FDD2022

International Forum of Dakar on Peace and Security in Africa

8th edition – 24 & 25 October 2022

PROGRAM

Africa in the face of exogenous shocks: challenges of stability and sovereignty

Opening Ceremony

Heads of States Panel

BLOC 1

Stability challenges and peace dynamics

Plenary 1 **Strategic empowerment**
of the continent in the field of security

Workshop 1 **Reforming the security sector in Africa: what answers
to the capability challenges of the Armed Forces?**

Workshop 2 **What solutions to the expansion of
violent extremism: between collective
approaches and national responses**

Workshop 3 **Community responses to stability challenges**

Plenay 1

Strategic empowerment of the continent in the area of security

CONTEXT

For several years, the African continent has been facing multidimensional challenges, including violent extremism, which has become the main security issue with its share of civilian victims and its impact on the development of the countries affected. Two factors are negatively influencing this situation: On the one hand, the COVID 19 pandemic, which has led to one of the worst economic

on the other hand, the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, whose amplifying effect on the continent's difficulties complicates the recovery of the affected countries. Multinational responses to the security crisis seem to be reaching their limits. The withdrawal of Operation Barkhane from Mali and the recurrent and multi-faceted criticism of the effectiveness of UN missions, particularly MINUSMA and MINUSCO, are prompting a refocusing on the promotion of endogenous solutions.

Security on the continent is above all a matter for the African states themselves in their ability to to ensure not only the physical protection of people and of people and property, but also a certain autonomy from external partners. external partners.

The exogenous shocks of recent years have highlighted the vulnerability and dependence of African states. The strategic empowerment of the continent could involve the establishment of a global strategy for collective security and the implementation of a security strategy and the implementation of national structural reforms in the security sector at the national level. structural reforms in the security sector at the national level to strengthen the freedom of action of states and the and the capacities of all actors.

OBJECTIVES

Propose realistic solutions aimed at promoting, in the short and medium term, the strategic autonomy of the African Union and the continent's regional organizations in the area of security.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. **What strategic orientations for States, the AU and RECs to promote autonomy of the continent in the area of security?**

2. **What are the funding prospects for AU and RECs peace operations?**

3. **What is an inclusive approach to curbing the current spread of violent extremism in Sub-Saharan Africa?**

4. **What role should international partners play in strengthening and promoting stability in Africa?**

Reforming the security sector in Africa: what answers to the capability challenges of the Armed Forces?

Workshop 1

CONTEXT

Africa is faced with a changing array of threats and of threats and risks that have marked the daily lives of of states since the 1960s. Wars of national liberation of national liberation have been followed by intra-state

conflicts in the 1990s. Just as deadly, the jihadist wave of the early 21st century is progressing in a context where states are severely weakened by the economic impact of exogenous crises and endogenous weaknesses such as poverty, the burden of debt and a fractured social body. As security is an important pillar of stability, building the capacity of its actors remains an essential component of any security sector reform process on the continent.

Currently, in several African countries, the disproportionate use of force, repeated irruptions in political life with a view to seizing power, poor security governance, and serious shortcomings in the prevention and fight against insecurity contribute to making the defense and security forces factors of insecurity and instability. Based on the premise that security is one of the major conditions for development, the Security Sector Reform (SSR) aims to correct these dysfunctions in order to restore the security systems' capacity to carry out their regalian missions under all circumstances, i.e., State sovereignty and the protection of people and their property. Contemporary conflicts on the continent have evolved considerably and have now become cross-border and nomadic. For reasons of expediency, several non-state actors in these conflicts, including armed groups groups, are becoming autonomous from both their political

leaders and sometimes even the original causes for which they for which they took up arms; these armed groups are doing everything possible to to extend and consolidate their actions beyond state borders, creating vast areas of lawlessness in of lawlessness in areas where the governance of the the governance of the state is structurally deficient. This negative evolution of the general security situation situation and the responses that states are currently trying to to respond to it have highlighted major capacity deficits have brought to light major capacity deficits of state security actors, in particular national armies national armies, and call for a new, more collective approach. collective approach. The most affected countries need to engage in a reform of their security sector of their security sector in the framework of a strengthened international cooperation that can provide a collective response to that can provide a collective response to national security national security problems that have taken on a regional regional scope.

In this perspective, special attention should be paid to particular attention must be paid to the search for efficient efficient solutions to the capability challenges of national armies, which remain the pillars of any emergency of any emergency security response to crises.

In particular, it will be necessary to find lasting solutions to the complex equation of reorganization, modernization modernization, armament, equipment, training and and training of the national armies, and above all their and especially their reorientation towards operational security activities which are their their core business.

OBJECTIVES

To propose realistic responses to the current capability challenges of challenges of African national armies, within the framework of within the framework of a security sector reform

Reforming the security sector in Africa: what answers to the capability challenges of the Armed Forces?

Workshop 1

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. What are the major current capability challenges facing African armies in the face of a mutating insecurity that directly threatens the stability of several States?

2. What model of defense and security forces to face the multiple security challenges?

3. What national and international approaches for appropriate and sustainable responses to the capacity deficits identified in national armies?

4. What sustainable responses to the recurrent difficulties of financing SSR processes in Africa?

What solutions to the expansion of violent extremism: between collective approaches and national responses

Workshop 2

CONTEXT

For several years, protean violence has taken hold in several parts of the continent, hindering initially promising development prospects.

The exacerbation of threats, the resurgence of intercommunal conflicts, the rise of violent extremism and related transnational organized crime continue to destabilize Africa. To stem the spread of violent extremism, several solutions have been implemented, including security and development. But the observation remains almost invariable: this violence, often based on.

But the observation remains almost invariable: this violence, often based on the exploitation of the frustrations of local populations and fueled by a recurrent discourse on the real or supposed marginalization of certain communities, persists, develops and even expands geographically. The current modes of action of violent extremist groups and their capacity to adapt and coordinate locally, nationally and internationally, must lead

States and all other public security actors to favour a combination of inclusive national approaches

and collective approaches based on ad-hoc organizations, the RECs and the African Union. In this perspective, the priority issues to be addressed are, on the one hand, the exit from the "all-security" approach and the active or passive participation of all national actors in the prevention and fight against violent extremism, and on the other hand, the identification of channels for the exchange of operational information between actors, particularly in border areas, and the realization of conditions for cooperation between States and organizations. This involvement of all national actors is an absolute priority.

Finally, a more assertive commitment by African countries in their cooperation with external partners and the pooling of their capacities deserve greater attention.

OBJECTIVES

Propose realistic responses to the current challenge of the trend toward the expansion of violent extremism on the continent, through national approaches and collective actions under the aegis of the the AU, RECs, or *ad hoc* security cooperation structures.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. **What solutions to have national security systems capable of countering the expansion of violent extremism?**

2. **How to strengthen cooperation in the fight against violent extremism between States at the sub-regional and regional levels?**

3. **What inclusive national approach to effectively address the multidimensional nature of violent extremism?**

4. **What role should international partners play in the fight against the spread of violent extremism?**

Community responses to stability challenges

Workshop 3

CONTEXT

The Ebola and COVID 19 crises have highlighted the weakness of institutional health arrangements in Africa and affected the internal stability of several states. Many other political, economic and social factors continue to make the continent fragile and lead several states to neglect and marginalize peripheral regions, particularly border areas. In most countries, an increasingly young population is demanding greater social integration, jobs and opportunities. Finally, in several places, the mode of political governance and exploitation of public natural resources has led to the gradual establishment of rent-seeking situations, thus accentuating the breakdown of trust between the governors and the governed. In addition, violent extremism persists and is on the rise, as well as a resurgence of unconstitutional political changes and intra-African migration, which is often perceived as a source of conflict and fuels frequent struggles for land, resources and jobs.

Sustainable and inclusive development is the most effective way to address the root causes of instability. Indeed, to prevent conflict and build resilient communities and societies, it is essential to address poverty and inequality, strengthen public institutions and civil society, and promote human rights, goals that figure prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

In this indispensable effort to achieve or strengthen the conditions for sustainable stability on the continent, communities have a crucial role to play, particularly in the development of mutual trust between the various components of the population and, above all, in the prevention and resolution of ongoing or latent conflicts. It is therefore important to place communities at the heart of the search for solutions, and to promote and rehabilitate the virtues of inter-community dialogue as an irreplaceable tool in conflict management in Africa.

OBJECTIVES

Identify the major challenges to stability on the continent and propose realistic community-based responses to these challenges, in addition to the efforts of States.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. **What are the roles of communities in strengthening national unity and promoting living together in Africa?**

2. **What community responses to recurrent social conflicts, particularly between sedentary and nomadic populations, indigenous and non-indigenous populations?**

3. **What community and inter-community approaches to improve the prevention and fight against insecurity, particularly in border areas?**

BLOC 2

Sovereignty challenges

Plenary 2 — **Global crises and sovereignty in Africa**

Workshop 4 — **Cooperation between Africa and its partners in the fields of defense and security**

Workshop 5 — **Place of the Private Sector in the construction of new sovereignties (energy, food, digital, etc.) in Africa**

Workshop 6 — **Youth, citizenship and sovereignty: the challenges of education and training**

Global crises and sovereignty in Africa

Pleanry 2

CONTEXT

For several decades, many African countries have been facing cyclical political, economic and social crises. This situation is exacerbated, year after year, by the lack of sustainable responses to develop the resilience of states and populations to the multi-faceted impacts of the global crises that shake the world.

Indeed, Africa seems to be a victim of the aftermath of global convulsions. Heavily impacted since the long periods of drought in the 1970s, through the end of the Bretton Woods agreements, the continent has gone through many crises, the best known of which are the world oil crisis of 1973, the economic and financial earthquake of 2008, not to mention the global health crisis of 2019, the stigma of which is still vivid. The Russian-Ukrainian crisis has sounded the alarm in several African countries, by the magnitude of its consequences, especially in the energy and food sectors.

(especially in the energy and food sectors). This situation of eternal dependence on the jolts of globalization raises the imperative need to build new sovereignties capable of driving sustainable socio-economic development.

How to position the African continent as a major economic player in globalization? Despite the continent's abundance of natural resources, the virtual lack of autonomy of African countries in crucial areas such as energy, food and health remains a permanent source of concern and social tensions that generate instability. If, throughout their history, African systems have sometimes shown their resilience in the face of crises, conflicts and other pandemics (AIDS, yellow fever, Covid 19...), the time has come to learn the lessons from the last two global shocks, namely Covid 19 and the Russian-Ukrainian war, in order to finally build real sovereignty, and to remove Africa from the vagaries of a long night of dependence. This imperative is all the more important as the continent must, at the same time, take up its security challenges by rethinking the foundations of its security and defense cooperation with its partners. This refoundation will also have to be done with the major asset of the continent that represents the youth of its population, an essential lever in the conquest of new sovereignties.

OBJECTIVES

Faced with the new global geopolitical challenges, the question is how African systems can develop new models of political new models of political, economic, security, food, health and energy sovereignty, security, food, health and energy, capable of adapting and absorbing to adapt and absorb exogenous shocks in a sustainable manner.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. What mechanisms should be put in place to ensure health, energy and food sovereignty?

2. What is the role and place of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in AU community integration?

3. How to establish public-private partnerships to ensure and consolidate the African health, energy, food and military industry?

4. How to rethink and harmonize cooperation commitments with international partners for a sovereign and autonomous Africa, especially in terms of defense and security?

Workshop 4

Cooperation between Africa and its partners in the fields of defense and security

CONTEXT

Defense-security cooperation between Africa and its external partners still depends on agreements concluded with the former colonial powers in a context of decolonization, despite its expansion to new actors since the late 1990s. Initially based on the concept of

the concept of bilateral technical assistance, defense-security cooperation has undergone several changes as a result of the geopolitical upheavals that have occurred on the continent.

Thus, for example, the interventionism of the post-independence years (Chad, CAR, DRC ex-Zaire) has gradually given way to a model of cooperation aimed at adapting to the requirements of African countries in their quest for a more diversified partnership in line with the multiple needs of their security tools (training, equipment, etc.).

However, this new impetus for cooperation seems to be going through a cycle of turbulence on both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Indeed, the deterioration of the security situation over the last two decades (DRC, Mali, Central African Republic, Lake Chad Basin, Ethiopia, etc.) and the inability of most of the States concerned to provide effective responses, notwithstanding the sometimes direct intervention of external partners, have highlighted the need to rethink the terms of this security cooperation. Today, it is in acute crisis, given the growing negative perception of African public opinion, exasperated by the lack of tangible results in the face of terrorist groups. The ups and downs of the withdrawal of Operation Barkhane from Mali and the hostile demonstrations against UN troops in the DRC and Mali are signs of a deep crisis in bilateral and multilateral security cooperation between Africa and its partners. This situation, which is taking place against a backdrop of geopolitical rivalries between states (France, Russia, China, Turkey) and the emergence of new actors, including private military companies, is opening up a new era of redefining the stakes of cooperation between Africa and its external partners.

However, this security cooperation is a natural necessity at a time when terrorism, climate change, and international organized crime are posing real risks to societies and economies on a global scale. These megatrends, which are matters of mutual interest for all states, compel them to help each other and show solidarity in order to establish a global security governance.

OBJECTIVES

Taking stock of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of security, the aim is to explore ways and means of promoting mutually beneficial cooperation between Africa and external partners on new bases.
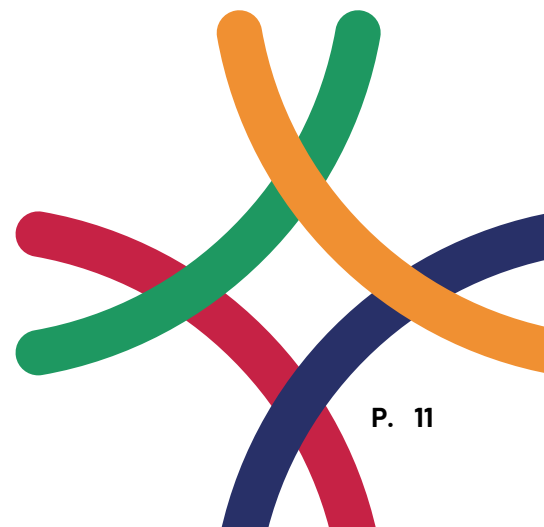
Cooperation between Africa and its partners in the fields of defense and security

Workshop 4

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. What are the obstacles to defense and security cooperation between Africa and its external partners?

2. What new foundations should be established between States for effective security cooperation?

3. What type of cooperation (bilateral, multilateral, private) should be promoted in the fight against violent extremism?

4. What measures should be considered to better adapt UN peacekeeping missions to the security requirements of host countries?

Place of the Private Sector in the construction of new sovereignties (energy, food, digital, etc.) in Africa

Workshop 5

CONTEXT

The development of globalization has accentuated the phenomena of interdependence in recent decades. The internationalization of value chains has led to a greater complementarity of economic actors and a reduction in the levels of strategic autonomy of central actors such as States.

Thus, state sovereignty, which internally translates into the ability to govern effectively and entirely the activities of individuals present on its territory, is challenged externally by various upheavals that call into question its theoretical dimension, its relationship to resilience and the principle of horizontality in international relations.

African countries have experienced different destinies since the wave of independence in the 1960s. The latest international shocks

The latest international shocks (the subprime crisis, the Coronavirus, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict) have, however, shown the fragility of the continent due to an economic structure that is extraverted and still dominated by the logic of rent.

Strategic sectors such as food and energy have largely shown their vulnerability, causing inflation and attrition in overall economic activity.

On another note, digital technology poses many challenges for African states. The building of cyber capabilities increases the risk of strategic dependence while INTERPOL estimates, at the same time, the losses related to cybercrime in Africa at 4.12 billion dollars in 2021. Faced with these many challenges, African states are called upon to build new sovereignty in these strategic sectors. If the centrality of the State requires a framework role, the place of the private sector must be redefined in this perspective.

Its weakness weighs on the creation of value and jobs and on the difficulties of consolidating intra-continental trade.

This raises the question of the reform of national economic structures, the place of the African private sector in critical areas and its specific contribution in the so-called regalian areas. It seems necessary to conduct an inclusive reflection on these challenges so that their security, economic, political and social implications are better understood by the national and regional actors concerned.

OBJECTIVES

This workshop aims to determine the place of the private sector in the emergence of new sovereignties and its contribution to the sustainability of the latter

Place of the Private Sector in the construction of new sovereignties (energy, food, digital, etc.) in Africa

Workshop 5

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. What are the factors of vulnerability of the private sector in Africa to international tensions and crises? How can the private sector lessen the effect?

2. How can the private sector spearhead the construction of new sovereignties? What could be its role in making them sustainable?

3. To what extent can the private sector drive and support food sovereignty on the continent? What about energy sovereignty?

4. How to optimize the endogenization of the economic potential of digital technology in Africa? What could be the contours of digital sovereignty in Africa?

5. What role should African integration play in strengthening a private sector focused on building new sovereignties in Africa?

B2 - SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGES

Workshop 6

Youth, citizenship and sovereignty: the challenges of education and training

CONTEXT

The development of human capital through education and training is one of the major challenges of African states, not only through a total enrolment of children, but also by adapting teaching to the increasing digitalization of all activities and business processes around the world. During the 7th edition of the forum, attempts were made to address the problem of the impact of population growth, especially in the field of education and employment to avoid negative consequences on the security level. According to forecasts by international organizations and development partners, by 2050 the continent could have 2.4 billion inhabitants, doubling the current population. Although demographic issues will be at the heart of the economic agenda of the African continent in the coming years, the increase in demography itself is not an issue insofar as Africa's surface area is 30.37 million km^2, with a density of slightly more than 43 inhabitants per square kilometer, which is three times lower than that of the European Union. Consequently, one of the only important criteria to take into account is the youth of the population, estimated by the World Bank at 77%, hence the need for a more active population.

Far from being an opportunity to be exploited, this demographic dynamic seems to represent a a real burden for the continent as it generates a strong social a strong social demand that governments have difficulty governments have difficulty in satisfying. Excluded from political processes, deprived of viable employment opportunities and suffering a growing sense of hopelessness, young people become become vulnerable and credulous to the messages by terrorists, violent extremists, and organized criminals who and organized criminals who lure them in through various financial incentives, messages of hope, religious

religious arguments, etc. Thus, in the continuity of the previous edition, this 8th edition will seek answers to these challenges in the progress to be made with regard to the lack of training of African youth in the creation and use of computer tools and digitalization, in a world that is increasingly digitalized and should not leave any sector on the sidelines. They are also to be found in citizenship education, which is crucial in the impregnation of the norms of living together that must be shared and accepted.

shared and accepted. Finally, these responses must integrate the necessary changes expected of the African education system, which is still struggling to develop vocational training, a source of massive job creation for young people and a vector of sovereignty in key sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fishing.

OBJECTIVES

This workshop aims to highlight the place of human capital, particularly African youth, spearheading the construction of new of new sovereignties. In addition to the challenges related to training and the opportunities offered by the digital revolution, it will promote the ways and means of appropriating a new citizenship articulated around an educational system adapted to the real needs. In addition to the challenges related to training and the opportunities offered by the digital revolution, it will promote ways and means of appropriating a new citizenship based on an education system adapted to real needs in accordance with the Incheon Declaration "Education 2030" and the "Agenda 2063 of the African Union".

B2 - SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGES

Workshop 6

Youth, citizenship and sovereignty: the challenges of education and training

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. How can African youth take advantage of the ongoing digital revolution to drive the development of science, technology and innovation?

2. What roles for African youth in sustainable development policies, especially in the quest for new sovereignties (digital, energy, food, etc.)?

3. What are the reforms to be undertaken in the current African educational systems to promote training for citizenship, civic-mindedness and employment?

4. What are the challenges of NICTs to overcome in education and the consolidation of citizenship in Africa?

Closing Ceremony

Forum International de Dakar
sur la Paix et la Sécurité en Afrique

Dakar International Forum
on Peace and Security in Africa

International Forum of Dakar on Peace and Security in Africa

8th edition – 24 & 25 October 2022

MEDIA CONTACTS

The 8th edition of the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa will take place this year on October 24 & 25, 2022 in Senegal at the Abdou Diouf International Conference Center (CICAD).

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