures towards building resilience must be deliberate in placing citizens at the centre,
recognising their agency in the process of reimagining governance and peacebuilding,

- Building resilience is not a one-off event but a process that takes time and resources,
- The state may only play a role that is necessary and desirable in building resilience if the deeply fractured social contract with citizens is repaired, and
- The international community may contribute to building citizens resilience but must do it in a manner that is cognizant of their priorities.

### III. General and Specific Objectives

The overarching objective is to explore issues at the intersection of building a people-enabled peace, security and resilience in line with the African Union theme of the year 2021 "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want". It is also worthy of note that the African Union theme of the year 2022 emphasises "Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security". Alongside taking stock of the evolution of certain peace and security challenges on the continent, the focus will be on mobilising and building the type of home-grown and local resilience that centres African agency.

Specific objectives include:

Create a common understanding of building systemic resilience from below:

- Interrogate the impacts of COVID-19 along with other multifaceted aspects in the context of peace and security,
- Give attention to climate change and climate resilience challenges,
- Interrogate the functional relevance of existing peace and security institutions and normative frameworks at regional and continental levels,
- Probe the resurgence of military coups in Africa,
- Explore pathways to enhance compliance with continental, regional and national laws to address threats to constitutional order in member states,
- Look at the role of peace and security in culture and heritage protection,
- Explore actionable ways to mainstream and strengthen youth and women’s inclusion,
- Explore opportunities to strengthen resilience in (nutrition and) food security,
- The Forum further aims to offer participants an opportunity to rethink the nature, character and goal of international partnerships vis-à-vis the state of peace and security in Africa, and
- Synthesise knowledge and insights that would support the strategies and actions of national, regional and continental actors.

### IV. Tana Forum 2022 Sub-themes and Guiding questions

The 2022 Tana Forum sub-themes will be anchored on the AU theme of the year 2021 on “Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”. Furthermore, the AU theme of the year 2022 will be the basis upon which the discussion should be furthered to explore means through which resilience in nutrition and food security can be strengthened. reflections on lessons learned and the impact of Tana @10 in the peace, security and development areas.

Specifically, these will be centred on the following sub-themes:
Sub-theme 1: Unconstitutional Change of Government: “Coup D’État”

The resurgence of Unconstitutional Change of Governments (UCG) in Africa is worrisome. This is mainly because significant strides have been made at the continental and regional levels to provide normative frameworks for enabling credible constitutional alternation of power in member states. In addition, the African Union and most of its Regional Economic Communities have robust early warning mechanisms designed to promptly provide strategic decision-makers with relevant information to facilitate effective responses. Notwithstanding, for the first time in its 20 years, the African Union has suspended four member states within a year for UCG. Recent events in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sudan, Guinea Bissau and even Chad in relation to power alternation point to two fundamental issues that need critical reflection. One is the exploitation of insecurity as justification for military take-overs. Two is the manipulation of legality by incumbents, which undermines the legitimacy of constitutional rule. The issues reveal both the challenges and the limits of Africa’s multilateral institutions. Multilateral institutions have minimal enforcement powers in relation to governance in member states and rely on member states’ willingness to implement relevant normative principles to further democracy, peace, security and stability. As a result, the use of sovereignty as a shield by member states limits the space for multilateral organisations to engage in preventive efforts to address governance-related challenges and promote broad inclusion and participation in member states.

Session one explores pathways to enhance compliance with continental, regional and national laws to address governance deficits and military and non-military threats to constitutional order in member states.

Sub-theme 2: Impact of Global Insecurity in the Continent (Global Insecurity affecting the Continent)

The COVID-19 pandemic, fluctuating commodity prices, climate change, threats posed by violent extremism and fundamentalisms, illicit financial flows and international organised crime are some of a few drivers of insecurity at this moment in our history as global citizens. By the end of 2021, at least 15 African countries were navigating armed and violent conflict varying between high and mid-level intensity while others battled governance and other crises; each of these conflicts and situations of instability can be directly connected to events in other parts of the world. While the end of the Cold War brought a shift in the way conflicts outside the continent were fought on the continent as proxy wars, the structure and nature of global financial, governance and military systems mean ripples and shocks in other parts of the world are felt and contribute to insecurity in Africa; the most recent example being the War in Ukraine which has particularly contributed to food insecurity as statistics have proven that Russia and Ukraine dominate a huge quota in global food exports and African countries are a major destination as they heavily depend on both countries for wheat, fertilizer, or vegetable oils. This Tana Forum - Tana @10 - provides an excellent and timely opportunity to reflect on and interrogate the multifaceted and interlinked drivers of global insecurity and how these affect the African continent. Speakers on this panel will go beyond diagnosing the impacts, but posit new thinking and potential responses, some pre-emptive, to this ever-evolving phenomenon.
**Sub-theme 3: Climate Change, Preparedness, Adaptation and Financing**

