

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY , FRIDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021, 15:00-17:00, GENEVA TIME, BY ZOOM

THEME: CONFLICTS IN AFRICA AND THE IMPACT ON MIGRATION

Despite general improvements in the overall situation in Africa compared to the 1990s, several countries have experienced various forms of violence (1). The nature of these conflicts has been largely intra-state and driven by a lack of development, poor governance, corruption, historical injustices and grievances, and mismanagement of electoral processes as well as interference by foreign interests, Covid-19 Pandemic, among others. These problems have all fuelled violence in various ways. The overall conflict trends show Africa to have been one of the most conflict-ridden regions of the world between 1989 and 2017. The intensity of violence in Africa is driven largely by the prevalence of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) from foreign suppliers, arms manufactured by African governments and those made by local artisans, thereby driving irregular migration.

Conflict, violence and insecurity continue to be the major threats to realising the African Union's Agenda 2063. To address widespread instability in Africa, and with the aim of leaving the continent in peace to the next generation, Africa's leaders committed to working towards a continent free from conflict by 2020 launched the strategic peace program: ***"SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development."***

Key coordinating structures necessary for implementation, particularly the Silencing the Guns Unit at the African Union Commission (AUC), have been established. There has been improved continental diplomatic outreach and partnership building in the search for peace in Africa. Continental frameworks and institutions for responding to insecurity, and efforts to curb the proliferation of SALWs, have been improved. Ms Aissatou Hayatou, the former operations Manager of the "Silencing the Guns in Africa" at the African Union Commission (AUC) in an interview with Africa Renewal's Zipporah Musau, indicates that the campaign aims to achieve a conflict-free Africa, prevent genocide, make peace a reality for all and rid the continent of wars, violent conflicts, human rights violations, and humanitarian disasters. It has "all AU member states, 57 other countries from across the globe, and the European Union as a major partner. At the continental level, the Regional Economic Communities are coordinating action. International and national organisations, civil society, youth, women, the **diaspora** – everyone is involved" (2). In February 2019, the UN Security Council welcomed Africa's campaign on "Silencing the Guns" and called for international support to achieve peace in every country.

Further, as part of the efforts to enhance peace and stability in Africa, the Peace Fund, which is one of the five pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was established in 1993 as the principal financing instrument for the peace and security activities of the Organization for African Unity, now the African Union, and was launched on November 17th November 2018 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with an endowment of \$400m. The Peace Fund has received well over \$55.9m from Member States contributions.

For its part, the African Diaspora had initiated the **Diaspora Peace Corps**; a body designed for the consolidation of peace within diaspora communities and in Africa; to observe and monitor elections; train, advise and promote good governance and economic development and engage in humanitarian activities, among others. Despite mixed success (3), the Diaspora Peace Corps is unfortunately still experiencing general operational and financial difficulties.

This conversation with panel discussion, exchanges and reflection in English and French languages with simultaneous translation, will examine the remote causes and effects of conflicts in Africa and proffer solutions to manage and prevent them. In addition to strengthening the existing network, the panel will discuss Peacebuilding in the Diaspora and its implication in managing and exacerbating conflicts, promoting dialogue and mediation with important stakeholders. It will conclude with recommendations to all stakeholders. About 100 participants are expected to join the conference.

Let's determine together the way forward!

1. <https://issafrica.s3.amazonaws.com/site/uploads/monograph-203-3.pdf>

2. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2019-march-2020/silencing-guns-campaign-kicks-2020>

3. <https://www.fanabc.com/english/ethiopia-peace-corps-delegation-vows-to-bring-diaspora-community-together/>

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY 2021 THEME: Conflicts in Africa and its Impact on Migration Friday, 24th September 2021, 15:00 till 17:00, Swiss time, Zoom Webinar English and French with simultaneous translation</p>		
PROGRAMME		
15:00-15:10	Welcome Remark by the Moderator	Dozie Celeste Ugochukwu AFMD / African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
15:10-15:25	Opening Remark	Ag. Director Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) African Union Commission Addis Ababa Ethiopia
15:25-15:55	Keynote Presentation Causes and Effects of Conflicts in Africa, its impact on migration	Dr. Remember Miamingi Child Protection Adviser, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
PANEL DISCUSSION		
15:55-16:35	10 minutes for each panelist	HRM, Dr Tchiffi Zie Jean Gervais , Permanent Secretary General, Forum of African Sovereigns and Traditional Leaders, Abidjan, Ivory Coast Ms Amina Khalid Head of Sustainable Communities, Programme-Initiatives of Change, London, UK Mr Johnson Odwaiye Director, African Link, Switzerland
16:35-17:00	Input & Contributions, Q & R	Participants
17:00	Closing Remark	Mr Charles Njomo President, Action Internationale pour la prévention des catastrophes et du social, AIPRE CAS, Lausanne, VD

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