

Conference (DRAFT)

AFRICAN FUTURES: A VIEW ON DEVELOPMENT AND FRAGILITY IN AFRICA

23rd October 2013, 19h30 – 21h30

Venue: Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia, Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels

One of the big challenges in Africa's development and for investors is a lack of social, economic and political stability and predictability for local and international decision makers. Recent research done by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) from its Pretoria office tries to forecast African futures in the field of economic development and state fragility within a global context.

Africa's 55 countries face a collective paradox: on the positive side, the frequency and intensity of armed conflict as traditionally measured has been halved over peak levels in the early 1990s. New institutions and approaches to preventing conflict have been created, and recent gains in development are encouraging. Today key African countries see economic growth rates significantly in excess of global averages, allowing for changes in how external partners such as the EU, China and the US engage with Africa. From a very low base, Africa is making progress although growth is highly differentiated.

Africa's 25 most fragile countries, however, witnessed recurring or cyclical patterns of violence and are often located in regions that include unstable neighbours. Key structural drivers of conflict and instability imply a continuation of these trends for many years ahead. The result is that these countries are trapped in a cycle of poverty, inequality, violence and poor governance from which they cannot easily escape. Every indication is that key 'worst case' countries, Somalia, Sudan and the DR Congo, will remain mired in a fragility syndrome for several decades.

How can these findings be transferred to the implementation of development policies of African and European decision makers at a time where Africa and the EU are revising their cooperation strategy?

To look at these questions **Dr. Jakkie Cilliers**, Executive Director of ISS, will present the summary findings of recent ISS research projects that were funded by the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Open Society Foundation and the African Development Bank. He will then enter into a discussion with representatives from the EU and African civil society on development prospects for Africa and concrete policy suggestions.

Conference language: English

Programme

- 19:00 Registration
- 19:30 Welcome and Introduction
Andrea E. Ostheimer
ENoP Deputy Network Coordinator
Dr. Wolf Krug
Regional Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Southern Africa
- 19:40 Presentation
“Forecasting Development and Fragility in Africa – a View to 2030 and 2050”
Dr. Jakkie Cilliers
Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria
- 20:10 Discussion – “Africa’s Future: Which Policies for Sustainable Development?”
Dr. Werner Fasslabend
Minister of Defence (ret.), President of PolAk (Political Academy of ÖVP Party), Austria
Dr. Jakkie Cilliers
Jeremy Lester (tbc)
Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Adviser, Africa Department, External Action Service of the European Union
Dr. Sanoussi Bilal
Head of Economic Governance, Trade & Regional Integration Programmes, ECDPM (European Centre for Development Policy Management)
Moderation: **Dr. Wolf Krug**, Regional Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Southern Africa
- 21:00 Small Reception