African countries are amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change despite the African continent producing the least greenhouse emissions. Literature has described Africa as the ‘most vulnerable’ yet ‘least prepared’, a datable description given the plethora of policies and programs that have been created to respond to the impact of the pandemic. At a continental level, the African Union’s Climate change strategy 2020 – 2030 provides a roadmap to achieving the vision outlined in the Agenda 2063 of ‘building the resilience of the African continent to the impacts of climate change. In its strategy, the AU notes that ‘while adaptation is unquestionably and rightly the top priority for African countries, in order to create optimal responses, mitigation should be considered to balance the climate change solution equation’. Furthermore, noting Africa’s immense unrivalled potential for renewable energy, especially solar, for its own development and export, the AU urges that the continental potential should be quantified as the continent’s contribution in return for finance and technology needed to adapt and develop despite climate change. The impact of climate on land, crops and livestock as it exacerbates food insecurity and conflict is also a major component when discussing climate within the context of peace and security on the continent. Against this backdrop, this session aims to unpack the far-reaching consequence of climate change, the continental response strategies, and their effectiveness.

**Sub-theme 4: Harnessing Africa’s Cultural Heritage for Resilience and Integration**

There’s been an increased interest in Africa’s cultural heritage in the last few years. Most of the recent attention has focused on the return of stolen African artefacts from Europe and the long-overdue confrontation with colonial violence. However, within the agenda of uplifting Africa’s cultural heritage also lies the broader quest of how to foster national and regional cohesion by investing in Africa’s diverse (and evolving) cultures, traditions, languages at present and weaving them together to forge Pan-African unity and common purpose going forward.

Recognizing the transformative power of culture, the African Union dedicated the Theme of the Year in 2021 to the importance of ‘arts, culture and heritage as levers for building the Africa we want’, building on Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063. This ambition is ever more critical today against the backdrop of the global rise in intolerance, proliferation of identity-based conflicts and the continued destruction of invaluable cultural sites and artefacts as a consequence (and tactic) of war.

This session brings together multi-disciplinary perspectives on how Africa can restore, protect and harness its cultural legacies and present-day creative industry as a formidable tool to achieve greater social, cultural and economic resilience and integration.

**Sub-theme 5: Tana@10 and taking stock of the continent’s peace and security landscape: Is the continent worse or better off after ten years?**

Strands under this sub-theme will be a moment to reflect, take stock and forecast the future of the Tana Forum, based on lessons learned over the last ten years since inception. It will also be a moment to enthuse and account for its impact and contribution – focusing on its impact, challenges, gaps and opportunities.

The sub-theme will also be an opportunity to candidly look at Africa’s peace and security situation – especially in the Horn of Africa, Great Lakes Region, Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and the key governance and
conflicts issues. There will also be discussions on how the Forum has and can play a role in illuminating and providing a space for dialogue and reflections on durable solutions to the ongoing crisis in these regions.

V. Tana 2022 Side Events and Related Activities

The Secretariat undertakes the following pre-Forum activities in the months leading up to the main Forum.

1) **Experts Meeting**: This is a meeting among a selected group of experts well-versed on the selected theme of the Forum that is held to identify, discuss, debate and recommend. Recommendations from the expert meetings are submitted to the Secretariat for use in the Forum’s agenda-setting around identified sub-themes. The objectives of the expert meetings are:
   - To define the scope of the selected theme of the year;
   - To identify sectors and domains where policymakers may develop policies to advance the role of the African Union, African states and other stakeholders;
   - To produce theme summaries that serve as guiding points to the session’s discussions in the Tana Forum;
   - To recommend key speakers and presenters on the topics that will be addressed during the Tana Forum;
   - To propose and develop a theme on the outlines for the Tana Forum background papers.

2) **Press-Conference and Ambassadors’ Briefing**: With the view to brief, promote and engage with Addis-based ambassadors and members of the media, the Press Conference and Ambassadors’ Briefing takes place one month before the main Forum, on the event, its objectives, topic, theme, participation and envisioned outcomes. The Tana Chairperson and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative will address the ambassadors and AU officials. In addition, the Ambassadors’ Briefing serves as a platform where Addis based Ambassadors’ can dialogue on the theme of the year. In addition, local, regional and international correspondents based in Addis Ababa, are invited to the press conference.

3) **Pre-Tana Multi-Stakeholders Forum**: The Tana Secretariat holds a series of multi-stakeholder forums in the months leading up to the main Forum. These pre-Forums are geared towards ensuring the inclusivity of all stakeholders in Tana and related activities and also gather information that will complement the discussions at the main Forum. Accordingly, the following Pre-forums have been held from August 2021-April 2022:
   - Pre-Tana Regional Multi-Stakeholders Forum on the theme ‘Human and Drug Trafficking in Africa: Unlocking Human Freedom’ with the support of Humanity United on 19 August 2021 in hybrid format.
   - Pre-Tana Regional Multi-Stakeholders Forum on the theme ‘Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Stability in Africa” with the Mission of Japan to the African Union on 14 September 2021 online.
   - Pre-Tana Regional Multi-stakeholders Forum on the theme “The Impact of Peace and Security on Culture and Heritage Protection in Africa” on 21 April 2021 in Hybrid format.

