



The quest for restoring AU's agency in peace and security: Expert Policy Dialogue for informing the APSA Review and the Luanda Summit

Date: 13 – 14 July 2026

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

DAY ONE | Monday, 13 July 2026

08:00 – 09:00 | Registration

Participants arrive, register and engage in informal networking

OPENING SEGMENT

09:00 – 09:10 | Welcoming note and introduction to the dialogue

- **Tefesehet Hailu**, Amani Africa

09:10 – 10:15 | Setting the Scene: Adapting the AU to a changing continental security landscape and global geopolitical dynamics

Moderator: Dr. Solomon Ayele Dersso, Executive Director, Amani Africa

- Keynote Address **Dr. Abraham Korir SingOei**, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya Department of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs
 - *The vision for and current state of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Review led by the AU Champion on the Institutional Reform of the AU*
- Ambassador **Dr. Sarjoh Bah**, Representative of the African Union in the People's Republic of China and former Director of Conflict Management at AU DPAPS
 - *Contextualizing the policy debate on the revitalization of AU's role in peace and security*

Interactive Discussion

10:15-10:30 | Coffee Break and Group Picture

SESSION I

10:30-11:40 | The state of the APSA and its review

Session Objective: To critically examine the current state of the APSA, assess the key challenges it faces, and explore proposed areas for its review.

Moderator: Prof. Tim Murithi, Head, Peacebuilding Interventions Programme, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)

- *Analysis of issues facing the APSA and the proposed areas for the review of the APSA*



- **H.E. El-Ghassim Wane**, Former SRSG & Head of Mission and Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping and Chief of Staff of AU and Director of Peace and Security of the AU

Discussants:

- **Murithi Mutiga**, Africa Program Director, International Crisis Group
- **Fiona Fortan**, Former Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson and Deputy Head of Mission of the AU Transition Mission to Somalia

11:10-11:40 | Plenary discussion

SESSION II

11:40 – 12:30 | Critical Appraisal of the crisis of non-implementation of the APSA - Continuation from the background analytical paper

Session Objective: *To investigate and identify the factors behind the crisis of implementation of the APSA.*

- i. On Mandate - Are there any major issues with the mandate and scope of authority for action invested in the APSA? Are there issues with the full appreciation of the nature and scope of the mandate of APSA?
- ii. Mechanics of and roles for activating APSA action for prevention, management and resolution of conflicts - What needs to be done? When? Who is responsible for it? How does it need to be done?
- iii. Role of intangible ingredients for effective implementation of APSA - leadership, trust, and political will.
- iv. Resources - normative, technical, and financial.
- v. Institutional - the existence of the requisite working arrangements, supporting structures, coordination systems and processes.

Moderator: Tefesehet Hailu, Senior Researcher, Amani Africa

- **Presenter:** El-Ghassim Wane

Discussants:

- **Dr. Andrews Atta-Asamoah**, Senior Advisor, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and former Head, African Peace and Security Governance Programme, Institute for Security Studies
- **Bruce Mokaya**, Former Head, ICRC Delegation to the African Union

Plenary Discussion

12:30 – 13:45 | Lunch Break



SESSION III

13:45 – 15:15 | *Revitalising preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution*

Session Objective: To explore the challenges to the implementation of the APSA based on the experience of various APSA components.

Moderator: Murithi Mutiga, International Crisis Group

- **Keynote Address: Dr. Vasu Gounden**, Founder & Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
 - *Insights from Africa's evolving mediation landscape*

Interactive Roundtable Discussion:

- Insights from the experience of the Panel of the Wise, by **Netsanet Tekeda Alemu**, Coordinator, AU Panel of the Wise
- Trends in deploying the role of the AU Commission, by **Boitshoko Mokgatlhe**, Executive Director, The Democracy Foundation Botswana; Former UN and AU Commission official, Conflict Management Division
- Discerning how RECs/RMs fit in delivering on the role of the APSA, by **Amb. Salvator Matata**, Head of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Liaison Office to the African Union

15:15 – 15:30 | *Coffee/Tea Break*

SESSION III

15:30 – 17:00 | *Lessons from contemporary African crises for APSA review*

Session Objective: To draw practical lessons from recent and ongoing crises relevant to the revitalisation of APSA and future AU peace interventions.

Moderator: Dr. Shuvai Busuman Nyoni, Executive Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC)

Case study I – Sudan

- **Discussant: Dr. Andrews Atta-Asamoah**, Senior Advisor, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Case study II – The Sahel

- **Discussant: El-Ghassim Wane**

Case study III – Somalia

- **Discussant: Samira Gaid**, Regional Security Analyst, Balqis Insights

Case study IV – DRC



- **Discussant: Ambassador Fred Ngoga**, Advisor to CPAPS on partnerships

Guiding Questions

- What patterns emerge across these crises?
- Where did APSA mechanisms succeed or fail, or were not fit?
- What lessons should be drawn from these current experiences?

Interactive Discussion

DAY TWO | Tuesday, 14 July 2026

09:00 – 09:15 | *Recap of day one*

- **Tefesebet Hailu**, Amani Africa

SESSION IV

09:15 – 11:00 | *Lessons and insights from previous AU processes*

Session Objective: To draw practical lessons from past preventive diplomacy and mediation practices

Moderator: Netsanet Tekeda Alemu, Coordinator, AU Panel of the Wise

Case study I – Sudan/South Sudan AUHIP

- **Discussant: Abdul Mohamed**, Senior Fellow at Amani Africa and Former Senior UN Official and Chief of Staff of the AU High-level Panel on Sudan

Case study II – Kenya post-election conflict

- **Discussant: Fiona Lortan**, Former Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson and Deputy Head of Mission of the AU Transition Mission to Somalia

Case study III – Central African Republic

- **Discussant: Ambassador Fred Ngoga**, Advisor to CPAPS on partnerships

Case study IV – Libya

- **Discussant: Dr Dawit Toga**, Former AU Commission official and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, African Leadership Centre, King's College London; former Senior Political Analyst, AU Commission

Interactive Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 | *Coffee/Tea Break*

SESSION V



11:15 – 12:45 | *The requirements for restoring AU leadership in peace and security in a multipolar world order*

Session Objective: To explore practical pathways for restoring the AU's political leadership and strategic relevance in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

Moderator: Samira Gaid, Regional Security Analyst, Balqis Insights

Discussants:

- **Dr. Shuvai Busuman Nyoni**, Executive Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC)
- **Prof. Tim Murithi**, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)
- **Abdul Mohammed**, Senior Fellow at Amani Africa and Former Senior UN Official and Chief of Staff of the AU High-level Panel on Sudan

Strategic dialogue and reflections

12:45 – 13:45 | *Lunch Break*

SESSION VI

13:45 – 15:15 | *Consolidation of recommendations and way forward*

Session Objective: To synthesise key recommendations emerging from the dialogue and identify concrete pathways for policy engagement and follow-up.

Moderator: Dr. Solomon Dersso, Director, Amani Africa

- **Lead Synthesis: El-Ghassim Wane**, Lead Presenter of the Analytical Paper

15:45 | *Closing Session*

Closing Remarks

- **Amani Africa: Dr. Solomon Dersso**, Director, Amani Africa