

Examining Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding

Report on the 2023 Southern Voices Network
for Peacebuilding Annual Conference



SVNP 2023 Conference Participants at the Future Africa Campus at the University of Pretoria

Hosted by the Wilson Center Africa Program
The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Pretoria, South Africa
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Report on the 2023 Annual Conference of the Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Africa Program
Pretoria, South Africa

11-15 September 2023

Hosted by:

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Africa Program
Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
University of Pretoria (UP)
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD)



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The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (Introduction)

Eliciting and Applying Local Knowledge for Peacebuilding and State-building in Africa

About the Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding

Centering African knowledge and agency is key to building and sustaining peace in Africa. The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (SVNP) is a network of 22 African policy, research, and academic organizations that works with the Wilson Center's Africa Program to attain the most appropriate, cohesive, and inclusive policy frameworks and approaches for achieving sustainable peace in Africa. Peacebuilding is a multidimensional issue that requires collaboration from a variety of professionals. The SVNP provides a platform for organizations to collaborate and share knowledge and best practices.

Generously sponsored by Carnegie Corporation of New York since its establishment in 2011, the SVNP works to generate African knowledge to inform U.S. and international peacebuilding policies on Africa; help build the next generation of African peacebuilders through its scholarship program; and create a pan-African network of African peacebuilding organizations, practitioners, and experts to collaborate and share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned on peacebuilding in Africa. The SVNP is committed to understanding the contextual factors that interact with peacebuilding.

The SVNP achieves this by:

- Hosting scholars from the network and other African peacebuilding organizations for a 3-month residency at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.
- Organizing conferences that link SVNP members to one another and to U.S., African, and international policymakers and peacebuilding practitioners
- Producing policy analysis including through research papers, policy briefs, reports, books, op-eds, and posts on the Africa Program blog, Africa Up Close

Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Conferences

The Africa Program hosts annual conferences to promote dialogue and collaboration within the network and share important recommendations and ideas with a wider audience. The conferences occur on a rotating basis between Washington, D.C. and the continent with the goal of enhancing peacebuilding-related policy dialogue among and between the Global North and the Global South.

From the Africa Program Director

Dear Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Members and Friends:

The 2023 Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (SVNP) annual conference engaged in critical conversations focused on the facets of building sustainable democracy and the pillars of good governance, and discussed how these efforts are interlinked with peacebuilding. Twenty-three participants joined the conference to provide their perspectives on the changing opportunities and challenges to democratization, good governance, and peacebuilding.

This conference came at a critical time on the continent as many African countries had elections in 2023 and many more will test this aspect of their democracies in 2024. The US government has sharpened its focus on Africa and democracy through the Africa Leaders Summit in 2022, the Summit for Democracy in 2023, and the strategy toward Sub-Saharan Africa. It was important for us to engage in this conversation to continue in the sharing of knowledge between the SVNP and US policymakers.

Across 15 sessions, members gathered to share best practices, research and analysis, and evidence to offer concrete policy recommendations for strengthening governance and peacebuilding in Africa. Central to that conversation were the following objectives:

- Critically examine the state of democracy and governance across the continent.
- Understand the intrinsic link between democracy building and peacebuilding.
- Identify the key challenges that countries face and understand why we see trends of democratic backsliding.
- Understand the role of geopolitics in the advancement and hindrance of long term and sustainable change regarding peace and democracy-building.
- Understand the goals of key continental policies and the various scenarios of the future of growth on the continent.
- Identify key stakeholders and make concrete policy suggestions for these actors.

We are thankful for the opportunity to engage our network members and external experts to broaden the dialogue and forage connections for future work. We were happy to have various external organizations join us and especially thankful for collaboration with other Carnegie Corporation of New York grantees. Sessions were not only filled with opportunities to engage in during the sessions but inspired the development of ideas on how to engage beyond the conference. We look forward to continuing this engagement in the coming months.

We are grateful to each member organization for their commitment to peacebuilding in Africa and to Carnegie Corporation of New York for their continued support.



Oge Onubogu
Director, Wilson Center Africa Program

Key Takeaways

The widening gap between African citizens' support for democracy and their satisfaction with how democracy works was a central topic of discussion at the 2023 Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (SVNP) Conference.

Along with debates about the resurgence of military coups and the inconsistent African and international approaches to address them and other forms of unconstitutional changes of government, this year's SVNP conference theme on examining democracy, governance, and peacebuilding in Africa is particularly important as seven African countries (Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) have conducted or will conduct elections this year.

For many African citizens, a credible electoral process is a benchmark for a functioning democratic society. Likewise, the quality of elections could also be a trigger point for military coups. At least three (Mali, Guinea, and Gabon) of the coups that have taken place since 2020 are directly related to electoral outcomes.

African, US, and other policymakers and democracy advocates are discussing how to respond to these threats and how best to preserve the democratic advances made in recent decades.

Peacebuilding and democratic governance are interwoven, with stable institutions allowing for sustainable peace, and peace allowing actors to nurture the pillars of good governance and development.

Some takeaways from the conference:

- Africa's youth want better and more accountable governance and insist on democratic governance and development simultaneously. A two-track approach focusing on good governance and trade integration must be prioritized to drive sustainable development in Africa.
- The quality of democratic governance in Africa is declining, impacting the citizen debate about the value of democracy, particularly among younger citizens who might show more tolerance to military intervention than the older generation.
- US and international partnerships to strengthen governance must address the problem of "Democracy Capture" in many African countries, where the political context may seem formally democratic. However, public policies are still largely developed to favor elite interests.
- There is a need to articulate Africa's strategic governance and development vision for engaging with the changing global landscape. Will the African Union's (AU) recent invitation to join the G20 encourage a degree of policy coherence from the AU?
- Africa's Think Tanks and research organizations remain a largely untapped resource by their governments and the international community.
- Evidence-based policies are required to spur development in Africa. Bridging the gap between academia, research, and policy is more important today than ever

Conference Proceedings

[Session 1: Welcome, Conference Objectives, and Member Organization Updates](#)

The objective of this internal session was to introduce the conference and the theme, set the conference agenda, and provide internal SVNP members with organization updates. Ms. Oge Onubogu, Director, Wilson Center Africa Program (SVNP), and Ms. Gamu Mhute, Program Associate, Wilson Center Africa Program (SVNP), served as the facilitators for the session. A core theme across updates was an increase in collaborations and the interest to continue to engage in cross network collaboration. Several SVNP members noted that the conferences and network have served as a backdrop for developing connections to produce research and joint collaboration of network members and with other Carnegie grantees.

[Session 3: Setting the Stage—What are the Key Issues: Examining Drivers of Democratic Backsliding](#)

The objective of this introductory session was to examine the key factors that drive democratic backsliding in Africa. Ms. Oge Onubogu shared the theme and key components of the upcoming session. The participants briefly shared their initial thoughts on the state of democracy in Africa and drivers of democratic backsliding.

[Session 4: Public Perception and Citizen Efforts in Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding](#)

The objective of this session was to evaluate the public perception of the state, democracy, and governance alongside citizen efforts in peacebuilding in Africa, especially on citizen perspectives towards democracy, governance, and peacebuilding. Dr. Aggée Shyaka Mugabe, Acting Director, Centre for Conflict Management (SVNP), served as the facilitator for the session.

Ms. Asafika Mpako, Communications Coordinator for Southern Africa, Afrobarometer, presented the status of democracy in Africa based on 2022 data collected in over 30 countries by AfroBarometer. The key message taken from the discussion was that Africans want democracy overall. But there are challenges that democracy faces and opportunities for authoritarian ideas to take hold. But what is important is to understand that citizens want a responsive government. Most want democracy and reject authoritarian and military rule. She highlighted this is not the case across all countries and made the critical point that youth are seen to prefer military intervention. Countries will need to understand the root causes of these changes to curb any trends toward authoritarianism.