The following Pre-Tana Forums will be held in the upcoming months with various partners:
4) **Pre-Tana Youth Consultation Forum**: To make the Tana Forum as inclusive and participatory as possible, Tana Secretariat holds youth consultation forum. This Youth Consultation Forum serves as a platform for young Africans to engage and mobilize on the Tana Forum theme and youth-related issues regarding peace and security on the continent. In the year 2021, Youth Day was celebrated internationally on 12 August, the 2021 theme “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health” which availed an ideal opportunity to hold the Pre-Tana Youth Consultation Forum on one of the threats Africa faces today, food insecurity. Hence, the Tana Forum Secretariat, in partnership with UNESCO, held a regional youth consultation forum on the theme “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Sustainable Peace and Security”, which resonates with both the theme of the international youth day and this year’s Tana Forum.

5) **The Meles Zenawi Lecture Series on Leadership in Africa**: The Meles Zenawi Lecture Series is dedicated to honouring the life and legacy of great African leaders who had or have been advocates of pan-Africanism and contributed to the well-being of Africans. The purpose of the leadership lecture series is to celebrate these achievements and call to action the spirit of emulation based on the vision and ideals these leaders stood for.

6) **Vice-Chancellors’ Dialogue**: The Forum, in collaboration with Bahir Dar University, convenes vice-chancellors or university presidents across Africa for a debate (open to the public) on the year’s theme. Among others, the Vice-Chancellors’ Dialogue aims at bringing in the perspectives of those governing institutions of higher education and who are shaping future generations of African leaders’ narratives. It is also aimed at expanding and enhancing the participation of stakeholders on issues of the main Forum.

7) **Side Events**: Side events are parallel seminars (informal) organised on the evening preceding the start of the Tana Forum on selected topical themes related to peace and security at regional, continental, and global levels. They are usually organised in collaboration with partners who have a specific interest in discussing particular issues of mutual interest.

8) **Annual University Essay Competition**: Youth from various African universities will be competing on the selected theme of Tana 2022. Besides serving as an additional platform to ensure youth’s inclusivity, the Essay Competition complements ongoing debates and agendas on peace and security contributing to policy building and development.

9) **Annual Book Launch**: This is a platform where books written by African and non-African published authors that fulfil requirements set by the Secretariat present their books focusing on peace, security, development and governance to the various high-level participants of Tana Forum.


11) **Tana Forum Policy Briefs (Tana Papers)**: Tana Forum also presents a compendium of policy briefs that offers policy recommendations to address a number of peace and security challenges in Africa. Ultimately, the aim is to provoke deep discussions on security threats and resilience across multiple
VI. Expected Outcomes

The following are expected outcomes of the Forum:

- A shared understanding of current and emerging peace and security threats in Africa.
- Commitment to managing threats by investing more in governance and building resilience, with significant premium given to citizens active and sustained participation in public affairs, remains an important component in achieving resilience;
- Document Africa’s contribution to the management of the pandemic, including investment in research and knowledge products that reflects Africa’s solution to a global problem;
- Work towards a comprehensive policy with an implementation strategy on climate mitigation and adaptability would be key to driving climate resilience, especially in the context of peace and security at national, regional and continental levels;
- A shared understanding of the importance of promoting the voice and agency of citizens by localising peacebuilding by bringing it much closer to the grassroots;
- Dialogue on how to enhance the ability of governments to manage current threats effectively rests largely with the constituency of the youth and women;
- Unpack how Arts, Culture and Heritage, the AU theme for 2021, can be converted into currencies for prompting enduring peace in the light of the continent’s myriad challenges needs to be interrogated;
- Understand and capture how diversity, equity and inclusion are reflected in Africa’s international partnerships and engagement with the world.

VII. Expected Outputs

The following are expected outputs of the Forum:

- One (1) Tana Forum Outcomes Report that entails the various outcomes of discussion from the main Forum, side events, Meles Zenawi Lecture Series and Vice Chancellors’ Dialogue;
- State of Peace and Security in Africa Report;
- Eight (8) Policy Papers;
- Three Essays;
- One (1) Video;
- Press Releases;
- Media Interviews (various); and
- Snapshots and pictorial stories (various).

VIII. Forum Strategy (Participation, Discussion format, Impact and effectiveness)

The Forum will bring together high-level decision-makers on peace and security from governments and intergovernmental organisations (HoSGs, AU organs and RECs), other regional institutions, the private sector, critical segments of continental and regional civil society networks, as well as peace and security experts. In addition, representatives of stakeholders in global peace and security will also be invited.

Discussions will be designed to (i) share views and experiences informally and independently, (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.

Thus, the main format will be panel discussions and interactions. Further, introductions to these discussions are expected to be short statements.

The Forum is convened on an annual basis and has become an institution in its own right. It enables leaders to explore options for innovative and joint action in peace and security. The Forum also allows for trust-building among key players who would often only meet in settings that are mediated by diplomatic protocol. Altogether, it enables African leaders to develop and implement adequate and proactive initiatives in peace and security on the continent.

IX. Institutional and Management Arrangements

1. Tana Board

The Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa comprises two governing bodies, the Board of Trustees and the Tana Technical Committee. The Board of Trustees provides strategic oversight in governing the organisation by establishing broad policies and objectives for the Forum. Using their external relationships, the board members also undertake advocacy to promote the Forum within the continent and internationally. The Board members are comprised of eminent personalities who have demonstrated leadership, inspiration and experience in their fields. In addition, the Head of Secretariat and the IPSS Director are ex-officio members of the board.

Current board members serving for a three-year term:

- H.E. John Dramani Mahama (Chairperson) - Ghana - Former President, Republic of Ghana
- H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn - Ethiopia - Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda - Malawi - Former President, Republic of Malawi
- Amb. Lakhdar Brahimi - Algeria - Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, People’s Republic of Algeria and former United Nations and Arab League Special Envoy to Syria
- Amb. Soad M. Shalab - Egypt - Director-General, Egyptian African Centre for Women (EACW)
- Mr. Alain Foka - Cameroon - Journalist, Radio France International, France
- H.E. Catherine Samba-Panza - Central African Republic - Former President
- Prof. Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba - Kenya - Former Director and Chief Executive Officer, School of Laws
- H.E. Michelle Ndiaye - Senegal - Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union DRC Liaison Office

2. The Technical Committee

The Technical Committee operates as a steering committee that advises the Tana Secretariat on the organisation of the annual Tana Forum. In particular, the Technical Committee aims to advise the Secretariat on processes and content to strengthen the Forum’s capacity to generate fruitful discussions on peace, conflict and security information for stakeholders involved.

Upon appointment by the Secretariat, the Technical Committee comprises experts and practitioners
experienced in peace and security, governance and development areas in Africa and beyond. The appointment is ad persona, and as a voluntary service, it is not remunerated. Each member serves for a three-year, non-renewable term.

The current members of the Technical Committee are:

- Mr. Alex Ratebaye Tordeta (Chairperson) - Chad- Deputy Chief of Staff, African Union Commission
- Dr. Linda Darkwa – Ghana - Senior Research Fellow, University of Ghana, Legon, and Coordinator at the Norwegian capacity support Programme to the African Union Commission.
- Ms Hafa Maalim – Kenya- Partnership Officer & Focal Person on the AU Peace Fund, Office of the Commissioner, PAPS
- Ms Hannah Tsadik – Ethiopia – Head of Policy and Thought Leadership, Mastercard Foundation
- Dr. Jide M. Okeke – Nigeria - Regional Programme Coordinator, Regional Programme for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Dr. George Mukundi – Kenya/South Africa - CEO, Maendeleo Group
- Ms. Yvett Ngandu Kapinga – DRC – Commissioner in charge of Gender Promotion,
- Human and Social Development at Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS).
- Ms. Faith Mabera – South Africa - Senior Researcher at Institute for Global Dialogue.
- Ms. Shuvu Busuman Nyoni – Zimbabwe – Executive Director of African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi, Kenya
- Ms Lettie Tembo Longwe (Ex-officio member) - Zambia- Interim Director of Africa Peace and Security Programme at IPSS and Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat

3. **The Tana Forum Secretariat**

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University is the Forum's Secretariat. Parallel to the Forum and hosting its Secretariat, IPSS runs the Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP), 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 dialogues. This will further contribute to creating a platform where ideas and synergies on African-centred 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) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs).

X. **Participation**

According to the Secretariat’s policy, participation is strictly by invitation only, and as such, an invitation is non-transferable. A maximum of 150 invited participants is expected to attend the 2022 Tana Forum in-person at Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, while more than 600 will be invited to join online via a designated link. For more information, please visit our website [www.tanaforum.org](http://www.tanaforum.org) or forward enquiries to the organising team at [tanaforum@ipss-addis.org](mailto:tanaforum@ipss-addis.org).

XI. **Conference Languages**

The Forum will be conducted in English, French with simultaneous interpretation to English, French and Amharic.
XII. Dates and Venue

This year's Tana Forum will take place in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, from 14-16 October 2022 in a hybrid format with at least 150 expected in-person participants and more than 600 virtual participation.