



Annual Review 2024

Improving human security in Africa

The Institute for Security Studies
partners to build knowledge and skills
that secure Africa's future

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DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ISS policy research and technical support builds accountability and helps to consolidate democracy

In 2024, the Institute for Security Studies' achievements were anchored by our commitment to democratic governance and accountability as necessary conditions for Africa's security and prosperity.

Elections were scheduled in 17 African countries, of which 11 had seen a decline in good governance over the past decade. In a sign of democratic maturity, new leaders were elected in seven countries and historic transfers of power took place in Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius and Senegal. South Africa negotiated a government of national unity – its first in 30 years. Postponed elections in Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan and Guinea-Bissau were a reminder of Africa's democratic deficit.

Responses to coups

During 2024, the ISS promoted more considered responses to coups in West Africa. Our analysis enabled governments and development agencies to understand the challenge of rebuilding democracy. We worked with the United Nations to scrutinise how central African states could learn from West Africa's experience of managing coups and governance transitions.

African countries' democratic performance outpaces their economic development, and ISS research showed how to consolidate democracy and create sustainable, fair economies on the continent.

In South Africa, we provided data-driven insights to the electoral commission, and briefings to international and local monitors, media, security agencies and the African Union (AU), with reassurances that ISS data pointed to peaceful elections.

We increased our collaboration with African civil society to strengthen democracy and foster dialogue on human security between citizens and institutions. In partnership with the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council, we convened a forum to enhance organised citizen participation in governance.

Conflict and violent extremism

Conflict and instability continue in Sudan and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, affecting millions of civilians. Violent extremism remains a threat to the Sahel and West Africa's coastal states, Somalia and northern Mozambique.



In 2024, the ISS briefed the UN Security Council on pragmatic approaches to these challenges, and our research informed regional efforts to stabilise the Lake Chad Basin. ISS analysis exposed the links between violent extremism and organised crime, and helped Côte d'Ivoire tackle extremism in its northern border region.

Our experts helped build national expertise to fight terrorist financing and launch a unique postgraduate distance-learning course on countering terrorism and organised crime with South Africa's North-West University.

ISS worked with the AU and regional partners to strengthen African peace support operations' response to gender-based violence. Training for AU Youth Ambassadors for Peace equipped young leaders with skills in advocacy, dialogue and how to implement projects across Africa.

New five-year strategy

The ISS' new strategy is in development and will guide our work to 2030 in a changing world. Human security, governance and justice will remain central to our work as we advance Africa's development and security priorities in global discussions.

The success of the ISS is due to the expertise and commitment of our 135 staff working across the continent, and to the continued support of our donors and development partners. We are grateful to you all.

Fonteh Akum
ISS Executive Director



AFRICAN FUTURES

Forecasting Africa's economic growth and development options in a fast-changing world

Strategic partnerships to advance Africa's future

The ISS and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) co-hosted the Inception Think Tank Conference on African Futures, highlighting Africa's long-term development within the Agenda 2063 framework. This significant event brought together diplomatic representatives, regional economic communities (RECs), African countries, academia and policy organisations.

Through its African futures work, the ISS has become an influential voice in global policy discussions

ISS also partnered with the Frederick S. Pardee Centre to train AUDA-NEPAD staff and representatives from six RECs on using the International Futures (IFs) forecasting tool and ISS' African Futures website. These initiatives strengthened collaboration between AUDA-NEPAD and think tanks, enabling effective contributions to regional and continental development.

Value of forecasting gains recognition

Through its African futures work, the ISS has become an influential voice in global policy discussions. The team presented at prestigious forums including Wilton Park, African Center for Economic Transformation's Summit, OECD meetings, Potsdam Africa Dialogues, UNDP African Economic Conference, TRT World Forum, and the AU's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Week.

This demonstrates ISS' growing influence in continental and global development conversations. ISS' expertise has secured important commissions from UNDP to study development pathways in six coup-affected African countries. And the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy has requested ISS' analysis on how to capitalise on Africa's demographic dividend.

“ The AFI forecast was used extensively to inform our new strategy and helped to define new areas of engagement in Mozambique. Gathering information in Mozambique is not easy, but AFI did an excellent job in a difficult situation

Inocêncio Macuácuá, Governance and Trade Adviser to the Irish Embassy in Maputo

Data-driven forecasting on Mozambique's development

Using advanced forecasting, ISS informed planning for Mozambique's sustainable growth and development. ISS helped the Embassy of Ireland in Mozambique make data-driven decisions about its 2025-2030 strategic plan and spending priorities for addressing the country's complex development challenges. This work was conducted in collaboration with economists from development agencies and Mozambique's Ministry of Economy and Finance and will be presented to the Mozambican government in 2025.

ISS' long-term structural analysis complemented short-term growth research by the London School of Economics' Growth Co-Lab for the Mozambican government in partnership with USAID, International Monetary Fund and African Development Bank. This approach helps donors and governments understand how investments in one area affect others, moving beyond poverty alleviation to support forward-thinking policy analysis – a perspective particularly valued by Irish diplomats.

Shaping South Africa's development trajectory

ISS contributed to South Africa's development planning through long-term forecasts analysing how different policies affect income, poverty reduction and economic growth over the next 20 years. This work was validated by the Indlulamithi and InTransformation Initiative networks and reached wide audiences through partnerships with the Hanns Seidel Foundation and News24 media group. ISS also focused on how the private sector can help overcome South Africa's development challenges. This work has become particularly relevant in guiding the new Government of National Unity.

AFRICA IN THE WORLD

Strengthening Africa's collective voice in global security institutions and frameworks

Informing negotiations on the UN Pact and Summit for the Future

ISS raised awareness on the UN's Pact for the Future through collaborations with the New York University Centre on International Cooperation and the United Nations Office to the African Union. Two influential background papers analysed the Pact's zero draft, providing UN member states with substantive ideas for negotiations.

ISS advocated for African participation in the negotiations. Its recommendations informed the AU Peace and Security Council decision to hold a dedicated open session to discuss Africa's input. ISS also helped connect AU diplomatic missions across Addis Ababa, New York and Brussels in a closed event that earned praise from participants and the AU Commission.

Following the Pact's adoption in September 2024, ISS and the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa held a seminar on the Pact's implications for Africa. The AU Commission acted on a recommendation from the seminar to develop a common African position on the UN peacebuilding review.

Shaping the future of UN peacekeeping

ISS helped shape global peacekeeping discussions through its participation in various high-level forums. At an expert symposium in New York, ISS joined 200 experts in recommending how UN peace missions can be adapted to emerging security challenges, with their analysis directly submitted to the UN Department of Peace Operations.

ISS also participated in a roundtable on peacekeeping training, providing insights on how the New Agenda for Peace, Summit for the Future, and UN Security Council Resolution 2719 could transform peacekeeping and training methodologies. This engagement ensures African perspectives shape UN peacekeeping frameworks.



Advancing UN Security Council Reform

ISS contributed valuable insights at a high-level discussion on UN Security Council (UNSC) reform in Addis Ababa, highlighting limitations in the UN's negotiation process and advocating for more flexible strategies.

The event, convened by the French Embassy in Ethiopia, featured prominent African leaders including Amb Harold Bundu Saffa, President of the AU's Committee of Ten on UNSC reform. ISS demonstrated its expertise through contributions to the Carnegie Endowment's Compendium on UNSC reform and ISS' Elect the Council campaign.

African perspectives integrated into Ukrainian peace process

ISS contributed to the Working Group of the International Experts Group on Point 10 of the Ukrainian Peace Formula, which focuses on confirming an end to the war. ISS is an active member of the Experts Group, which is coordinated by the Ukrainian Presidency. The institute integrated African peace-making lessons into the process and delivered analysis of African states' official positions and interventions.