[Session 5: Examining the Future of Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding in Africa](#)

The objective of this session was to examine the relationship between democracy, governance, and peacebuilding in Africa and to explore the challenges and opportunities for growth on the continent. Dr. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, African Technology Policy Studies Network (SVNP), served as the facilitator for the session.

Dr. Jakkie Cilliers, Head of the African Futures and Innovation Programme, Institute for Security Studies (SVNP), highlighted that Africa is falling further behind in development compared to the rest of the world. Dr. Cilliers provided examples of projections using the African Futures models available on the ISS website. Dr. Cilliers noted democracy is an important part of development and stability for African states. However, he highlighted the importance of additional pillars in state building, including the aspects of security, capacity building, and inclusion.

[Session 6: Reflecting on the Summit for Democracy and the Africa Leaders Summit](#)

The objective of this session was to reflect on the progress and lessons learned from the December 2022 US-Africa Leaders Summit and March 2023 Summit for Democracy, pertaining to the challenges and prospects for the future of U.S.-Africa relations. This session was introduced by Ms. Oge Onubogu. Amb. Johnnie Carson, Special Presidential Representative for U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit Implementation and Ms. Cecily Brewer, Senior Advisor for Africa to the Vice President of the United States, provided the perspective of the US government and the guiding principles behind the current administration's focus on partnership with African countries. Dr. Emmanuel Owusu-Sekyere, Director of Research, African Center for Economic Transformation, served as a discussant. The discussion centered on how the US government can be a supportive partner to the goals and objectives of African policymakers and policy. They discussed with the context of the history of partnership with the United States and geopolitical competition. Participants and speakers acknowledged the challenges created by externally prescribed democratic principles and made policy suggestions to center the will of citizens, engage with civil society, and create a space for mutually beneficial policy that encourages development, peacebuilding, and responsive democracies.

[Session 7: Keynote](#)

The objective of this session was to frame the way participants can think about the opportunities and challenges African countries face, the challenges to creating sustainable solutions, and the opportunities for change regarding governance, peacebuilding, and democracy. Dr. Sandy Africa, Director, Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs, University of Pretoria (SVNP), and Dr. Vuyo Mjimba, Acting Research Director, Human Sciences Research Council (SVNP), gave introductory remarks and Ms. Oge Onubogu served as the moderator for the session.

Dr. Sandy Africa provided a welcome to the University of Pretoria. Dr. Vuyo Mjimba, provided an introduction of the Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding to the public session participants. Dr. Annie Barbara Chikwanha, Associate Professor, University of Johannesburg, discussed the landscape of 'wicked problems' in African countries. These problems are multi-causal, interconnected, unique and often unclear. This means solutions can take a long time to develop, are not right or wrong but make things better or worse, and solutions may not be a complete solution for the problem. Dr. Chikwanha made clear that there are a wide range of unsolved issues, including competing interests for CSOs, external players, and ruling parties, and other complexities in solving issues in Africa. However, there are opportunities for growth, as Dr. Chikwanha clarified, "leadership... can transform blueprints on peace and prosperity into actions."

[Session 8: Citizen Engagement and the State in Africa](#)

The objective of this session was to analyze the nature of the African State and the opportunities and challenges that confront active citizen and youth engagement, as well as to explore how well-organized civil society organizations are crucial for a prosperous democratic society pertaining to the State in Africa. Dr. Christopher Isike, Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Pretoria (SVNP) served as the facilitator for the session.

Prof. Eldred Masunungure, Principal Investigator, AfroBarometer, makes the distinction that many African states are strong but unresponsive to their citizens. When citizens, especially youth, make demands and these are not met, they turn to support military intervention. Youth are registering the lowest level of

engagement with government outside of elections, based on the data collected in AfroBarometer's 2022 survey. But Prof. Masunungure suggests that civic engagement, especially between youth and women, is the anecdote to unwilling governments. Dr. Annie Barbara Chikwanha noted that regional and formal structures serve as a barrier to engagement from citizens, youth, and women. This barrier, along with limited research resources and financial resources, helps to exclude more marginalized voices from being able to hold their governments accountable to a regional standard. Development partners also feed into this cycle and can restrict the funding and ability for some groups to find a space at the policy table. Mr. Kehinde Togun Managing Director, Public Engagement, Humanity United, noted that in order to make engagement with partners like the United States meaningful, the African state must create conditions for civil society to thrive. This in practice can look like allowing easier registration of NGOs, ending marginalization of certain populations, refrain from anti-NGO laws, and support freedom of information and open governments, and value journalism and increase the professional standards to increase trust. Civil society should work to better represent the will of citizens, work together, and build trust with civil resisters, and avoid elite capture in order to push for substantial and durable change.

Session 9: Examining the Pathways and Challenges to Democratic Transitions and Consolidation

The objective of this session was to identify the varying driving forces for democratic backsliding in Africa and how African countries can evolve from electoral democracy to inclusive political processes. Dr. Edem Selormey, Director of Research, Center for Democratic Development (SVNP), served as the facilitator for the session.

Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, highlighted various changes in the governance landscape in Africa and internationally. Dr. Eze noted the increasing comfort with military incursion and how the view of colonial powers has changed in the recent years. He shared that the relationship with colonial powers will need to be renegotiated for many states to be more beneficial to the African countries. He also suggested that as African states turn to "African solutions to African problems" that these efforts be reviewed. African leaders will need to take responsibility and ensure that the solutions are effective. Mr. Nhlanhla Ngwenya Program Manager, Participation and Expression, Open Society Foundations, provided suggestions on how to support the growth of democracy. Leverage African belief in democracy by supporting democratic renewal initiatives, support the reclamation and reformation of institutions of democracy, ensuring inclusion by rethinking a winner takes all format, depoliticizing the implementation of democratic and human rights norms and standards, and sanctioning local actors and international enablers of illicit financial flows that are sustaining autocracy.

Mr. Ngwenya also suggests reinvigorating civil society, establishing collaborative linkages between local activists and the diaspora, and support the youth bulge and their grassroots initiatives to build their agency and leverage on their push for socio-economic delivery. Ms. Tiseke Kasambala Director, Africa Programs, Freedom House, agreed with the points of the other speakers and noted disenfranchisement of young people leads to the disillusionment in democracy and we will see a return to welcoming military intervention if governments do not deliver. She highlighted that while frequent free and fair elections are important to building inclusive democracies, they can also be used as a tool to strengthen authoritarian regimes. To reverse the trend, we need to understand what are the legitimate socioeconomic, disenfranchisement, and governance that underpin citizens' concerns and increase the cost of repression.

[Session 10: Shifting Global Trends and the Future of Governance in Africa](#)

The objective of this session was to tackle obstacles to governance in Africa, specifically achieving the different continental goals outlined in the 2023 Agenda for sustainable development and US Agenda 2063. Ms. Juliet Were, Deputy Executive Director, Women's International Peace Centre (SVNP), served as the facilitator for the session.

Dr. Jakkie Cilliers shared key takeaways from the Future Africa's forecast to discuss the future of Africa in connection to the changes of the rest of the world. He shared that there is a need for geopolitical stability, and an end to U.S.-China rivalry, and instrumentalism. In its place, international partners need to create conditions for transparent reciprocal development opportunities. This includes developing an updated financial and trade architecture that supports development and debt relief. African states need to develop continental technical standards and binding protocols on good governance and better trade integration. Dr. Cyril Obi, Program Director, African Peacebuilding Network, argued Africa is in crisis due to internal and external scenarios but, there are clear areas for self-reflection and opportunities for growth. Dr. Obi commented that transformational government is intrinsically linked with sustainable peace. He echoed that geopolitical instability and top-down imposed democratic standards are a challenge to peace. There is a need to re-democratize Africa for Africans. This includes looking critically at the struggles they face in making the goals of Agenda 2063 a reality. Dr. Obi encouraged actors to connect governance to ordinary people to build sustainable peace.

