

2021 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

AMANI AFRICA

Media and Research Services

JANUARY
2022



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Solomon A. Dersso, Founding Director

I am pleased to write this message on the publication of Amani Africa's 2021 Annual Report. This year's report highlights not only the expansion and consolidation of the breadth and depth of Amani Africa's work but also the deepening of the institutional development of Amani Africa, as the leading policy research think tank on the work of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC).

Amani Africa accompanied the PSC throughout 2021 through most notably the production of its flagship work *Insights on the PSC*. With the publication of 76 editions ahead of each session of the PSC, *Insights on the PSC* covered nearly all of the sessions of the PSC and in so doing provided members of the PSC and other stakeholders analysis that served as the only independent source of reference on the item/s on the agenda of each session of the PSC.

During 2021, we institutionalized the monthly consultation meeting with the rotating chairperson of the PSC. Apart from deepening our close working relationship with the members of the PSC, this is evolving to be one of Amani Africa's key strategic engagements, which guide

the organization and delivery of our various policy research and technical support works. I wish to take the opportunity to extend Amani Africa's gratitude to each member of the PSC who welcomed us for the consultation meeting and for the areas of collaboration identified when chairing the PSC.

In 2021, apart from sustaining our existing areas of work including the publication and launch of the second edition of the AU Peace and Security Council Handbook – for which we wish to thank Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, for writing the Foreword, Fiona Lortan, for writing the introduction, Ambassador Churchill Wumbuwe-Monono for co-hosting and Neema Chusi for moderating the launch of the Handbook –, Amani Africa initiated a new publication *Monthly Digest* on the AUPSC.

As part of the institutional development of Amani Africa, we have launched a new website that presents rich sources of information and analysis on the AU and the PSC in a professional and accessible format.

The following pages show that our activities covered various aspects of the work of the PSC and provided high-end policy analysis on some of the key developments, such as PSC's response to the major emerging issues. I wish to thank all Amani Africa staff, partners and friends whose contribution to our work in 2021 is recognized with deep appreciation in this report.

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) with particular focus on its work on peace and security and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC).

Since its establishment in 2017, Amani Africa has organized its plan and activities to engaging in the production of evidence-based policy research and analysis, the provision of technical support to policy makers, the convening of training seminars and public forums on multilateral peace and security processes in Africa in general and on the PSC and its work in particular. Amani Africa does these, in support of the pan-African vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and integrated Africa, through promoting the implementation of the PSC Protocol and the relevant AU norms pursuant to Article 20 of the PSC Protocol through African based thought leadership.

The core areas of work of Amani Africa cover research and publication, technical support and advice, and convening and outreach activities as well as partnerships.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Undertaking policy research and producing and disseminating regular, evidence-based, high-quality, timely 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 on the policy processes of the AU to all stakeholders, including induction briefings 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 Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department and members of the PSC as well as wider stakeholders including international organizations, AU partners and CSOs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Amani Africa's flagship project *Insights on the PSC* launched in 2018 is our regular publication produced ahead of each session of the PSC. It has established itself as the only standing independent research-based analysis that is timely produced to inform the preparations of members of the PSC for and their deliberations on the item/s on the agenda of each PSC session. In 2021 Amani Africa has produced about 76 editions of *Insights on the PSC*, presenting analysis on and substantive input to the sessions that the PSC convened during the year.

As part of the vision and objectives of its training institute, Amani Africa has continued to deliver various specialized trainings, high-level briefings as well as its policy forums. It conducted two tailor-made specialized training activities, various briefings and some four public policy forums.

It 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 on of selected items in the monthly program of work.

Amani Africa has further institutionalized the production of its special reports. It worked on

four special research reports and launched two of them.

In the course of 2021, Amani Africa has reached a number of milestones. Amani Africa, in collaboration with the PSC Chair for the month of August, has launched the second edition of the *African Union Peace and Security Council Handbook* in an event held on 30 August 2021.

In 2021, Amani Africa has expanded its research products through the launch of the 'Monthly Digest on the AUPSC', which presents a monthly summary on the work of the PSC and aims at tracking key decisions of the Council as well as promoting knowledge and awareness about the PSC and its work.

During 2021, to facilitate more access and provide a more organized presentation to its work and various products, Amani Africa has also launched its new [website](#). Amani Africa is working to add further features on its website that offer even richer and more useful resources on the AU broadly and for peace and security policy making specifically.

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

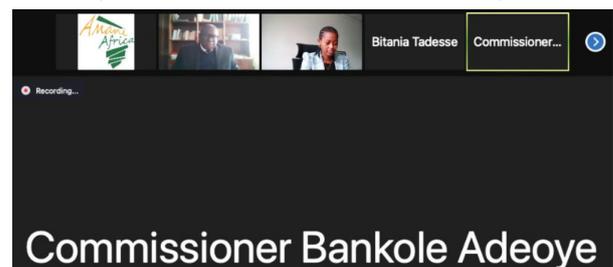
Following the successful launch of its landmark work, the first edition of the *African Union Peace and Security Council Handbook: Guide on the Council's Procedure, Practice and Traditions* in 2020, Amani Africa launched the second edition in 2021.

The Handbook continues to serve as the first of its kind and only independent authoritative source of reference on the PSC and its work. The 2021 edition was published with endorsements and testimonies on its value from PSC members and stakeholders.

Amani Africa had the pleasure of including a new foreword written by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Ambassador Bankole Adeoye and a new introduction to the Handbook by the Acting Director of Conflict Management Directorate of PAPS, Fiona Lortan.

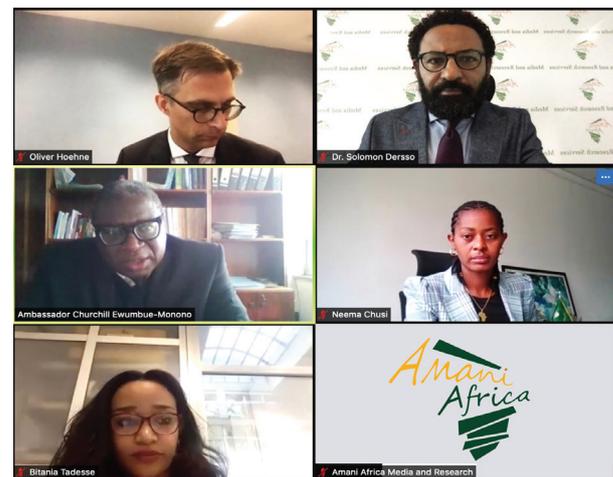


Amani Africa had the opportunity to launch the 2nd edition of the PSC Handbook at a webinar organized jointly with the PSC Chairperson for the month of August 2021, Permanent Representative of Cameroon H.E. Ambassador Churchill on 30 August 2021. The event, presided over by the Acting Secretary of the PSC, Neema Chusi, also featured as the main speaker the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye.



"The Handbook is a critical resource that provides readers with practical information and analysis on the Council and its engagement with the broader institutional structure of the AU and other policy actors in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa".

Amb. Bankole Adeoye, from the 'Foreword' he authored in the AU PSC Handbook



Handbook goes beyond creating awareness and generating interest on the Council, it creates an understanding on its mandate and functioning... the Handbook serves as an institutional memory on the origins and development of the PSC'.

In his remarks Amb. Bankole reiterated the important role the Handbook plays in popularizing the work of the PSC and further stated 'we appreciate the work of Amani Africa to help us navigate the sometimes complex...terrain and landscape of peace and security and political governance'.

The launch also benefited from the contribution of Oliver Hoehne, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Addis Ababa

"The Handbook offers an authoritative, one-stop source of reference that provides comprehensive analysis of the working methods, decision-making processes and policy tools of the PSC, drawing on data on the work of the PSC since its operationalization in 2004"

Fiona Lortan, Acting Director, AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security

The continued support of the Government of Switzerland made it possible for Amani Africa to prepare and publish the second edition of the Handbook.

PRODUCTION OF INSIGHTS ON THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

Amani Africa's flagship work 'Insights on the PSC' continues to provide timely, accurate and independent analysis on agenda items of the PSC. In 2021, Amani Africa produced about 76 PSC insights ahead of PSC sessions providing up-to-date analysis on the issues under the Council's consideration. 'Insights on the PSC' continues to serve as the only regular and independent source of information that support the preparations of member states for and the deliberations of the PSC. It also serves the purpose of informing the public about PSC's engagement with contemporary peace and security issues in Africa.

MONTHLY CONSULTATIONS WITH AND BRIEFING TO PSC CHAIRS

Amani Africa has institutionalized the monthly meetings with the rotating chairpersons of the PSC, which is often held ahead of the chairperson assuming the role.



Amb. Moctar Diop, PSC Chairperson for January 2021 and Dr. Solomon Dersso, at a consultation held at Senegal Embassy

Such meetings involve consultations with the monthly chairs on their plans on the PSC's program of work for the month and areas of collaboration with and support by Amani Africa. This engagement in addition to briefing incoming chairs also serves to have exchange with the chairperson on current developments relating to the work of the PSC and expectations around items expected to be on the session of the PSC during the month.



Amb. Jean Kamau PR of Kenya and Chairpsom of the PSC for March 2021 and Dr. Solomon Dersso at Kenya Embassy

A major highlight of Ambassador Kamau's chairship from the perspective of the work of Amani Africa is the presentation that Amani Africa delivered on the role of the African three plus one non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.



Amb. Mohammed Idriss Farah PR of Djibouti and Dr Solomn Dersso during a meeting at Djibouti embassy

Amani Africa had one of the most extensive collaboration including in the launching of its second edition of the Handbook on the PSC with H.E. Amb. Churchill Wumbuwe-Monono, PSC Chair for the month of August. The partnership was also acknowledged in Amb. Monono's press briefing at the end of his PSC chairship.



From right to left: Dr Solomon Dersso, Amb. Churchill Wumbuwe-Monono and Bitania Tadesse.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Amb. Churchill Monono and his team to our office and held further consultations on the program of work for

the month of August.



Amb. Churchill Monono, Rose Marie, Tsion Hagos and Dr. Solomon Dersso at Amani Africa office



Dr Solomon Dersso and Amb. Mahamat Ali Hassan

In September under Amb Hassan's chairship of the PSC, Amani Africa was invited to brief the PSC and deliver a presentation. It carried out this task successfully.



From left to right: Sergio Baloi, Dr. Solomon Dersso, Amb. Alfredo Nuvunga and Bitania Tadesse at Mozambique Embassy

During Ambassador Nuvunga's chairship, Amani Africa responded to the coup in Sudan by preparing a timely analysis to feed into the emergency session that the PSC convened on the situation and through extensive exchanges with key members of the PSC on the issues and how relevant AU norms and practices guide PSC's consideration of the coup.



From left to right Amr Essam, Amb. Mohamed Omar Gad, Dr. Solomon Dersso and Bitania Tadesse at Egypt Embassy during a meeting

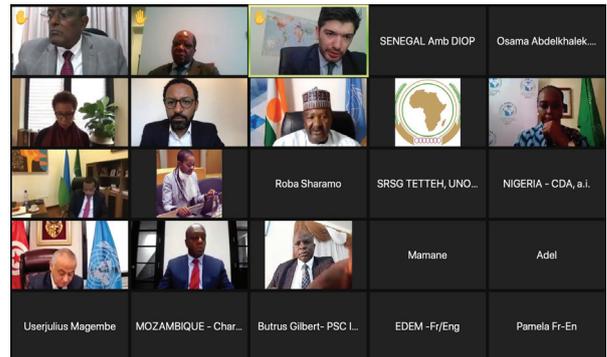


Amb. Tesfaye Yilma and Bitania Tadesse during a consultation at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

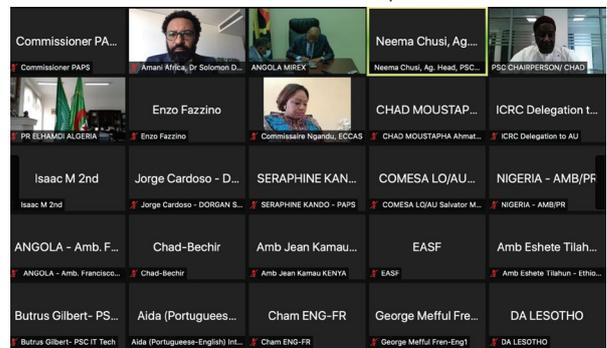
DELIVERING BRIEFING TO THE PSC

In 2021 Amani Africa was invited to deliver briefings on two occasions. During Kenya's Chairship of the PSC in March 2021, Amani Africa was invited to brief the PSC during its 983rd virtual meeting that was held under the theme "Unified role of the African Members in the United Nations (UN) Security Council (A3) in the UN Security Council".

Amani Africa delivered a presentation based on its robust research and analysis on the topic. The recommendations of the briefing were also reflected in the PSC communique available [here](#).



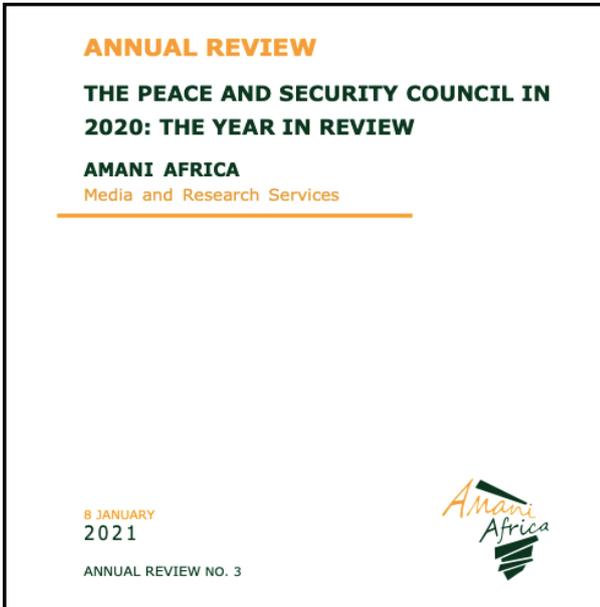
In September 2021 under Chad's chairship, Amani Africa briefed the PSC on the occasion of the International Day of Peace. This was held at the Council's 1033rd session on 21 September.



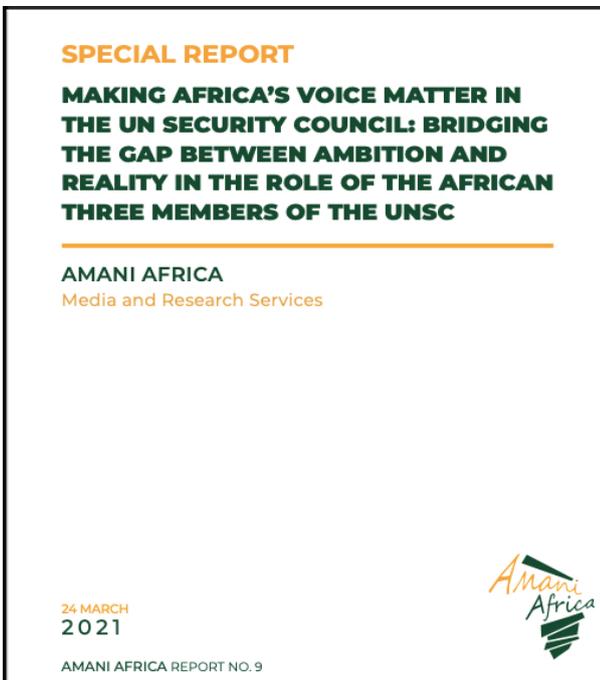
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PRODUCTION OF SPECIAL RESEARCH REPORTS

Amani Africa produces special research reports, offering nuanced analysis of timely topics that would inform the workings of the PSC. In 2021 Amani Africa has launched two special reports and it has further institutionalized the production of its annual review on the work of the PSC.

In January 2021, Amani Africa presented a comprehensive assessment of PSC's work and engagement in 2020 through the report [The PSC in 2020: the Year in Review](#). The report captures the major developments and key decisions of the PSC over the year.

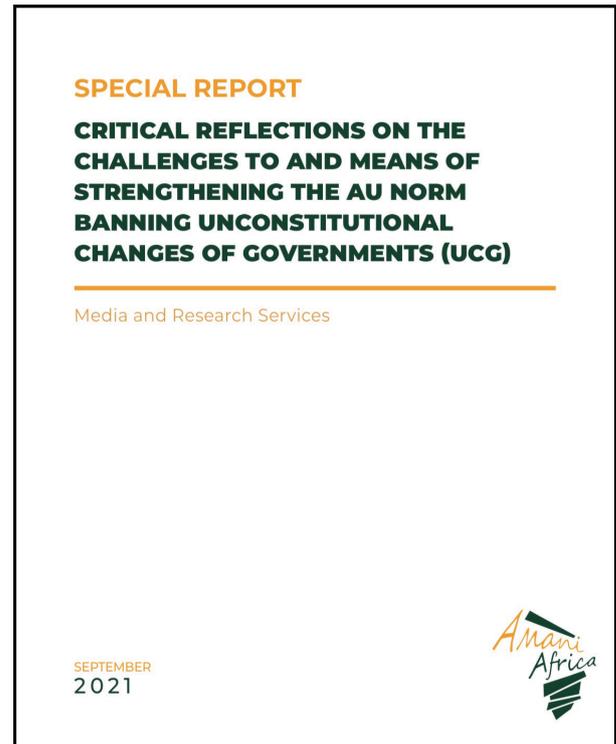


Based on the briefing it delivered to the PSC, Amani Africa produced a [Special Report](#) in March 2021 titled ‘Making Africa’s Voice Matter in the UN Security Council: Bridging the Gap Between Ambition and Reality in the Role of the African Three Members of the UNSC’. The report presented timely analysis on the evolution of the role of the A3 and their experiences relating to advancing a common African position and facilitating coordination between the PSC and the UNSC.



One of the most dominant peace and security developments of the year has been the rise of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa. Against this backdrop and considering PSC’s call for the development of an ‘objective analysis focusing on the root causes and impact of the unconstitutional change of government

arising from non-consensual and/or politically manipulated democratic processes’ during its 1030th session, Amani Africa released its second special research report of the year titled [Critical Reflections on the Challenges to and Means of Strengthening the AU Norm Banning Unconstitutional Changes of Governments](#). The report assesses the gaps in AU normative frameworks banning unconstitutional changes of government.



CONVENING OF BRIEFING AND TRAINING SESSIONS

Amani Africa convened two high-level briefing and training sessions, which are tailored to the needs and request made by specific stakeholders. Amani Africa conducted detailed briefing session to the PSC Chairperson for the month of July. Ahead of the assumption by Nigeria of its chairship of the PSC, in June 2021 Amani Africa gave detailed induction briefing to the incoming PSC Chairperson, Nigeria’s Ambassador Victor Adeleke and the team of the Embassy working on the PSC program of work for the month. The induction briefing focused on the workings of the PSC and its working methods, the role of the monthly PSC Chairperson and some of the topical issues on the agenda of the PSC that were of interest to the incoming Chairperson.



On 29 July 2021, Amani Africa organized a technical training session to incoming chairperson and the team of Cameroon’s Embassy working on Cameroon’s chairship of the PSC in August 2021. Convened on the request of Cameroon’s PR to the AU and the then incoming Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August H.E. Churchill Wumbuwe-Monono, the technical session was presented based on the PSC Handbook and covered the organization of work of the PSC, the role of the Chairperson of the PSC and the respective roles of the Committee of Experts and the Military Staff Committee of the PSC.



From Amani Africa’s technical training session held on 29 July at Marriot Hotel

PUBLIC POLICY FORUMS

In addition to the briefing sessions Amani Africa organized two webinars and one joint event.

In March 2021, Amani Africa convened a high-level webinar on the role of the A3 states in advancing a common African position in the UNSC. The event brought together speakers including former A3 political coordinators in the UNSC and UNOAU representative.



Amani Africa also collaborated with the Embassy of Ireland, as UNSC President for the month of September, to co-host a webinar on Peacekeeping Transitions.




Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

Webinar
Peace Transitions:
Applying UNSCR 2594
(2021) in Africa

Wednesday, 29 September 2021
3:30pm - 4:45pm
(East Africa Time)

Register online via Eventbrite

Speakers:

H.E. Bankole Adeoye
African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security

H.E. Hanna Tetteh
UN SRSG and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union

H.E. Jamal El-Sheikh
Permanent Representative of Sudan to the African Union

H.E. Nicola Brennan
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the African Union (Chair)

Dr. Solomon Dersso
Founding Director, Amani Africa Media and Research Services (Closing remarks)

Moderated by Amb. Nicola Brennan, the event featured Amb. Bankole Adeoye, SRSG Hanna Tetteh and Amb. Jamal El-Sheikh Permanent Representative of Sudan.



The event was a demonstration of the expanding role of Amani Africa and its critical contribution to the coordination between the work of the PSC and UNSC.

In recognition of this important role, Amani Africa was invited to brief the A3+1, including outgoing and incoming members during a retreat organized by Kenya in Addis Ababa.



Based on its Handbook on the PSC and various special reports it produced Amani Africa briefed the delegation of the A3+1 on the mandate and work of the PSC and its working relations with UNSC. Practical issues discussed include the ways of enhancing the role of the A3 in harmonizing policies between the two Councils and in advancing African files in the UNSC and how the PSC can best contribute to these ends.

Following some of the major political changes and developments of particular concern for the PSC, on September 30 Amani Africa hosted a webinar on recent trends in unconstitutional changes of government.



The event featured high-level speakers including Prof. Eddy Maloka CEO of APRM, Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, Distinguished Professor at Wits University and Shuvai Busuman Nyoni Executive Director of the African Leadership Centre. During the event Amani Africa launched and presented the key findings of its special report on the recent upsurge of unconstitutional change government.

BRIEFING OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP

Amani Africa has expanded its partnership with various stakeholders and consolidated existing ones.

Towards enhancing its strategic partnership with the PAPS department, Amani Africa held a meeting with the Commissioner for PAPS, H.E. Ambassador Adeoye Bankole along with the Acting Director at PAPS on 19 July. This meeting presented an opportunity to brief the leadership of PAPS on the work of Amani Africa and its contribution to supporting the implementation of the objectives of the PSC Protocol.



From left to right: Fiona Lortan, Dr. Solomon Dersso and Amb. Bankole Adeoye during a meeting at the AUC at which PSC Handbook is presented to Amb Adeoye

Amani Africa joined the Permanent Representative of Djibouti Amb. Mohammed Idriss Farah, in the hosting of a reception to welcome the newly elected Commissioner of PAPS, H.E Amb. Bankole Adeoye.



Reception at the Embassy of Djibouti



Delivering a remark during the Reception organized in Honor of Ambassador Bankole Adeoye at the Embassy of Djibouti

Amani Africa held consultation with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN and the Head of the UN Office to the AU H.E. Hanna Tetteh. This is in pursuit of exchanging notes on developments of common interest particularly relating to the work of the PSC and to explore ways of further enhancing collaboration with UNOAU.



From right to left: Dr. Solomon Dersso, SRSR Hanna Tetteh and Bitania Tadesse during a meeting at the UNOAU office

Amani Africa participated at the third High Level Debate on Silencing the Guns held on November 3-4 in Nairobi under the theme 'Transforming the Vision into Reality'. Our founding director moderated a session on translating early warning into early action.



We also had the pleasure to receive representatives of several institutions in our office for briefings and exchanges.

Amani Africa has signed an MoU with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to institutionalize cooperation on activities of mutual interest.



Bruce Mokaya Head of ICRC Delegation to the African Union and Dr. Solomon Dersso

We had the pleasure of welcoming to our office and bidding farewell to one of the 'Friends of Amani Africa' Amb. Hadiza Mustapha, outgoing Advisor of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Peace, Security and Governance.



Amb. Hadiza Moustapha and Dr. Solomon Dersso

Before the completion of his tour of duty in Addis Ababa, we presented recognition of excellence and friendship to Amb. Moctar Diop, Permanent Representative of Senegal.



Amb. Moctar Diop and Dr. Solomon Dersso and Bitania Tadesse

We welcomed to our office several members of the diplomatic community. On 10 February, we received Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Horiuchi Toshihiko and Mizukami Arata from the mission of Japan to the AU.



Mizukami Arata, Amb. Horiuchi Toshihiko, Dr. Solomon Dersso and Bitania Tadesse

On 2 April, we welcomed to our office H.E. Amb. Shozab Abbas Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia and the AU, to discuss areas of mutual interest and cooperation.



Amb. Shozab Abbas and Dr. Solomon Dersso

ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

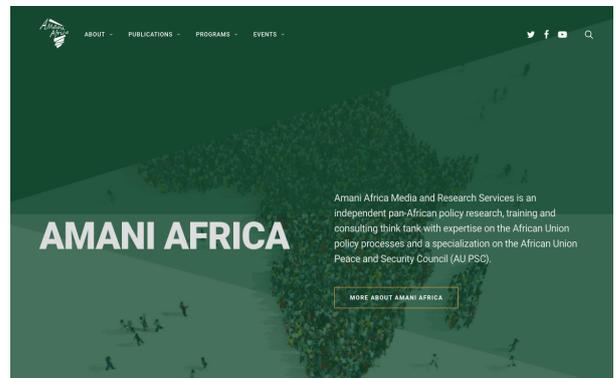
In 2021, Amani Africa has taken major steps in enhancing its visibility and further professionalizing its work.

Amani Africa moved to a new office space to accommodate the expanding team and to welcome partners and stakeholders interested in its work.



Office address: On the Corner of Equatorial Guinea St. and ECA Road, Zequala Complex, 7th Floor

In its effort to facilitate a more systematized and user-friendly platform, Amani Africa has developed and launched its new website. Our website presents our work and various publications in a more organized and easily accessible manner.



Amani Africa's new website

In 2021 Amani Africa has officially launched its senior research associates' program. Various experts with diverse profiles have joined the program to support Amani Africa in technical and advisory roles.



On 1 October, Amani Africa held its inaugural meeting with the senior associates to operationalize their support to the institution's strategic direction.



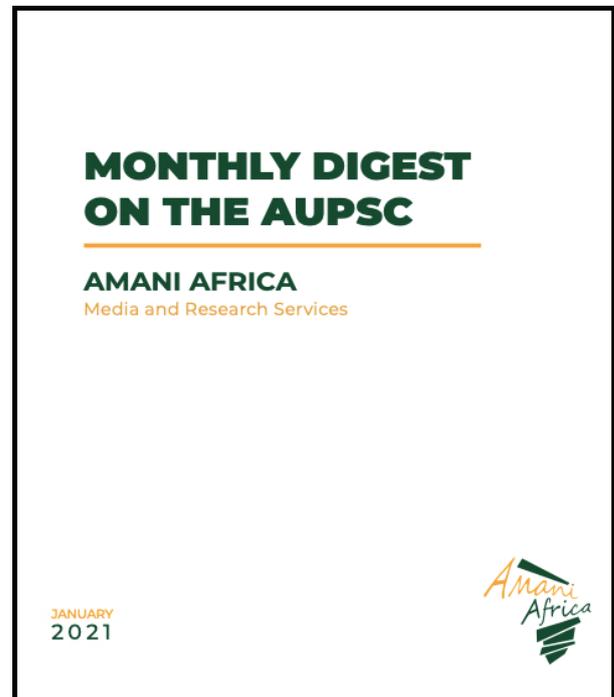
Amani Africa has further consolidated its strategic planning during a retreat it held on 29 October. During the session Amani Africa team reflected on the work of the institution, strategic partnership and charted the way forward in expanding its work while delivering on its core commitments. One of the key outputs of the meeting was the development of a three-year institutional strategy.



Amani Africa team during the planning meeting

AMANI AFRICA'S NEW PRODUCT

In 2021 Amani Africa launched its first edition of the 'Monthly Digest on the AUPSC', which analyzes, documents and tracks the work and decisions of the PSC. In the following years the product will be institutionalized and will be released regularly to complement Amani Africa's analysis on the PSC.



AMANI AFRICA'S FUNDING PARTNERS

Amani Africa has consolidated its collaboration with long standing partners notably the Embassy of Switzerland and Germany.



Jean-Marc Flükiger outgoing Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland

We express our gratitude for the continued and increasingly productive partnership with each.



Oliver Hoehne incoming Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland and Dr Solomon Dersso

In addition to the financial support provided by Germany and Switzerland, in 2021 Amani Africa has expanded its partnership by signing support agreement with the Embassy of Ireland, Norway, Finland and as of January 2022 Open Society Foundation. Amani Africa also signed a contract for a project on mapping AU decision-making actors with the Embassy of Australia.



Amb. Outi Holopainen, Ambassador of Finland and Bitania Tadesse

Amani Africa wishes to single out for special mention the allocation of Ireland's funding for institutional support covering the period of 2021 and 2022.

Building on its existing strategic partnership Amani Africa continues to enhance its collaborative work and partnership for strengthening the impact of its work.



MEDIA AND RESEARCH SERVICES

ABOUT AMANI AFRICA

Amani Africa is an independent African based policy research; training and consulting think tank with a specialization and primary focus on African multilateral policy processes, particularly those relating to the African Union.

We support the pan-African dream of peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa through research, training, strategic communications, technical advisory services, and convening and facilitation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Amani Africa wishes to express its gratitude to all its partners in 2021 namely Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Norway, Finland and Australia for the support they provided to its work in 2021.



ADDRESS

On the Corner of Equatorial Guinea St. and ECA Road, Zequala Complex,
7th Floor, Addis Ababa
Tel: +251118678809
Mobile: +251944723204 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia