

2020

Amani Africa

Annual Activity Report



2020

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Annual Activity Report**



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR

I feel great honour to write this message on the publication of Amani Africa's 2020 Annual Report. Over the years, Amani Africa has come to distinguish itself as a leading policy research think tank through its high quality and policy relevant work relating in particular to the peace and security work of the African Union (AU). Since our establishment and following the launch of our flagship work 'Insights on the PSC', we have been producing evidence based, impartial and user-friendly analysis on matters featuring on the agenda of the sessions of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) in pursuit of our mission of supporting the African vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa.

Expanding on this flagship work, Amani Africa introduced the production of special

research report and the regular consultation and collaboration with the main actors in the work of the PSC. In September 2019, its Training Institute on the AU was launched with its successful inaugural training session on the AU held in Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

Through this report, Amani Africa's team presents examples of the impactful work that we have carried out during 2020. Apart from the production of its existing works and intensification of its partnership with the main PSC actors, a major highlight in the work of our institute in 2020 was the production and launching of a landmark book, the *African Union Peace and Security Council Handbook*. This Handbook is the only comprehensive guide on the PSC and its work, hence providing most authoritative independent source of reference on PSC matters.

In 2020 the COVID19 pandemic presented a unique challenge to the regular functioning of the PSC, as it did to other similar bodies. This notwithstanding, the PSC, through the use of video teleconference, has sustained the continuity of its work. We have accompanied the PSC with the provision of technical support to monthly chairs on request and the production of our policy research works including 66 editions of our flagship work 'Insights on the PSC'.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to our work in 2020.

For more about Amani Africa's work and its contributions and impact, I now invite you to read our 2020 annual report.

Solomon A. Dersso,
Founding Director

INTRODUCTION

Amani Africa Media and Research Services is an independent policy research, training and consulting think tank dedicated to analyzing and reporting on the work, products and working dynamics of the African Union (AU) on peace and security in Africa with particular focus on the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC). Amani Africa produces various analytical products, convenes training seminars and public forums on peace and security in Africa and on the PSC impartially and to support the implementation of the PSC Protocol and the relevant AU norms. Amani Africa does these, in support of the pan-African vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and integrated Africa, through research, training, technical advice and support and convening and facilitation.

Research and publication

Undertaking policy research and producing and disseminating regular, evidence-based, high-quality, accurate information, and impartial analysis about matters on the agenda of the sessions and other activities of the PSC.

Technical support and advice

Convening and providing high-level and interactive training activities, including for newly elected or returning members of the PSC, to enhance understanding of the Council's practice, issues and procedures and providing support for monthly chairpersons of the PSC and members of the PSC.

Convening and outreach activities

Organizing expert consultations and public forums to enrich analysis of issues on the agenda of the PSC, its working methods and implementation of its mandate and promoting engagement of the wider membership of the AU and other stakeholders including civil society organizations and awareness on the PSC and its work.

As part of our outreach activities we conduct regular meetings and exchange of information with the PSC secretariat, the Peace and Security Department (PSD) as well as members of the PSC.

AMANI AFRICA'S WORK IN BRIEF

Amani Africa's flagship project 'Insights on the PSC' launched in 2018 is the standing publication released ahead of PSC sessions. In 2020 Amani Africa has produced about 66 'Insights on the PSC', eight special research reports and two policy briefs.

Moreover, Amani Africa held several meetings with PSC monthly chairs and various partners. It has conducted four briefing sessions with monthly chairs of the PSC. Amani Africa has also provided three briefings for institutional partners including two that were received in our office.

Amani Africa has convened four webinars and two training sessions in 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Despite the difficulties Amani Africa faced due to the novel coronavirus (COVID19), it has risen to the challenge. By making adjustments to focus on areas that enhance support for the work of the PSC, it ensured the continuity of its work.

In the course of 2020, Amani Africa has reached a number of milestones. The first of this is the publication and launch of its inaugural edition of *The African Union Peace and Security Council Handbook*.

Amani Africa has further institutionalized the production of its special reports. In 2020 in the context of the impact of the COVID19 pandemic in particular, Amani Africa has expanded its production of special reports. It was able to convene joint high-level launch of its special reports with participation of PSC members and other stakeholders. It has also produced policy briefs and the review of the PSC in 2019.

As part of the vision and objectives of its training institute, Amani Africa has delivered various specialized trainings and high-level briefings.

Its flagship project 'Insights on the PSC' has been institutionalized and become established as the only standing independent research-based analysis that is regularly produced and used by members of the PSC in their preparations for and engagement in the deliberations of the sessions of the PSC.

In 2020, Amani Africa has consolidated its partnership with monthly chairs of the PSC through holding consultations on the monthly

program of work, the convening of joint seminars and the provision of technical documents to support the role of the monthly chairperson in the delivery of selected items in the monthly program of work.

PRODUCTION AND LAUNCH OF AMANI AFRICA'S INAUGURAL EDITION OF THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL HANDBOOK

The successful completion of the first edition of Amani Africa's *African Union Peace and Security Council Handbook: Guide on the Council's Procedure, Practice and Traditions* was a major landmark in our work. This is the first of its kind and only independent authoritative source of reference on the PSC and its work. Produced within the framework of Article 20 of the PSC Protocol and the Conclusions of the Livingstone and Maseru Retreats of the PSC and in close collaboration with PSD and PSC member States, the Handbook offers a comprehensive and practical guide on the mandate, organization of work, working methods and activities of the PSC. The Handbook, prepared on the basis of thorough review of the official documents and the 15-year work of the PSC, is produced both to support the PSC's work and to bring better visibility to the PSC at the continental as well as international levels.

Amani Africa is grateful that H.E. Ambassador Catherine Mwangi, Permanent Representative of Kenya and member of the PSC authored the foreword and the Director of Peace and Security Dr. Admore Kambudzi wrote the introduction to the Handbook.

The African Union Peace and Security Council
Handbook

Guide to the Council's Procedures, Practice and Tradition

The African Union Peace and Security Council

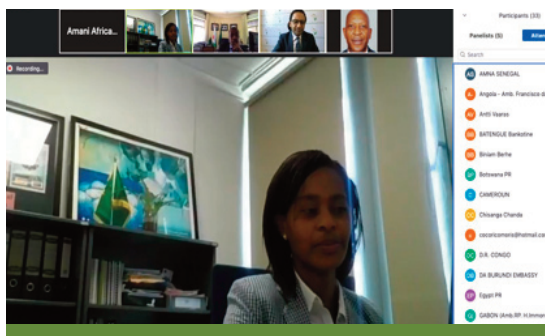
Ahead of the launch, Amani Africa distributed hardcopies of the Handbook to all members of the AU, international organizations and its institutional partners.



During the launch Ambassador Idriss invited members of the PSC as well as other members of the AU to engage with the information contained in the Handbook in order to gain in depth insight of the PSC and its works.

Dr. Admore Kambudzi,
from the 'Introduction' he authored in
the AU PSC Handbook

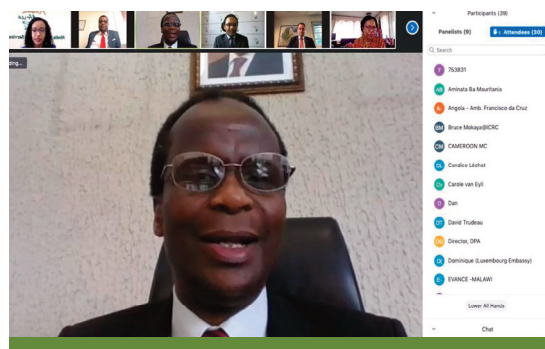
Acting Head of the PSC Secretariat Neema Chusi further affirmed ‘the Handbook is the first ever tool published since the establishment of the PSC, with the purpose of providing guidance to the public on how the PSC conducts its business’.



Neema Chusi,

Ag. Head of PSC Secretariat, during the launch with PSC and AU members of the AU PSC Handbook

Amani Africa convened the second and public launch of the Handbook on September 29. H.E. Edward Xolisa Makaya, Ambassador of South Africa and Chairperson of the AU PRC for 2020 and H.E. Catherine Mwangi, Ambassador of Kenya to the AU and member of the PSC, co-launched the Handbook.



Chairperson of the PRC,

Amb. Edward Makaya, PR of South Africa during the public launch of the AU PSC Handbook

In his remarks Ambassador Makaya underscored the contextual importance

of launching the Handbook in 2020, a year which the AU assigned the theme of Silencing the Guns. In this regard, welcoming the publication of the Handbook, he highlighted the important role played by research institutes such as Amani Africa for resolving conflicts.

‘It demystifies the PSC and its work, thereby making it understandable for all...it prepares the mind of those who aspire to be members of the PSC...commend you for this amazing tool you bequeathed not just the PSC and Africa but also the world’

Ambassador Catherine Mwangi,
PR of Kenya and member of the PSC

In her remark in co-launching the Handbook, Ambassador Catherine Mwangi, who wrote the Foreword for the Handbook, said the work ‘demystifies the PSC and its work, thereby making it understandable for all...it prepares the minds of those who aspire to be members of the PSC...commend you for this amazing tool you bequeathed not just the PSC and Africa but also the world.’



Amb. Catherine Mwangi,

PR of Kenya during the public launch of the AU PSC Handbook

The launch also benefited from the contribution of other panelists including Dawit Yirga, Director General for International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, and Dr. Jean-Marc Flukiger, charge d'affaires, Embassy of Switzerland in Addis Ababa.

PRODUCTION OF INSIGHTS ON THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

‘Insights on the PSC’ is the flagship publication of Amani Africa that is regularly disseminated ahead of each PSC sessions since 2018. The Director of the Peace and Security Department, Dr. Kambudzi Admore, commended Amani Africa’s Insights on the PSC as a ‘useful source of analysis, (which) offers an independent outside input to the work of the PSC’, a clear testament to our contribution to the work of the PSC. In 2020, Amani Africa produced about 66 PSC insights ahead of PSC sessions providing up-to-date analysis on the issues under the Council’s consideration. Moreover, in the course of the year Amani Africa’s Insight has institutionalized the incorporation of agenda items of the PSC relating to issues on the agenda of the UNSC.

In line with Article 20 of the PSC Protocol as well as PSC’s Livingstone conclusions, which emphasizes the role and participation of African research institutions in supporting the works of the PSC, Acting Director of the PSC Secretariat Neema Chusi, described ‘Insights

on the PSC’ as a critical publication by Amani Africa, relating to the works of the PSC.

MONTHLY CONSULTATIONS WITH AND BRIEFING TO PSC CHAIRS

Amani Africa has actively held meetings with several monthly chairs of the PSC ahead of them assuming their chairship, with several of them done remotely as well.



From right to left, Dr. Solomon Dersso, Amb. Mohamed Idriss and Bitania Tadesse at a consultation held at Djibouti Embassy

Such meetings involve consultations with the monthly chairs on their plans for PSC’s program of work of the month and areas of collaboration with and support by Amani Africa. Often, this serves not only to brief incoming Chairs but also to discuss expectations around and background to the proposed draft program of work of the PSC.



Amb. Osama Abdel Khalek PR of Egypt and Dr. Solomon Dersso at Egypt Embassy

The monthly engagement with PSC Chairs has helped Amani Africa in strengthening its strategic partnership with the PSC members and in identifying areas for targeted collaboration and provision of technical support on a selected item.



Amb. Tesfaye Yilma PR of Ethiopia and Bitania Tadesse during a meeting at Ethiopian Permanent Mission to the AU

DELIVERING BRIEFING TO THE PSC

During Lesotho's Chairship of the PSC in May 2020, Amani Africa was invited to deliver a briefing to the PSC on 'the Impact of Covid-19 on Living Together in Peace', at its 928th session held on May 27. In its briefing, Amani Africa delivered a presentation which offered useful materials for guiding the deliberation of the PSC and the outcome of the session on the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on conflict prevention and management efforts and international cooperation within the framework of 'Living together in Peace'. The link to the outcome of the 928th PSC session is available [here](#).



Amb. Mafa Sejanamane, PR of Lesotho and Dr. Solomon Dersso during the 928th session of the PSC

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PRODUCTION OF SPECIAL RESEARCH REPORTS

Amani Africa produces special research reports and policy briefs, offering nuanced analysis of timely topics that would inform the workings of the PSC. In 2020 Amani Africa has produced eight special reports and two policy briefs.

Amani Africa started the year 2020 with a comprehensive assessment of PSC's work and engagement in 2019. To this end in January 2020, Amani Africa has released a special report 'The Peace and Security Council in 2019: the Year in Review'. The report captures the major developments and key decisions of the PSC.



Ahead and following the election of the new PSC members in February 2020, Amani Africa produced two special research reports specifically focusing on the election process. The first report 'The Candidates for the 2020 Elections of the PSC' provided an overview of the candidates from the different regions for the two-year term of the Council.

The second special report on the election of PSC members, 'Update on the 2020 Elections of the PSC' was released immediately after the election of the new members and provided an update on conduct and result of the election.

During the suspension of PSC sessions in the second half of March and first week of April, Amani Africa continued to produce special

reports to ensure continuity in the work of the PSC. To this end it produced two reports. The first one 'COVID19 and its Implications on the Work of the PSC and Peace and Security in Africa' was published on 25 March. Following that the second report 'The PSC During April 2020' was released on 3 April. Ahead of the preparation of the monthly program of work, the report anticipated the possible agenda items that might feature during the month.

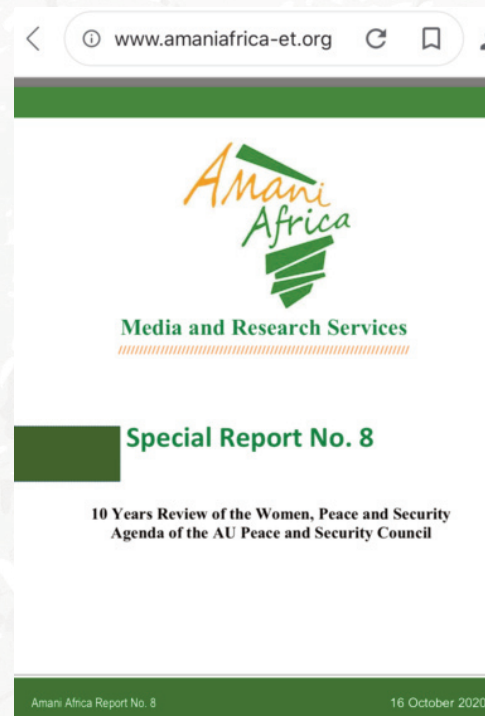
Amani Africa further contributed to the PSC's effort in adopting a new working method for ensuring the continuity of its work during the COVID19 pandemic by submitting a technical document to the Chair for the month of April, Kenya. The technical paper was further elaborated and transformed into a special report on 'New PSC Working Methods During the COVID19 Suspension of Physical Meetings', which was widely circulated with member states and partners working closely with the PSC. The 'Special Report' explored the necessity, the background, the process of adoption, the content and implications of the new formats of the PSC working methods.



Amani Africa also released its 7th **Special Research Report** on ‘Impact of COVID19 on Multilateral Cooperation and Implications for Peace and Security in Africa’ on July 18, offering in depth analysis of the impact of COVID19 on multilateralism based on the presentation that Amani Africa delivered to the PSC during its 928th session on May 27.



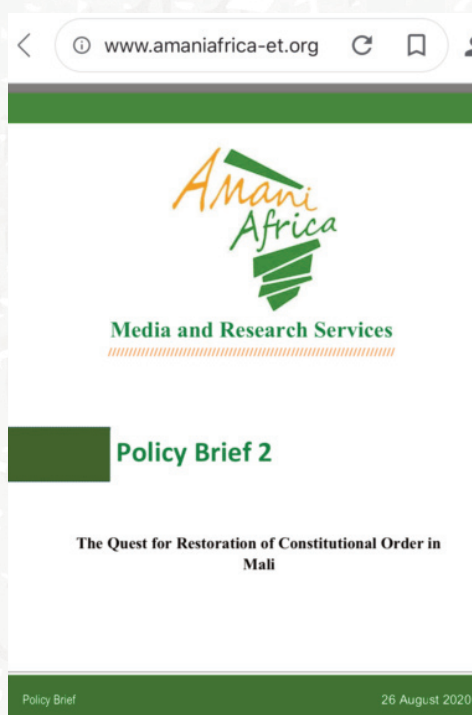
The third **Special Report** of the year was on the ‘10 Years Review of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda of the AU Peace and Security Council’ which was published at the backdrop of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and 10th anniversary of PSC’s standing agenda on women, peace and security (WPS). The research report navigates the genesis and explores the evolution and trajectories of the WPS agenda within the AU and the PSC.



RELAUNCHING THE PRODUCTION OF POLICY BRIEFS

As the convening of physical public forums became impossible due to COVID19, Amani Africa reoriented its focus towards increased production of not only special research reports but also policy briefs to address timely country/region specific agendas as well as thematic issues. In this context, Amani Africa has produced two policy briefs during 2020, first time since its first policy brief in 2017.

Our first policy brief of the year on ‘**The Quest for Restoration of Constitutional Order in Mali**’ came out on 26 August on the heels of the Mali Coup. The brief explains how the effort for restoring constitutional order may unfold, the form it could take and the options that are available in bringing constitutional order. This policy brief was prepared to serve as input for PSC’s consideration of the effort for the restoration of constitutional order in Mali.



The second policy brief of the year entitled ‘**Critical Appraisal of the Agenda of Silencing the Guns in Africa**’ was out on December 7, providing a critical review of the AU’s theme of the year and an assessment of the progress and challenges in the implementation of this agenda. This policy brief was released in the context of the convening of the 14th extraordinary session of the AU Assembly that focused on the theme of Silencing the Guns in Africa. The decisions of the extraordinary session can be found [here](#).

CONVENING OF HIGH-LEVEL TRAININGS AND PUBLIC FORUMS

Amani Africa delivered two high-level trainings, which are tailored to the needs and request made by specific stakeholders. The first was a three-day training workshop that was held virtually on 7-9 December. It covered a wide range of topics including, the background to the AU and the decision-making processes and dynamics of the AU, the PSC and the organization and conduct of its activities and review of various conflict situations in different parts of Africa on the agenda of the PSC and the UNSC.

The other training, which targeted senior members of a UN agency working in various regions in Africa was held on 15 December. This training sought to provide practical knowledge and insight on the work of the PSC and its engagement on humanitarian matters, protection of civilians, refugees and IDPs.

Before the restrictions on physical meetings due to COVID19, Amani Africa was able to convene one public seminar on 6 March 2020. The seminar focused on institutional and working methods issues affecting AUPSC and UNSC relationship. Amani Africa used the forum to also present key findings of its special research report: ‘The Internal Institutional Setup and Working Processes Shaping the Relationship Between the AUPSC and UNSC’.

Panelists of the event were Dr. Admore Kambudzi (PSD Director), Mr. Gerald Mitchell (Deputy Head of Office and Director of Political Affairs, UN Office to the AU (UNOAU)), Dawit Yirga, while Ambassador Hadiza Mustapha (Advisor of the AUC Chairperson on Peace, Security and Governance) moderated the session.



Amani Africa also joined hands with the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) on May 21 to co-host a webinar on COVID19's impact on the peace and security in Africa. Moderated by Dr. Solomon Dersso, the event featured H.E SRSR Hanna Tetteh, Dr. Comfort Ero (International Crisis Group, Africa program Director), Michelle Ndiaye Ntab (Director of the African Peace and Security Program and Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat).



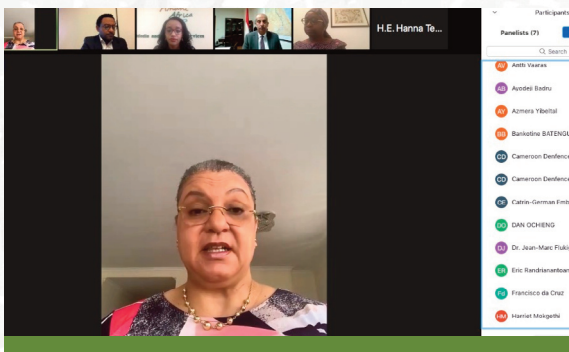
On October 21, Amani Africa together with the Chairperson of PSC for the month of October, H.E. Ambassador Osama Abdel Khalek, co-hosted the launch of the special report on Women, Peace and Security through virtual platform.



PSC Chairperson

Amb. Osama Abdel Khalek, PR of Egypt

The event featured high-level speakers including H.E. Hanna Tetteh (Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the UN Office to the AU) and H.E. Bineta Diop (AU Special Envoy on WPS).



SRSR Hanna Tetteh,
during the webinar Amani Africa co-hosted with
the Chairperson of the PSC for October



Mme Bineta Diop,
AU Special Envoy on WPS during the webinar
Amani Africa co-hosted with the Chairperson of the
PSC for October

BRIEFING OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP

We also had the pleasure to receive representatives of several institutions in our office for briefings and exchange on areas of engagement and partnership.

In 2020, Amani Africa has also signed funding agreements with the government of Switzerland to continue the production of ‘Insights on the PSC’ and for the 2nd edition of PSC Handbook.

October 2 Amani Africa received Mr. Patrick Dupont, incoming Head of Political, Press and Information Section of EU to AU for briefing on the AU and its PSC and our work.



Mr. Patrick Dupont and Dr. Solomon Dersso

On October 5 Amani Africa welcomed Dr. Fonteh Akum Incoming Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS)) and Dr. Roba D. Sharamo (ISS regional director) to our office.



From right to left
**Dr. Roba Sharmo, Dr. Solomon Dersso,
Bitania Tadesse and Dr. Fonteh Akum**

On October 26 we welcomed to our office Brian Kagoro, Programme Support Division Director of the Africa Regional Office of the Open Society Foundation and Dr. George Mukundi, CEO of Maendeleo Group.



From left to right
**Brian Kagoro, Dr. Solomon Dersso and
Dr. George Mukundi**

On 19 November Amani Africa received Ambassador Outi Holopainen, the incoming Ambassador of Finland to Ethiopia and the AU along with the Deputy Head of Mission of Finland Antti Vaaras.



From left to right

Amb. Outi Holopainen of Finland, Dr. Solomon Dersso, Antti Vaaras of Finland, Bitania Tadesse

In May 2020 Amani Africa has renewed its institutional partnership with the Embassy of Germany, a founding partner of our flagship work 'Insights on the PSC'. This agreement covers the support of Germany to Amani Africa for 2020 and 2021.



Dr. Solomon Dersso and Amb. Brita Wagener, Ambassador of Germany

AMANI AFRICA'S FUNDING PARTNERS

In addition to the financial support provided by Germany, Switzerland and the UK, in 2020 Amani Africa has expanded its partnership by signing support agreement with the Embassy of Finland.



Amb. Helena Airaksinen, Ambassador of Finland and Dr. Solomon Dersso

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Amani Africa wishes to express its gratitude, to the Government of Switzerland and the Embassies of Germany, UK and Finland for the support they provided to its work in 2020.



Embassy of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Addis Ababa



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



British Embassy
Addis Ababa



Embassy of Finland
Addis Ababa



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