



APSTA and African Union Commission Host Validation Workshop for AU PSO Training Policy, 12 – 15 December 2023 in Nairobi Kenya

Experts from member institutions of the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) and African Union Commission validated the draft AU PSO Training Policy, 12 – 15 December 2023 in Nairobi Kenya. Recall that the validation is sequel to the Experts Roundtable on the document in October 2022 as well as several reviews conducted on the 2006 ASF Training Policy and 2006 ASF Training Standards, the result of which was a merger of both documents into the draft AU PSO Policy.

The Validation workshop convened a total of twenty-one (21) experts, from APSTA Member Institutions, RECs/RMs, AU Commission, UNOAU, independent experts and consultants including observers from UNITAR – courtesy of APSTA Secretariat.

In four (4) days, the experts validated the contents of the draft policy, against the PSO Doctrine (2021), the ASF Policy Framework and other related documents. Areas of focus included the Training Architecture and Principles of the Training Policy; Stages and Levels of Training Process; Training Responsibilities; Training Cycle; Funding, Cooperation and Coordination; as well as articulation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Training Policy. This revised policy, after review and adoption by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS), will serve as new basis for the preparation of ASF/ PSO components for possible deployment into AU PSOs. Its noteworthy that the draft policy includes the imperative for the AU Commission to reinforce coordinating mechanisms like APSTA.

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS NEWS



KAIPTC - Ghana : Experts Meeting Commences at University of Ghana, Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD)



The experts meeting to discuss “The Evolution of African Peace Operations and Best Practices for Future African-led Peace Support Operations” has begun at University of Ghana, Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD). The meeting is a side event to the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting currently taking place in Accra, Ghana. The experts meeting is being organized in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Accra, The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), the University of Ghana, Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), the Training for Peace programme (TfP) and the Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON) ...

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IPSTC - Kenya : Director IPSTC Joins CS Defence For Bilateral Talks In Ghana

While attending the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference, Director IPSTC Brigadier J C Sitienei accompanied Kenya's Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Hon Aden Duale, for bilateral talks with the European External Action Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues, Ms Helena Konig, in Accra, Ghana.

During the talks, Hon. Duale expressed his gratitude to the EU for supporting IPSTC in the pursuit of peace in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region. Moreover, he reiterated Kenya's continued commitment as a continental contributor to matters of peace and security.

The talks also included continued advocacy for regional peace and security initiatives, through mobilization of funds, political efforts, humanitarian assistance and monitoring ...

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ACCORD - South Africa : South African women peacebuilders drive awareness and action



Workshops on South African SA NAP on WPS supported by ACCORD.

The Capacity Strengthening Initiative (CSI) by ACCORD has made remarkable progress this year in empowering local women peacebuilders. As part of this initiative, 'In Our Backyard' community workshops were organized in the provinces of Northern Cape, North West, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Western Cape between August and November 2023. These workshops aimed to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge about the South African National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (SA NAP on WPS) among local communities.

The women peacebuilders who had undergone capacity-building training conducted these workshops and facilitated discussions that focused on the diverse strategies and pillars outlined in the SA NAP on WPS. The workshops encouraged active participation, particularly from women, in implementing ...

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AFRICA NEWS



Data analysis on the impacts of illicit drugs in West Africa: The ECOWAS Commission officially launches the WENDU report (2020-2022)



In the context of addressing drugs and their consequences in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in collaboration with ENACT (Enhancing Africa's capacity to respond to transnational organised crime) project, has officially launched the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) Report 2020-2022, in Accra, Ghana on 27 November 2023.

This significant event brought together various participants including WENDU Focal Points, National Offices for combating drugs in ECOWAS Member States civil society organisations, and nearly seventy-five online participants including students, researchers, institutes, development partners, and other international organizations interested in drug-related data. The WENDU report offers valuable insights into the statistics and trends on illicit drug supply and use in the West African region.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. SINTIKI Tarfa UGBE, Director of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, on behalf of Prof. Fatou Sow SARR, Commissioner of Human Development and Social Affairs at the ECOWAS Commission, commended the implementers of the Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime (ENACT) for their support for the WENDU Report. She stressed the importance of this report and the policy brief, which will greatly assist the ECOWAS Commission and its partners in identifying critical areas of drug prevention ...

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AU & RECS/RMS HEADLINES**Chief Of General Staff Of Burkina Faso Armed Forces Visits Rwanda**

The Chief of General Staff of the Burkina Faso Armed Forces, Brig Gen Célestin SIMPORE and his delegation are in Rwanda for an official visit from 9th to 11th November 2023. This afternoon, he visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial and paid respect to the victims ...

[Source](#)

**Guidelines to operationalise the Network of Women Mediators in SADC validated**

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and UN Women convened a workshop from the 29th of November to the 1st of December 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa ...

[Source](#)

**The Republic of Mali's Envoy Meets the ECOWAS Commission President, Expressed Commitment to Ongoing Democratic Transition Efforts**

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Dr Omar Alieu Touray, welcomed His Excellency Moustapha Traore, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mali to ECOWAS at the ECOWAS Commission headquarters ...

[Source](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

 **UNiTE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls! #No Excuse**

THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

#NOEXCUSE

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS ISN'T AN EXPENSE. IT'S AN INVESTMENT.

#NOEXCUSE



Violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world. Globally, an estimated 736 million women - almost one in three - have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life.

This scourge has intensified in different settings, including the workplace and online spaces, and has been exacerbated by post-pandemic effects, conflicts, and climate change.

The solution lies in robust responses, including investment in prevention. However, alarmingly, data on how much nations are committing to counteract violence against women and girls remains glaringly sparse.

For instance, just 5% of government aid is focused on tackling violence against women and girls, and less than 0.2% is directed to its prevention.

We need more investment in women's organizations, better legislation, prosecution of perpetrators, more services for survivors, and training for law enforcement officials ...

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Peacekeeping This Month - December 2023

The APSTA “Peacekeeping This Month” is an Online Journal for interested institutions and individuals to express informed opinion or share perspectives on all matters peacekeeping, peace operations or peace support operations (PSOs). The Secretariat: was able to cover stories in Africa on peacekeeping as follows :

Countries uphold commitment to UN Peacekeeping at 2023 Ministerial in Ghana



United Nations The head of UN Peacekeeping, Jean-Pierre Lacroix addresses the 2023 Ministerial in Ghana.

More than 90 countries underlined their commitment to UN Peacekeeping during a two-day conference in Accra, Ghana, that concluded on Wednesday. The [2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial](#) also saw new pledges, including of personnel and training, to meet current and future challenges and needs.

Peacekeepers serve in the world’s most volatile environments and the threats they face are greater than

ever, with rising geopolitical tensions, more complex conflict, and the weaponization of digital tools against them and the communities they serve. Missions are also being given ambitious mandates that are often beyond their capacity to deliver.

Pledging support

A total of 91 countries and three international organizations expressed their collective commitment and political support for peacekeeping at the 2023 Ministerial - the latest ...

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