



Wilton Park

## Programme

### **Peacebuilding in Africa: sustaining inclusive civil society engagement**

Sunday 19 – Tuesday 21 March 2017 | WP1525

Previous events in our ‘African perspectives on peacebuilding’ series have assessed the progression of African approaches to peacebuilding, in response to the changing dynamics of conflict and emergence of new conflict actors on the continent. The recent series of conflicts in Africa – notably in Central African Republic, Mali, and South Sudan – has highlighted the challenging nature of the peace and security landscape and the necessity to involve all experts (scholars, policymakers and practitioners) in the process.

Since the end of the Cold War, there has been increased attention to the roles that local civil society actors can play in peacebuilding and the possibilities of international support to their efforts. Research argues that even if civil society has no direct influence on the political processes, it is perceived as crucial in creating the critical mass necessary for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The role that African civil society actors have and can take in African peacebuilding needs to be further unpacked and analysed to raise pertinent questions and reshape approaches on the continent, as well as widen engagement with broader global discourses and practices.

Our first event in the series, [Peacebuilding in Africa: evolving challenges, responses and new thinking](#) held in 2015, began the process of consolidating African perspectives within the discussion, the findings and conclusions of which were tested by African scholars and practitioners in the 2016 meeting [Peacebuilding in Africa: developing African approaches](#). This third event in the series will explore the role of, and engagement with, civil society throughout the process to identify ways forward. It aims to:

- Interrogate the concepts and practices of civil society in the context of African and global peacebuilding;
- Engage African policymakers, civil society actors, and scholars in collective efforts to identify concrete measures and ways toward sustainable peacebuilding efforts, including their financing;
- Raise awareness of the obstacles and evaluate advancements for inclusive peacebuilding focusing on the role of (empowered) African civil society organisations in mediating state and society relations;
- Develop further findings of, and allow policy makers, practitioners and civil society

In association with:



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actors to respond to, issues raised during the previous two Wilton Park meetings in this series.

**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**

## **Sunday 19 March**

**1600 onwards**

Participants arrive and refreshments available

**1700-1715**

### **Welcome and introduction**

#### **Myles Wickstead**

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Acting Chief Executive (Designate), Wilton Park

**1715-1845**

### **1. Tracking trends: the evolving role of non-state actors in peacebuilding**

In this opening session participants will consider, map and interrogate the concept(s) of the various dimensions of civil society engagement with peacebuilding institutions and processes in Africa. What are the past and present trends in the role(s) of non-state/civil society actors in building sustainable peace at local, national and regional levels? How can these be strengthened and what are the projections for future engagement?

#### **Chair: Myles Wickstead**

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Acting Chief Executive (Designate), Wilton Park

#### **Comfort Ero**

Africa Program Director, International Crisis Group, Nairobi

#### **Boitshoko Mokgatlhe**

Head, Sudan and South Sudan Unit, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

**1900**

Dinner

## **Monday 20 March**

**0800-0900**

Breakfast

**0900-1030**

### **2. Case studies: the role of civil society across regions**

Participants will analyse the role of civil society/non-state actors in two regional conflict and peace and security terrains in Africa. How can scholars from Africa and the Global North work with practitioners on the ground to inform and shape peacebuilding policies and programmes? What are the successes and limitations of civil society research and programmes? How can these be strengthened and expanded to address transnational and regional challenges?

#### **Chair: Audrey Gadzekpo**

Dean/Associate Professor, School of Communication and Information, University of Ghana, Accra

#### **Solomon Dersso**

Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Addis Ababa; Adjunct Professor of Law and Analyst of Peace and Security in Africa, Addis Ababa University (AAU)

**Levinia Addae-Mensah**

Deputy Executive Director/Programme Director, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Accra

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

### **3. Collaborative action: bridging sector divides**

The recent series of relapsed conflicts in Africa, together with the prevalence of armed militia groups such as Al Shabaab and Boko Haram, have complicated the conflict and security landscape in Africa, requiring effective cross-sector peacebuilding approaches. Where are the gaps and connections between state and civil society? How can civil society actors, government officials and regional organisations better connect, learn from and inform one another to build and strengthen peacebuilding strategies in Africa? How effective have civil society groups been in promoting peacebuilding at the national and regional levels? Which groups have been more effective and why?

**Chair: Chidi Anselm Odinkalu**

Senior Managing Legal Officer for Africa, Open Society Foundations (OSF), Abuja

**Kehinde Bolaji**

Team Leader, Governance and Peacebuilding, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Abuja

**Gladwell Otieno**

Executive Director, Africa Centre for Open Governance, Nairobi

1230-1400

Lunch

1400-1530

### **4. The impact of 'emerging' non-state groups**

How can stakeholders understand the role of emerging non-state actors in conflict and peace processes in Africa? How are extremist organisations evolving (eg Al Shabaab, Boko Haram, Daesh, etc) and shaping the African peace and security terrain? To what extent do their objective(s) and *modus operandi* differ from other non-armed faith-based organisations and transnational groups, and how can peacebuilding approaches be tailored accordingly?

**Chair: Pamela Mbabazi**

Board Member and Consultant, Uganda National Council of Science and Technology, Kampala

**Olawale Ismail**

Senior Research Fellow, African Leadership Centre (ALC), King's College London

**Abiodun Alao**

Professor of African Studies, African Leadership Centre (ALC), King's College London

1530-1615

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1615-1800

### **5. Youth, peace and security: review and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250**

To what extent have African governments and institutions provided opportunities to work towards greater participation of youth and youth-led organisations at all levels? What role can young men and women play to prevent and counter violent extremism in Africa and internationally? How can youth-led peacebuilding and conflict-prevention interventions be maximised and supported across the spectrum? How can media be better utilised to incorporate wider society, especially the youth, into peacebuilding efforts?

**Chair: Cheryl Hendricks**

Professor of Political Science, University of Johannesburg

**Graeme Simpson**  
Director, Interpeace USA, New York

**Ismail Rashid**  
Professor of History, Vassar College, New York

1830 Reception drinks

1900 Conference dinner

## Tuesday 21 March

0800-0900 Breakfast

0900-1030

### 6. Gender dynamics in peace and conflict

To what extent has women's involvement in radicalisation and armed groups changed gender manifestations in conflict? How are African women's organisations working to both drive and resolve violence? To what extent have women and women's organisations been included in formal peace processes, or designated as negotiators? What measures can be taken to ensure that all stakeholders, especially women, share the peacebuilding process and take equal ownership?

**Chair: Carol Cohn**

Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights, University of Massachusetts Boston

**Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** (via video recording)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations And Cooperation, Government of the Republic of Namibia, Windhoek

**Awino Okech**

Lecturer, Centre for Gender Studies, School of African Studies (SOAS), London

**Comfort Lamptey**

Regional Adviser on Governance, Peace and Security, Regional Office for West and Central Africa, UN Women, Dakar

1030-1100 Tea/coffee

1100-1230

### 7. Moving forward: roles and responsibilities

Parallel facilitated discussion groups to evaluate comparative regional/country case studies.

What can we learn from traditional and existing peacebuilding approaches and how can new programmes, action plans and strategies be tailored to fit country contexts? What are the roles of key civil society actors (eg women, youth, media and religious figures) in informing, supporting and delivering projects? What are the necessary tools and guidelines for implementation? How can success be measured and evaluated?

**Group A Somalia (Horn of Africa)**

Expert lead: **Mohamed Haji Ingiriis**, Doctoral Candidate, History and African Studies, St Peter's College, University of Oxford

**Group B Mali (Sahel)**

Expert lead: **James Kewir Kiven**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Buea

**Group C Burundi (Great Lakes)**

Expert lead: **Cyriaque Nibitegeka**, Human Rights Lawyer; Former Lecturer, University of Burundi

**Group D The Sudans (Central Africa)**

Expert lead: **Shuvai Nyoni**, Executive Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi

## **Group E The Mano River Region**

Expert Lead: **Ismail Rashid**, Professor of History, Vassar College, New York

**1230-1345**

Lunch and checkout

**1345-1400**

### **8. eQuestionnaire**

Participants will be asked to complete a short online questionnaire.

**1400-1445**

### **9. Feedback from breakouts**

Report back from the workshop groups: 5-7 minutes each followed by roundtable discussion.

#### **Chair: Myles Wickstead**

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Acting Chief Executive (Designate), Wilton Park

**1445-1615**

### **10. Adoption and impacts of sustainable finance**

The July 2016 African Union (AU) Summit in Kigali concluded with a new resolve to foster and ensure financial efficiency and independence from external donors. How will the newly agreed African Peace Fund be negotiated, implemented and administered? What can be done to facilitate the effective implementation and delivery of peacebuilding mechanisms and resolutions? How do financing mechanisms impact peacebuilding efforts at national and local levels? What can be learnt from civil society organisations in their engagement and partnership with external donors?

#### **Chair: Boitshoko Mokgatlhe**

Head, Sudan and South Sudan Unit, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

#### **Ciru Mwaura**

Chief of Staff, African Union High Representative for the Peace Fund, Nairobi

#### **Ekaette Ikpe**

Lecturer, Development Economics in Africa, African Leadership Centre (ALC), King's College London

**1615-1645**

Tea/coffee

**1645-1815**

### **11. Conclusions, commitments and continuity**

In this session, participants will be encouraged to propose ways of taking the discussions and operational recommendations forward in practical ways, both at national and international levels. It will give an opportunity to map from ideas to processes, propose timescales for adoption of changes, and identify potential for implementation of new strategies.

#### **Chair: Myles Wickstead**

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Acting Chief Executive (Designate), Wilton Park

#### **Cyril Obi**

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

#### **Funmi Olonisakin**

Professor of Security, Leadership and Development, African Leadership Centre (ALC), King's College London

**1830**

Participants depart