[Session 11: Meetings and Media](#)

The SVNP members recorded videos for social media promotion of the network. They also met with the Wilson Center Africa Program Director and networked with other participants.

[Session 13: Site Visit](#)

The participants visited Freedom Park to further engage with South Africa's history and cultural heritage. The park serves as a celebration of South Africa's heritage and a memorial for those across the world that engaged in the struggle for political freedom in South Africa. The visit led to discussions regarding political conflict and violence, justice, and restorative justice.

[Session 15: Next Steps for Strengthening the SVNP: Enhancing Collaboration, Assuring Grant Deliverables](#)

The objective of the session was to discuss avenues for collaboration moving forward with SVNP. Ms. Oge Onubogu served as the facilitator of the session. The objective of this internal session was to review the deliverables of the current SVNP grant and discuss future opportunities for collaboration among the SVNP network. Building on the member updates session, this session discussed increasing collaboration across the network through joint publications, more regular communications/updates, and distribution of research.

[Session 16: Conference Recap, Completion of Surveys, Closing Ceremony](#)

The objective of the session was to conclude the conference with a survey and closing ceremony. Dr. Boubacar Barry, Research Associate, Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (SVNP), and Mr. Beza Dessalegn, Assistant Professor, Addis Ababa University, Institute of Peace and Security Studies (SVNP), served as the facilitators for the session. The participants engaged in discussions to recap on the conference key takeaways and summaries of each session. The session closed with the completion of the conference surveys and the presentation of photos as a thank you to each of the SVNP participants

Appendices

Appendix 1: Agenda

Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding 2023 Annual Conference: Pretoria, South Africa
Examining Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding in Africa
11-15 September 2023

MONDAY 11 September	TUESDAY 12 September	WEDNESDAY 13 September	THURSDAY 14 September	FRIDAY 15 September
Internal SVN Member (ISS)	Private Sessions (ISS)	Public Sessions (UP)	Internal SVN Members (Hotel)	Internal SVN members (ISS)
	Bus to venue (800)	Bus to venue (800)		Bus to venue (800)
Free Time	5. Private Session: Public Perception and Citizen Efforts in Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding 0845-1000	8. Public Session: Address 0845-1000	12. Meetings and Media: SVN Video Recordings, Meetings with Wilson Center Africa Program Director, and Networking 8:45-12:00	15. Private Session: Next Steps for Strengthening the SVN: Enhancing Collaboration, Assuring Grant Deliverables 0830-1000
Bus to Venue (1140)	Coffee/Tea Break (1000-1030)	Coffee/Tea Break (1000-1030)	Break* (1200-1330) Transport to Group Visit (13:30-14:00)	Coffee/Tea Break (1000-1030)
Lunch (1200-1330) Group Photo	6. Private Policy Session: Examining the future of democracy, governance, and peacebuilding in Africa 1030-1200	9. Public Session: Examining Citizen Engagement and the State in Africa 1030-1200	13. Group Visit 14:00-16:00	16. Internal Session: Conference Recap, Completion of Surveys, Closing Ceremony 1030-1200
1. Internal Session: Welcome, Conference Objectives, and Member Organization Updates 1330-1430	Photo/Lunch (1200-1330)	Lunch (1200-1330)	Transport to hotel (1600) Transport to Dinner (1830)	Lunch (1200-1330)
2. Internal Session: Overview of Current SVN Grant: Key issues, deliverables, and the way forward 1430-1530	7. Private Policy Session: Reflecting on the Summit for Democracy and the Africa Leaders Summit 1330-1500	10. Public Session: Examining the Pathways and Challenges to Democratic Transitions and Consolidation 1330-1500	14. Group Dinner 1900-2030	Conference Concludes Flights depart 9/16
Networking Break (1530-1600)	Bus to hotel (1600) Free/Networking	Networking Break (1500-1530)	Bus to hotel (2030) Free/Networking	Bus to hotel (1400)
3. Internal Session: Setting the Stage—What are the Key Issues: Examining Drivers of Democratic Backsliding 1600-1700		11. Public Session: Shifting Global Trends and the Future of Governance in Africa 1530-1700		
Bus to hotel (1730) Free/Networking		Bus to hotel (1730) Free/Networking		

Appendix 2: Public Event Handout



2023 Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Annual Conference

Examining Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding in Africa

11-15 September 2023

A Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Conference hosted by
the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Africa Program

Peacebuilding and democratic governance are interwoven, with stable institutions allowing for sustainable peace, and peace allowing actors to nurture the pillars of good governance. Elections in 2023 will test governance institutions and democratic transitions in over a dozen countries in Africa. Meanwhile, peacebuilding continues to be a focus of experts, practitioners, civil society members, local actors, and government officials in Africa and around the world. How do we develop resilient democracies and build sustainable peace across Africa? The growth of democracy and sustainable peace is complex and evolving, so is the discussion of the challenges, opportunities, and best practices.

The 2023 Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (SVNP) conference will convene leaders from 22 African organizations working on peacebuilding, along with U.S. and African policymakers, practitioners, international stakeholders, and experts to examine the relationship between democracy, governance, and peacebuilding; the current and future challenges; and the crosscutting opportunities to strengthen both governance and peace in Africa. The conferences sessions will span a variety of critical topics, including democratic backsliding, citizen engagement, pathways and challenges to democratic transitions, shifting global trends in governance and peacebuilding, and more. The conference will also discuss lessons learned, offer concrete recommendations, and policy options for strengthening peacebuilding and governance in Africa.

Follow the Africa Program on Twitter @AfricaUpClose and contribute to the conversation using the
hashtags

#PeacebuildinginAfrica #GoodGovernance #AfricanDemocracy

List of Public Events

Day 3 – Wednesday, September 13 (University of Pretoria)

Conference Address 0845-1000 SAST

Africa's political, social, and economic landscape is changing rapidly, and the continent can no longer be ignored in global conversations. Several projections highlight Africa's potential to become a prominent player in global geopolitics. However, amidst these projections also lies a growing population of citizens, particularly youth, who are becoming increasingly disillusioned by Africa's governance challenges.

This session will examine the connections between Democracy, Governance, and Peacebuilding. It will discuss the quality and characteristics of governance that shape the level of peace and stability and the prospects for democratic inclusion and economic development. The session will also explore opportunities for intergenerational dialogue/cooperation to promote leadership that is responsive to Africa's domestic needs and changing global profile. The keynote will be followed by a fireside chat moderated by the Director of the Africa Program at the Wilson Center.

Speakers:

- Welcome: Dr. Sandy Africa, Director at the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs, University of Pretoria
- SVNP Introductory Remarks: Dr. Vuyo Mjimba, Acting Research Director, Human Sciences Research Council
- Moderator: Ms. Oge Onubogu, Director, Africa Program, Wilson Center
- Address: Dr. Annie Barbara Chikwanha, Associate Professor, University of Johannesburg

Examining Citizen Engagement and the State in Africa 1030-1200 SAST

This session will examine the nature of the African State and the opportunities and challenges to active citizen engagement, particularly youth engagement. Participants will explore why the State and a well-organized civil society are crucial for a prosperous and democratic society. Panelists will identify and discuss continental policies, such as the AU Agenda 2063 which recognizes that people's ownership and mobilization are critical enablers to realizing Africa's aspirations. They will discuss opportunities and challenges to creating more spaces for the voices of youth and women in Africa's democratic governance agenda. The session will also explore changes in citizen organizing and social movements that are disrupting the status quo across Africa.

Speakers:

- Facilitator: Dr. Christopher Isike, Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Pretoria
- Speaker: Prof. Eldred Masunungure, Principal Investigator, Afrobarometer
- Speaker: Ms. Eugenia Kayitesi, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda)
- Speaker: Mr. Kehinde Togun, Managing Director, Public Engagement, Humanity United

Examining the Pathways and Challenges to Democratic Transitions and Consolidation 1330-1500 SAST

Several major elections will be conducted across the African continent in 2023 and 2024. This session will examine how African countries can move from electoral democracy to inclusive political processes. As the internet and social media increasingly empower Africa's youthful population to become politically active, this session will advance the ongoing debates on democratic backsliding in Africa. It will examine some of the legitimate grievances that may underpin so much of the rising insecurity and citizen disillusion with democracy. This session will explore the internal and external drivers of democratic backsliding in Africa, and proffer focused and context specific strategies to counter backsliding and promote stability.

Speakers:

- Facilitator: Dr. Edem Selormey, Director of Research, Center for Democratic Development (CDD)
- Speaker: Dr. Eze Chuwuemeke, Executive Director, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
- Speaker: Ms. Tiseke Kasambala, Director of Africa Programs, Freedom House
- Speaker: Mr. Nhlanhla Ngwenya, Programme Manager, Participation and Expression, Open Society-Africa

Shifting Global Trends and the Future of Governance in Africa 1530-1700 SAST

This session will identify and tackle key challenges to governance in Africa, particularly within the context of achieving the different continental goals outlined in the AU Agenda 2030 and 2063. It will examine how governance can be conceptualized to have legitimacy and meaning for both African political elites and local populations. It will examine how African citizens, African governments, and international partners can foster the ambition, initiative and creativity required to push the continent towards its governance potential, particularly within the changing global landscape. This session will examine the relevance of sustaining peace to the transformational governance on the continent and will discuss/explore examples of what "sustaining peace" through governance looks like in practice.

Speakers:

- Facilitator: Ms. Juliet Were, Deputy Executive Director, Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC)
- Speaker: Dr. Jakkie Cilliers, Head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) Programme, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- Speaker: Dr. Cyril Obi, Director, African Peacebuilding Network

Speaker and Moderator Biographies

Conference Address

Dr. Sandy Africa is the director at the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs at the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa. She has also been associate professor within the department of political sciences since 2008. Africa has served as deputy director-general corporate services of the State Security Agency in South Africa's government and as an independent consultant to various other government agencies. She has also worked within the Ministry for Intelligence Services, the South African Secret Service, the National Intelligence Agency, and the African National Congress. Africa received the gold and silver Intelligence Services Award for Outstanding Leadership in 2006 and 2005, respectively. She holds a Ph.D. in Management from the University of Witwatersrand and a MA in African Politics from the University of South Africa.

Dr. Vuyo Mjimba is Acting Research Director for the Human Sciences Research Centre. Dr. Mjimba is an international development researcher who brings more than 10 years commercial enterprise experience and insights to his work. An analytically clear and innovative thinker, Dr. Mjimba specializes economic development sustainable industrialization, mining and industrialization nexus, climate change and green economy where he has worked in and with trans, inter, and multidisciplinary research and teams. He has proven ability in translating broad objectives into cost-effective, practical and measurable results through efficient organization and deploying of resources and establishing rapport within diverse disciplines. Vuyo has links and has work in trans-border, trans-, inter and multidisciplinary projects with researchers in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The links are in a variety of organizations that include the private and the public sectors, universities, the World Bank, African Academy of Sciences and AfricaLics.

Ms. Oge Onubogu is the Director of the Wilson Center Africa Program. She is a governance and democracy professional with nearly two decades of experience on Africa and U.S-Africa relations, including working with African governments, international partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Ms. Onubogu most recently was the Director of the West Africa Program at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), where she led the strategic development and expansion of USIP's portfolio in Nigeria and Coastal West Africa. Prior to USIP, Ms. Onubogu was a Program Manager at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) where she managed citizen engagement, elections, and political party strengthening programs in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, and South Africa. Ms. Onubogu also worked as the Program officer for West Africa at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), where she managed a multi-million dollar grants portfolio to civil society organizations across Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Cameroon.

Dr. Annie Barbara Chikwanha is an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg. Previously, she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Zimbabwe. Chikwanha also worked with the Afrobarometer Network as a researcher in 2002. After completing her PhD, she joined the Institute for Security Studies as a Senior Research Fellow. Chikwanha's main academic interests are in democracy and governance, focusing on rule of law, elections, peace and conflict, human security, and political science research methodologies. She also maintains a keen interest in the African Governance Architecture and the associated challenges of linking the governance and peacebuilding processes in Africa, as well as comparative politics, Africa's criminal justice systems and their impact on democratization, and issues of conflict-sensitive methodologies for conflict zones.

Examining Citizen Engagement and the State in Africa

Dr. Christopher Isike is a Professor of African Politics and International Relations in the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria and Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Pretoria (ACSUS-UP), South Africa. He is also the current President of the African Association of Political Science (AAPS), the parent body of political scientists in Africa. Prof Isike also served as Vice President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) between 2018 and 2021. Professor Isike conducts research from an Africanist lens, and teaches international relations theory, strategic and security studies, and security theory at the University of Pretoria.

Prof. Eldred Masunungure is the Director of the Harare-based Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) and has been the Principal Investigator of the Afrobarometer since 1999. He is a Political Science and Public Administration graduate of the University of Zimbabwe and Dalhousie University (Canada) and teaches Public Policy and Political Theory courses at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels in the Department of Governance and Public Management (formerly Political and Administrative Studies) at the University of Zimbabwe. His current research interests include civil society and public policy, African elections, political transitions, governance, and related topics.

Ms. Eugenia Kayitesi is the Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research IPAR-Rwanda. She is an Honors Graduate of Social Sciences from Makerere University with an MBA from Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands. She is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Business Administration specializing in Strategic Management from Jomo Kenyatta University. She is an Advisory Board member of Africa Portal, a research repository and an expert analysis hub on African Affairs based in South Africa, a Board Member of KIM University in Kigali, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA Rwanda). She sits on the National Independent Review Panel (NIRP) for the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA). She has worked with both public, private, and civil society organizations with a focus on capacity building, organizational development, policy analysis, and research and has featured in regional and /international workshops and conferences both as a participant and a panelist. She is a God-fearing wife and a mother of four.

Mr. Kehinde Togun is the Managing Director of Public Engagement at Humanity United. He has led global democracy and governance programs for over 15 years. He was previously a senior director at The Arkin Group, specializing in international risk management, business intelligence, and strategic advisory. Prior to Arkin, he led programs at PartnersGlobal and the National Democratic Institute, focusing on civil society strengthening, elections, governance, and security reform programs. He has worked in Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Kehinde is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a non-resident fellow at the Centre for Democracy and Development. He holds a master's degree from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

Examining the Pathways and Challenges to Democratic Transitions and Consolidation

Dr. Edem Selormey is the Director of Research at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana). She was, until recently, the Director of Capacity Building for the Afrobarometer Network. Before then, she was the Field Operations Manager for the Anglophone West Africa, East Africa, and North Africa for the Afrobarometer Network, a leading survey project that measures Africa's social, political, and economic atmosphere. Edem Selormey is a founding staff of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) with several years of industry experience, working in various positions at the Center. She has considerable research experience and knowledge in social accountability mechanisms and the politics of development in Sub-Sahara Africa. She graduated from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, obtaining a doctoral degree in development studies.

Dr. Chukwuemeka B. Eze is the Executive Director of West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and manages the strategic partnership between AU, ECOWAS and WANEP by which WANEP provides early warning data, analysis, assessments, and recommendations. In 2016, he served as Senior Adviser on Mediation to the SRSG in Guinea Bissau and led the development of the Early Warning System of the Government of South Sudan in 2009. He holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Strategic Studies and a life Governing Council member and 2nd Deputy President of Institute for Chartered Mediators and Conciliators, Fellow of Society for Peace Studies & Practice, and Fellow of the Danish Fellowship program.

Mr. Nhlanhla Ngwenya is currently the Programme Manager for Open Society Africa's Participation and Expression work. He is the former Team Leader for Information Democracy Pillar at OSISA. Before joining OSF, Nhlanhla was the director of MISA-Zimbabwe, an organization that actively lobbies around the adoption of adequate safeguards for the enjoyment of freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information. He holds a Master's degree in International Development Management (University of Bradford, UK), Masters in Media and Communications Studies (University of Zimbabwe); and other bachelor's degrees. Nhlanhla also written articles on governance, freedom of expression and presented several papers on the same.

Ms. Tiseke Kasambala is the Director of Africa Programs at Freedom House. Tiseke Kasambala has 20 years of experience working in East and Southern Africa on human rights, democracy, and governance. Before joining Freedom House, Tiseke was the Deputy Executive Director and Head of Programs at the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) where she provided strategic leadership and oversaw the implementation of a multimillion-dollar grants program. Prior to that she worked at Human Rights Watch in various leadership positions including as Southern Africa Director and Africa Advocacy Director. Tiseke is a published author, and her opinion pieces have appeared in numerous local, regional, and international news outlets. She holds a master's degree in social science from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Shifting Global Trends and the Future of Governance in Africa

Ms. Juliet Were is the Deputy Executive Director at Women's International Peace Centre a women's rights organization that champions the leadership of women in peacebuilding in Africa. She is a researcher and a trainer. She has designed and led programs and advocacy campaigns to amplify the voices of survivors in conflict. She is a member of the International Association of Facilitators, and an alumni of the International Visitors Leadership Program on Women, Peace and Security; Clingendael Netherlands Institute of International Relations, and The African Women's Leadership Institute. She holds a Masters in Development Studies, and a Masters in Public Health Leadership.

Dr. Jakkie Cilliers is the founder and former executive director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the Institute. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

Dr. Cyril Obi is program director for the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program, bringing his extensive research, networking, and publishing experience on African peace, security, and development to the Council. After completing his doctoral studies in Political Science at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, he joined the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) and was promoted to associate research professor in 2004. Dr. Obi is currently a research associate of the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa; a visiting scholar to the Institute of African Studies (IAS), Columbia University; and an adjunct professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY).

About the Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding

This conference is held as part of the Wilson Center's Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (SVNP).



The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding: Centering African knowledge and agency is key to building and sustaining peace in Africa. The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (SVNP) works with the Wilson Center's Africa Program to attain the most appropriate, cohesive, and inclusive policy frameworks and approaches for achieving sustainable peace in Africa. Generously sponsored by Carnegie Corporation of New York since its establishment in 2011, the SVNP works to generate African knowledge to inform US

and international peacebuilding policies on Africa; help build the next generation of African peacebuilders through its scholarship program; and create a pan-African network of African peacebuilding organizations, practitioners, and experts to collaborate and share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned on peacebuilding in Africa.

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The SVNP is a continent-wide network of African policy, research and academic organizations that works with the Wilson Center's Africa Program to bring African knowledge and perspectives to US, African, and international policy on peacebuilding in Africa through the following:

- Hosting scholars from the network for a 3-month residency at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.
- Organizing first-class conferences that link members to one another and to US policymakers and practitioners
- Producing best-in-class policy analysis through briefs, reports, and posts on the Africa Program blog, Africa Up Close

Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Scholarship Program

As a critical component of the Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding, the Wilson Center Africa Program hosts scholars from member organizations for a 3-month resident scholar program in Washington, D.C. The scholarship program creates the opportunity for select individuals to complete a policy-oriented research project and engage with US policymakers and practitioners, increasing the visibility and influence of their work.

The program specifically aims to bring local context and knowledge to bear on promoting sustainable peace in fragile states in Africa. Research conducted through the SVNP Scholarship Program must relate to the topics of peacebuilding and state-building in Africa, including governance; human security; economic development and trade; science, technology, and innovation; youth empowerment; gender; and Africa's evolving role in the global arena.

Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Members

The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding includes many top policy research organizations in Africa, with a focus on peacebuilding and state-building throughout the continent. Current members include:

- African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) – Ghana
- African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) – Kenya
- African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) – Kenya
- Center for Democratic Development (CDD) – Ghana
- Center for Media, Democracy, Peace and Security (CMDPS) – Kenya
- Center for Policy Studies (CERPS) – Liberia
- Centre d'Etudes Pour l'Action Sociale (CEPAS) – DRC
- Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix (CERAP) – Cote d'Ivoire
- Centre for Conflict Management (CCM) – Rwanda
- Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES) – Cote d'Ivoire
- Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) – South Africa
- Initiative for Public Policy Analysis (IPPA) – Nigeria
- Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR) – Senegal
- Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD) – South Africa
- Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) – Ethiopia
- Institute for Security Studies (ISS) – South Africa HQ
- Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda) – Rwanda
- Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC) – Uganda
- The Sadeq Institute – Libya
- The Sudd Institute – South Sudan
- University of Pretoria Department of Political Science – South Africa
- West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) – Ghana HQ
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars – United States

About the Wilson Center Africa Program

The Wilson Center Africa Program addresses the most critical issues facing Africa; builds stronger, more mutually beneficial US-Africa relations; and enhances understanding of Africa in the United States.

The Africa Program has four programmatic pillars:

- Good governance and leadership
- Conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and security
- Trade, investment, and sustainable development
- Africa's evolving role in the global arena

The Program maintains a cross-cutting focus on the roles of women, youth, and technology, which are critical to Africa's future: to supporting good governance, to securing peaceful communities, to assuring sustainable development, and to enhancing international dialogue.

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Appendix 3: Participant and Speaker Biographies

SVNP Representatives

Dr. Sandy Africa is the Director at the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs at the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa. She has also been associate professor within the department of political sciences since 2008. Africa has served as deputy director-general corporate services of the State Security Agency in South Africa's government and as an independent consultant to various other government agencies. She has also worked within the Ministry for Intelligence Services, the South African Secret Service, the National Intelligence Agency, and the African National Congress. Africa received the gold and silver Intelligence Services Award for Outstanding Leadership in 2006 and 2005, respectively. She holds a Ph.D. in Management from the University of Witwatersrand and a MA in African Politics from the University of South Africa.

Dr. Fonteh Akum is the executive director of the ISS. He is the former head of the Lake Chad Basin programme in the Dakar office. He joined the ISS in 2017 as a senior researcher in the Peace and Security Research Programme in Pretoria, after which he moved to ISS Dakar as a senior researcher. Before joining the ISS he worked for the United States Department of Defense, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, and the Africa Program of the United Nations University for Peace. Fonteh's research covers violence, governance and human security in the Lake Chad Basin. He has a PhD in politics and international studies from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Dr. Boubacar Barry holds a PhD from Purdue University (USA). He has 42 years of research experience in the fields of water and soil conservation with organizations such as ISRA, UNDP, FAO, USAID and IWMI. His research interests include hydrology, hydrogeology, irrigation and drainage. His work is supported by his expertise in GIS, numerical and stochastic modeling and expert systems. Dr. Barry is also a research associate at IPAR a think tank based in Dakar working in rural development in Africa and since November 2019 to March 2022, he assisted the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar on the themes "Water and Rural Development" and "Water and Cooperation". He is also since November 2017 Chairman of the Technical Committee of Experts of GWP-AO (Global Water Partnership -Africa Section).

Dr. Jakkie Cilliers is the founder and former executive director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the Institute. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

Mr. Batu Coskun is a research fellow at the Sadeq Institute. He is a political risk analyst, and his research focuses on Turkish affairs. He holds an MSc in comparative politics from the London School of Economics.

Mr. Beza Dessalegn is currently an Assistant professor at Addis Ababa University, Institute of Peace and Security Studies. His research interests focus on minority rights, federalism, human rights, transitional justice and constitutional law. He has published extensively on matters relating to electoral laws, minorities, and federalism in Ethiopia.

Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze is the Executive Director of West Africa Network for Peacebuilding and manages the strategic partnership between AU, ECOWAS and WANEP by which WANEP provides early warning data, analysis, assessments, and recommendations. In 2016, he served as Senior Adviser on Mediation to the SRSG in Guinea Bissau and led the development of the Early Warning System of the Government of

South Sudan in 2009. He holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Strategic Studies and a life Governing Council member and 2nd Deputy President of Institute for Chartered Mediators and Conciliators, Fellow of Society for Peace Studies & Practice, and Fellow of the Danish Fellowship program.

Mr. Roland Henwood is a political scientist and commentator based at the University of Pretoria. Currently a lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences, Mr. Henwood holds a BA(Hons) from the University of Pretoria. He is a frequent contributor to both South African and international newspapers and media programmes. He has published widely in academic journals and has presented papers at conferences in South Africa, the USA, Europe and China.

Dr. Christopher Isike is a Professor of African Politics and International Relations in the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria and Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Pretoria (ACSUS-UP), South Africa. A political scientist and Africanist, his research interests include diaspora diplomacy of African diaspora in America, peace and conflict studies, women and political representation in Africa, rethinking state formation in Africa, African immigration to South Africa, and the science and practice of politics in a digital era. Isike is the president of the African Association of Political Science (AAPS), having just completed a term as vice president of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). He also is editor-in-chief of Africa's foremost political science journal, *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies*, and serves on the editorial board of several reputable international journals.

Dr. Alex Jiya is a Research and Policy Analyst working with the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), a research and policy institute whose vision is for an Africa where evidence is used consistently to transform lives. At AFIDEP, he works as an acting Theme Lead for the Governance and Accountability work and as a Project Lead for the Africa Integrity Indicators (AII) project. The Africa Integrity Indicators focuses on African governance, examining how policies are implemented to support states, citizens, and civil society in assessing key socio-economic and political mechanisms across the continent. He has a PhD in Governance and Regional Integration, and his research focuses on economic and political governance and development.

Ms. Eugenia Kayitesi is the Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research IPAR-Rwanda. She is an Honors Graduate of Social Sciences from Makerere University with an MBA from Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands. She is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Business Administration specializing in Strategic Management from Jomo Kenyatta University. She is an Advisory Board member of Africa Portal, a research repository and an expert analysis hub on African Affairs based in South Africa, a Board Member of KIM University in Kigali, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA Rwanda). She sits on the National Independent Review Panel (NIRP) for the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA). She has worked with both public, private, and civil society organizations with a focus on capacity building, organizational development, policy analysis, and research and has featured in regional and international workshops and conferences both as a participant and a panelist. She is a God-fearing wife and a mother of four.

Dr. Vuyo Mjimba is an international development researcher who brings more than 10 years of commercial enterprise experience and insights to his work. An analytically clear and innovative thinker, Dr. Mjimba specializes economic development sustainable industrialization, mining and industrialization nexus, climate change and green economy where he has worked in and with trans, inter, and multidisciplinary research and teams. He has proven ability in translating broad objectives into cost-effective, practical and measurable results through efficient organization and deploying of resources and establishing rapport within diverse disciplines. Vuyo has links and has work in trans-border, trans-, inter and multidisciplinary projects with researchers in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The links are in a variety of organizations that include the private and the public sectors, universities, the World Bank, African Academy of Sciences and AfricaLics.

Dr. Aggée Shyaka Mugabe is currently the Acting Director of the Centre for Conflict Management (CCM). Previously he was the Coordinator of Master's Programmes of the CCM, including joint Masters with Rwanda Defense Force and Rwanda National Police for three years (2013-2015). He is a former faculty dean and now a member of the Rwanda National Gender Reference Group. He serves the country in different capacities, including teaching, researching and advisory services. Dr. Mugabe was born on February 23, 1974. He studied Communication at the University of Rwanda (1996-2001), and Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies (University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, 2003-2004). He holds a PhD degree in the same field from the Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium (2005-2009). His areas of specialization include post conflict reconstruction, conflict transformation, transitional justice, policymaking and good governance and gender, among other subjects.

Prof. Fredrick Ogenga is an Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies and the Director of the Center for Media, Democracy, Peace, and Security, both at Rongo University, Kenya. He is the CEO of the Peacemakers Corps Foundation Kenya, an NGO that builds peace through technology working with the youth. Ogenga is a Letsema Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, Senior Non-Resident Research Fellow at the Institute for Global for Global African Affairs, University of Johannesburg and the West Indies, a Swiss National Science Visiting Research Fellow, at Swisspeace, Associate Researcher at the Africa Studies Center, University of Basel. He is also a former Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Scholar at the Wilson Center, Washington DC. Ogenga founded Maskani Commons, a digital peacebuilding movement, in collaboration with BuildUP that uses social media tools for positive interventions online and offline.

Dr. Emmanuel Owusu-Sekyere is the Director of Research, Policy & Programs for ACET where he leads thought leadership, drives ACET's research portfolio, and oversees ACET's Economic Management and Governance program, including managing staff and program fellows, and ensuring alignment with ACET's five-year strategy and theory of change. Emmanuel is an economist with nearly thirty years of experience consisting of diverse roles in the public sector, private sector, academia, and research. He has extensive experience and expertise in private sector consulting, financial sector development, project design, management and implementation, applied macroeconomics, and econometric modeling. His published works cover various topics, including macroeconomic determinants of currency volatility, links between democracy and enhanced economic growth, and remittances' impact on development outcomes.

Dr. Nicholas Ozor holds a double Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension from the University of Nigeria and in International & Rural Development from the University of Reading, United Kingdom. He is currently the Executive Director of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) in Nairobi, Kenya—Africa's leading Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Think Tank. He was formerly a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Extension, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Dr. Ozor has led and is currently leading many internationally funded research projects bordering on STI; agriculture and food systems; climate change; policy development, analysis and advocacy; technology management and transfer; and private sector engagements among others. He is a member of many professional organizations, and he has published over 120 articles in reputable international peer-reviewed journals and other multimedia channels. Dr. Ozor has raised over 50 million dollars (USD) in grants to support development work in Africa.

Dr. Edem Selormey is the Director of Research at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana). She was, until recently, the Director of Capacity Building for the Afrobarometer Network. Before then, she was the Field Operations Manager for the Anglophone West Africa, East Africa, and North Africa for the Afrobarometer Network, a leading survey project that measures Africa's social, political, and economic atmosphere. Edem Selormey is a founding staff of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) with several years of industry experience, working in various positions at the Center. She has considerable research experience and knowledge in social accountability mechanisms and

the politics of development in Sub-Sahara Africa. She graduated from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, obtaining a doctoral degree in development studies.

Mr. Olusegun Sotola is a governance and policy researcher and a Senior Researcher with the Initiative for Public Policy Analysis (IPPA), an independent policy think tank based in Lagos, Nigeria. He contributes regularly to policy debate in Nigeria and Africa through policy-relevant research, media interviews and legislative public hearing. He has been part of several policy research projects and dialogues. He holds a Ph.D. in Public and Development Management from Stellenbosch University South Africa and master's degree in Political Science from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Ms. Juliet Were is the Deputy Executive Director at Women's International Peace Centre a women's rights organization that champions the leadership of women in peacebuilding in Africa. She is a researcher and a trainer. She has designed and led programs and advocacy campaigns to amplify the voices of survivors in conflict. She is a member of the International Association of Facilitators, and an alumni of the International Visitors Leadership Program on Women, Peace and Security; Clingendael Netherlands Institute of International Relations, and The African Women's Leadership Institute. She holds a master's degree in Development Studies, and a master's degree in Public Health Leadership.

[External Participants](#)

Ms. Cecily Brewer is the Special Advisor to the Vice President for Africa for the Office of the Vice President. Brewer has worked for the US Department of State since June 2009. She was a foreign affairs officer in the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, working on fragile states. She also served the Office of the Special Envoy to Sudan, where she works on negotiation and policy issues regarding Sudan and South Sudan. In her time at the State Department, she has facilitated strategic planning and assessment processes at US embassies in Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and the Central African Republic. She received her master's in international relations and international economics from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and holds a bachelor's from Amherst College.

Amb. Johnnie Carson was sworn in as assistant secretary of state for the bureau of African affairs, on May 7, 2009. Prior to this he was the national intelligence officer for Africa at the National Intelligence Council, after serving as the senior vice president of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. (2003-2006). Ambassador Carson's foreign service career includes ambassadorships to Kenya (1999-2003), Zimbabwe (1995-1997), and Uganda (1991-1994); and principal deputy assistant secretary for the bureau of African Affairs (1997-1999). Earlier in his career he had assignments in Portugal (1982-1986), Botswana (1986-1990), Mozambique (1975-1978), and Nigeria (1969-1971). He has also served as desk officer in the Africa section at State's bureau of intelligence and research (1971-1974); staff officer for the secretary of state (1978-1979), and staff director for the Africa Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives (1979-1982). He has a bachelor's in history and political science from Drake University and a master's in international relations from the School of Oriental and Africa Studies at the University of London.

Dr. Annie Barbara Chikwanha is an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg. Previously, she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Zimbabwe. Chikwanha also worked with the Afrobarometer Network as a researcher in 2002. After completing her PhD, she joined the Institute for Security Studies as a Senior Research Fellow. Chikwanha's main academic interests are in democracy and governance, focusing on rule of law, elections, peace and conflict, human security, and political science research methodologies. She also maintains a keen interest in the African Governance Architecture and the associated challenges of linking the governance and peacebuilding processes in Africa, as well as

comparative politics, Africa's criminal justice systems and their impact on democratization, and issues of conflict-sensitive methodologies for conflict zones.

Ms. Tiseke Kasambala is the Director of Africa Programs at Freedom House. Tiseke Kasambala has 20 years of experience working in East and Southern Africa on human rights, democracy, and governance. Before joining Freedom House, Tiseke was the Deputy Executive Director and Head of Programs at the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) where she provided strategic leadership and oversaw the implementation of a multimillion-dollar grants program. Prior to that she worked at Human Rights Watch in various leadership positions including as Southern Africa Director and Africa Advocacy Director. Tiseke is a published author, and her opinion pieces have appeared in numerous local, regional, and international news outlets. She holds a master's degree in social science from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

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Ms. Asafika Mpako is the Communications Coordinator for Southern Africa at Afrobarometer. Prior to joining Afrobarometer, she worked at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation on enhancing democracy, governance and human rights in Africa. Asafika's academic and professional experiences span four continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Her studies have taken her from Cape Town to Beijing to London, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Cape Town, and master's degrees from Peking University and the London School of Economics. As a Mandela Washington Fellow, she worked with the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Africa program in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Nhlanhla Ngwenya is currently the Programme Manager for Open Society Africa's Participation and Expression work. He is the former Team Leader for Information Democracy Pillar at OSISA. Before joining OSF, Nhlanhla was the director of MISA-Zimbabwe, an organization that actively lobbies around the adoption of adequate safeguards for the enjoyment of freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information. He holds a master's degree in International Development Management (University of Bradford, UK), Master's in Media and Communications Studies (University of Zimbabwe); and other bachelor's degrees. Nhlanhla also written articles on governance, freedom of expression and presented several papers on the same.

[Carnegie Corporation of New York Participants](#)

Dr. Cyril Obi is the program director for the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program, bringing his extensive research, networking, and publishing experience on African peace, security, and development to the Council. After completing his doctoral studies in Political Science at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, he joined the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) and was promoted to associate research professor in 2004. Dr. Obi is currently a research associate of the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa; a visiting scholar to the Institute of African Studies (IAS), Columbia University; and an adjunct professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY).

Mr. Kehinde Togun is the Managing Director of Public Engagement at Humanity United. He has led global democracy and governance programs for over 15 years. He was previously a senior director at The Arkin Group, specializing in international risk management, business intelligence, and strategic advisory. Prior to

Arkin, he led programs at PartnersGlobal and the National Democratic Institute, focusing on civil society strengthening, elections, governance, and security reform programs. He has worked in Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Kehinde is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a non-resident fellow at the Centre for Democracy and Development. He holds a master's degree from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

[Wilson Center Staff](#)

Ms. Oge Onubogu is the Director of the Wilson Center Africa Program. She is a governance and democracy professional with nearly two decades of experience on Africa and U.S-Africa relations, including working with African governments, international partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Ms. Onubogu most recently was the Director of the West Africa Program at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), where she led the strategic development and expansion of USIP's portfolio in Nigeria and Coastal West Africa. Prior to USIP, Ms. Onubogu was a Program Manager at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) where she managed citizen engagement, elections, and political party strengthening programs in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, and South Africa. Ms. Onubogu also worked as the Program officer for West Africa at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), where she managed a multi-million-dollar grants portfolio to civil society organizations across Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Cameroon. Ms. Onubogu holds a master's degree in International Development from the Heller School at Brandeis University, and an undergraduate degree in International and Area Studies from the University of Oklahoma. She also holds a Public Leadership Credential from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Ms. Gamuchirai Pamela Mhute is the Program Associate with the Wilson Center Africa Program where she previously worked as a Program Assistant (Director's Office). Prior to joining the Wilson Center, Gamuchirai served as an International Programs Intern with the International Peace and Security Institute. She received her B.A in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park. She recently received her M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University. Originally from Zimbabwe, Gamuchirai is fluent in Shona and is interested in peacebuilding in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms. Kyra Chambers is the Program Coordinator with the Wilson Center Africa Program. She received her M.A. in International Relations from the University of Maryland, College Park. She additionally obtained her B.A. in Government and Politics (International Relations) and a joint minor in Black Women's Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park. Kyra has a professional background in event planning and administration. She hopes to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through our cross-cutting focus on women, youth, and technology.

Ms. Cheri Ayers is the Communications Coordinator with the Wilson Center Africa Program. She obtained a Master of Mass Communications from Louisiana State University with an emphasis in Strategic Communications. She also received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and pursued a minor in Graphic Communications from the University of Southern Mississippi. Cheri's multifaceted experience as a creative includes design, advertising, social media management, and copywriting. Her inspiration as a creative is to promote awareness, knowledge, and understanding about Africa globally.

Appendix 4: Participant List and Contact Information

SVNP Representatives

Dr. Sandy Africa
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Appendix 5: List of 2022 Conference Action Items and Deliverables

2022 SVNPA Annual Conference Action Items and Deliverables

Action Items

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1. SVNPA Conference Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVNPA Director's to return conference feedback survey to Wilson Center Africa Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returned
2. Confirm topic and host country 2023 Annual Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVNPA Director's shared top topics suggestions on post-Conference surveys, or via email if you did not attend the conference Wilson Center Africa Program will share the list suggested topics (ranked by most "votes") for the conference with the SVNPA members SVNPA member organizations will provide feedback on the suggested topics list Wilson Center Africa Program will confirm dates for next year's conference (current planning is around same dates, mid 2023) Directors from Southern Africa will coordinate and propose the location and co-hosts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined, Pretoria, South Africa
3. Follow-up re: North Africa Regional Policy Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR to send proposed dates Host: Sadeq Institute with assistance from other members Location: TBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed, September 2023
4. SVNPA Blog Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR will send a call for submissions with each member org ideally submitting 2 blogs over the next grant cycle October 2022 – September 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing from August 21
5. Africa: Year in Review Submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR to send Call for Submission for AYIR 2022 to SVNPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed and published.
6. SVNPA Scholar Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR to update applications and distribute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed

Deliverables

DELIVERABLE	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
1. 2022 Annual Conference report and Session Readout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson Center Africa Program will draft the Annual Conference report Wilson Center Africa Program will finalize the report and disseminate to all conference participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulated, November 2022
2. Africa Year in Review 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send Call for Submission for AYIR 2022 Publish January 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed and published January 2023

Appendix 6: List of 2023 Conference Action Items and Deliverables

2023 SVNP Annual Conference Action Items and Deliverables

Action Items

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
1. SVNP Conference Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVNP Director's to return conference feedback survey to Wilson Center Africa Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returned, September 2023
2. Confirm host country 2024 Alumni Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson Center Africa Program will confirm dates for next year's conference (current planning is mid 2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson Center Africa Program will send out email to all Alumni and organizations with dates and location (Washington, D.C.).
3. North Africa Regional Policy Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR to send proposed dates Host: Sadeq Institute with assistance from WANEP Location: Accra, Ghana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed, September 2023
4. SVNP Blog Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR will send a call for submissions with each member org ideally submitting 2 blogs over the next grant cycle October 2022 – September 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing from August 21
5. Africa: Year in Review Submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR to send Call for Submission for AYIR 2022 to SVNP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2023
6. SVNP Scholar Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR to update applications and distribute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2023
7. AFR to propose and share enhanced SVNP scholar alumni engagement ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFR will draft ideas from conference and share with Directors for comment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
8. Follow-up regarding CCNY Alumni Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa Program will re-send form to Directors to gather information needed for CCNY Alumni Database Directors to return the Alumni Database Spreadsheet updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing

Deliverables

DELIVERABLE	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
9. 2023 Annual Conference report and Session Readout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson Center Africa Program will draft the Annual Conference report Wilson Center Africa Program will finalize the report and disseminate to all conference participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2023
10. Africa Year in Review 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send Call for Submission for AYIR 2022 Publish January 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2023 January 2024

Appendix 7: 2022-2025 Grant Objectives and Deliverables

DELIVERABLE	QUALITATIVE
1. Continue the scholarship program e. Host 9 scholars f. Conduct 9 internal events and 9 public events g. 18 publications h. 27 Mentorship Meetings and networking opportunities (minimum) i. 1 Updated SVNP Alumni Database	e. Scholars build ability to engage with and inform U.S. policy on peacebuilding in Africa by presenting their research at public events alongside U.S.-based policymakers. f. Scholars strengthen scholarly research and policy formulation skills in producing papers for U.S., African, and international policymakers g. Scholars build broader networks through mentorships opportunities, and build skills through social media and interview training. Measures: event RSVP/attendee lists, webcast views, engagement with policymakers; meeting trackers; anecdotal feedback, scholar surveys.
2. Host 2 annual conferences c. 2023 & report (Southern Africa) d. 2025 & report (Washington, DC)	d. Capacities of and connections among SVNP member organizations built and opportunities for collaboration developed. e. SVNP as a go-to resource for the peacebuilding policy and practice field bolstered. f. Senior-level engagement on critical peacebuilding issues, including with U.S. and international policymakers facilitated. Measures: RSVP/attendee lists, attendee survey responses, engagement with policymakers
3. Host 1 SVNP Alumni Conference d. 2024 & Report	e. Enhance alumni engagement and overall strength of the Network f. Invigorate policymaker connections g. Boost network capacity
4. Host 3 regional policy workshops e. North Africa (2023) f. East Africa (2024) g. Central Africa (2025) h. 3 Workshop Reports	h. Give member organizations more ownership of the SVNP. i. Nurture organizational collaboration at the regional level j. Provide an avenue for SVNP members to engage in dialogue and inform policymakers on a key peacebuilding issue of significant relevance to their region. Measures: workshop reports, surveys/evaluations, RSVP/attendee lists, engagement with regional and international policymakers
5. Host 2 Congress/USG Meetings or Engagements d. 2 Meeting Readouts	e. Enhance Congressional and/or USG outreach (e.x., Congress Masterclass with SVNP experts) Measures: event RSVP/attendee lists and webcast views, engagement with policymakers
6. At least 2 partnership or collaborations with other CCNY grantees.	b. Consolidate, build on, and leverage strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations to both amplify and extend the reach of the SVNP and those of the broader Africa peacebuilding community of practice. Measures: event RSVP/attendee lists and webcast views, engagement with policymakers

7.	<p>Increase dissemination and uptake of SVNPN products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Improve tracking metrics g. Translate 6 SVNPN paper (carryover) h. Migrate/Redesign AFR Up Close blog i. Publish joint research papers and award 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Continue to amplify African voices and perspectives and strengthen Africa Up Close and SVNPN publications as a port-of-call for research d. Disseminate SVNPN research products in English, French, and Portuguese <p>Measures: publication dissemination, readership and views, analytics</p>
8.	<p>Knowledge Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 26 Network Blog b. 2 Joint research papers c. 10 Scholar Alumni papers d. 12 Quarterly Analytics reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build the communications capacities and portfolio of scholars <p>Measures: publication dissemination, readership and views, analytics</p>
9.	<p>Populate and continue to update the SVNPN Databases (Fellowship, Alumni, Information)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Provide CCNY with up-to-date contact information of our SVNPN scholars

Appendix 8: Suggested Topics for the 2025 SVNP Annual Conference

Governance, Democracy, and Stability

- Governance, accountability, and peacebuilding in Africa
- Triggers to insecurity or instability in Africa
- Constitutionalism, electoral democracy, and militarization of politics in Africa
- Democratic decline in Africa: causes, issues, and prospects

Peace Processes

- Rethinking peacebuilding normative frameworks and the impact of intergovernmental organizations
- Peace processes in Africa or implementation of agreements: status and challenges

Development

- Peace for development — how to achieve that?
- Economic development as a peacebuilding tool: facts and fallacies

Technology and peace

- Technology and peacebuilding in Africa
- Digital transformation and peacebuilding in Africa

Countering extremism

- Positive interventions online for countering violent extremism
- Hate speech and violent extremism as a barrier to peacebuilding in Africa

Climate and Natural Resources

- Climate change and justice and associated economic impact in Africa
- Climate change, conflict, and peacebuilding
- Good governance of natural resources for achieving peace in Africa

Regional and Geo-political influence on Africa

- Africa's regional integration and sustainable peace
- Impact of geo-politics on peace and security in Africa
- Africa and the geo-political development conversation
- Geo-political focal points in Africa (the Gulf of Aden, the conflict in East Africa, Egyptian ambition in the region, Libyan conflict)
- Great powers and Africa (Russia, especially the Wagner group and Libya/Algeria; China; US; France)
- Middle powers and Africa (Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE; considering soft power, economic relations, and military engagement)

Gender

- An issue that encompasses gender issues in Africa



SYNP 2023 Conference Participants at Freedom Park in Pretoria, South Africa