



AN AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
ASWAN, EGYPT | 11-12 DECEMBER 2019 | PEACE. PROGRESS. PROSPERITY.



Draft Agenda¹

“An Agenda for Sustainable Peace, Security and Development in Africa”

Mövenpick Resort, Aswan

11-12 December 2019

10 December 2019	
Meeting of the International Advisory Board	
11 December 2019	
10:00-10:05	AU Video
10:05-10:10	Keynote Speech H.E. Sameh Shoukry Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt
10:10-10:20	Keynote Speech H.E. Abdelfattah el-Sisi President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairman of the African Union
10:20-10:25	Recorded Message H.E. António Guterres Secretary General, United Nations

¹ This is a draft agenda and subject to change.

10:30-12:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Africa We Want: Sustaining Peace, Security & Development (A conversation with African Leaders)</i></p> <p>Africa's potential is immense, but not fully realized. Today, the continent is home to at least half of the fastest growing economies of the world. It is rich in resources and is riding a wave of urbanization, industrialization and economic diversification. Its importance in the global economy is rising, both as a market and as an engine of global growth. Moreover, the continent is the youngest region of the world. By 2030, one in every five people in the world will live in Africa. This great promise, however, is under threat; undermined by a myriad of crises, challenges and risks to peace, security and development, including conflict, terrorism, and climate change. In the face of these challenges, Africa's ownership is indispensable. It is, indeed, the responsibility of this generation of African leaders, policymakers and intellectuals to provide the home-grown solutions that the continent so desperately needs, to protect the present and secure the future for generations to come. This session is a stage-setter in which African leaders will lay out their visions for an Africa that can leverage its enormous potentials to sustaining peace and development.</p>
12:00 -12:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
12:30-14:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Silencing the Guns in Africa: Owning the Prevention Agenda</i></p> <p>The logic of investing early and adequately to prevent conflict is unassailable. Conflict prevention saves lives and averts social, economic and physical destruction. When nationally owned, the conflict prevention agenda becomes a sovereignty enhancer. For this to be achieved, the prevention agenda must be integrated into national development policies and efforts, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the core of this approach. State institutions must invest in inclusive and sustainable development that not only create growth and advance poverty alleviation, but also address inequalities, exclusion, and grievances. Moreover, acting preventively entails fostering systems that create incentives for peaceful and cooperative behavior. This session will discuss concrete and actionable ideas for advancing African ownership of the prevention agenda and operationalizing it, and for creating synergies between political, peace and security, and development actors for effective prevention. It will also address the role of the African Union, including through its partnership with the United Nations, and financial institutions, in advancing structural conflict prevention in Africa.</p>
14:00-15:00	<p>Lunch</p>
15:00-16:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Twenty-One Strategies Later: Why is Sustainable Peace and Development in the Sahel Still Elusive?</i></p> <p>The Sahel region is at once a land of opportunities and challenges. Protracted conflict, terrorism, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, extreme poverty and climate change are some of the complex, multi-dimensional and transnational challenges in the region.</p>

	<p>Despite considerable international attention, including 21 regional and international strategies, the primary responsibility of sustaining peace and development is that of national governments, which must identify priorities, formulate strategies, and implement projects and programs that are “people-centered”, inclusive of all communities and regions, and empowers women and youth, in particular. The AU, Regional Economic Communities, the G5 and other regional arrangements are indispensable for addressing the transnational nature of many of the threats, challenges, and risks to the region’s peace, security and development. This session will provide an opportunity for action-oriented discussions about the imperative for building national and regional capacities needed for addressing immediate and short term priorities, as well as long-term needs identified by the countries themselves, achieving complementarity and coherence between the multiple regional and international actors and initiatives, and securing predictable and sustainable funding.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sustaining Peace in Practice: Politics, Institutions, Partnerships and Coherence</i></p> <p>Addressing the peace, security and development needs of countries and communities affected by or emerging from conflict is amongst the most complex challenges facing Africa. It requires inclusive politics and policies, sustained funding and engagement, and comprehensive, coherent and integrated approaches that bring together a wide array of local, national, regional and international actors, pulling together in the pursuit of collective outcomes. For this to be achieved, Africa’s – and the international community - toolbox of conflict prevention, management and resolution must undergo a process of adaptation, transformation and reform. This session will examine concrete recommendations to capitalize on the ongoing reform efforts at both the UN and AU, and other institutions, to advance the primacy of politics, people-centered approaches, and the integration and coherence of national, regional and international efforts across the “peace-development continuum”, and to further enhance the UN-AU strategic and operational partnership.</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Coffee Break</p>
17:00 -18:40	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Managing Journeys Out of Extremism and Building Post-Terrorism Local Orders</i></p> <p>When military gains are achieved against terrorist groups, sustaining peace and setting countries and communities on the road to sustainable development become the most daunting task. In addition to addressing the complex strategic, political, legal and operational challenges of managing ex-combatants’ “journeys out of extremism”, states also face the enormous challenge of replacing local orders imposed by terrorist organizations with viable state structures. This session will address the imperative for a coherent, coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to managing journeys of extremism. Furthermore, the session will shed light on the prerequisites for building new local orders, in which the extension of state authority is not narrowly confined to the provision of public goods and basic services, but also addresses the needs of (re)establishing durable social contracts between state and society, in a manner that leverages local pillars of resilience.</p>

20:00-21:00	Dinner
12 December 2019	
8:00-8:50	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Towards a Regional Cooperation Framework for Peace, Security & Development in the Red Sea & Gulf of Eden (High-Level Roundtable - By Invitation Only)</i></p> <p>Throughout history, the Red Sea served as one of the world's cardinal maritime routes, and a source of shared prosperity for its littoral states. Today, the waterways connecting the Suez Canal and Bab-Al-Mandab are as vital as ever for the world economy. Abundant with vast economic resources (hydrocarbons, mineral deposits, fisheries, etc.), the Red Sea remains an untapped source of wealth for its littoral states. Several challenges, however, stand in the way of tapping into this enormous potential. On one hand, the convergence of conflict, terrorism, piracy, trafficking, smuggling and other transnational threats is undermining peace, security and stability of Red Sea littoral states, both individually and collectively. On the other hand, the lack of a regional cooperation framework in the Red Sea continues to hamper further progress. This session will provide an opportunity for Red Sea littoral states and partners to develop a common understanding of opportunities and challenges to economic development, peace and security in the region, present concrete ideas and initiatives to achieve regional integration, and discuss modalities for cooperation with neighboring countries and partners that advance sustainable peace and development in the region and beyond.</p>
09:00-10:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>More than a Seat at the Table: Advancing African Women's Meaningful Contribution to Peace, Security and Development</i></p> <p>The contribution of women, as a powerful force for sustainable peace and development, has long been acknowledged. To unleash their potential, women and girls must have equal rights and opportunities. As a matter of fact, SDG 5 should not be merely viewed as one of the 17 SDGs, rather as a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development. Moreover, African countries should also advance the comprehensive and meaningful contribution of women in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. In the lead up to the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, this session will present concrete and actionable recommendations to advance the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa, with a particular focus on the participation pillar, including by addressing structural barriers to women empowerment and gender equality, and considering practical steps to enhance the role of the African Union, including by leveraging its existing structures and operationalizing current policy frameworks.</p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	<i>Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration in Africa: Time for a Paradigm Shift?</i>

	<p>The scale of the current forced displacement crisis is unprecedented. Despite its global nature, Africa continues to be disproportionately impacted. The protracted nature of today’s conflicts, coupled with threats of terrorism and climate change, have given rise to prolonged displacement experiences, which not only affect the forcibly displaced, but also host countries and communities. As “durable solutions” (return, local integration, and resettlement) remain elusive for many of Africa’s forcibly displaced, a paradigm shift from crisis management towards prevention and resolving situations of forced displacement is imperative. In celebrating the “Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,” and in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), this session will investigate the contours of this paradigm shift, and present actionable recommendations to advance the operationalization of a comprehensive and coherent approach to forced displacement and mixed migration in Africa along the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, including through the operationalization of the African humanitarian architecture.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Advancing Africa’s Partnership with the World in Turbulent Times</i></p> <p>The scale and complexity of the current threats, challenges and risks to peace, security and development in Africa is beyond the ability of any one country, organization or actor to overcome. Anchored in African ownership, the continent’s partnerships with the world are imperative to unlock its enormous potential and to seize opportunities to advancing sustainable development and peace. At a time when multilateralism is under severe pressure, there is a need to forge new and innovative ways of collaboration. This session will provide an opportunity for actors on the national, regional and international levels to discuss partnerships’ modalities that advance coherence and integration across the humanitarian- development- peace nexus, while enhancing African ownership and advancing African Solutions to African Problems.</p>
12:30-13:30	<p><i>Lunch Break</i></p>
13:30-15:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Energy Security: Powering Africa’s Future</i></p> <p>Access to reliable and affordable energy is essential for modern economies, sustainable development and political stability. While home to some of the fastest-growing economies of the world, energy security continues to be a key challenge for Africa. More than half the population in Africa doesn’t have access to electricity or reliable sources of energy. The continent, especially rural areas, continues to lack adequate energy infrastructure, including power generation capacity, transmission and distribution lines. Population growth, rapid urbanization and ambitious development goals are adding to the challenges. To overcome those hurdles, African countries need to tap into their energy potential (renewable and non-renewable), put in place sound policies, introduce the required regulatory reforms, and pursue regional cooperation/integration to create an enabling environment for investment and economies of scale for both public and private parties, including through public-private partnerships. African organizations, most notably the African Union and the African Development Bank, have a key role to play in putting the continent on a path to energy security, sustainable development and sustaining peace.</p>

Harnessing Digital Financing and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Development and Peace

The world is witnessing a revolution in digital banking and financing, one in which Africa is leading the way. In just six years, technology has facilitated the financial inclusion of more than 1.2 billion people. “We have only just begun to tap the potential of digital finance and investment to meet the broader agenda set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change,” noted UNSG António Guterres. While itself not one of the Sustainable Development Goals, financial inclusion is a key enabler of at least half of the SDGs. Inclusivity in access to savings accounts, loans, insurance and other financial services, help reduce poverty and inequality, achieve gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, and facilitate access to health and other basic services. Financial inclusion also promotes economic growth and jobs, and supports entrepreneurship and innovation, especially of the youth. Less considered, but no less potent, is the contribution of financial inclusion to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Inclusivity, driven by the combined power of technology and access to finance, presents huge – and, so far, untapped - opportunities advancing SDG 16. By empowering individuals, financial inclusion not only advances the women and youth peace and security agendas (WPS/YPS), but also contributes to overcoming some of the daunting challenges facing countries emerging from conflict.

15:00-15:30

Coffee Break

15:30-17:00

Financing Post-Conflict Economic Recovery: Not Development as Usual

Post-conflict economic recovery is not “development as usual”. On top of the traditional challenges and financing gaps facing many developing, particularly the least developed countries, transitions from conflict to peace are often fraught with weak state capacity, destroyed physical and human infrastructure, torn social contracts, and elevated – oftentimes unrealistic - expectations. The heightened risks of relapsing to conflict or prolonged instability significantly undermines the ability of countries emerging from conflict to attract private investment, both domestic and foreign. Moreover, the primacy of politics – critical to sustaining the peace – oftentimes necessitate less than optimal economic choices. To secure the resources needed to jumpstart economies and create jobs, while setting countries on a path to sustainable development and peace, the international community needs to rethink the ways and means by which it extends support to peacebuilding/statebuilding and sustainable development/conflict prevention. It must also develop innovative instruments that unleash the potential of the private sector (injecting investments, providing services, creating jobs, sustaining livelihoods, and delivering revenues to governments through taxes) as a full partner in sustaining development and peace, including by improving the return-to-risk ratio. It must take measures to ensure financial stability and resilience to external shocks, and address unsustainable debt burdens so that domestic resources can be used for necessary economic and social investments to catalyze economic recovery, generate employment opportunities, and foster social cohesion. Laying the foundations for inclusive, sustainable economic growth cannot be an afterthought to political settlements and implementation of peace agreements. Planning for a population’s economic security is as vital as providing for their physical security and every bit as necessary for sustaining peace. Therefore, planning for economic recovery and growth needs to begin



ASWAN FORUM
FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
منتدى اسوان للسلام والتنمية المستدامة

	from day one. Economic security considerations need to be integrated with political and/or security assistance aimed at enforcing and keeping the peace, including in the mandates of peacekeeping operations.
17:00-17:30	Coffee Break
17:30-18:00	Closing Ceremony <i>“The Aswan Conclusions on Sustainable Peace and Development”</i> Closing Remarks H.E. Abdelfattah el-Sisi <i>President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the African Union</i> National Anthem of the Arab Republic of Egypt



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



PARTNER



GOLD SPONSORS



SECRETARIAT



KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



OFFICIAL CARRIER

