

# : Programme

## **Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2019** **Peace and Security in Africa.** **Pathways to more regional ownership**

**NH Hotel Potsdam**

16-17 Mai 2019

**Conference languages**

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

**Cooperating partners**



german  
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



#Potsdam19



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## BACKGROUND

The African Union's Extraordinary Summit in Addis Ababa in November 2018 focused on reform, specifically the need for more functional and efficient institutions and increased ownership. This particularly applies to peace and security policy. However, several challenges make fulfilling this ambition difficult.

The first is the sluggish progress on developing regional capabilities such as the African Standby Force and the African Union Peace Fund. In addition, there are disputes over the division of responsibilities and a lack of coordination between the AU and the continent's regional organisations. Inter-institutional rivalry is exacerbated by the emergence of new ad hoc coalitions such as the G5 Sahel and the Multinational Joint Task Force. While holding out the promise of faster progress on combating terrorism and organised crime, these "coalitions of the willing" have attracted criticism for largely bypassing the African Union's decision-making and control mechanisms, giving rise to concerns that the African Peace and Security Architecture as a whole could lose coherence and legitimacy as a result.

Secondly, there is a growing risk of external actors increasingly engaging in "forum shopping" as a means of pursuing their own aims and priorities, and adopting a selective approach by only involving certain African partners. Both the European focus on migration management and the military focus of US policy towards Africa are contentious issues on the continent. Also of relevance is how China will make use of its growing security policy influence in Africa, and whether this will be embedded in a bilateral or a multilateral framework.

In light of these external and internal challenges, our discussions in Potsdam will explore how strengthening African peace and security capacities could lead to greater ownership. By looking at specific security problems in the regions, we will consider how cooperation between the AU, regional organisations and subregional alliances can be improved. We will also focus on strategies that facilitate constructive cooperation with Western partners and China while better reflecting African priorities.

### Key questions

- Which capacity deficits need to be overcome in the interests of effective African peace and security? What can be done to progress reforms aimed at improving regional conflict management and peacekeeping?
- What joint contribution can the African Union, regional organisations and ad hoc coalitions make in order to bring lasting peace to conflict regions?
- What can be done to prevent external actors from exploiting differences between the African institutions in order to advance their own agendas?
- What do the African partners expect from Europe? How can cooperation and joint funding of peace operations be improved?
- How can China make a constructive contribution to peace and security in Africa?

# : Thursday, 16 May 2019

- 09.30 hrs            Registration
- Chair
- Ute Lange**  
Moderator/Trainer/Communication Coach  
i3kommunikation, Bonn
- 10.00 hrs            Welcome
- Dr Gerd Harms**  
State Secretary (ret.)  
Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- Opening speech
- Thomas Kralinski**  
State Secretary and Commissioner of Land Brandenburg  
to the Federation and for Media and International Relations, Potsdam

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## SESSION I

### KEYNOTE AND THEMATIC INTRODUCTION

- 10.30 hrs            Keynote
- Ambassador Dr Badr Abdelatty**  
Egyptian Embassy, Berlin
- Introductory lecture „Regional Peace and Security – Stakeholders and Mechanisms“
- Professor Tim Murithi**  
Head of the Peacebuilding Interventions Programme  
The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town
- Followed by Q&A
- 12.00 hrs            Lunch

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## SESSION II

### CHALLENGES FACING THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

In 2013, recognising that armed conflict is one of the greatest hurdles to the continent's development, the African Union member states set themselves the ambitious goal of "silencing the guns" by 2020. Despite some progress, Africa is still blighted by a large number of armed conflicts. How have the type and scope of risks to peace evolved, and which future trends can be discerned? Which problems should regional organisations, governments and civil society be addressing as priorities? And in what ways do African and international partners' perceptions of the problems differ?

13.30 hrs                      Head-to-Head

**Dr Jakkie Cilliers**

Head of African Futures & Innovation  
Institute for Security Studies  
University of Pretoria

**Sophie Desmidt**

Policy Officer  
Security and Resilience Programme  
European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht

followed by                      Plenary discussion

14.30 hrs                      Break

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## SESSION III

### IMPROVING COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS: CASE STUDY – THE SAHEL

Since the escalation of the crisis in Mali in 2012 and the subsequent hostilities, the Sahel has come to be regarded as a flashpoint for ethnic conflict, jihadist violence and transnational organised crime. The countries concerned have responded by setting up the Sahel G5 as a framework for the coordination of police and military operations. Critics of the coalition say that development policy goals and human rights issues play no role in this cooperation and that the African Union's decision-making and control mechanisms are largely bypassed.

How can cooperation among African institutions be improved in order to address transnational threats in the Sahel? What can be done to counteract the narrow focus on military and police operations and increase society's acceptance of peacekeeping? What kind of mandating, monitoring and accountability mechanisms are needed to facilitate an inclusive and sustainable peace?

15.00 hrs                      Panel Discussion

**Dr Signe Marie Cold-Ravnkilde**

Postdoc Researcher  
Global Transformations in Finance, Migration and Aid  
Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen

**Professor Winrich Kühne**

Steven Muller Professor  
SAIS Europe, Bologna

**Dr Lori-Anne Thérroux-Bénoni**

Director  
Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin  
Institute for Security Studies, Dakar

followed by                      Plenary discussion

16.30 hrs                      Break

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**SESSION IV****A NEW DIRECTION IN RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Much of the funding for African peace operations and crisis management comes from the European Union. The African Union's current reform process aims to reduce the external funding share; this is partly a response to the two sides' differing political priorities. For the EU and many of its member states, migration management is the main priority; very substantial support is provided to the G5 Sahel security forces for this purpose. The African Union is critical of this approach and wants a greater say on European policy towards Africa.

How can African-EU cooperation on peace and security be placed on a new footing? What do the African partners expect from Europe? What might a balance of interests between the AU, EU and African regional organisations look like? Which joint projects look promising and should be expanded?

17.00 hrs

Panel Discussion

**John Busuttill**

International Policy Officer - Peace and Security, Panafrican Organizations and Initiatives  
European External Action Service, Brussels

**Dr Toni Haastrup**

Senior Lecturer in International Security  
University of Kent

**Yiannis Neophytou**

Head of Division "Cooperation with pan-African Partners"  
Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin

followed by

Plenary discussion

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**EVENING PROGRAMME**

From 18.30 hrs

City tour and transfer to reception

From 19.30 hrs

Reception at the Forsthaus Templin hosted by the Minister-President of Brandenburg

Welcome

**Stefan Ludwig**

Minister of Justice and for European Affairs and Consumer Protection of  
Land Brandenburg, Potsdam

**Dr Gerd Harms**

State Secretary (ret.)  
Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

# : FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2019

Chair

**Ute Lange**

Moderator/Trainer/Communication Coach

i3kommunikation, Bonn

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## SESSION V

### **BUILDING AFRICAN PROBLEM-SOLVING CAPACITIES AND SCOPE FOR ACTION: CASE STUDY – SOUTH SUDAN**

Since 2013, members of the former independence movement in South Sudan have been engaged in a struggle for political power. Regional efforts to resolve the conflict – for example, through the formation of a transitional government in 2016 and the signing of several peace agreements – have not stopped the violence. It remains to be seen whether the peace deal signed in 2018 will hold and lead to a permanent de-escalation. Were the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) engaged early and decisively enough? Did conflict parties such as Uganda and Sudan and external actors play too influential a role in the mediation process? And what can the African Union and IGAD do to support post-conflict stabilisation?

09.30 hrs                      Panel discussion

**Abdul Mohammed**

Chief of Staff and Senior Political Advisor of the

African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for Sudan and South Sudan

**Marina Peter**

Senior Political Advisor for the Horn of Africa and East Africa

Bread for the World, Berlin

followed by                      Plenary discussion

10:30 hrs                      Break

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**SESSION VI****AFRICAN-CHINESE COOPERATION: WHAT MIGHT COOPERATION AMONG EQUALS LOOK LIKE?**

China is playing an increasingly active role in security policy in Africa, seeing this as a means of better protecting its investment and infrastructure projects. The People's Republic currently provides more than 2,000 peacekeeping troops ("blue helmets") in Africa (South Sudan, Congo, Darfur, Western Sahara). In July 2018, China's Defence Minister invited high-ranking African military officials to the first China-Africa Defense and Security Forum and extended the offer of comprehensive support for African nations to build their security capabilities. What form does Chinese engagement in regional and international peace and security alliances take? What role do the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights play in this context? What are the opportunities and risks for African countries and institutions? And what lessons can Western partners learn from China's engagement?

10.45 hrs

Panel discussion

**Professor Zhang Chun**Center for African Studies  
Yunnan University, Kunming**Sabine Mokry**

Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin

**Professor Charles Ugochukwu Ukeje**International Relations Department  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun

followed by

Plenary discussion

12.15 hrs

Break with light refreshments

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**SESSION VII****"WALK THE TALK": PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARDS AFRICAN OWNERSHIP OF PEACE AND SECURITY**

Which particular successes can the African Peace and Security Architecture build on, and which mistakes should be avoided in future? What kinds of reform are needed to improve the effectiveness of existing mechanisms (Continental Early Warning System, African Standby Force, Peace Fund etc.)? What can be done to ensure that African priorities and interests move to the forefront in international peace efforts?

12.45 hrs

Panel discussion

**Dr Emma Birikorang**Deputy Director and Head for the Peace Support Operations Programme  
Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra**Professor Ulf Engel**

Institute for African Studies, University of Leipzig

**Michelle Ndiaye**Director of the Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP)  
Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University  
Head of the Secretariat of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

followed by

Plenary discussion

14.00 hrs

Outlook and closing remarks

**Professor Tobias Debiel**Institute for Development and Peace, University Duisburg-Essen  
Member of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

14.15 hrs

Event ends