

African geopolitics in transformation: what future for peacebuilding?

Virtual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 2020

Monday 18 May 2020, 16:30-17:30 CEST

This virtual session looks at sub-Saharan Africa as a new arena for geopolitical competition, due to the assertiveness of global and regional powers projecting influence throughout the continent. This process is driving profound changes in economic, commercial, political and security/military relations, which in turn constrain national decision-making, altering the way peace can be built, maintained, protected or restored. Against this backdrop, how will regional peace and security architectures look like in the next decade?

The purpose of this panel is to understand the driving forces behind the new geopolitical dynamics at play in Africa, and their foreseeable implications for peacebuilding policies and approaches in the next decade, particularly with regards to the following aspects:

- The relationship between external geopolitical influences and the agency/leeway of African nations to exploit geopolitical competition to their own advantage;
- The impact of exogenous shocks and new trends on peace and security dynamics in Africa, from the point of view of institutional mechanisms (eg. AU, RECs), diplomatic relations, security cooperation;
- Key factors playing a role in shaping the new geopolitics of peace in Africa, such as digital revolution, climate change, urbanization, mobility, exogenous shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Future scenarios for peace and stability, with a focus on specific sub-regions (eg. East Africa).

Programme:

16:30-16:35 Introduction by the Moderator, **Giovanni Faleg**, Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies

16:35-16:40 Opening remarks by **Irina Schoulgin-Nyoni**, Deputy-Director General and Head of the Africa Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

16:40-17:00 Expert roundtable with **Jakkie Cilliers**, Chairman, Institute for Security Studies, **Judd Devermont**, Director Africa Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, **Mesfin Gebremichael**, Assistant Professor, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, University of Addis Ababa, **Amandine Gnanguenon**, Researcher, Centre Michel de l'Hospital, Clermont Ferrand

17:00-17:10 High-level policy perspectives with **H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu**, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and **Koen Vervaeke**, Managing Director for Africa, European External Action Service

17:10-17:25 Q&A

17:25-17:30 Wrap up by the Moderator, **Giovanni Faleg**, Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies