

Press Release: Namibia and Amani Africa jointly convene the meeting of a High-Level Panel of Experts on Africa and the Reform of the Multilateral System

17 - 18 July 2023
Namibia, Windhoek

The multilateral system as instituted on the basis of the post World War II and post-Cold power dynamics is under enormous strain. There is growing recognition that the system is in urgent need of systemic reform. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is putting forward various policy briefs covering various areas of the multilateral system to help guide the debate on the reform of multilateralism.

Africa, as one of the parts of the world most affected by the growing flaws of the multilateral system, is hugely invested in taking active part and even charge the quest for a reform that secures the security and socio-economic interests of the peoples the continent. While the current moment presents for Africa the opportunity to change its status from being a recipient of multilateral rules to that of co-creator of such rules, the opportunity can only be seized through deliberate, collective and proactive action.

Seeking to catalyze such deliberate, collective and proactive action by and from Africa, the Government of Namibia, through the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, and Amani Africa convened the joint **High-Level Panel of Experts on Africa and the Reform of the Multilateral System** on 17 – 18 July 2023 in Windhoek, Namibia. This historic gathering brought together highly seasoned experts, practitioners, and scholars with extensive expertise in multilateral diplomacy and international relations in the economic and political realms. The members of the panel also represent all five regions of the African continent and embody both gender and generational balance.



In her address, the Champion and co-convenor of the Panel, the Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, underscoring the significance of this moment, told participants that ‘we need to reflect deeply and ask ourselves tough provoking questions on the type of multilateral system that would work for us and provide us with sustainable peace to spur socio-economic development’. Considering the unfair treatment meted out on Africa, the Minister also pointed out that ‘there is a compelling need for the reform of the global economic, trading and financial systems, to level the playing field.’

Within the parameters of the foregoing, the members and participants of the meeting of the high-level panel of experts held extensive deliberation on the nature of the multidimensional changes or transformations taking place in the world, the challenges and opportunities these developments present for Africa in its engagement in the multilateral system and the negotiating position that Africa needs to articulate to secure its interest in the ongoing varied processes for the reform/transformation of the multilateral system, including for redressing the historical injustice of Africa's exclusion from the UN Security Council.

They explored strategic approaches to reform the global collective security architecture, while also addressing the need and modalities for a more responsive, inclusive, and accountable multilateral financial system to support Africa's development.

This joint Namibia and Amani Africa initiative is a landmark and precedent setting initiative, demonstrating the importance of close working relationship between African governments and think tanks. It has availed a unique platform for harnessing the expertise of African thought leaders and seasoned diplomats to provide comprehensive and rich policy proposals towards supporting the articulation of common position by member states of the African Union.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a strategic document articulating the objectives, methodology and program of work of the panel of experts towards elaborating a report on 'Africa and the Reform of the Multilateral System'.

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