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TANA 2025 REPORT

11th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa
Africa in An Evolving Global Order



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CONSOLIDATED PROCEEDINGS REPORT

11TH TANA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON SECURITY IN AFRICA

AFRICA IN AN EVOLVING GLOBAL ORDER

NOVEMBER 2025



IPSS

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ACRONYMS

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
AAU	Addis Ababa University
ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGA	African Governance Architecture
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ALC	African Leadership Centre
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
ASF	African Standby Force
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AYC	African Youth Charter
CAP	Common African Position
CEDPE	Centre d'Études pour le Développement et la Prévention de l'Extrémisme
CEWS	Continental Early Warning System
CIVIC	Centre for Civilians in Conflict
CMI	Chartered Management Institute
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DCAF	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
EU	European Union
FATA	Forum of African Traditional Authorities
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
FRELIMO	Frente de Libertação de Moçambique
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPAM	Global Pan African Movement
HoA	Horn of Africa

ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
ICRC	International Committee on the Red Cross
IFIs	International Financial Institution
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IJR	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
IPSS	Institute for Peace and Security Studies
IRIC	Institute for International Relations of Cameroon
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre,
NAM	Non-Alignment Movement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OIF	Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
OSF	Open Society Foundation
PRC	Permanent Representatives Committee
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSO	Peace Support Operations
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RM s	Regional Mechanisms
RO s	Regional Organisations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SAPES	Southern African Political Economy Series
SPSA	State of Peace and Security in Africa
SSR	Security Sector Reform
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme

01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 24-26, 2025, the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa gathered for its 11th dialogue in the vibrant cities of Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the inspiring theme, 'Africa in an Evolving Global Order.' This year, we embarked on an enriching journey with three vital objectives: fostering an open, informal exchange of ideas and experiences, focusing on actionable, forward-looking outcomes, and maintaining a consultative atmosphere rather than a decision-making one. The Forum relied on interactive panel discussions that encouraged everyone to share their insights and engage fully. The 11th Forum aimed to dive deeply into several key areas: first, we set out to assess the shifting dynamics of the contemporary global order and their implications for Africa, tackling vulnerabilities, challenges, and the numerous opportunities ahead. It sought to highlight Africa's unique assets, resources, and capabilities that can be harnessed in this exciting global context.

Discussions also focused on strategies and initiatives that empower Africa to navigate and even shape the global order in its favour. Sessions also explored avenues for promoting dialogue and partnerships to maximise Africa's potential in this rapidly evolving world. One of the core topics during discussions was Africa's economic resilience and the quest for self-reliance. Participants observed that sustainable development in Africa cannot rely solely on external aid; instead, it must blossom through the effective mobilisation of the continent's own rich resources. With a special spotlight on the growing significance of critical minerals —essential for the global transition to green energy—participants acknowledged the heightened demand for these resources. Participants also reminded us of the importance of responsible sourcing and transparent management to ensure that this wave of demand benefits African societies, rather than posing challenges.

By leveraging critical minerals as alternative sources of financing, enhancing local manufacturing, and deepening regional cooperation and integration, Africa can build a solid economic foundation that paves the way for lasting peace and prosperity. Moreover, there was a strong emphasis on strengthening negotiation capacities. By unifying and empowering African countries, we can engage with global partners from a position of strength. Collectively, these insights reflect a shared vision of an Africa that is not merely a battleground for external interests but a dynamic and proactive actor capable of steering its own course. In addition, this year's Forum delved into the transformational role of emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), in shaping Africa's bright future. Discussions acknowledged both the exciting potential and the risks that AI presents. There was consensus that Africa should not simply be a consumer of technology but should take an active role in shaping the development and governance of AI, ensuring that it aligns with African values, priorities, and aspirations. By harnessing AI responsibly, we can drive meaningful progress in governance, service delivery, and economic transformation—if we invest in the right skills, infrastructure, and regulatory frameworks. As we celebrate the engaging discussions and shared insights from this Forum, we move forward with optimism, ready to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead for Africa in this evolving global landscape.

02

INTRODUCTION

The 11th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

The world is changing, and over the last decade, there has been a sea change in how states perceive and contribute to peace across many parts of the world. Against this backdrop, changes have led to geopolitical fragmentation, increasing economic reordering, and strategic competition; these dynamics are fast transforming how states and Africa as a region interact in the ecosystem of a globalised world. The unipolar world order of the post-Cold War era, which saw the Western world as the epicentre of dominant influence, is now morphing into a geopolitical landscape marked by multiple centres of influence, with a multitude of players across the West and East increasingly fracturing.

In Africa, the role of the African Union (AU) and sub-regional organisations (ROs) has led to an evolving normative and institutional framework that has helped promote peace and security on the continent. This has resulted in the AU becoming a competitor in international agenda-setting, developing continental norms and policies, and advancing new agendas. However, in this evolving, fragmented world, the AU and RECs/RMs will increasingly be stretched beyond their current capacity. They will have to go above and beyond to prepare and protect the African continent for what lies ahead. While the post-Cold-War architecture of global peace and security was designed to stand the test of time and support structures like the AU, RECs/RMs through periods of fragility, it has, in fact, shown how vulnerable these African institutions are to these shocks.

While the last two decades have witnessed this, the expansion of a comprehensive African agenda through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) has been seen. The APSA is centred on a broad set of mechanisms, including conflict prevention, early warning and preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacebuilding, the encouragement and promotion of democratic practices, intervention, humanitarian action, and disaster management. Supplementing the APSA regime has been the institutionalisation of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) as the central nerve system of the APSA. It is designed to serve as a standing decision-making organ of the AU and supported by the AU Commission, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), an African Standby Force (ASF), and a Special Peace Fund. The functions of the Protocol underline the importance of interdependence and synergy among the pillars. The RECs/RMs are the building blocks of the APSA; hence, there is also a parallel process of setting up functioning systems in the RECs/RMs. Consequently, the APSA's success is largely contingent on a synergistic linkage between the various APSA components at one level and the AU and the RECs/RMs at another.

These African-led mechanisms, however, have been constrained by a wide range of challenges that the continent faces. Challenges such as the resurgence of military coups, prolonged intractable conflicts, and democratic backsliding. Meanwhile, political instability and conflict, high poverty rates, and health crises continue to pose challenges. While existing challenges, such as weak governance and corruption, climate change impacts like drought and desertification, and environmental problems such as deforestation and water pollution, continue to hit the most vulnerable the most, the continent also struggles with inadequate healthcare infrastructure, shortages of medical professionals (partially due to brain drain), and the burden of both infectious and non-communicable diseases.

While the continent has tried to tackle these challenges head-on, they have come to align with a fracturing of the international system, exacerbated by geopolitical and economic competition, militarised conflicts, transnational threats, including terrorism, cyber-attacks, health epidemics, and climate-induced instabilities. In this milieu, Africa's security spaces are increasingly influenced by external military engagements, proxy conflicts, and a growing reliance on non-African security guarantees. Against this backdrop, from 24 – 26 October 2025 in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, high-level policy decision-makers, heads of regional, continental, and global organisations, and thought leaders convened to discuss an array of topics. The 11th Tana Forum in 2025, convened under the banner "Africa in an Evolving Global Order", inspired a continued tradition of candid discussions. This Tana Forum aimed to continue fostering an open debate on strategic peace and security issues by exploring how Africa can navigate a changing global landscape and reinforce the continent's ownership of its security agenda.

Summary of the 2025 Tana Forum Discussion Themes

Day One

Session One	Horn of Africa Dialogue – Special Envoys Discussion on Peace and Security
Session Two	Foreign Affairs Ministers' Dialogue of Horn Countries
Vice Chancellors Dialogue	Universities' Dual Mandate in Africa: Harnessing Local Knowledge and Advancing Global Solutions
Side Event One	Tana Forum/La Francophonie: The Climate-Environment-Security Nexus in Africa with Perspectives from Francophone Research Centres.
Side Event Two	Tana Forum/International Committee on the Red Cross: The Role of AI in Contemporary Armed Conflicts: Assessing the Humanitarian Impact in Africa
Side Event Three	Tana Forum/Open Society Foundation: The AU, of and For the People: AU Reforms Through the Lens of Citizen-Level Legitimacy and Visibility

Day Two

Meles Zenawi Lecture Series	Tribute to the Former Late President of Mozambique, Samora Machel
Welcome Remarks	State of Peace and Security in Africa Report
Keynote Address	AUC Chairperson
High-Level Panel	African Ownership and Agencies in Global Uncertainties
Session One	Situating Africa in an Emerging Multipolar Global (Dis)Order
Session Two	Conflict Prevention in an Emerging Global (Dis)Order Through Pax Africana
Session Three	Digitisation and the Economy: Threats and Opportunities Session 3, Pod 1: Navigating Rapid Digitisation Session 3, Pod 2: Navigating for Natural Resources: Production and Intra-Africa Trade Session 3, Pod 3: Navigating Energy Transitions and Green Initiatives

Day Three

Annual University Essay Competition Winners

Session Four Multilateralism and the Future of Rules-Based Engagement

Closing remarks and vote of thanks

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BACKGROUND TO THE TANA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON SECURITY IN AFRICA

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University hosts the Secretariat of the Tana Forum. It convenes the Tana High-Level Forum annually as a flagship conference for dialogue and conversation on African peace and security issues. Since its inception in 2012, the Tana Forum has convened annually, with a different, pertinent thematic focus on peace, security, and development. The overarching objective is to explore issues at the intersection of building a people-enabled peace, security, and resilience, which has become a distinctive feature of the Forum. Additionally, the role of the Forum has been to facilitate partnerships built with prominent African leaders, including incumbent and former Heads of State. Over the years, through high-level engagements with a broad range of participants, including political leaders, diplomats, scholars, practitioners, and international and civil society organisations (CSOs), the Forum has spearheaded policy dialogues on urgent security dilemmas plaguing the continent.

In 2025, the Tana Forum was convened to focus on Africa in an Evolving Global Order. Africa is a region of increasingly strategic importance globally. At the same time, the world is experiencing shifting power dynamics, technological advancements, and geopolitical rivalries in a complex, evolving world order. In these fluxes, Africa stands at a critical juncture facing opportunities and challenges as it adapts to this changing landscape. One of Africa's biggest challenges is economic inequality, with some of the world's vulnerable countries and the fastest-growing economies found on the continent. This inequality creates social tensions and political instability, hindering socio-economic development. Another challenge for Africa is security, with conflict, terrorism, organised crime, and climate change causing instability and discouraging investment. Despite these challenges, Africa offers significant opportunities, including its rich natural resources, a growing, dynamic, youthful population, and avenues for innovation. This raises the question: Can Africa overcome its obstacles and reach its full potential, or will it be left behind in the evolving global order?

Against this backdrop, overall discussions of the 2025 Tana Forum focused on:

- Assessing the evolving dynamics of the contemporary global order and its implications for Africa, including vulnerabilities, challenges, and opportunities.
- Examining Africa's unique assets, resources, and capabilities that can be leveraged in this evolving global context.
- Highlighting strategies and initiatives that can empower Africa to navigate and shape the global order to its advantage.
- Exploring avenues for encouraging dialogue and partnerships to maximise Africa's potential in a rapidly changing world.

The 2025 Tana Forum underscored that the Forum remains relevant as a platform to bring together critical minds, policymakers, implementers, and the continent's senior officials and heads of state under one roof to discuss Africa's challenges and find African-led solutions.

04

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: CHAIRPERSON, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

The keynote speech by H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssef, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, provided a systematic and incisive commentary on the endemic disintegration between rhetoric, theory, and action in addressing Africa's problems. Following the welcome address, he noted the growing number of continental platforms focused on critical reflection, including policy forums and academic debates, which have produced comprehensive theoretical diagnoses of Africa's complex problems. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the increase in such discourses has not been translated into significant improvements on the ground. Arguably, the main issue, he claimed, is that the continent fails to turn reflections into actionable programmes that can bring about quantifiable change. The Chairperson emphasised that the conflicts and fragility in Africa are highly structural and globally entrenched, and can only be effectively addressed through not just intellectual involvement but also coordinated, firm action. His observations revealed a paradox: the continent has reached a high level of consensus about what its afflictions entail, yet it still struggles to operationalise solutions. The chairperson appealed to a new unity, based on solidarity, collective responsibility, and practical action—a call to action as well as a critique of the shift in the peace and security landscape in Africa from theoretical deliberation to practical action.



Key takeaways

- From Reflection to Action: The Chairperson emphasised the urgent need to ensure that analytical deliberations are translated into practical and coordinated measures that enhance lives across the continent.
- Re-alignment of Agenda 2063: The chairperson reiterated that the vision of inclusive growth and peace in Africa, as outlined in Agenda 2063, remains achievable through decisive action by all.
- The Silencing the Guns Initiative requires new political will and unity to achieve this target.
- Unity, Africa's Greatest Asset: In the evolving international system, the Chairperson repeated that the best protection for Africa against marginalisation is continental unity. Unity can be created through solidarity and manifested through practical shared action.
- Finally, Africa's strength should be grounded in its unity. Solidarity alone, when turned into action, is the only thing that can protect the continent against fragmentation from the outside world.

Recommendations

- Inclusive approaches and engagement with young people, driven by political will, that create opportunities for youth to stay in the country and develop their economies.
- Take charge of our destiny and ensure diversity and inclusion of women and minorities;
- Reorient our peace, security, and development initiatives with business models.

05

KEY THEMES EMERGING FROM THE 2025 TANA FORUM

The 11th Tana Forum sparked incredibly rich and meaningful discussions that delved into several critical issues affecting the African continent. From examining the fragmentation of the international rules-based order to emphasising the urgent need to reposition African agency and foster institutional reforms that respond to ever-evolving geopolitical dynamics, the conversations were both insightful and thought-provoking. One participant noted that “our focus must be firmly rooted in international law, as it is intimately connected to the existing global regulations and the frameworks that Africa has played a vital role in shaping”. Participants unanimously agreed that Africa must take a proactive stance in addressing its own peace and security challenges, utilising existing frameworks to build self-reliance and develop a unique form of inclusive multilateralism driven by Africa-led solutions.

One particularly intriguing aspect was the recognition of the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in addressing various African challenges. However, it was equally important to address the concerns surrounding the application of AI and digital technologies in conflict situations: affordability, connectivity, and adaptability. The Forum also highlighted the necessity for better governance of these emerging technologies, especially regarding the protection of humanitarian data and activities. Attendees also discussed the unique features of Africa's digital landscape and the importance of inclusive dialogue that fosters social cohesion, stability, and lasting peace.

Several sessions at the 2025 Forum addressed how to bridge the gap between the African Union (AU) and the citizens it serves. This discussion underscored the significance of reforming the AU to ensure it is not only responsive but also reflective of the voices of all stakeholders, moving away from elite-driven approaches. Engaging citizens in discussions about AU norms, values, and initiatives—such as Agenda 2063—is essential to the sustainability of these institutions and to promoting regional cooperation and integration. Ultimately, the contributions of youth, women, and civil society organisations were highlighted as critical ingredients for creating the Africa we aspire to.

Discussions at this year's Tana 2025 Forum also centred on Africa's peace and security within the context of a changing global order, focusing on multilateralism and strategic partnerships to amplify Africa's voice on the global stage. A key message that emerged from the deliberations was the importance of strengthening African multilateralism to promote common interests and articulate a unified African voice at the global stage. The Forum emphasised that Africa should adopt a regional multilateral approach to maximise its agency and strategic leverage within the evolving global system, ensuring that African priorities drive African outcomes.

The Forum also addressed regional solutions to local challenges, maritime security, climate change, and the need for innovative governance. Participants discussed the implications of a shifting global landscape and the importance of adapting regional strategies accordingly. They grappled with the relationship between African nations and the international community, seeking to achieve equity in global knowledge systems and to promote greater collaboration among countries in the South.

One key takeaway was the observation that Africa relies on natural resources, which, if left unchecked, can lead to extractive dependency. A collective vision emerged advocating for large-scale industrialisation to transform economies and invest in human capital, emphasising the need to add value beyond raw materials. The impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was also a focal point, as it represents a pathway to strengthen regional value chains and reduce dependency on external actors. As the Chair of the African Union Commission noted, the Forum provided a platform for critical reflection and is paving the way for addressing Africa's multifaceted challenges. The next step, however, lies in translating these reflections into concrete, actionable programmes.

Additionally, discussions around Africa's rapid digitisation illuminated how technology is transforming economies, institutions, and society. These changes demand strong governance frameworks that uphold inclusivity and accountability. While AI presents both significant opportunities and vulnerabilities for African nations, it was agreed that the continent's youthful population is an incredible asset, poised to drive innovation and entrepreneurship. As connectivity increases, so do the risks of data privacy breaches, cyberattacks, and misinformation. Therefore, it is paramount for Africa—at all levels—to establish robust legal and institutional frameworks aimed at data protection and cybersecurity. This foundation is crucial for maintaining digital sovereignty and trust. The emphasis on cross-border collaboration through unified policies, shared infrastructure, and standardised regulations is vital to enhancing Africa's digital narrative on the global stage. Strengthening initiatives led by the AU and regional bodies concerning AI and digital transformation can harmonise national efforts, amplifying Africa's voice in the global digital discourse.

In terms of peace, security, and development, the discussions at the Forum reflected an optimistic and unified vision for Africa's future. Alongside challenges, there are immense opportunities, and with cohesive effort, commitment, and innovative thinking, we can forge pathways to a peaceful and prosperous continent. Let us embrace this moment to collectively envision and create the Africa we want to see—a continent that not only addresses its challenges but thrives on its rich resources and vibrant human capital.

06

FORUM OUTCOMES, KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

DAY ONE

24 October 2025



Horn of Africa Dialogue – Special Envoys Discussion on Peace and Security

Session I

The Tana Forum dialogue on the Horn of Africa highlighted that sustainable peace must originate from African-led, regionally owned initiatives, supported but not controlled by international partners. Speakers agreed that Sudan's conflict is both a humanitarian disaster and a test of regional and international cooperation. The war's ripple effects across borders underscore the need for sustained multilateral engagement, with the African Union, IGAD, and other regional actors taking leadership roles, supported by aligned external actors. Envoys cautioned against fragmented mediation efforts and urged a united approach that enhances existing mechanisms and avoids duplication. Regional cooperation and collective identity emerged as central themes of discussion. The envoys underscored that the Horn's stability and prosperity hinge on cooperation rooted in a shared sense of ownership over the region's destiny and resources. Fragmentation, rivalry, and unilateralism were seen as key obstacles to peace. At the same time, regional frameworks that promote interdependence through trade, security coordination, and connectivity offer the most credible pathway to lasting stability. The Horn's strategic proximity to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, combined with its agricultural potential, growing markets, and youthful population, was identified as a foundation for transformative growth if harnessed collectively. Yet, participants cautioned that national self-interest and competition too often eclipse shared priorities, weakening the region's collective voice. One discussant remarked, "The region must ensure it is at the table, not on the menu, in this new multipolar world." The discussion also emphasised inclusivity and resilience, especially the roles of youth, women, and civil society as key drivers of peace. H.E. Dr Annette Weber highlighted that "peace must come from the region, owned and led by the people of the Horn." This aligns with calls to strengthen social contracts and governance institutions to manage elections, combat misinformation, and build trust across societies.

Key takeaways

- Regional leadership is non-negotiable: African-led, regionally anchored solutions remain the most sustainable and legitimate approaches to peace and stability. Trust, shared identity, and mutual accountability form the foundation for meaningful regional integration.
- Africa's agency must mature from moral appeals to strategic negotiation. The AU and IGAD must be empowered to act as indispensable conveners and norm-setters in all mediation efforts.
- Partnerships must shift from a dependency model to a mutual-benefit model. International cooperation should prioritise equitable trade, investment, and technology transfer rather than aid-driven relationships.
- Coordination among Special Envoys must evolve from dialogue to structured action. Monthly meetings between envoys (EU, UN, AU, IGAD, Norway) have improved coherence. However, they should now be institutionalised into a joint coordination platform with shared analysis, unified messaging, and collective follow-up mechanisms. This will prevent duplication and ensure that regional frameworks remain in the lead.



Foreign Affairs Ministers' Dialogue of Horn Countries
Session II

- Overlapping efforts risk duplication, and when backed by external interventions, can lead to fragmentation of African frameworks. Thus, coherent engagement through the AU and IGAD ensures legitimacy, focus, and sustainability.
- Cooperation with the AU and IGAD on Sudan must continue. This is essential to support both the civilian track and the humanitarian response.

Recommendations

- Strengthen AU–IGAD–UN coordination frameworks by establishing formal coordination mechanisms with clear division of roles, regular joint assessments, and shared analysis to harmonise political, humanitarian, and security responses across the Horn;
- Enhance coordination among Special Envoys by transforming periodic envoy meetings into structured coordination platforms with unified messaging, joint statements, and collective follow-up to improve coherence and avoid duplication.
- Provide sustained funding and capacity support for community-led initiatives, youth and women’s networks, and civil society organisations to ensure peace processes are locally driven, inclusive and socially legitimate;
- Provide technical and financial support to election management bodies; strengthen monitoring mechanisms; enhance electoral preparedness and governance; and promote civic education to prevent electoral violence and build public trust.
- Promote maritime and cross-regional security cooperation by developing a collective maritime governance framework linking Horn and Gulf states to secure trade routes, protect resources, and promote the blue economy as a driver of regional stability.

The dialogue emphasised that Africa must adapt to an evolving international order, balancing internal resilience with regional solidarity. Panellists discussed regional solutions for regional challenges; maritime security and regional integration; the shifting global order and regional adaptation; state and international organisation roles in development, peace, security and stability; and the impact of climate change and the need for better resource management. Speakers underscored that peace agreements, such as those achieved in Ethiopia, demonstrate that nationally owned processes yield more sustainable outcomes than externally imposed solutions. The session also discussed the re-emergence of a multipolar world, and the shrinking of development aid will require African institutions to innovate, prioritise, and "do more with less." The session also identified artificial intelligence and youth employment as new frontiers of governance and policymaking. Panellists urged proactive regional engagement and investment to counter further social and economic disruptions. Finally, panellists reflected on domestic challenges and opportunities, emphasising the legitimacy of peaceful access to the Red Sea, equitable resource-sharing (especially in transboundary waters), and collective maritime security, as well as the collapse of state(s), while highlighting the complex dynamics of building federal institutions from scratch while combating extremism.

Key takeaways

- Enhancing productivity and resilience in the Horn requires structured regional engagement — through coherent diplomatic, economic, and security frameworks that align states' strategies under predictable cooperation mechanisms;
- IGAD remains a credible and indispensable convener of regional diplomacy despite financial and operational constraints; reinforcing its institutional capacity, clarifying its mandate, and securing financing will ensure it continues to anchor African-led responses to emerging crises.
- Justice must underpin all peacebuilding and governance reforms; embedding accountability, inclusivity, and fairness at every level of governance is essential for transforming fragile peace into durable stability.
- Nationally owned and regionally supported solutions continue to demonstrate greater sustainability, as seen in Ethiopia's peace process, where internal leadership combined with regional backing delivered more credible outcomes than externally imposed approaches.
- Justice must underpin all peacebuilding and governance reforms; embedding accountability, inclusivity, and fairness at every level of governance is essential for transforming fragile peace into durable stability.
- Legally grounded, cooperative regional integration can turn shared vulnerabilities into shared prosperity, particularly in maritime access, resource governance, and cross-border trade, linking peacebuilding with economic interdependence and transformation.
- A new framework for regional cooperation is needed — one that couples internal resilience with collective adaptation to the shifting global order. The framework should advance mutual trust, equitable resource sharing, and innovation as foundations for shared stability and growth.

Recommendations

- Empower regional institutions to lead Africa's peace and development agenda through predictable and sustainable financing, stronger mandates, and coordinated ministerial mechanisms that ensure the African Union, IGAD, and member states collaborate when shaping policies, mediating disputes, and implementing regional initiatives;
- Create a cooperative and legally grounded maritime and border governance system under IGAD or AU leadership that regulates access to ports, trade corridors, and sea routes, backed by dispute-resolution frameworks and regional monitoring;
- Promote coordination across existing regional security architecture(s) for intelligence sharing and harmonised counter-terrorism operations through joint task forces that address emerging security challenges;



- Integrate climate resilience into regional governance and development planning through cross-border environmental treaties, share hydrological data, and collaborative adaptation projects that promote sustainable resource use, reduce disaster risks, and transform environmental interdependence into a source of cooperation.
- Rebuild trust and solidarity among Horn nations and forge coherent strategic partnerships in an evolving global order by articulating a collective Horn of Africa position on international platforms such as the AU–EU Partnership, COP summits, and UN forums;
- Forge coherent strategic partnerships in an evolving global order by articulating a collective Horn of Africa position in international platforms such as the AU–EU Partnership, COP summits, and UN forums, ensuring that engagements with external powers yield investments in infrastructure, renewable energy, and technology transfer that align with regional priorities.
- Diversify and innovate financing for regional priorities through South–South cooperation, diaspora bonds, and public–private partnerships that mobilise sustainable funding for infrastructure, trade, and resilience programmes, while improving financial oversight to ensure transparency and value for money.

Universities’ Dual Mandate in Africa: Harnessing Local Knowledge and Advancing Global Solutions.

Vice Chancellors Dialogue

During this session, the invited Vice Chancellors discussed the significance of the Tana Forum, which serves as a platform for political engagement where the Global South can define a "Third Way" of development, conceived in the South and led by the South, serving all humanity. The speakers identified three structural inequalities within the global knowledge system; Nature of Knowledge: the continued colonisation of imagination and marginalisation of indigenous epistemologies, requiring the restoration of dialogue between Africa's intellectual traditions and global scholarship; Economy of Knowledge: the concentration of research funding among less than ten percent of the world's population; and Geopolitics of Knowledge Structural barriers to academic mobility, linguistic hierarchies (particularly the dominance of English), and Northern-controlled publication ecosystems continue to restrict visibility and exchange.

The Vice Chancellor’s keynote speaker highlighted that knowledge must be recognised as a common public good and that the decolonisation of systems that exclude the South from shaping global understanding is necessary. The speaker argued that AI can play a key role in transcending language barriers to accessibility and prevent the continued marginalisation of Global scholarship. Overall, the session highlighted decolonisation of Knowledge, equity in the global knowledge system, increased South–South collaboration, a new development paradigm, the mobility of academics, and the Integration of indigenous and local engagement and knowledge systems.

Key takeaways

- Reclaiming Africa’s Knowledge Systems: Participants underscored the need to redefine what constitutes legitimate knowledge by embracing indigenous epistemologies alongside modern science.

- African universities increasingly recognise that their value lies in addressing real-world challenges;
- Local socio-economic and environmental contexts can serve as “natural laboratories” for research, innovation, and policy solutions.
- Universities must move beyond outreach to make communities active co-producers of knowledge, ensuring that research directly benefits and empowers society.
- Self-Sustaining Research Ecosystems: The importance of building autonomous, regionally anchored research and funding systems that reflect African priorities and reduce dependence on external donors.

Recommendations

- Review and reform epistemological frameworks, undertake curriculum audits and institutional reviews to align teaching, research and epistemological foundations with African realities, histories, and intellectual traditions;
- Integrate Indigenous Knowledge into Curricula and Research: Validate and embed traditional systems, such as conflict resolution, herbal medicine, and environmental management, in academic programmes through rigorous research;
- Create transdisciplinary research institutions and funding mechanisms across Africa – independent of the Global North's funding streams – to promote sustained, locally owned and relevant innovation;
- Enable free movement of scholars, students, and research partnerships across African and Global South institutions by establishing a Research Visa for Southern countries and supporting South-South cooperation.
- Build upon existing conventions to implement a harmonised African system for mutual recognition of qualifications and research standards;
- Anchor Universities in Local Development Agendas: Align research and teaching with community and national priorities, ensuring that universities directly contribute to inclusive growth and social transformation;
- Foster Strategic Partnerships with Industry and Government: Establish joint innovation hubs and policy labs that co-fund research, co-design curricula, and translate academic outputs into scalable technologies and policy solutions and strengthen collaboration between academia, policymakers, and the private sector.
- Recognise and Fund Knowledge as a Public Good: Encourage national and regional governments to invest in education and research as essential public goods that underpin human development and stability.



Theme: “The Climate-Environment-Security Nexus in Africa with Perspectives from African and Francophone Research Centres”

Tana Forum/ Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Side Event One

Africa remains one of the most affected continents, facing mounting pressures such as drought, resource scarcity, migration, and violent conflict. Climate change magnifies existing vulnerabilities. The session discussed the growing interconnections among climate change, environmental degradation, and security across Francophone states in Africa. Panellist discussions expanded beyond the title and centred on how climate change is intensifying existing vulnerabilities in Africa, increasing insecurity, and undermining peace and security. Research centres can strengthen collaboration and build shared knowledge platforms to understand better and manage the climate-environment-security nexus. There is also a need to promote an African-led climate governance framework through cooperation and shared expertise.

Furthermore, the OIF's commitment to advancing human security through its normative frameworks, particularly those rooted in the Bamako Declaration, was emphasised as a central pillar of its efforts to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, peace, and security across Francophone Africa. The session also highlighted the need for multilateral cooperation to confront the intertwined challenges of Climate Change, environmental risks, and peace and security risks. Finally, the session also highlighted the need for multilateral cooperation to confront the intertwined challenges of Climate Change, environmental risks, and peace and security risks.

Key takeaways

- Climate change acts as a conflict multiplier — intensifying resource competition and intercommunal violence, particularly between pastoralist and agricultural communities.
- Traditional and indigenous knowledge systems across Africa offer valuable, context-specific methods for climate adaptation;
- A continental observatory on CPS could link, harmonise, and expand the regional monitoring system.

Recommendations

- Continue advancing action-oriented research to develop practical tools that can support political and strategic decision-making on the Climate–Peace–Environment nexus and its related risks;
- Explore the establishment of a continental observatory centre on the climate–security–migration nexus in collaboration with the African Union, building on existing regional mechanisms such as IGAD's ICPAC, ECOWARN, and the SADC Climate Services Centre. This observatory should aim to enhance data sharing, policy coherence, and long-term monitoring.



- Encourage international organisations to strengthen cooperation with the OIF to develop further and implement initiatives that address the climate, peace, and environmental risks;
- Encourage the adoption of a holistic approach to human security that integrates democratic governance, food security, and humanitarian protection with broader economic and political stability frameworks.

Theme: “The role of AI in Contemporary Armed Conflicts: Assessing the Humanitarian Impact in Africa”

Tana Forum/International Committee on the Red Cross (ICRC)

Side Event Two

Africa The session focused on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in contemporary armed conflicts, assessing its humanitarian impact in Africa. The session addressed the risks posed by AI and digital technologies in armed conflicts, as well as the protection of humanitarian data. Africa’s digital environment and possible solutions to regulate AI and address its challenges in the peace and security domain. The use of AI in cyber, information, and military operations poses significant risks to civilians and international security. In the military environment, AI applications raise complex humanitarian, legal, security, and ethical challenges that require urgent, coordinated action. Addressing these challenges requires a human-centred, ethical approach to the development and deployment of AI in armed conflicts and military contexts. Human control and accountability remain at the core of military decision-making and are of the utmost importance. It is equally essential that AI use in warfare fully respects IHL. The spread of AI and technologies is altering the nature and dynamics of armed conflicts on the African continent. The discussion, focusing on the use of autonomous weapons systems, highlighted the need for international action to prohibit or strictly regulate such technologies through a dedicated treaty. Progress in this field depends on multilateral cooperation. Only by working together can states forge a shared vision and strategy, align their positions, and collectively strengthen global governance mechanisms to ensure an ethical, human-centric response to military applications of AI in armed conflicts and military contexts. In addition, equally crucial is that any effective response to AI's challenges must recognise context-specificities and be culturally sensitive. In other words, responses must be tailored to specific cultural, political, social, and regional contexts rather than being detached from local realities.

Key takeaways

- Using AI in military operations poses risks to civilians and international security. It is of the utmost importance to regulate the use of AI and digital technologies in armed conflicts and in military domains.



- Importance of deploying and developing a human-centred approach to the use of AI in military domains. An approach shaped by a "whole of society" framework that can address the multifaceted challenges AI presents.
- Members of the international community and African countries must work toward a shared understanding of the challenges AI poses.
- Draw the AU and member states' attention to the adverse impact posed by autonomous weapons, including those controlled by AI. These considerations should be included in a developed Common African Position (CAP) on AI, which also considers the importance of complying with IHL for greater protection of civilians. The CAP and the subsequent international treaties must ensure that AI is unable to use autonomous weapons systems;
- Establish safeguards and codes of conduct that uphold International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles when using AI in conflict situations. These ethical standards should be communicated among humanitarian practitioners, private entities, and states.

Recommendations

- A call for the adoption of a Common African Position (CAP) on AI, reflecting both the risks and opportunities that digital technologies present, primarily in the peace and security area. This can lead the AU and its member states to actively engage in the global debate on AI governance in the military and security domains.
- Draw on AU and MSs' attention to the adverse impact posed by autonomous weapons, including those controlled by AI. These considerations should be included in a CAP, which also considers the importance of complying with IHL for greater protection of civilians.
- Ensure international action to prohibit or strictly regulate the use of such digital technologies in armed conflicts, especially autonomous weapon systems, through a dedicated treaty;
- Fostering and building trust amongst all the stakeholders is crucial to ensure that emerging technologies deliver and uphold shared norms and values.

Theme: "The AU of, and for the People: AU Reforms through the Lens of Citizen-Level Legitimacy and Visibility"

Tana Forum/Open Society Foundation

Side Event Three

The session underscored the urgency of reorienting the African Union (AU) toward a truly people-centred institution that delivers tangible benefits to African citizens. The session covered how to bring the AU closer to the citizens. Panellists discussed the need for a bottom-up approach to AU reforms, noting that the reform of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) is overlooked. Many reforms remain technocratic and distant from citizens' lived experiences. The ratification of the Free Movement of Persons Protocol, which could have deepened integration and brought the AU closer to the people, is a missed opportunity. To better enhance the AU and the people, there is a need to communicate the AU's work more effectively. Without this, many citizens "do not feel or even see the AU as representative of their interests. For all participants, engagement with citizens on AU norms

and values, institutions, and domesticating agendas such as Agenda 2063 is paramount. Participants reaffirmed that regional integration must serve the purpose of constructing “an African Union of the people and for the people”, shifting away from elite-driven governance toward inclusive, participatory structures grounded in local realities. Finally, panellists urged a stronger division of labour between the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and member states, arguing that RECs play a vital bridging role in bringing continental integration closer to citizens.

Key takeaways

- The AU reforms must be inclusive with an emphasis on bottom-up approaches.
- The inclusion of the youth and women should be given due attention.
- Bringing the AU closer to the people through direct and indirect presence requires well-crafted communication strategies.

Recommendations

- A bottom-up approach to reform and embed citizen participation, communication, and visibility;
- Strengthen the AU's presence within member states—through local chapters — and enhance media engagement.
- Direct citizen engagement through digital platforms, youth movements, and community structures;
- AU reform must extend beyond mere bureaucratic restructuring to encompass a democratic renewal. This should be grounded in financial self-reliance, responsive governance, and actual citizen ownership.
- An AU that listens, includes, and empowers its citizens can become the transformative force that Africa needs.



DAY TWO

25 October 2025



Meles Zenawi Lecture Series: Tribute to the Former President of Mozambique, Samora Machel

PRE-FORUM EVENT



Tirbute to

Samora Machel

Late President of Mozambique

Late. President Samora Machel was a revolutionary, Pan-Africanist, and the founding President of independent Mozambique. His life and leadership embodied Africa's struggle for freedom, justice, and unity. President Machel turned to political activism after witnessing the racial injustices of colonialism. Joining the Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO) in the early 1960s, he rose to leadership after Eduardo Mondlane's death. He led the armed struggle that culminated in Mozambique's independence on 25 June 1975. As President, Machel pursued a transformative vision — one that linked national independence with social justice and people-centred development. He championed education, healthcare, and agricultural reform, while working to forge a unified Mozambican identity beyond ethnic and colonial divisions. Machel saw Mozambique's liberation as inseparable from the freedom of southern Africa. His government provided crucial support to the liberation movements of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, despite facing devastating attacks and economic sabotage from Rhodesian and apartheid South Africa regimes. Through these efforts, he helped lay the foundation for today's Southern African Development Community (SADC) and strengthened Africa's collective pursuit of peace, stability, and regional integration. Though his life was cut short by a tragic plane crash on 19 October 1986, Samora Machel's legacy endures. He remains a symbol of courage, solidarity, and visionary leadership — a reminder that Africa's transformation depends on leaders committed to unity, self-reliance, and the dignity of all its people.

Key takeaways

- Mozambique played a central role in the liberation of Southern African countries. It paid a heavy price for supporting anti-colonial forces in countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.
- Samora Machel believed that Mozambique's independence from Portuguese colonial rule was incomplete without the liberation of its neighbours and was committed to playing a central role.
- As a founding member of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), Samora Machel played a crucial role in enhancing regional integration in southern Africa and creating institutions and mechanisms to deliver on the promise of an integrated and prosperous region.

Recommendations

- Nurture a new generation (attributes of Machel, such as humility, integrity, courage and compromise) and reimagine regional solidarity and integration through deeper economic integration, shared infrastructure, and collective security frameworks within the African Union and SADC. Africa's strength lies in coordinated regional responses to shared challenges.
- Pursue self-reliance and resource sovereignty through industrialisation, cross-border trade, value addition, and intra-African trade, leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to build resilient economies. Fiscal discipline and domestic resource mobilisation to reduce aid dependency and enhance Africa's negotiating power globally;

Welcome Remarks and Summary of the State of Peace and Security in Africa Report

Main Event

- Champion peace and security through African-centred solutions and approaches. Strengthen African-led peace and security mechanisms, ensuring that conflicts are resolved through local and regional initiatives rather than external interventions. Investing in conflict prevention, governance reforms, and inclusive political dialogue aligns with Machel's vision of stability through dialogue.

The welcome remarks emphasised the importance of maintaining a balanced approach between positivity and introspection concerning the peace and security situation in Africa. Dr Gedion Timothewos, the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia and the host of the event, praised the Forum for promoting an environment of open and constructive dialogue. He underscored the unique role of the Tana Forum as a platform for diverse stakeholders—including governments, policymakers, scholars, and civil society—to engage in honest discussions that can guide practical and effective policy responses. Dr Timothewos discussed how Africans can collectively transition from deliberations to concrete actions, emphasising the need to collaborate and fulfil an African mandate. He reiterated the significance of platforms such as the Tana Forum in setting essential agendas. Still, he noted that sustained commitment, political goodwill, and practical cooperation among member states are critical to turning discussions into actionable steps on the peace and security agenda in Africa.

H.E. Lassina Zerbo, Former Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, Chairman of the Rwanda Atomic Energy Board, and Acting Chairperson of the Tana Forum Board, delivered his welcome remarks and presented a summary of the State of Peace and Security in Africa (SPSA) Synthesised Report 2022–2024. The report reveals shifting conflict dynamics driven by violent extremism, foreign military interventions, illicit economies, and democratic reversals. The analysis highlights the spread of violent extremism amid youth restiveness, economic stagnation, and forced migration, while inter-communal clashes and gender-based violence deepen societal fractures. Organised crime, including illicit trade in resources, arms, and human trafficking, fuels extremist networks, particularly in the Sahel, Horn, and Central Africa. These structural and geopolitical drivers have eroded democratic governance, as evidenced by recurring coups, erosion of the rule of law, and rising authoritarian tendencies. Citizen participation remains critical for countering these reversals, yet shrinking civic spaces and securitised state responses threaten democratic consolidation.

The Report underscores Africa's pressing need for collective agency and solidarity to strengthen its governance and security responses. The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2719, which provides financing for AU-led peace support operations, presents an opportunity to reshape Africa–UN partnerships within a networked multilateralism framework. Equally, the AU's 2025 Theme of the Year on 'Justice and Reparations for Africans and People of African Descent' signals a renewed push for structural reforms of global governance, including long-delayed Security Council reform. By invoking instruments such as Article 109 of the UN Charter, African states could spearhead a coalition to democratise the international system, ensuring Africa is recognised not as a passive recipient of order but as a co-architect of equitable global peace, security, and development.



Key takeaways

- Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Dr Timothewos emphasised the importance of critical platforms for open, candid, and frank discussions on peace and security to reflect on the key issues and explore sustainable solutions.
- Africa should take charge of its agency and unity to prevent itself from becoming a chessboard for foreign strategic interests. Discussants noted that fragmentation was detrimental to the continent's overall impact, making it vulnerable to manipulation and missed opportunities.
- Security of the world is at risk due to the lack of dealing with peace and security challenges, the continued conflicts and insecurity in the Sahel, Sudan and other parts of the world indicate that instability never exists in isolation.
- H.E. Zerbo emphasised that Africa's critical infrastructure is becoming increasingly susceptible to cyberattacks. The issue of cybersecurity, he argued, should be considered a constituent element of continental resilience.
- Africans should own, build, and maintain peace and stability on the continent, grounded in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA);
- Without prosperity, the economy is weak, and prosperity without security is unsustainable; integrating economic and security agendas should be achieved through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and regional integration.

Recommendations

- States and RECs/RMs should work on improving social cohesion with stakeholders and capitalise on local resilience and knowledge through a shared vision underpinned by quality leadership.
- Revitalise Pan-Africanism as a conflict prevention strategy. The African Union should spearhead a continental revival of Pan-Africanism, working in close partnership with civil society and grassroots social movements. This will strengthen solidarity, counter the drivers of insecurity, and provide a unifying framework for addressing persistent conflicts.
- Claim leadership in global policy dialogues. The AU, member states, and societal actors must actively shape global forums where the foundations of the evolving multilateral system are being negotiated. African voices should not only be present but lead in defining the terms of a more equitable international order;
- Redesign Africa's financing architecture. The AU and its member states should issue a comprehensive policy blueprint for a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa's realities. This should include debt restructuring, debt relief, and the development of a Global Climate Finance Charter to anchor Africa's long-term fiscal resilience.
- Strengthen continental fiscal autonomy in peace and security. Member states should commit at least 5% of their national defence





African Ownership and Agencies in Global Uncertainties

High-Level Panel

budgets to the AU. This would ensure African ownership of peace and security interventions, reduce dependence on external funding, and strengthen continental sovereignty in crisis response.

- Mainstream gender parity in AU peace missions. The AU Peace and Security Council and the AU Commission must institutionalise gender parity across all deployments of special envoys, fact-finding teams, election observation missions, and post-conflict recovery missions. Women should not only participate but also lead these missions as a principle of practice;
- Develop a continental policy on artificial intelligence and security. The AU and member states should launch policy dialogues and establish a continental AI framework to regulate machine learning, autonomous systems, and robotic weapons. This anticipatory governance is critical to managing the unpredictable risks posed by unregulated AI to peace and security.
- Advance free movement and transboundary peacebuilding. Governments should ratify the AU Protocol on Free Movement, operationalise the AU passport, and establish a transboundary justice and peacebuilding framework. This would complement the AfCFTA, enhance cross-border stabilisation, regional integration, and foster leader-to-leader, government-to-government, and people-to-people engagements.
- Champion reparations and reform of the global order. Building on the 2025 Theme of the Year, the AU should convene a coalition of Global South and progressive states to draft a UNGA resolution invoking Article 109 of the UN Charter. This would trigger a General Review Conference to reform the multilateral system and chart a pathway toward a more inclusive “UN 2.0.”

The session underscored the urgent need for adaptive leadership capable of responding to Africa’s evolving political, economic, and security realities while advancing self-determination in a fragmented global order. Respondents noted that economic transformation was viewed as a cornerstone of peace and stability. However, the infrastructure gap, low levels of intra-African trade, and barriers to regional integration continue to undermine development. To make this shift, African economies must trade more with each other and reduce dependency on external markets. Participants agreed that Africa must transition from being a passive recipient of global decisions



to becoming an active shaper of global governance, particularly in peace, security, and trade. Harnessing Africa's demographic dividend through youth empowerment, skills development, and technological innovation is essential for future competitiveness. The panel also highlighted that weak governance structures and the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government have exposed institutional fragilities. A central theme was the call for African-led peace and security processes. While institutions such as the AU, RECs/RMs and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) were established to promote self-sufficiency and integration, their effectiveness has declined over time.

Key takeaways

- There is a need for adaptive leadership that is responsive to Africa's needs and supports innovative governance in rapidly changing political and economic realities.
- Prioritise homegrown, inclusive solutions through national dialogues, preventive diplomacy, and African-led peace innovation utilising mechanisms from the AU, RECs and RMs;
- Boost intra-African trade, address infrastructure deficits, and empower the private sector as a growth catalyst to ensure economic self-reliance;
- Embed women and youth in peacebuilding and policymaking at all levels, and invest in the capacity of these groups to facilitate entrepreneurship and digital literacy to drive future growth.
- Africa must lead in shaping global and regional governance to strengthen it and support a shift from dependence to partnership.

Recommendations

- Leverage the potential of young people to influence and catapult Africa's technological and development.
- Pool resources wisely to establish our own large-scale data centres, taking advantage of economies of scale, linking them with cross-border investments, and involving the private sector.
- Invest in African-led technological ecosystems and data infrastructure for long-term innovation.

The session focused on 'Situating Africa in an Emerging Multipolar Global (dis)Order'. The discussion reflects a shared view that we are in a pivotal moment in which established global multilateral institutions and norms are under severe stress. Panellists acknowledged that the key question is how to position Africa better to advance African interests and priorities. Panellists emphasised that the decline of multilateralism is not only a global problem but also a continental one, and that AU member states commitment to AU multilateralism has not been strong. Africans should give due regard and fund their own multilateralism in the unfolding global shifts and transformations.

Key takeaways

- Africa must be part of the conversation rooted in politics that will reform African narratives and perceptions; strengthen African

Situating Africa in an Emerging Multipolar Global (Dis)Order

Session One

agency and institutions; align plans and partnerships with African priorities;

- Drawing lessons from the EU's 'strategic unity' and promotion of common interests, which can help Africa navigate issues such as AI and collective security;
- Continental integration is not a luxury for Africa; it is a necessity. For a prosperous Africa, integration in multiple areas of interest, including trade, energy and finance, is needed;
- Africa must seize the moment and assert its positions and interests in reforming the multilateral forums, including the UN, IFIs, and G20. Fund its own peace and security initiatives and unlock African potential, including human and natural resources, ensuring its institutions are ready to take on the tasks at hand;
- It is imperative to challenge African leaders to honour their decisions and ensure that the AU Commission focuses on internal engagement within Africa and travels outside Africa less frequently.
- Finally, the AU Chairperson should issue a critical report on the Situation in Africa, offering solutions to address current and evolving crises and challenges facing Africa (akin to Salim Ahmed Salim's 1990 report).

Recommendation

- In responding to contemporary global shifts and transformations, put the AU at the centre of the African projects. Engaging separately, without building consensus through the AU, no one will respect Africa(ns);
- Invest in advanced science and technology, as it is one major factor reinforcing global inequality.
- Nurture a new spirit of unity by addressing institutional and normative gaps in Africa, which is strategically necessary for Africa in an evolving and changing global order.
- Design and implement stringent policies that help unlock African potential, including human and natural resources. Africa's economic sovereignty can be ensured only when Africans use their resources for Africa's benefit.
- Global and African-level initiatives should focus on building inclusive, sustainable, and just societies to create a better, vibrant Africa that actively engages in international affairs.



Conflict Prevention in an Emerging Global (Dis) Order Through Pax Africana

Session Two

The session discussed Africa's role on the global stage and its evolving role, which has led to significant recognition of its strategic importance. Milestones such as the continent's inclusion in the G20, the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the adoption of UNSCR 2719 support assessed contributions of AU-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs), illustrating that the foundations for a renewed Pax Africana already exist. The session explored the need to strengthen the implementation of continental decisions, which remain critical to enhancing Africa's place in the world. Participants explored how Pax Africana can evolve from a peace-through-dialogue model to a peace-through-agency paradigm, in which Africa defines and sustains its own priorities in peace, security, and development rather than reacting to external pressures. Participants argued that Africa's strength lies in strategic unity, not uniformity. As a result, sustainable peace depends on effective coordination among African states, predictable funding, and political will to cooperate and address security and governance challenges.

Key takeaways

- Strengthening coordination, accountability, and follow-up mechanisms among Member States is crucial to ensure that existing frameworks and resolutions effectively deliver on their mandates and achieve their intended outcomes at the local, national, and regional levels.
- Peace in Africa should not be built through strength or coercion but through dialogue, mediation, and cooperation at all levels — from communities to heads of state. Sustainable peace requires political will, predictable funding, and inclusive implementation of AU decisions.
- Listening to the priorities and challenges of Africa's youth (employment, good governance, and climate action) and integrating them into peace and policy processes can help rebuild trust and foster innovation.
- Adopt a more "whole-of-society" bottom-up approach that helps localise peace efforts and ensure citizen participation in engagement issues, thereby supporting and enhancing legitimacy and resilience in African nations.
- Networked diplomacy and whole-of-society engagement—including women, youth, and the diaspora—are foundational to reviving the Pan-African spirit.



Recommendations

- We need political will from African heads of state to help the AU fully operationalise the AU peace fund, enabling it to fund at least 75 per cent of the fund's activities and programmes. This should be encompassed within the 21st-century Pax Africana framework, which goes beyond post-colonial notions of sovereignty to integrate the economic, digital, environmental, and social dimensions of peace.
- Ensure greater political accountability for implementing AU Assembly and Peace and Security Council (PSC) resolutions through a monitoring and reporting mechanism linked to member-state commitments;
- Empower the African Union Commission (AUC) with enforcement authority to track progress and sanction non-compliance, ensuring that continental policies translate into national action;
- Operationalise the AU Peace Fund with predictable and sustainable domestic contributions and explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as a solidarity levy on extractive industries or digital transactions, to reduce dependency on external partners. This should include encouraging private sector co-investment in peace and security initiatives, particularly in reconstruction, stabilisation, and resilience-building.
- Reinforce collaboration between the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to clarify the division of labour and improve coordination on peace, governance, and trade;
- Encourage and implement cross-border investments and public-private partnerships to strengthen regional integration, infrastructure connectivity, and intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework;
- Establish a Pan-African Leadership Forum under the AU to mentor emerging leaders, promote ethical governance, and institutionalise lessons from Africa's liberation generation;
- Encourage community-led processes that integrate women and youth into mediation to enhance the AU's effectiveness.
- Strengthen early warning and strategic analysis through enhanced technical systems that can support preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts. Additionally, strengthen the link between governance, economic inclusion, climate resilience, and technological sovereignty.

Digitisation and the Economy: Threats and Opportunities

Session Three

The session reflected Africa's digital world and its long-term effects on development, security, and governance. The panellists indicated that rapid digitisation is remoulding economics, institutions, and social interactions, presenting opportunities for growth and new threats. Artificial intelligence was portrayed as a double-edged phenomenon—potentially highly beneficial for innovation and integration, yet also making African nations susceptible to external dependence and cyber vulnerability in an international world dominated by global powers. Africa's youth were recognised as its most valuable digital dividend during the session. Empowering young people to enable

entrepreneurship, knowledge production, and innovation in the digitisation process was discussed as what states need to do to be part of this trajectory. Panellists expressed scepticism about increasing policy and capacity gaps between policymakers and grassroots actors. And noted that disputes and youth radicalisation now more often originate online, underscoring the need to update Africa's early warning and response mechanisms. The discussion touched on how digitisation should be carried out within a new social contract that demands regional unity and cooperation. Panellists acknowledged a path to digital sovereignty that would make Africa ready to shift from a technology consumer to a meaningful contributor to global digital ethics and innovation, supported by strategic public-private partnerships, diaspora engagement, and AU-led harmonisation of AI and data policies. Finally, the session deliberated on the urgency of embracing institutional and policy mechanisms to own and manage digitisation in the increasingly uncertain world order.

Navigating Rapid Digitisation

Pod 1

The session explored Africa's rapid digitisation and how it is reshaping how economies, institutions, and societies operate, and these changes are demanding strong governance systems that ensure inclusivity and accountability. Panellists explored how AI represents both an opportunity and a vulnerability for African nations, especially in an era where global powers already dominate. As a result, panellists discussed how Africa's youth population is its greatest digital resource, capable of driving innovation and entrepreneurship and placing the continent at the heart of the AI revolution. However, panellists also discussed that as Africa becomes more connected, vulnerabilities related to data privacy, cyberattacks, and misinformation will increase, and that, at the national, regional, and continental levels, Africa must develop robust legal and institutional frameworks for data protection and cybersecurity to maintain digital sovereignty and trust. Finally, discussants noted that strengthening AU-led and regional initiatives on AI and digital transformation can help harmonise national efforts and amplify Africa's global digital voice. Thus, collaboration across borders through shared policies, infrastructure, and standards is the key to unlocking and enhancing Africa's digital future.

Key takeaways

- Data sovereignty and governance remain critical; 90 per cent of Africa's data is stored or processed outside the continent. Therefore, we need to bridge the policy-implementation gaps by working more closely with universities, start-ups, and governments.
- Digital literacy and regulation must advance together to combat misinformation and deep fakes.
- Technological advancement should align with African values and ethics. Artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies can bolster resilience, as demonstrated by the World Food Programme's (WFP) use of these tools for early warning systems and logistics;
- Computing power is the new geopolitical currency, and Africa must avoid becoming a raw-data exporter. Thus, we need to empower the youth and diaspora networks to help energise and build Africa's technological innovation.



Recommendations

- Enhancing the public-private collaboration to increase access and close digital gaps;
- Developing pan-African ethical AI development and data governance;
- Investing in digital literacy and critical thinking to fight misinformation and enhance digital citizenship;
- Including AI in other sectors like agriculture, education, and peacebuilding to create an ecosystem of development;
- To protect Africa's interests and views, it is necessary to ensure that it is actively involved in international AI regulations.

Navigating the Scramble for Natural Resources: Production and Intra-Africa Trade

Pod 2

The session focused on Africa being at a crucial, potentially transformative moment in its development trajectory. Panellists discussed that the continent's continued extractive dependency and over-reliance on natural resources expose it to renewed forms of external competition, risking a modern "scramble for Africa." Thus, a shift towards industrialisation, value addition, and investment in human capital, supported by governance reforms and regional integration underpinned by the principle of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), provides the perfect framework to overcome the colonial legacy of fragmented markets and externally dependent economies. The discussions also centred on how the continent's 1.5 billion people — representing about 18.83 per cent of the total world population— with a combined GDP of USD 3 trillion, offer the foundation for a more resilient and interconnected African economy. Participants noted that strengthening regional value chains, enhancing intra-African trade, and expanding services through the AfCFTA would offer an opportunity to support African countries in negotiating fairer contracts with external private partners, while encouraging investment in infrastructure and digital systems necessary for industrial transformation. Panellists stressed the need to manage critical resources, promote good governance at all levels, with the policy backing of the AU, REC/RMs, and member states. Panellists noted that Africa's critical minerals and manufacturing industries offer a strategic opportunity to reshape Africa's role in global economic governance and provide an alternative route to sustainable growth. With some of the world's largest reserves of gold, platinum, and cobalt, Africa can position itself at the centre of the green and digital transitions.

Key takeaways

- Properly managed, mineral resources can become a catalyst for industrialisation, a solution to the lack of sustainable financing, and a lever for Africa's prominent role in international affairs, rather than a source of inequality and instability.
- The AU's Digital Transformation Strategy and the AI Strategy provide key frameworks to promote ethical governance of emerging technologies.
- A narrative shift is necessary to allow Africa to move away from dependency-based discourses and to assert its agency and leadership in managing its resources and defining its development

path. This requires evidence-based policymaking and a confident, objective narrative that reflects Africa's potential and strategic value.

- Underscore the link between governance and development, stressing the need for the AU and its Commission to promote good governance as a foundation for sustainable growth and resource management;
- Africa's future wealth lies not beneath the ground but in the minds of young people. Industrialisation and economic prosperity must begin in classrooms, aligning education with industrial and technological needs.
- There is a need to build unity, integration, and trust in Africa's collective capacity to turn this opportunity into a more sustainable and prosperous future for the continent.

Recommendations

- Investing in education (prioritising education-driven industrialisation), skills, and innovation, promoting ethical governance, and empowering youth as architects of the continent's prosperity are key to transforming Africa's resources into long-term, inclusive growth.
- Industrialisation must begin in classrooms, which means Africa's education system must adopt a more pro-industry, pro-business approach that enables young people to see themselves as the future and a key component of Africa's industrial process.
- African leadership needs to target investments that enhance industrial and manufacturing capacities, promote transparency and ethical governance, and empower youth as architects—not beneficiaries—of the continent's digital future;
- The management of natural resources can not only catalyse sustainable growth but also elevate Africa's role in global governance. Thus, we need adaptable institutional frameworks (backed by regional and continental systems) to govern critical minerals, helping to reshape Africa's development trajectory and related financing issues.
- Promote regional cooperation as a foundation for deeper economic integration and collective action in resource governance.
- Support contract negotiations by establishing mechanisms such as the UNDP's negotiating facility to help African states secure fair agreements with external partners.

Navigating Energy Transitions and Green Initiatives

Pod 3

This session explored Africa's energy transition as a moral and strategic challenge, balancing climate justice, development, and sovereignty. Although Africa's emissions are minimal, it faces severe impacts like droughts, floods, energy poverty, and displacement. Participants emphasised that Africa should define its own transition, grounded in justice and cooperation, rather than serving as a testing ground for external green agendas. Speakers agreed that Africa's extensive fossil and renewable resources should prioritise its people, viewing the energy transition not as a burden but as an opportunity for responsible industrialisation. However, others warned that without targeted

investment in local innovation, governance, and skills, the transition could deepen inequalities. Funding gaps, weak policy coordination, and global disparities in access to technology persist. A key theme in the discussion was the connection between energy, peace, and security. Participants observed that energy security is closely connected to national security and that fair access to energy is essential for education, health, and stability. Calls were made for a continental Energy Diplomacy Action Plan, improved delivery of climate finance to conflict-affected areas, and stronger legal frameworks to protect environmental infrastructure. The session concluded that Africa's energy future must be shaped on African terms, through diverse energy strategies, coordinated regional policies, and an unwavering commitment to equity, sustainability, and peace.

Key takeaways

- The rush for transition minerals must not fuel conflict; to succeed, African states must better manage critical minerals responsibly and ensure fair benefit-sharing.
- The continent's energy future should be designed by Africans, for Africans, grounded in justice, equity, and local priorities. This means a just transition is needed to allow countries to move in line with their realities, avoiding job losses and stranded assets.
- Energy security is national and continental security, and thus there is a need for reliable, affordable energy that underpins peace, stability, and progress toward every development goal.
- Climate and energy funding should prioritise countries and communities most affected by conflict and climate stress, especially communities living in fragile regions. Thus, safeguarding power, water, and health systems in conflict zones is essential for survival and recovery.
- Solar and wind energy must be complemented by hydropower, geothermal, gas, or nuclear energy to sustain industry and resilience.
- Build nuclear capacity safely: The path to nuclear must include domestic safety training, regulation, and strong oversight. Unite continental efforts. Africa needs stronger coordination and delivery discipline to turn plans into a connected, large-scale impact.

Recommendations

- Redirect climate and energy finance towards countries and communities most affected by conflict and climate stress, including through a dedicated continental funding window;
- Gradually reform electricity tariffs to achieve cost recovery while protecting vulnerable households and small businesses through targeted support;
- Build diverse, reliable energy infrastructure that combines renewable energy sources, such as hydropower, geothermal, natural gas, and nuclear energy, to sustain industry and resilience;
- Strengthen local participation and ownership by ensuring communities and traditional authorities are consulted, benefit

DAY THREE

26 October 2025



African University Essay Competition Winners

Roundtable

The youth panel brought a vibrant and critical perspective to the 11th Tana Forum, reflecting on how Africa can bridge the gap between experience and innovation through meaningful intergenerational dialogue. The discussion presented thought-provoking insights on youth inclusion, leadership, and Africa's agency in a changing world.

Key takeaways

- Bridge the gap between innovation and experience —requiring genuine intergenerational dialogue and allowing young people not only to hear but to be actively included in decision-making —is essential to unlocking Africa's full potential;
- The engagement of Africa's youth in multilateralism and global cooperation can help to drive the continent's prosperity and agency.
- Promoting Pan-Africanism and unity is vital to nurturing a shared sense of identity among young Africans. Strengthening this collective consciousness, rooted in common culture, history, and values, can help transform mindsets and build a confident, cohesive Africa.

Recommendations

- Establish permanent co-creation mechanisms within national ministries, RECs/RMs and AU where youth innovators and senior experts jointly draft, design and validate, and monitor policies with shared authority, resources, and accountability;
- Adopt a 50 per cent quota for under-35s in national, regional, and continental delegations, ensuring youth actively shape policies on digital governance, climate, peace, security, trade, and other evolving areas;
- Ensure that the youth are systematically included in multilateral and diplomatic processes relating to African issues within national ministries, RECs/RMs and AU;
- Fast-track ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter (2006) and AU Free Movement Protocol (2018), and introduce continental mobility passes;
- Institutionalise mentorship and innovation hubs through mechanisms such as the Tana Forum Youth Pre-Forum Meetings, AU Youth Envoy, and APRM initiatives.



Multilateralism and the Future of Rule-Based Engagement

Session Four

The final session of the Forum explored the state of the rule-based and multilateral global order. It highlighted the achievements to date, such as the A3's one voice in international issues and interventions. This shift shows Africa's potential for disciplined, coordinated diplomacy that can influence multilateral outcomes. Panellists highlighted that Africa's cooperation with global actors must be based on equality and mutual benefit, not donor–recipient logic, and should ensure that North–South divisions and fragmented regional groupings do not persist, as they weaken Africa's collective voice and miss opportunities for the continent to act as one. Finally, the panel touched on the role of African agency and how it can support institutional reforms. It explored the crises of peace and security, and the need for self-reliance through smart multilateralism that supports the African continent and its people.

Key takeaways

- The line between public and Humanitarian Law is increasingly blurred, resulting in selective justification of violations that weaken global governance and stretch international law to its limits.
- The UN Charter's phrase "We the Peoples" must guide engagement—multilateralism should serve human welfare, not just state interests; thus, we need to return to the UN's founding principles.
- Competing powers can fragment cooperation, leading to multipolarity that cannot guarantee Multilateralism. Therefore, there is a need to collectively reimagine how we can utilise agreed norms and global institutions to sustain order.
- Reforming the AU, RECs, and national institutions is vital to ensure credibility through the domestic and continental reform process. This allows Africa to credibly demand reforms of the global order.
- Africa must fund and operationalise the African Standby Force and African-led Peace Support Operations, as the continued reliance on external financing undermines regional and continental autonomy.
- Multilateralism Must Begin with Inclusion: Policy legitimacy requires stakeholder participation; youth, women, and civil society must be part of defining Africa's "common positions." This means there is a need to bridge internal divides between North and Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the emergence of fragmented regional groupings that weaken Africa's collective voice.
- Dependency is not partnership, and Africa's cooperation with global actors must be based on equality and mutual benefit, not donor–recipient logic;
- African Unity at the UN Security Council as a Model: The A3's one-voice interventions show Africa's potential for disciplined, coordinated diplomacy that can influence multilateral outcomes.

Recommendations

- Uphold international law and the UN Charter as non-negotiable foundations of African diplomacy, even when global powers deviate.

- Establish an AU foreign policy framework with clear external priorities, professionalised diplomatic missions, and empowered envoys;
- Activate the AU's early-warning systems to trigger proactive engagement before crises escalate, linking alerts to political intervention;
- Expand member-state contributions through a peace levy and restrict external funding to supportive—not controlling—roles;
- Anchor Continental Positions in Domestic Consensus;
- Operationalise and Finance the African Standby Force (ASF): Move from concept to capacity and adapt new predictable funding mechanisms for deployment;
- Create a dedicated AU Peace and Security funding unit which can expand member-state contributions through a peace levy and restrict external funding to supportive—not controlling—roles only.
- Recognise the African diaspora as a formal “sixth region” of the AU and integrate its expertise and resources in continental policymaking.
- Enhance Inter-Regional Partnerships (AU–UN–EU): Strengthen structured cooperation and shared agendas—especially on peace, security, climate, and artificial intelligence governance.
- Ensure African priorities remain distinct within multilateral groupings (OIF, Commonwealth, NAM) through pre-negotiated AU briefs, and expand the A3 model into emerging global areas such as AI, climate security, energy transition, and economic governance.

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CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS:

The closing remarks and vote of thanks were delivered by H.E. Dr Joyce Banda, Former President of Malawi and a Tana Forum Board Member. On behalf of the Board of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, she conveyed deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their unwavering support, warm hospitality, and steadfast commitment to the Tana Forum's vision. She noted that their partnership continues to nurture this uniquely African space for dialogue, reflection, and collective action on peace and security. She emphasised that the theme of the 11th Tana Forum has been both timely and relevant. It has guided a series of substantive conversations on how Africa can exercise agency in shaping global transitions. Over the past two days, we have considered how the continent can assert its voice amid shifting geopolitical dynamics, harness digital transformation for inclusive growth and resilient institutions, navigate the renewed contest for natural resources with fairness and foresight, steer energy transitions toward equity and sustainability, and reimagine multilateralism as a framework for cooperation rooted in justice and mutual respect. Together, these reflections have enriched our collective understanding of Africa's position in a changing world, one that demands adaptability and leadership.

She highlighted three significant nuggets that emerged from the deliberations: First, there is a shared recognition that business as usual cannot continue. The world is changing, and Africa must respond with purpose, confidence, and imagination. Second, there is a broad consensus on the urgency of implementation. The ideas, commitments, and policy pathways that emerge from the Tana Forum must be translated into visible action, strengthened institutions, and measurable impact. Third, we have reaffirmed the centrality of Africa's youth in all our endeavours. Their innovation, creativity and resilience are vital to realising the continent's aspirations. It is through their energy and ideas that Africa's future will be defined and sustained. She concluded by reiterating that "Our collective success over these three days will therefore be judged not by how eloquently we spoke but by how effectively we translate our conversations into meaningful nuggets to guide implementation". She therefore invited the Secretariat to consolidate the key insights, recommendations, and commitments that have emerged from this year's deliberations, and to translate them into actionable follow-up that will inform our collective agenda as we advance. She appreciated all the participants, high-level individuals, the Tana Technical Committee, and the Tana Secretariat. She concluded the 11th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, saying, "May the spirit of Tana continue to inspire unity, courage, and foresight as we advance peace, security, and sustainable development across our continent".

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CONCLUSION

The closing ceremony of the 11th Tana Forum featured a summary of the key takeaways and recommendations emerging from the three-day discussions, presented by the chief rapporteur. Discussions centred on Africa's peace and security within the context of a changing global order, focusing on multilateralism and strategic partnerships to amplify Africa's voice on the worldwide stage. This topic is particularly timely given the rapid, far-reaching changes currently unfolding worldwide. The 11th Tana Forum concluded with renewed resolve, grounded in the shared conviction that Africa must act with purpose, confidence, and imagination to shape its own future. The rallying call "From dialogue to action" captured the spirit of the discussions and reflected a continental determination to move forward together toward peace, security, and sustainable development. It was also emphasised that reforming the international system to reflect Africa's desires, values, and interests should be a priority, led by African countries working collaboratively to engage productively within it.

A key message that emerged from the deliberations was the importance of strengthening African multilateralism to promote common interests and articulate a unified African voice at the global stage. The Forum emphasised that Africa should adopt a regional multilateral approach to maximise its agency and strategic leverage within the evolving international system, ensuring that African priorities drive African outcomes. Climate risks and resilience-focused approaches that emphasise the provision of infrastructure and facilities to assist citizens in adapting to extreme events, including equipping local first responders, were also highlighted as crucial. The closing remarks and vote of thanks were delivered by H.E. Dr Joyce Banda, Former President of Malawi and Tana Forum Board Member. H.E. Dr Banda's remarks highlighted how the 11th Tana Forum engaged in substantive discussions on how Africa can exercise genuine agency in shaping global transitions and amplify its voice on the world stage. H.E. Dr Banda noted that the Tana Forum once again demonstrated its unique value. As the world is changing, Africa must not only respond but also lead with vision and confidence. Adding that a shared recognition that business-as-usual is no longer an option.

This year's Forum has underscored the importance of shared agency and the need for visible, collective action, particularly by strengthening institutions capable of driving long-term change. The critical and central role of Africa's youth also resonated strongly throughout the Forum. Their innovation, creativity, and resilience remain vital to harnessing the continent's potential and fulfilling its aspirations. Moving forward, H.E. Dr Banda noted that the Tana Forum and its board must take hold of the commitments and recommendations that have emerged from our discussions, ensuring they are translated into actionable follow-up steps that inform and advance our common agenda.

NOTABLE QUOTES

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“Peace must come from the region, owned and led by the people of the Horn”

“If we can’t get the multilateral system to work in the Horn of Africa, where will it work?”

“The region must ensure it is at the table, not on the menu in this new multipolar world”

“Often, decades go by with nothing happening, and others with things happening.”

“Without justice, you cannot sustain the peace. And justice cannot be served without sustaining the peace”

“Our socio-economic and environmental contexts are not obstacles; they are natural laboratories for our scientific inquiry and innovation”

“Communities should not only be beneficiaries of knowledge, but co-creators, co-learners, and co-researchers”

“Universities must move from being consumers of knowledge to becoming drivers of local relevance and global competitiveness”

“Academic institutions are poised to transfer knowledge in Africa and beyond. The question is: are they ready to turn analysis into actionable practice?”

“Defining moment for our civilisation, the development of AI is a big concern, especially how AI is incorporated in military actions and the use of weapons”



AI, as a transformative tool for conflict prevention, enhances early warning systems and supports diplomatic mediation, helping mitigate conflicts before they escalate into violence

"States can align their positions and collectively strengthen multilateral dialogue to deliver a human-centric response that fosters a culture of respect in the digital domain"

"The role of RECs in regional and continental integration is critical to bringing the AU reforms closer to its citizens"

"Reforms are essentially a top-down process. The reform was primarily aimed at improving citizen participation within the AU and ECOSOCC"

"Samora Machel was a visionary, and a pan-Africanist dedicated to the upliftment of his people specifically and Africans in particular"

"Machel was a fundamental figure in the struggle for Mozambique's independence and the freedom of the African people. His leadership and charisma were essential in mobilising grassroots support against colonial powers"

"Economic transformation is key to resolving Africa's challenges since peace and security are dependent on development"

"Mozambique has not known peace since independence. Rhodesians and apartheid South Africa undermined not just the independence of Mozambique, but its peace, stability and progress"

"We still don't know each other in Africa; therefore, there's a need to reinforce the trust in each other"

"The continent's most significant resource is human capital. Supporting countries through industrialisation and digitalisation is crucial. The wealth is not beyond the ground; it is in the minds of the young people"

"Development aid as we knew it ceased to exist. Redoubling efforts to see how to use instruments, we must capitalise on the resources we have at our disposal"



"Embrace an inclusive approach – political will to create opportunities, to ensure the youth stay home and develop their country"

"Mere talks, resolution and declaration won't help us unless we invest in each other's youth and economy, focusing on economic and business dimensions to transform resources in Africa"

"Work on the idea of unity, which is weakened. Unity is a strategic necessity for us. Without unity, we are easy prey"

"We should preserve African digital sovereignty and dedicate an African Fund for digital technology, including AI"

"To have a better Africa, initiatives at the global and African levels should focus on building inclusive, sustainable, and just societies. The digital revolution can also be mobilised to push back inequality"

"The world we are living in today is not really in disorder. I want to emphasise the positive. What we are missing is that what we are witnessing is a continuing reconfiguration of the global system"

"Africa must have the courage to resolutely examine the underlying factors of conflict and promote a culture of dialogue to foster reconciliation with its own values, traditions, and institutions, while also strengthening citizen support"

"Pan-Africanism is about developing an African identity, solidarity, and agency"

"AI can be used as a battlefield – misinformation, disinformation, and enhance social polarisation"

"Inclusion of African diaspora could enhance continental-level strategy gap and contribute to addressing AI technical limitations"

"AU has many mechanisms and instruments to manage national resources better, but member states have hardly implemented them"

“

"We need Africa to invest in itself to realise the ambitious goals it has set"

"There's a sudden surge in demand for critical minerals vital for green energy, but we must ensure this rush doesn't lead to increased conflicts"

"Energy security is directly related to national and continental security"

"We must move from offering youth a seat at the table to sharing the pen that writes the agenda. True leadership is not inherited; it is co-created across generations"

"Africa's transformation depends on merging the digital ingenuity of the young with the wisdom of experience. When innovation meets guidance, sustainability becomes possible"

"Initiatives like the APRM Youth Dialogue and the Tana Forum Youth Pre-Meetings prove that intergenerational exchange is not ceremonial; it is essential for Africa's renewal"

"Principled international system and practice prevent conflict and build peace"

"African multilateralism should be strengthened to promote our interests and take one voice on the global scene. And financial resilience is a key element in this process"

"... raising awareness, educating, and empowering not only young people, but also women and the entire civil society on climate and environmental issues, is imperative for preserving the planet and stabilising communities for the benefit of future generations"

"Africa should be the laboratory for solutions, innovations, transformations and knowledge transfer"

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INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION AT THE TANA FORUM

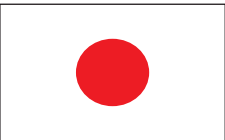
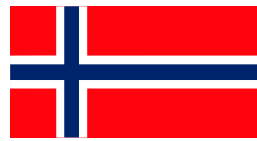
Addis Ababa University
Addis Media
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
African Centre for Women
African Leadership Centre (ALC)
African Union Commission
African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)
AHEAD Institute
Aljazeera Media Network
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
Amhara National Regional State
Associated Press
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
Bolingio Communications and Media Consult Ltd
Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
Centre for Constitutional Governance
Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation
Cheikh Hamidou Kane Digital University
Chinese Mission to the African Union
CMI-Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation
Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa
Crisis Action
Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security
DCAF/Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Embassy of Algeria
Embassy of Austria in Ethiopia
Embassy of Belgium in Ethiopia
Embassy of Finland
Embassy of France in Ethiopia and to the African union
Embassy of Gambia
Embassy of Ireland
Embassy of Israel in Ethiopia
Embassy of Malawi in Addis Ababa

Embassy of Mali in Addis Ababa
Embassy of New-Zealand
Embassy of Portugal
Embassy of Republic of Kenya
Embassy of Somalia
Embassy of South Sudan
Embassy of Sweden
Embassy of Switzerland to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, AU and IGAD
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon
Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique in Addis Ababa
Embassy of the Republic of Sudan
Embassy of Togo in Ethiopia
Embassy of Turkey in Ethiopia
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC)
Ethiopian News Agency (ENA)
European Union
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Forum of African Traditional Authorities (FATA)
French Foreign Office
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
FuturElect
Geneva Call
German Foreign Office
GIZ African Union
Government of Malawi
Government of the Republic of Mozambique
Horn Review
ICT University
IGAD
Institute for Foreign Affairs
Institute for International Relations of Cameroon (IRIC)
Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)
Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)
Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Crisis Group (ICG)
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
King's College London (KCL)
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)
Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy
Luxembourg Embassy
Mashariki Research & Policy Centre (MRPC)
Media, Amhara media corporation
Mediamark
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Mission of Japan to the African Union

Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Office of the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa
Open Society Foundations (OSF)
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
Permanent Mission of Canada to the AU
Permanent Mission of Norway to the African Union
Polytechnic School of Ouagadougou
Portugal Foreign Office
Royal Danish Embassy in Ethiopia
Royal Norwegian Embassy
Rutendo Global Foundation
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The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Uganda Embassy Mogadishu Somalia
Ukrainian Association of South Africa
UN-WFP African Union Global Office and Rep. to the AU & UNECA
United Nations (UN)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)
University of Bahir Dar
University of Copenhagen
University of Ghana
University of Hargeisa
University of Ibadan
University of Ilorin
University of Johannesburg Confucius Institute
University of Sinnar
University of the Witwatersrand
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UNOAU
Viory Media
Women Centre

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PARTNERS



MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE
AFRICAN UNION





IPSS

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