



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

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.

## Conference Programme

### Public

#### Monday, 03 August 2009

- 16:00 Welcome and Official Opening  
Dr Antonie Nord, Regional Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Cape Town  
Ambassador Dieter W. Haller, German Embassy South Africa, Pretoria
- 16:30 Keynote Speeches  
Ralf Fuecks, Co-President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin  
New world order? The state of the international security architecture.  
  
Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa (tbc)  
Evolving or standing still? Africa's security architecture.
- 17:00 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: Berouk Mesfin, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies, Addis Ababa  
Speaker 3: Dr Monica Juma, Executive Director for Research, African Institute of South Africa, Pretoria
- 19:00 Reception

### Closed Expert Seminar

#### Tuesday, 04 August 2009

- 8:30 Climate Change Panel  
A 'Climate of Conflict': Climate change as THE future challenge for human security in Africa?  
Chair: Prof. Owen Sichone, University of Pretoria

Speaker 1: Oli Brown, Program 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

10:30 Tea Break

11:00 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 of the Governance of Africa's Resources Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs, Cape Town

Speaker 2: Claude Kabemba, Director, Southern Africa Resource Watch, Johannesburg

Speaker 3: R. Bobby Michael Godsell, Chairman, Eskom, Johannesburg (tbc)

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Migration Panel

Migration and human security: How can we turn regional 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 Loren Landau, Director, Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Speaker 2: Dr Mariama Awumbila, Head, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, Legon (tbc)

Speaker 3: Dr Khoti Chilomba Kamanga, Co-Founder, Centre for the Study of Forced Migration, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

16:00 Tea Break

16:30 Concluding Panel

Stony road: How can we make Africa's security architecture fit for the new challenges?

Chair: Dr Stefan Mair, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Discussant 1: Dr Siphamandla Zondi, Programme Director Africa, Institute for Global Dialogue, Midrand

Discussant 2: Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba, Director General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa (tbc)

Discussant 3: Ernest Ansah Lartey, Research Associate, Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution Department, Kofi Anan International Peace Keeping Training Centre, Ghana