



Round-Table Discussion: Political-Economy Analysis of the Peace and Security Council

Venue: Shala Hall, Golden Tulip Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: March 19, 2018

Background:

The Round-table discussion on a Political Economy Analysis of the Peace and Security Council is dialogue event hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), presenting the analysis report on the political-economy of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) conducted by Dr. Solomon Dersso, Executive Director, Amani Africa Media and Research Services and Adjunct Prof., College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University. This report seeks to examine the many actors that influence the decision-making process of the PSC and the outcome of its deliberations. The aim of the round-table discussion is to review not only the deliberations in the sessions of the PSC and the various actors involved but also the process of agenda setting in the PSC, the drafting of the outcomes of sessions and consensus building among the actors with major interests in the particular agenda. It will look at factors shaping the decision-making and the motives whether ideal, political, economic or personal and the way such relationships affect the outcome of PSC sessions.

This study is part of a FES broader project by the name of new approaches to collective security. This project seeks to identify new approaches to collective security by analysing conflicts through the lens of political economy in order to understand the interdependencies between the actors involved, their motivations and interests as well as the factors that could change their behaviour in matters pertaining to conflict resolution. The analysis either focused on the research area new threats, i.e. terrorist groupings, or non-governmental actors like Boko Haram or Al-Shabab or on the research area why peace fails i.e. the crisis in Burundi or the renewed fighting in Mozambique between Frelimo and Renamo. It also has a focus on the significance of

political economy in the emergence of conflicts primarily triggered by poor economic and political governance.

The analysis on the PSC contributes to the larger project by providing a more tangible image of the decision-making process of PSC. As the PSC has to deal with both cases – new threats and why peace fails – the research report is based on two different case studies – the conflict involving Boko Haram and the crisis in Burundi. This should also show the similarities and difference in the decision-making of the PSC when different conflict contexts are being addressed. Furthermore, both cases should serve as a starting point for a discussion whether the PSC is properly equipped to deal with two totally different conflict contexts.

The meeting will be held under Chatham House Rule.

March 19, 2018

0900–0930 Registration

0930–0945 Welcome remarks

Florian Koch, Director, African Union Cooperation Office, FES

0945–1015 Keynote Speech

Amb. Hadiza Mustapha, Advisor on Peace, Security and Governance, Bureau of the Chairperson, African Union Commission (AUC)

1015–1215 Presentation of Report: “*A Political Economy Analysis of the Peace and Security Council*”

This session will kick off by providing a brief presentation/overview of the report and outlining the different contributing factors that influence the decision-making process of the PSC as well as the actors that shape the outcomes of PSC session in the AU. It will look at the two cases taken in the report: Boko Haram in Nigeria and the crisis in Burundi.

Moderator: Florian Koch, Director, AU Cooperation Office, FES

Input (20 minutes) by: Dr Solomon Ayele Dersso, Executive Director, Amani Africa Media and Research Services and Adjunct Prof., College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University

Comment (10 minutes) by:

Dr. Admore Kambudzi, Director, Peace and Security Department, African Union (AUC)

Key Questions:

- a) What were the main challenges faced by the PSC in reaching a decision in the cases of Boko Haram and the Crisis in Burundi?
- b) Are the existing tools/instruments of the AU still effective in providing the necessary support in resolving changes in the nature of conflicts and the challenges arising from emerging security threats?
- c) Is there sufficient coordination, synergy and policy coherence between the RECs and the AU in preventing and resolving security threats in the continent?
- d) What needs to be done to improve the effectiveness of the PSC?

1215–1330 Lunch Break