MARITIME SECURITY

Building maritime governance capacity in Africa to tackle evolving threats

African navies launch maritime security partnership

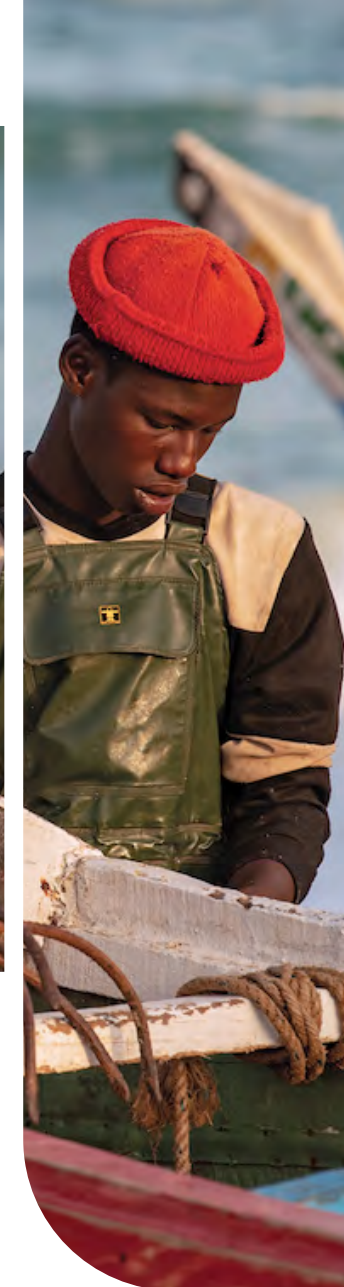
The 5th Sea Power for Africa Symposium in Cape Town achieved a breakthrough for African maritime security when naval leaders from 15 nations established the Chiefs/Heads of African Navies (CHANS) platform for joint naval operations. This African-led initiative, shaped by ISS expertise, earned praise from the International Maritime Organisation's Secretary-General.

ISS will help get CHANS off the ground by drafting its founding document and organising working groups on issues like piracy and environmental protection. ISS will also link CHANS with AU security initiatives. With guidance from the institute, a rotating leadership structure was agreed to, with Nigeria hosting the 2026 meeting. This partnership creates a sustainable framework for protecting Africa's vital maritime resources while demonstrating ISS' role in supporting regional security cooperation.

Empowering African youth to shape sustainable ocean futures

ISS is creating pathways for youth to influence Africa's blue economies through strategic partnerships with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). By convening expert events, platforms were established where innovative youth ideas directly reach policy makers developing common African positions on ocean governance.

As a key stakeholder at IUCN's inaugural Africa Ocean Forum, ISS helped shape discussions on critical issues including the High Seas Treaty and plastic pollution initiatives. The partnership brought together 150 delegates to advance Africa's ocean conservation priorities within the framework of the Great Blue Wall initiative. ISS helped ensure youth perspectives are central to sustainable blue economy development.



Training Africa's future maritime security leaders

ISS enhanced maritime governance in Africa through its vital role in the Atlantic Centre's Maritime Security Course. In its third year of participation, ISS developed and delivered specialised training modules that prepare officials for command and staff leadership positions, with a focus on addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Atlantic. The training was delivered in collaboration with Portugal's National Defence Institute, Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute, Policy Centre for the New South, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Defence attachés equipped to advance maritime security

ISS partnered with the African Defence Attachés Forum to conduct a specialised three-day retreat for AU Defense Attachés, linking maritime security with development. This initiative equipped diplomats with knowledge to bridge gaps between existing maritime frameworks and emerging global trends, enhancing their capacity to advance Africa's maritime security goals in international forums.

CRIME, JUSTICE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Strategic partnerships create a foundation for evidence-based solutions

National breakthrough for violence prevention

ISS, in partnership with South Africa's Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Cornerstone Economic Research, developed a budget proposal for the National Treasury on violence prevention through parenting support. The initiative was endorsed by the South African Police Service (SAPS), National Prosecuting Authority, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and intelligence agencies.

ISS and DBE also successfully advocated for including parenting support across all stages of childhood in the Presidency's National Strategy for Accelerated Action for Children. Their inputs provided for a life-course approach to parent-child relationships nationwide and helped define DBE's role in achieving that.

A national support network ISS built with the University of Cape Town's Accelerate Hub and the South African Parenting Programme Implementers Network is crafting evidence-based solutions for preventing school violence, teen pregnancy and suicide.

Accurately appraising security risks ahead of elections

ISS was a critical knowledge partner ahead of South Africa's elections, providing high-level briefings to key institutions such as the Civilian Secretariat for Police, Independent Police Investigative Directorate, National Treasury, Auditor General, Special Investigating Unit, National Planning Commission, African Union and EISA Elections Observer Missions.

The institute also provided analysis on potential election-related violence, conducting many media interviews and briefings for local and international observer missions. ISS accurately assessed that widespread election violence was unlikely, demonstrating its credible data gathering and verification capabilities.



Multi-agency approach to Western Cape safety

ISS brought together the SAPS, Western Cape Government (WCG) and City of Cape Town (CCT) to draft an action plan for the Western Cape Cooperation Agreement signed in September 2024. As a trusted facilitator, ISS worked with senior officials to develop nine workstreams for this important new safety initiative.

Under the cooperation agreement, the Delft-Khayelitsha-Nyanga-Guguletu hotspot policing project – which has reduced violent crime using evidence-based policing – will be expanded. That decision was taken by

senior SAPS, WCG and CCT leaders at a meeting convened by ISS and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Notably, the CCT has integrated data-driven policing into the metro's Police College curriculum.

At the ISS' annual Evidence-Based Policing South Africa conference, SAPS District Commander General Beaton credited ISS as the catalyst for the transformative Western Cape Cooperation Agreement. He highlighted the ISS' role in improving inter-agency data sharing, coordination and resource allocation to effectively combat crime.



Transnational aspects of the illegal succulent market should be researched to enable the dismantling of the international criminal value chain

Carina Bruwer, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies



Namibia’s pioneering strategy against organised crime

ISS partnered with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat to develop Namibia’s national strategy against transnational organised crime. Namibia is the first Southern African country to domesticate SADC’s anti-organised crime strategy, which ISS helped develop in 2021.

Namibia’s Inspector-General of Police, Joseph Shikongo, acknowledged the institute’s consistent support over several years, highlighting the strategy’s importance in combating terrorist financing. The ISS’ continued role includes consolidating working group recommendations and aligning Namibia’s strategy with that of SADC.

Global networks and anti-corruption capacity

ISS empowered future leaders of South Africa’s National Prosecuting Authority, Special Investigating Unit and Financial Intelligence Centre through a strategic European study tour to Munich. Participants discussed recent complex cases in Germany and built valuable connections with German investigators and prosecutors, asset recovery specialists and judges. The delegation joined 33 other prosecution services at the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Vilnius in a public call for cross-border collaboration against corruption.

Combating SA’s illegal succulent trade

An ISS study on the illegal succulent trade prompted meaningful action to protect South Africa’s threatened plant species. At a joint workshop with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), ISS research sparked debate about expanding legal plant markets to counter illegal trafficking of rare succulents and clivias. SANBI then advocated for the inclusion of ornamental succulents in government’s National Biodiversity Economy Strategy. ISS’ recommendations were also used as performance indicators in the national strategy.





PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Combining research evidence with technical expertise
to develop and improve strategy

Holistic responses to Boko Haram in Lake Chad Basin

ISS analysis on Boko Haram's shifting alliances and conflict patterns supported decision making by humanitarian and diplomatic actors in the Lake Chad Basin region including the International Committee of the Red Cross, USAID, Danish Refugee Council, French Embassy Defence Attachés, Canadian High Commission in Nigeria, and the Far North Cameroon Network of Civil Society Organisations for Reintegration. At the 5th Technical Meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Commission's Regional Stabilisation Strategy, ISS' comprehensive security updates helped shape strategic planning for the region.

The adoption of ISS training expertise by a top university means Africa can develop sustainable counter-terrorism skills and help thousands of people build careers as counter-terrorism specialists

Willem Els, Senior Training Coordinator, Institute for Security Studies

New counter-terrorism and organised crime curriculum

ISS' specialist counter-terrorism curriculum became the foundation for a new postgraduate diploma in geopolitics – the first qualification of its kind globally. The one-year distance learning programme offered by South Africa's North-West University focuses on counter-terrorism and transnational organised crime. The diploma is a major advance in specialised security education, targeting military, police, intelligence and foreign affairs officials across Africa. The course was originally developed for regional police chiefs' organisations in Southern and Eastern Africa.

“Your analyses enable us to identify the dynamics associated with [the financing of terrorism through cattle rustling], which the authorities are tackling. The issue affects everyone, and we must not create favourable conditions for terrorism

Deputy Public Prosecutor, Counter Terrorism, Côte d'Ivoire

Building national expertise to fight terrorist financing

ISS is a valued partner for African countries facing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey-listing. When South Africa's FATF Task Team sought assistance, ISS collaborated with the country's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations, the British High Commission and US Embassy to deliver specialised counter-terrorism financing training to 74 officials including investigators, intelligence officers and prosecutors.

ISS also strengthened Namibia's counter-terrorism financing capabilities through a national security partnership. ISS helped prepare Namibia's FATF Task Team for their first feedback meeting and provided guidance on the country's first terror funding case. These initiatives show how ISS contributes to building regional capacity against financial crime and terrorism while helping nations meet international standards.

Research on risks to coastal states informs security institutions

ISS research on violent extremism in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire reached critical audiences through presentations at events hosted by the AU's Counterterrorism Center, Global Counter-terrorism Task Force, West Africa Think Tank and Côte d'Ivoire Counterterrorism International Academy. Based on interviews with extremists, these insights enhanced understanding of illicit financing networks among diplomats, government officials and civil society representatives, generating new opportunities for policy collaboration across West Africa.

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Boosting Côte d'Ivoire's border security approach

ISS field research in Côte d'Ivoire's northern border region has helped strengthen government responses to violent extremism. 'We benefit from ISS research which helps us understand and find solutions to structural challenges in our border areas,' said National Border Commission Executive Secretary Konaté Diakalidia, highlighting how the partnership built capacity in the border commission and among local authorities in border areas.

The research helped improve frontline responses to terrorism and illicit activities, as well as inter-ministerial coordination. USAID's Resilience for Peace (R4P) project used ISS findings to create innovative solutions, including safe havens for cattle at night while moving between grazing areas. The intervention gained recognition in Washington DC for its effectiveness in disrupting extremist funding streams while enhancing community resilience.

Enhancing West Africa's early warning systems

ISS helped train security analysts from National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanisms during a workshop of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria. The training enhanced participants' understanding of Sahel security dynamics and data analysis skills. As a result, ECOWAS' Early Warning Directorate requested a follow-up session of ISS insights on violent extremism and illicit economies.



“ISS research leads to innovative recommendations which can be quickly implemented to improve our responses to violent extremism and illicit activities

Konaté Diakalidia, Executive Secretary, National Border Commission, Côte d'Ivoire

Gender-focused research informs global counter-terrorism policy

ISS shared its field-research findings on gender, insecurity and violent extremism in West Africa through targeted briefings to the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate's Global Research Network, Global Affairs Canada's Sahel Round Table, and the EU Women Peace and Security Task Force. The research provided critical insights into why women join or resist extremist groups, enhancing stakeholders' understanding of gender dynamics in counter-terrorism strategies.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Working to achieve inclusive and sustainable human security and democratic governance

Climate-security nexus

Connecting climate security to political and regional agendas

ISS provided critical climate analysis during a period of significant global political change, examining how elections across 100 countries and in the EU Parliament would impact climate action and security. The institute advised African states on the UN Security Council and the UN Office of the Special Advisor for Africa, while connecting COP28 Egypt to COP29 Azerbaijan through its Road to COP series. ISS launched new initiatives linking climate change to Africa's blue economy and youth-security-development agenda, successfully debuting the latter during the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's Intergenerational Dialogue in Kampala.

Climate security assessment tools

ISS is developing conflict-sensitive climate approaches, ensuring that adaptation and mitigation strategies consider local conflict dynamics. A Climate Security Assessment Tool is being tested, which analyses climate-security interactions and helps policymakers design interventions covering both climate resilience and conflict prevention. ISS contributed to the inaugural Climate Security Risk Assessment Report and serves on the Strategic Advisory Board for the Adelphi Weathering Risk project. The institute promotes holistic climate governance that recognises complex environmental-security interconnections across Africa.



Advancing African climate perspectives at global forums

ISS elevated African viewpoints and the climate-security nexus in international policy forums through strategic partnerships and advocacy. The institute co-hosted a climate event with the South African Institute of International Affairs and the Brazilian Institute of Applied Economic Research, to develop recommendations for the G20 and BRICS. ISS also advocated for African perspectives in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change discussions, establishing itself as a partner in global climate security policy development.

IUCN partnership expands blue economy and youth focus

An ISS–International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) partnership is expanding IUCN's work on the blue economy, ocean governance and climate resilience. At the IUCN Africa Conservation Forum in Nairobi, ISS made significant contributions on oceans, climate change, the just energy transition and nature-based solutions for Africa. The partnership includes the issue of youth engagement in Africa's blue economy and how youth can tackle climate change and insecurity in coastal regions.

Africa-wide work and African Union collaboration

Enhancing Peace and Security Council capacity

The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) Secretariat asked ISS to facilitate induction training for the AU PSC Military Staff Committee (MSC) and Committee of Experts, covering core mandates, powers and functions. The training enabled the sharing of lessons learned between outgoing and incoming members.

ISS was asked to train the PSC's sanctions committee and help activate its counter-terrorism committee

The training increased MSC participation in PSC agenda-setting and engagements. ISS was subsequently asked to train the PSC's Committee of Experts on Sanctions and help activate the PSC counter-terrorism sub-committee.

Effective post-conflict approaches

ISS advanced peacebuilding in Africa by supporting the launch of the first AU Journal on post-conflict recovery and development (PCRD), creating a vital platform connecting scholars and practitioners. The institute contributed two articles examining the AU PCRD Policy framework's review process and implementation in conflict zones.

Supporting Denmark's UN Security Council preparation

ISS briefed Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs West Africa and Great Lakes teams ahead of their 2025-6 UN Security Council membership. The institute provided essential context, considering the withdrawal of the UN's peacekeeping mission in Mali and the closure of the G5 Sahel security initiative. ISS also provided comprehensive analysis on security dynamics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Great Lakes, and how the UN Security Council could address regional tensions. ISS will provide regular consultations on Africa's security crises throughout Denmark's UN Security Council tenure.

Building Africa's next generation of peace leaders

ISS/Training for Peace (ISS/TfP) supported the induction of the third cohort of the AU Youth Ambassadors for Peace programme. Through facilitating specialised training on youth leadership, maritime security and preventing violent extremism, ISS/TfP created opportunities for peer learning while enhancing participants' understanding of complex security challenges. This collaboration equipped young leaders with essential skills in advocacy, dialogue and implementing peace initiatives across Africa.

Gender-responsive peace support operations

ISS strengthened gender integration throughout all phases of African peace support operations by delivering specialised training for 21 participants from 14 countries in Lusaka. The institute also equipped police officers from Southern African Development Community countries to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and train other officers. The course was delivered in collaboration with the Southern Africa Police Chiefs Organisation and INTERPOL. Both initiatives received high praise for enhancing Africa's security capabilities while promoting gender inclusivity.

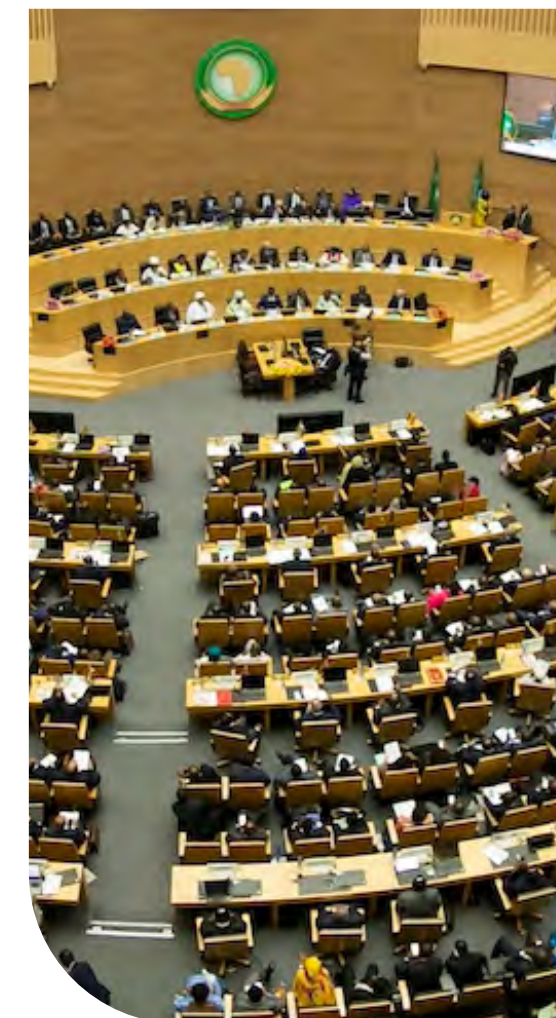
More effective peace support operations

ISS/TfP partnered with GIZ to strengthen African police participation in peace operations. The institute helped develop the AU Police Roster system, enhancing understanding of how Regional Police Planning Elements contribute to peace missions through the African Standby Force framework.

The 4th Annual AU Police Coordination Meeting in Cairo was a milestone, uniting key stakeholders including the AU Commission, AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation, AU Police Strategic Support Group, Africa Center for Research and Study of Terrorism and active peace operations. ISS also helped standardise pre-deployment training for Formed Police Units, ensuring consistent preparation of police in Africa's peace support operations.

Strengthening citizen engagement in African governance

ISS partnered with the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to convene a Citizen's Engagement Forum during the 6th AU-RECs Mid-year coordination meeting, which coincided with ECOSOCC's 20th anniversary. The platform examined African democracy and how to enhance citizen participation. ISS' selection for the 2025 Citizen Engagement Forum partnership demonstrates strengthened collaboration among African civil society organisations.



“ The ISS is an important independent African voice which reliably informs international responses to threats and opportunities in West Africa

Leonardo Santos Simão, UN Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel

West Africa and the Sahel

New thinking on post-coup transitions

ISS promoted innovative approaches to coups in West Africa as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger withdrew from ECOWAS and formed the Alliance of Sahel States. Through over 70 briefings to governments in the region, diplomats and international organisations, ISS argued for a better understanding of the causes of coups, learning from previous transitions and building robust institutions. The case was made for continuing to provide development and humanitarian aid to affected countries, and why rushing to new elections could fuel instability. While returning to constitutional order remains the priority, it shouldn't be the sole measure of success.

The UN Regional Office for Central Africa partnered with ISS on an initiative to apply lessons from West Africa's coups to Central Africa, considering Gabon's coup in 2023. A regional conference attended by decision makers from both regions was convened in São Tomé and Príncipe. Recommendations from the event were presented to the UN Standing Advisory Committee for Security Questions in Central Africa.

Keeping the Sahel on the UN Security Council agenda

ISS Regional Director Lori-Anne Thérout-Bénoni briefed the UN Security Council on dynamics in West Africa and the Sahel, drawing on over 10 years of ISS research and partnerships with organisations like ECOWAS, the AU, Lake Chad Basin Commission and Conseil de l'Entente.

With global attention focused on Ukraine and the Middle East, and the closure of the UN's peacekeeping mission in Mali and the G5 Sahel, the briefing urged the UN Security Council not to ignore the Sahel. ISS called for pragmatic approaches based on realities on the ground in the Sahel. The briefing provided the perspectives needed to stimulate effective national, regional and international responses and generated many follow-up requests from UN agencies for further ISS insights.



Lake Chad Basin

Key briefings on cross-border conflict dynamics

ISS briefings to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU Special Envoy, UNICEF and World Bank gave decision makers a nuanced understanding of how the Sudanese conflict affects eastern Chad and West and Central Africa. Insights and recommendations for regional interventions were provided, covering cross-border dynamics in the Lake Chad Basin and Central Africa, and the implications of Chad's election on conflict dynamics.

Shaping security policy in Lake Chad Basin

ISS contributed to key regional policies in the Lake Chad Basin, helping finalise the Regional Community Based Reconciliation and Reintegration Policy and providing input on transitional justice policy. The institute's analytical work shaped the updated regional stabilisation strategy. ISS also delivered quarterly conflict and risk reports to the Lake Chad Basin Commission, supporting the development of evidence-based policies to tackle the region's complex security challenges.

In 2024, we have greatly benefited from and appreciated the many ways in which the ISS team has supported our activities

Technical Director, Lake Chad Basin Commission

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East Africa and the Horn

Facilitating East Africa’s Regional Security Dialogue

ISS facilitated policy discussions on the Democratic Republic of Congo’s entry into the East African Community, examining economic, political and security implications with regional stakeholders. The institute also established itself as a trusted advisor to regional organisations including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), AU, UN, EU and African Development Bank. ISS helped shape regional conflict prevention approaches through platforms like the IDEA-AU-IGAD Early Warning meeting in Zanzibar.

Strengthening IGAD’s early warning capabilities

At the request of the IGAD’s Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism, ISS developed and delivered specialised training in structured analytical techniques. The programme strengthened the skills of early warning analysts and management in interpreting complex security information, enhancing their ability to serve member states and contribute to regional conflict prevention.

Informing Ethiopia’s path to justice and peace

Using evidence-based research and policy engagements, the ISS has, since 2018, advocated for national dialogue and transitional justice to support peacebuilding in Ethiopia. The Ministry of Justice asked ISS to analyse how customary dispute resolution could inform transitional justice policy. The research was conducted in consultation with a working group of experts who drafted the Green Paper that contributed to the final transitional justice policy adopted in April 2024.

New ISS research on the impact of opposing memory discourses on conflict positioned the institute among the few think tanks approached by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission to provide guidance and serve as a technical resource. In this role, ISS shared insights on optimal approaches for the dialogue phase of the national process.



“ I want to thank the ISS in assisting with the timely assessment of the Haiti situation, possible future scenarios, and what we can do for our part as we prepare to deploy the Kenya Police

Joseph Boinnet, Deputy National Security Advisor, Kenya

Strategic support for Kenya’s Haiti security mission

Kenya’s Office of the National Security Advisor requested ISS expertise to help prepare police for their historic deployment into Haiti’s Multinational Security Support Mission. ISS delivered critical analysis on Haiti’s security landscape and advised on funding mechanisms for UN-approved multinational missions. The Kenyan government acknowledged ISS’ valuable contribution, leading to requests for ongoing strategic briefings to navigate this complex international engagement.

Building civil society capacity on governance

ISS built capacity for the Horn Center for Democracy, laying the groundwork for the center to become a regional democratisation and governance hub. ISS provided comprehensive technical support on operational procedures, sharing expertise, building networks and conducting baseline studies.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2024

	2024 R	2023 R
Assets		
Current Assets		
Donor and other receivables	16 451 885	6 494 148
Current tax receivable	378	6 443
Cash and cash equivalents	133 040 761	187 775 314
	<u>149 493 024</u>	<u>194 275 905</u>
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	22 222 511	24 496 813
Intangible assets	1	260
Deferred tax	383 271	422 976
	<u>22 605 783</u>	<u>24 920 049</u>
Total Assets	<u>172 098 807</u>	<u>219 195 954</u>
Equity and Liabilities		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	21 619 453	17 403 988
Donations received in advance	94 002 908	147 658 433
Bank overdraft	1 745	1 088
	<u>115 624 106</u>	<u>165 063 509</u>
Non-Current Liabilities		
Deferred income tax	2 519 074	2 717 047
	<u>2 519 074</u>	<u>2 717 047</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>118 143 180</u>	<u>167 780 556</u>
Equity		
Trust capital	100	100
Reserves	9 903 289	9 543 454
Accumulated surplus	44 052 238	41 871 844
	<u>53 955 627</u>	<u>51 415 398</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities	<u>172 098 807</u>	<u>219 195 954</u>

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 R	2023 R
Donations income	342 530 343	274 819 147
Other income	11 867 346	14 202 470
Operating expenses	(357 846 842)	(279 411 983)
Operating surplus	<u>(3 449 153)</u>	<u>9 609 634</u>
Finance income	5 058 281	4 241 018
Surplus before taxation	<u>1 609 128</u>	<u>13 850 652</u>
Taxation	(190 639)	(82 855)
Surplus for the year	<u>1 418 489</u>	<u>13 767 797</u>
Other comprehensive income:		
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	923 767	(254 538)
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>2 342 256</u>	<u>13 513 259</u>

Note 1: Basis of Preparation

The summarised financial statements, which includes the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, are an extract of the audited consolidated financial statements of the Institute for Security Studies Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements can be obtained from The Institute for Security Studies Trust at Block C, Brooklyn Court, 361 Veale Street, New Muckleneuk.

The ISS Trustees take full responsibility for the correct extraction of the financial information from the underlying annual financial statements.



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Partnership Forum

European Union
Government of Denmark
Government of Ireland
Government of Norway
Government of Sweden
Government of the Netherlands
Government of the United States of America/USAID
Hanns Seidel Foundation
Open Society Foundation

Project funding

British Embassy Addis Ababa
Centre For Development and Enterprise NPC
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GIZ
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Government of Canada
Government of Finland
Government of Germany
Government of United Kingdom

Humanity United
ICLEI-Local Government for Sustainability Africa NPC
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International Organization for Migration
International Organization of la Francophonie OIF
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