



International Expert Conference

'Climate Change, Resources, Migration:  
Old and New Sources of Conflict in Africa?'

Centre for the Book, Cape Town, 03-04 August 2009

Contact:

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Security and stability continue to be key challenges across Africa. The continent accounts for more conflicts than any other region in the world. In the last two decades, violent conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa have taken an increasingly multi-dimensional nature that involved local, national and international state and non-state actors. Despite the internal origin of many of the conflicts their impact and consequences have been regional.

While the establishment of the African security architecture demonstrates a new proactive and interventionist approach to the continent's security challenges, the African Union (AU) has predominantly responded to the consequences and symptoms of violent conflict instead of addressing structural root-causes. Even as progress towards the formation of a continental early warning system and an African Standby Force has been achieved, financial and institutional constraints have undermined the AU's conflict prevention, management and resolution efforts.

Not sufficiently considered as security threats, underlying Africa's vulnerability to conflict both presently and in the future are issues of migration, management of natural resources and increasingly climate change. In conjunction to aggravating political, economic and social circumstances, contestations over such issues can lead to volatility.

For a number of years now, as a result of socially and environmentally degrading exploitation, there has been a focus on Africa's natural riches as 'curses'. Debates about the 'Resource Curse' have underscored that the utilisation of resources has often exacerbated poverty and conflicts rather than contributed to the continent's human development. At the same time forced migration as a consequence of poverty and violent conflict remains evident across Africa. The continent's lack of capacity to manage migration and failure to understand the issue as an opportunity, in some cases even led to new conflict and tension. In the context of such challenges, climate change – and its anticipated adverse impacts on water availability, food security and the continent's coastlines – may intensify forced migration and scare resource related contestation. As the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change observes, Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to the global phenomenon – with serious implications for the continent's security.

It is clear that all three issues are closely interrelated, and that the impact of climate change is likely to amplify potential instability posed by the exploitation of resources and migration. However, a differentiated analysis of these issues will be crucial for the development of effective conflict prevention and resolution strategies in Africa. What are the exact links between climate change, resources, migration and violent conflict? What roles do other social, economic and political factors such as governance play? What are the conclusions for the evolving African security architecture? What kind of cooperation is required to address challenges that go beyond the capacity of any one nation state to deal with?

In response to these and related questions around security in Africa, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung is holding an international expert conference on the 3-4 August in Cape Town. The event will bring together political, academic, and civil society representatives from the continent as well as beyond for deliberation. An accompanying public event on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> will ensure that the public at large can also engage on these important issues.

Monday, 03 August 2009

- 16:30 Welcome and Official Opening  
Dr Antonie Nord, Regional Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Cape Town  
Ambassador Dieter W. Haller, German Embassy South Africa, Pretoria
- 16:45 Keynote Speeches  
Ralf Fücks, Co-President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin  
New world order? The state of the international security architecture.  
Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim, Deputy Minister, International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa  
Evolving or standing still? Africa's security architecture.
- 17:45 Opening Panel  
New challenges = new opportunities? Security, regional cooperation in Africa and South Africa's role in it.  
Chair: Lerato Mbele, CNBC Africa, Johannesburg  
Speaker 1: Prof. Ulf Engel, Institute for African Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany  
Speaker 2: Dr Monica Juma, Executive Director for Research, Africa Institute of South Africa, Pretoria  
Speaker 3: Dr Siphamandla Zondi, Programme Director Africa, Institute for Global Dialogue, Midrand
- 19:30 Reception

Closed Expert Seminar – attendance by invitation only

Tuesday, 04 August 2009

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Climate Change Panel  
A 'Climate of conflict': Climate change as THE future challenge for human security in Africa?  
Chair: Prof. Owen Sichone, Department of Anthropology, University of Pretoria  
Speaker 1: Oli Brown, Programme Manager, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Geneva  
Speaker 2: Elvin Nyukuri, Research Fellow, African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi  
Speaker 3: Trusha Reddy, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies, Cape Town

- 10:45      Tea Break
- 11:15      Resource Panel  
 Africa's natural resources: Driver of African development and (in-) stability.  
 Chair: Dr Sarah Wykes, Researcher and Campaigner on Natural Resource Governance in Africa, London  
 Speaker 1: Tim Hughes, Head, Governance of Africa's Resources Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs, Cape Town  
 Speaker 2: Claude Kabemba, Director, Southern Africa Resource Watch, Johannesburg
- 13:00      Lunch Break
- 14:00      Migration Panel  
 Migration and human security in Africa: How can we turn migration from a perceived threat into an actual opportunity for humans and states?  
 Chair: Prof. Sally Peberdy, Department of Geography, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town  
 Speaker 1: Dr Khoti Chilomba Kamanga, Co-Founder, Centre for the Study of Forced Migration, University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania  
 Speaker 2: Dr Loren Landau, Director, Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
 Speaker 3: Kate Lefko-Everett, Researcher, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town
- 15:45      Tea Break
- 16:15      Concluding Panel  
 Stony road: How can we make Africa's security architecture fit for the new challenges?  
 Chair: Dr Monica Juma, Executive Director for Research, Africa Institute of South Africa, Pretoria  
 Discussant 1: Vasu Gounden, Executive Director, The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, Durban  
 Discussant 2: Prof. Mandivamba Rukuni, Director, Wisdom Afrika Leadership Academy, Zimbabwe  
 Discussant 3: Ernest Ansah Lartey, Research Associate, Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution Department, Kofi Anan International Peace Keeping Training Centre, Ghana
- 18:00      Closing Remarks  
 Ralf Fücks, Co-President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin