

# What's Next?

## Aligning States and The African Youth

4-5 June 2024



Dakar, Senegal



# Concept Note

## Section I. Introduction

The Tana High Level Forum on Security in Africa is an independent initiative of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), of Addis Ababa University, the African Union (AU) and of eminent African personalities, including the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The Forum is a response to the Tripoli Declaration of August 2009 that calls for “African-centred solutions” and designates peace and security as a collective “intellectual challenge”. The Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, also known as the Tana Forum, brings together African leaders, personalities and stakeholders to engage and explore African-led security solutions. The centrepiece of the Tana experience is the baobab tree which, through its symbolism of dialogue, invites participants to sit down in a spirit of commonality and moral duty towards finding solutions for peace and security in the continent. The Forum is a platform for formal meetings between African heads of states and governments by assembling them in an informal and collaborative environment in the 11th Tana Forum will be held in April 2024 at Bahir Dar on the theme “Africa in an Evolving Global Order”.

The Forum brings together approximately 200 multi-stakeholders and representatives from the continent and beyond. Given the limited space to accommodate pressing participation demands, the Multi-stakeholder Dialogues have been introduced to fulfil three objectives:

- i. To take the Tana debates beyond the shores of the Lake Tana to reach more constituencies across Africa;
- ii. To popularize the outcomes of the forum among a wider constituency with a particular focus on the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- iii. To further contribute to the creation of 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 AU, RECs, and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) levels.

Accordingly, the Tana Forum Secretariat will hold a Pre-Tana 2024 Youth Consultation in Dakar Senegal: Previous multi-stakeholder dialogues have been held in Ivory Coast,

Senegal, Botswana, Djibouti, Kenya and Morocco among other locations.

## Section II. Brief About the Pre-Tana 2024 Youth Consultation Theme

According to the continental framework on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) of the AU, Youth, Peace and security refers to the “conscious actions and processes to protect young people from participation in, and the ill effects of, violent conflicts and insecurity, and to promote and support their contributions to peace efforts in conflict and post-conflict situations”. This definition is adopted from December 2015 United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, and the November 2018 AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) Communique on YPS. It is within this context the AU PSC called upon AU Member States to develop their YPS NAPs. Since then, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the only Member States that have a YPS NAP. Although, other member states like Burundi, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, and Tunisia have commenced the process of developing theirs.

As Education takes the centre stage in 2024 for AU and its member states, in addition to the role of equitable and inclusive quality education in equipping African youths in terms of their role and contributions to breaking and preventing cycles of violence, the Tana Secretariat deems it fit to interrogate the following:

1. What is the state of affairs with the YPS NAPs development and implementation in Africa since the YPS Framework was adopted by the AU PSC?
2. In relation to (1) what lessons-learned are there between and amongst the youths, AU Member States governments, and Institutions?
3. What more needs to be done, by whom, and how, to ensure that states and their youths are aligned for Agenda 2063?

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### Section III. Expected Outputs

The followings are expected Outputs of the Youth Consultation

- Face-to face dialogue on the theme.
- An outcomes document to be shared with Tana Forum Participants and complement the conversations Sustainable and practical policy recommendations targeting stakeholders.
- Coverage of the dialogue proceedings on IPSS and Tana Forum social media platforms.
- A policy brief to be developed based on a theme to be selected.
- A compilation of selected position papers on YPS NAPs.

### Section IV. Expected Outcomes

The followings are expected outputs of the Youth Consultation:

- Deeper reflection on the key priorities of Africa's YPS Agenda.
- Set up a steering committee to advance recommendations from the event and support the development and implementation of AU Member States' NAPs.

### Section V. Proposed Approach

The dialogue will comprise of experts, political and technical consultations resulting in practical recommendations and networking opportunities for stakeholders working in the field of peace and security. The consultation will take place in a face-to face format where not more than 70 participants will be physically present.

### Section VI. Dates and venue

The pre-Forum will take a total of four days travel dates included, that is, 4-5 June 2024. 3 June 2024 (Tuesday) and 6 June 2024 (Friday) are the arrival and departure dates, respectively. The events will hold on 4 and 5 June 2024 (Tuesday and Wednesday).

The pre-Forum will take place in Dakar, Senegal.

### Section VII. Participants Profile

The pre-Forum will bring together regional and country youth representatives, youth experts and other relevant stakeholders. Participants will include representatives from AU Member States, AUC, RECs/RMs, experts, funding partners, development partners, and representatives of foreign governments, research organizations, think tanks, academics as well as the media.

### Section VIII. Forum Language

The dialogue will take place in English with simultaneous interpretation in French.