



Wilton Park

Programme

Conflict and Peacebuilding in Northern Nigeria

Wednesday 26 - Thursday 27 May 2021 | WP1761V1

This conference is a continuation in virtual format of an annual Wilton Park series on peacebuilding in Africa that started in 2015. Across this series of conferences, a persistent theme has concerned the need to move peacebuilding beyond state and elite-centred approaches to encompass the wider communities involved in conflict, including in particular youth and women's networks.

The most recent conference in the series in April 2019 focused on 'next generation African peacebuilding' as a conceptual framework for examining how to build and deepen relationships between a wide range of existing and potential peacebuilding actors such as entrepreneurs, social media bloggers, social protest movements on the street, and even trafficking groups operating across areas of entrenched conflict.

Now, with the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to obstruct in person meetings, this conference series goes virtual. This virtual dialogue will be the first of three seeking to apply the conceptual outcomes of the next generation peacebuilding conference to specific conflict affected states on the continent, also taking into account the impact of the pandemic on conflict and peacebuilding dynamics. This first dialogue is focusing on northern Nigeria.

The objectives of this virtual dialogue are, in the context of conflict in northern Nigeria, to

- Map existing and potential peacebuilding actors;
- Examine how to build and/or strengthen networks and relationships between these actors; and
- Consider how national, regional and international stakeholders can better support diversity and inclusion in peacebuilding processes.

In association with the African Peacebuilding Network of the Social Science Research Council, New York and the African Leadership Centre

With support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York

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Wednesday 26 May – webinar style, livestreamed and accessible to all

(please note all times are in British Summer Time - BST)

1345-1400

Orientation session for speakers only

Technical check for speakers ahead of the official start of the meeting

1400-1410

Welcome and introduction

Tom Cargill

Chief Executive, Wilton Park

1410-1530

1. Town Hall Discussion: The future of peace in Nigeria

Opening address:

Kayode Fayemi

Governor of Ekiti State

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: Funmi Olonisakin

Vice President; Vice Principal International; Professor of Security, Leadership and Development; Founding Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC), Kings College London

Panellists:

Eghosa Osaghae

Director-General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos

Fakhriyyah Abdallah

Fellow, African Leadership Centre, King's College London

Títíloṣe Àjàyí

Independent Consultant/Researcher, Accra

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal

Governor of Sokoto State

Thursday 27 May – closed, invitation only

1345-1400

Orientation session

Technical check ahead of the official start of the meeting

1400-1410

Welcome and introduction

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Shuvai Nyoni

Executive Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi

Cyril Obi

Program Director, African Peacebuilding Network (APN), Social Science Research Council, New York

1410-1525

2. Next generation peacebuilding in northern Nigeria after the Covid-19 pandemic

What has been the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on current peacebuilding efforts in northern Nigeria? What should peacebuilding initiatives look like now and after the pandemic?

What actors have engaged in peacebuilding efforts in northern Nigeria? What networks exist between these actors? What relationships exist between local peacebuilding actors and those at the national as well as regional levels? Are there elements in Nigerian society who could play a peacebuilding role but have not been “activated” for that purpose? What obstacles do these actors face in helping to build reconciliation and sustainable peace in northern Nigeria?

Chair: Cyril Obi

Program Director, African Peacebuilding Network (APN), Social Science Research Council, New York

Video message from Father Matthew Hassan Kukah

Bishop; Founder, Kukah Centre, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto

Mohammed J Kuna

Special Adviser, Election Management Systems, Independent National Electoral Commission, Abuja

Fatima Akilu

Executive Director, Neem Foundation, Abuja

1525-1535

Break

1535-1640

3. Break out session: strengthening the role of next generation peacebuilding actors in northern Nigeria

Participants will break into smaller groups to delve further. Two groups will focus on the dynamics of rural banditry in North West and Central Nigeria, another on the insurgency taking place in north-eastern Nigeria. A fourth break out group will focus on the regional dynamics of peacebuilding.

- How can obstacles to inclusive and diverse peacebuilding processes be overcome?
- How can national, regional and international stakeholders help empower peacebuilding initiatives on the part of local communities?
- What proposed recommendations can be taken forward?

Group 1 – North-West

Facilitator: Duncan Omanga

Program Officer, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York

Group 2 – North-Central

Facilitator: Omeni Akali

Lecturer in Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism; University of St Andrews, The Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV), ST Andrews

Group 3 – North-East

Facilitator: Idayat Hassan

Director, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Abuja

Group 4 – Regional

Facilitator: Eka Ikpe

Lecturer, Development Economics in Africa, African Leadership Centre, London

1640-1700

4. Reflections and conclusion

How can next generation peacebuilding move forward to overcome long-standing obstacles, as well as new ones created by the pandemic?

Shuvai Nyoni

Executive Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi