

FORCE COMMANDERS' ROUNDTABLE: COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE, COORDINATION, AND CONVERGENCE IN AFRICAN PEACE OPERATIONS

**January 9-11, 2024
National Defense University, Lincoln Hall 3210/3212**

AGENDA

Roundtable Summary

The peace operations enterprise in Africa stands at a critical juncture. The demand for decisive action to address rising conflict and instability by the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), and other regional actors has arguably never been greater. Nevertheless, regional actors and institutions are struggling to meet this demand. Due to a divided UN Security Council and concerns about their effectiveness, UN-sponsored peacekeeping missions are on the decline. African-led peace operations are becoming increasingly central to managing Africa's conflicts, but often lack capabilities, are poorly integrated into civilian-led conflict mitigation efforts and are not well-aligned with the broader global peace operations architecture.

This roundtable will address the challenges of advancing the continent's peace and security architecture to meet rising threats, and fostering effective, locally owned, and sustainable peace operations capacity within Africa. The agenda includes briefings with moderated feedback and reaction periods, group discussions, and a session hosted by the Department of State to offer force commanders, peace operations leaders, and U.S. government officials currently involved in shaping U.S. policy on peace operations the opportunity to have an open exchange of views. Sessions will focus on generating lessons learned, commonalities, and differences across experiences in leading peacekeeping missions in Africa to support coordinated, innovative approaches to the peacekeeping challenges facing the continent today.

The roundtable objectives are as follows:

1. Convene former force commanders and other senior peace operations leaders to exchange experiences, views, lessons learned, and good practices in peace operations in Africa.
2. Informed by examples of successful operations, generate ideas to advance and revitalize the doctrine, partnerships, cooperation mechanisms, and financing underlying Africa's peace and security architecture.
3. Provide an opportunity for senior U.S. policymakers to engage in dialogue with strategic African leaders on how the U.S. can help support and advance Africa's peace operations architecture.

January 9 Day 1: AU/UN Roles and Responsibilities

0900-0945 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

Ms. Amanda Dory, *Director, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

Dr. Nate Allen, *Associate Professor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

0945-1030 KEYNOTE

General Birame Diop, *United Nations Military Advisor*

Moderator: **Dr. Assis Malaquias**, *Academic Dean, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

1030-1100 Break and Group Photo

1100-1230 SESSION 1: PEACE OPERATIONS IN AFRICA: TAKING STOCK AND LOOKING AHEAD

Panelists: **Dr. Paul Williams**, *Professor of International Affairs, George Washington University*

Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, *Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to the African Union*

Moderator: **Dr. Nate Allen**, *Associate Professor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

1230-1330 Lunch

1330-1500 SESSION 2: LESSONS LEARNED IN MULTIDIMENSIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS

Panelists: **Lieutenant General (Ret.) Dr. Dennis Gyllensporre**, *Professor of Security Policy, Swedish Defense University and Former Force Commander, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Mission in Mali*

Major General Diomède Ndegeya, *Senior Advisor to the Minister of Defense of Burundi and Former Force Commander, African Union Mission in Somalia*

Moderator: **Dr. Joel Amegboh**, *Associate Professor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

1500-1530 Break

1530-1700 SESSION 3: AU-UN PARTNERED PEACE OPERATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF THE AU-UN RELATIONSHIP

Panelists: **Ms. Karin Landgren**, *Executive Director, Security Council Report and former Special Representative of the Secretary General for Liberia and Head of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)*

Ambassador Michele Sison, *Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

General (Ret.) Martin Luther Agwai, *Former Force Commander, United Nations-African Union Mission and Chief of Defense Staff, Republic of Nigeria*

Moderator: **Mr. James Merz**, *Director, Office of Peacekeeping Operations, Bureau of International Organizations, US. Department of State*

January 10 Day 2: Regional Roles and Responsibilities

0900-1030 SESSION 4: THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (REC)-LED PEACE ENFORCEMENT

Panelists: **Brigadier General Magatte Ndiaye**, *Inspector of Arms and Operations, General Inspection of the Senegalese Armed Forces and Former Force Commander, ECOWAS Intervention in the Gambia*

His Excellency Ambassador Professor Mpho Molomo, *Head of Mission, Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique*

Moderator: **Dr. Nate Allen**, *Associate Professor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

1030-1100 Break

1100-1230 SESSION 5: AD-HOC SECURITY INITIATIVES AND COORDINATION TO COUNTER CROSS-BORDER INSURGENCIES

Panelists: **Major General Abdul Khalifah (AK) Ibrahim**, *Former Force Commander, Multi National Joint Task Force*

Major General Oumar Bikimo, *Former Force Commander, G5 Sahel Joint Force in Mali*

Major General Kenneth Ekman, *Director of Strategy, Engagement and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Department of Defense*

Moderator: **Dr. Daisy Muibu**, *Associate Professor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

1230-1330 Lunch

1330-1430 **Transport to Offsite**

1430-1630 **ROUNDTABLE: U.S. SUPPORT FOR PEACE OPERATIONS IN AFRICA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Introduction: **Ambassador Michele Sison**, *Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

Panelists: **The Honorable Josh Black**, *Special Assistant to the President and Director of Multilateral Affairs, National Security Council*

Ms. Melanie Higgins, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Bureau of African Affairs*

Dr. Rachel Schiller, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Programs and Operations, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

Mr. James Saenz, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Stabilization Policy, U.S. Department of Defense*

Moderator: **Ms. Amanda Dory**, *Director, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

1630-1800 **RECEPTION AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

January 11 Day 3: Coordination within African Peace Operations

0900-1030 **SESSION 7: COORDINATION OF PEACE OPERATION COMPONENTS AND CAPABILITIES**

Panelists: **General (Ret.) Derrick Mbuyiselo Mgwebi**, *Former Force Commander, UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Director of Joint Operations, Republic of South Africa*

General (Ret.) Osman Nour Soubagle, *Former Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Somalia, and Chief of Defense Staff, Republic of Djibouti*

Ms. Jennifer Pulliam, *Peace Operations Capacity Building Division Chief, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

Moderator: **Mr. Herbert Loret**, *Team Leader, UN Light Coordination Mechanism*

1030-1100 **Break**

1100-1230 **SESSION 8: INTEGRATING AFRICAN PEACE OPERATIONS WITH CIVILIAN-LED
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

Panelists: **Brigadier General Joyce Sitienei**, *Director, Kenya Peace Operations Training
Center*

General (Ret.) Balla Keita, *Former Force Commander, United Nations
Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African
Republic*

Dr. Jide Okeke, *Regional Coordinator for Africa, United Nations Development
Program*

Moderator: **Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly**, *Associate Dean and Professor, Africa Center for
Strategic Studies*

1230-1330 **Lunch**

1330-1500 **GROUP DISCUSSION: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING PEACE
OPERATIONS IN AFRICA**

1500-1530 **Break**

1530-1630 **CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS**