



## DAILLAIRE INSTITUTE'S WORKING VISIT TO APSTA



The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) received a high-level delegation from the *Daillaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security* on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at its Secretariat in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The visit formed part of ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration on child protection, peace support operations, and capacity development across Africa. The delegation was led by **Arsene Tshidimu**, Project Director, and supported by **Francisca Mujawase**, Deputy Director for Advocacy and Partnerships. They were warmly received by the Executive Secretary of APSTA, **Cecile Oyono Thom**, together with staff of the Secretariat. The meeting took place at APSTA's Situation Room (SR).

### Opening Remarks and Purpose of the Visit :

In her welcome address, **Dr. Oyono Thom** expressed appreciation for the visit and underscored the importance of strengthening institutional partnerships that support peace, security, and community-focused initiatives across the continent. She noted that the timing of the engagement was particularly relevant as APSTA continues to explore strategic pathways for enhanced community engagement, corporate social responsibility initiatives, and strengthened peace support operations in Africa. The primary objective of the meeting was to advance the promotion of the *Vancouver Principles* in Sub-Saharan Africa (PVPSSA), with a focus on improving the protection of children from grave violations of their rights during armed conflicts. The *Daillaire Institute* emphasized APSTA's strategic importance as a continental partner, citing its extensive network of Centre's of Excellence and collaboration with regional mechanisms across Africa.



**Areas of Collaboration and Strategic Focus :**

The Dailaire Institute delegation outlined key components of their five-year project mandate in Cameroon and beyond, highlighting :

- Policy engagement and advocacy initiatives ;
- Training and capacity-building programmes ;
- Community integration strategies, including Youth for Children, Peace and Security (Y4CPS) ;
- Community dialogues and advocacy platforms ;
- Partnerships aimed at leveraging international and regional expertise and resources.

The delegation expressed optimism that a structured partnership with APSTA would significantly strengthen implementation efforts and enhance regional reach and impact.



**Strategic Discussions :**

The meeting further explored a strategic framework for collaboration, including :

- Organizing round-table engagements at strategic and operational levels ;
- Harmonizing programme and project workplans ;
- Establishing designated focal points for coordination ;
- Engaging directors and heads of training institutions around shared objectives.

APSTA also presented its priority areas for 2026, including the Continental Training Needs Assessment (TNA), development of expert databases, and initiatives focused on conflict analysis and intervention planning.

**Conclusion**

The meeting concluded on a highly positive note, marked by mutual commitment to deepening cooperation and formalizing partnership modalities. Both institutions acknowledged the strong potential for collaborative impact in advancing child protection, capacity building, and peace support operations across Africa. The visit reaffirmed a shared vision and laid the groundwork for sustained institutional engagement between APSTA and the Dailaire Institute in support of their project implementation in Cameroon and the broader Sub-Saharan region.



Selected photos at the meeting : Photo Credit APSTA

## INSPECTION OF THE COMMAND-AND-CONTROL CENTRE PROJECT AT EIFORCES, AWAI



As part of a strategic and tactical-level working visit, the Executive Secretary of APSTA, Dr. Cécile Oyono, led a team for the technical inspection of the Command-and-Control Centre (C2) building project at EIFORCES, Awai. The facility, which is fully financed by the *African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA)*, is designed to establish a state-of-the-art Command, Control and Operations Centre capable of delivering advanced, technology-driven training for contemporary security and peace support operations.

The inspection revealed that, upon completion, the facility will comprise a secure server room, operations and control room, simulation and virtual training room, conference and briefing room, as well as advanced audiovisual, communications, and data management systems. These components are intended to support real-time decision-making, mission planning, operational coordination, and after-action reviews. The Command-and-Control Centre is conceptualized in line with modern *C4ISR* architecture, integrating situational awareness tools, secure communications, data fusion, interoperability platforms, and decision-support systems. The inclusion

of virtual reality (VR), simulation-based training, artificial intelligence-enabled analytics, and rapid data-sharing mechanisms reflects APSTA's commitment to aligning training infrastructure with 21st-century security and defense requirements.

APSTA remains confident that the establishment of this Centre directly advances its mandate of investing in knowledge management, innovation, and fit-for-purpose training hubs that enhance operational readiness and institutional capacity across peace and security institutions. During the visit, the Project Manager provided a detailed technical briefing, outlining the project phases, construction milestones, systems integration plans, and progress achieved to date, while highlighting key deliverables and timelines leading to project completion.

Overall, the Command-and-Control Centre at EIFORCES, Awai, is expected to serve as a regional hub for advanced command-and-control training, fostering interoperability, operational coherence, and technology-enabled security governance in line with evolving threat environments.



*Cross-Sectional shots of the PROJECT*

17<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

The 17th African Standby Force Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) was convened by the African Union through the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) from 1–5 December 2025 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Workshop reviewed the implementation status of the 2024–2026 ASF Training Directives, examined training coordination among AU, RECs/RMs, Training Centres of Excellence (TCEs), missions and partners, and deliberated on the efficiency of mandate implementation through reassessed capacity needs. The Workshop underscored the urgent need for a continental Training Needs Assessment (TNA), enhanced standardization of training across institutions, reinforced monitoring, evaluation and compliance frameworks, and stronger partner coordination mechanisms. The role of APSTA as a continental technical backbone for ASF training standardization, knowledge management and quality assurance was strongly reaffirmed.

Deliberations focused on efficiency in mandate implementation, continental TNA 2026, and training directive updates. This was led by Mr. Christian Ichite, the deputy Executive Secretary of APSTA. His comprehensive TNA presentation touched on the approach, dynamics, plan, budget and expectations from all stakeholders. It was set on records that, the TNA is urgently needed to identify gaps, deficits, emerging needs and recommend

sound effective practices and strategy for the entire PSOD, TCEs, REC/RMs and all stakeholders. Key Observations included the urgent need for a continental TNA and capability-driven training planning intended for 2026.

Mission updates, partner support and countering disinformation were key themes. The meeting took key updates from partners, missions and special report from the African conference of commandants. APSTA reported and made key inputs on strategic steps in integrating technology, AI, knowledge management and working on policy framework for improving efficiency on their mandate. The senior knowledge manager of APSTA, Dr. Alexander Odartey Lamptey assured stakeholders of APSTA's commitment in developing tech innovation consistent with AU guidance for improvement. APSTA was applauded for their strides in the Database of experts, Data Mining on conflict and Interventions, and the document library, a repository of data and documents.

Training is a strategic enabler of ASF effectiveness. Evidence-based planning, strengthened standardization, partner coordination and APSTA's knowledge management role are essential to ASF readiness. The continental TNA planned for 2026 was a welcoming plan and timely for execution.

**Source**



*Cross-Section of Participants*

## MEMBER INSTITUTIONS NEWS

 **KAIPTC - GHANA : Acting Commandant Promoted and Confirmed as Commandant**

The Acting Commandant, **Air Commodore David Anetey Akrong**, was promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal and confirmed in his appointment as Commandant of KAIPTC on 23 December 2025. The Chief of Air Staff of the Ghana Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Eric Agyen-Frempong, formally adorned Air Vice Marshal David Anetey Akrong with his new rank insignia at a brief ceremony held at the Air Force Headquarters in Accra on Monday, 29 December 2025. KAIPTC celebrates this milestone and the leadership, distinguished service, and unwavering commitment of the Commandant to the Centre, its vision and objectives to strengthen peace and security in the region... [Read More](#)

 **IPSTC - KENYA**

IPSTC hosted a delegation from the National Defence University - Ghana <sup>GH</sup>, led by Air Vice Marshal Felix Asante, on a benchmarking visit to the Colleges of the National Defence University - Kenya. The visit provided a valuable platform to exchange insights and best practices, as the delegation familiarized themselves with the structure and organization of the Centre.

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## ACCORD - SOUTH AFRICA : Youth peacebuilders shared experiences of political hesitation, bureaucratic delays and administrative processes that move slower than the urgency demanded by their contexts



At the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, a unique convergence unfolded. Young leaders, national focal points, policymakers and peace practitioners gathered not to endorse familiar rhetoric, but to interrogate the real substance of what it will take to secure Africa's future under the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. Convened by ACCORD with regional partners, the reflective seminar on YPS National Action Plans (NAPs) became a rare moment of continental honesty, clarity and renewed purpose. Over the course of two days, the atmosphere was shaped not by celebration but by resolve. Delegates did not shy away from the realities that have marked the past decade. Instead, they confronted them head on, drawing lessons from lived experience, institutional gaps and the evolving political landscape in which young people are expected to lead...

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## IPSS - ETHIOPIA :



On 29 January 2026 the **Institute for Peace and Security Studies - IPS**, in partnership with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), hosted the seminar «Policy Pathways for Localising Digital Technologies for Peacebuilding in Africa» at the IPSS New Conference Hall. Dr Sofka John (SSRC-APN 2025 Research Policy Fellow | Institute for Peace & Security Studies, Addis Ababa) led the discussion with policymakers, analysts, and practitioners. The conversation focused on the growing gap between rapid technological innovation and policy frameworks. Speakers shared practical lessons on why some digital initiatives succeed while others fail when local context is overlooked, offering actionable insights for designing more effective, locally grounded solutions for peacebuilding in Africa...

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## **NDC - NIGERIA : NDC Course 34 Delegation Explores Strategic Partnership with ISEDEF MAPUTO, Mozambique**



In a significant move to bolster regional security cooperation and academic synergy, the Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC) Nigeria, Rear Admiral Abdullahi Ahmed leading a delegation of faculty members and participants of Course 34, paid a strategic visit to the Instituto Superior de Estudos de Defesa (ISEDEF) in Mozambique. The visit, which forms a critical component of the Course 34 Regional Tour, underscores Nigeria's commitment to fostering defence diplomacy and sharing tactical expertise across the African continent.

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## **MRPC - KENYA :**



On 8 January 2026, Dr Robert Kabage, CEO of Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (MRPC), met in Nairobi with Mr Martin Ngunga, CEO of Afri Fund Capital, and their senior management teams from both organisations to kickstart a strategic partnership integrating MRPC's security foresight architecture into Afri Fund's regional infrastructure projects. MRPC, a regional security foresight think tank headquartered in Nairobi and active across 16 countries in Greater Eastern Africa, provides forward-looking risk analysis and strategic advisory services to anticipate and mitigate emerging threats to critical infrastructure...

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 **CCCPA - EGYPT :****Precarious Journeys: Enhancing the Understanding of Mobility Patterns in Africa**18-22 January 2026  
Cairo, Egypt

CCCPA concluded its training titled “Precarious Journeys: Enhancing the Understanding of Mobility Patterns in Africa” that took place between 18-22 January 2026. The training was organized with the support of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands [Ministerie van Asiel en Migratie](#). The training brought together 31 national officials and front-line officers from ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defense, Justice, Social Affairs, Gender, Women and Children as well as representatives from the National Committees on Migration and the Coast Guard Units from Egypt, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen... [Read More](#)

## AU & RECS/RMS HEADLINES

### SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CALLS FOR ACCELERATED REGIONAL INTEGRATION



The Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) concluded their two-day meeting on 13 March 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa with a call for accelerated implementation of regional policies and programmes to advance regional integration and development. The meeting which was held under the theme, “Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC”, was opened and chaired by Honourable Ronald Lamola, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers. Hon. Lamola called for enhanced regional cooperation to make a tangible difference in the lives of the SADC citizens through improved livelihoods, jobs, food security, energy access and resilience, stressing that SADC citizens are looking forward to seeing regional integration producing meaningful economic opportunities and improving their prospects for a better future...

**Authors : SADC**

[Source](#)

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### ECOWAS AND UNOWAS REINFORCE STRATEGIC COORDINATION ON REGIONAL PEACE, SECURITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL



The President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Dr Omar Alieu Touray, received Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of UNOWAS, in Abuja on 24 March 2026, for high-level consultations focused on the evolving political, peace and security landscape across West Africa and the Sahel. The engagement provided a timely platform for strategic exchange, reaffirming ECOWAS’ central role as the primary regional framework for dialogue, coordination and collective action in addressing complex and interrelated challenges affecting the region. The discussions were conducted in a constructive and forward-looking spirit, with both sides emphasizing the importance of coherence, trust and sustained institutional coordination. Particular attention was given to the need to strengthen African-led approaches, ensure alignment among regional and international initiatives, and preserve functional cooperation among Member States as a foundation for stability and integration.

**Authors : ECOWAS**

[Source](#)

## EASF MANAGEMENT HOLDS BRIEFING AHEAD OF PEACE OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP INTERVIEW



On 31st March 2026, the management of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) conducted a high-level briefing session with Lieutenant General Sam Okiding, who was representing the Chairperson of the Eastern Africa Chiefs of Defence Staff. The session was convened as part of the preparatory process for the upcoming interview for the position of Head of the Peace Operations Department. During the briefing, EASF leadership outlined key expectations, operational priorities, and the strategic importance of the role within the organization's broader mandate of maintaining regional peace and security. The engagement underscored the commitment of EASF and regional defence leadership to ensuring a transparent, structured, and merit-based selection process for this critical position. The Head of Peace Operations Department is expected to play a central role in coordinating and strengthening peace support operations across Eastern Africa.

**Authors : EASF**

**Source**



The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA) is participating in NATO's Partnership Training and Education Centres (#PTEC) Marketplace, taking place on the margins of the #NATO Military Strategic Partnerships Conference (MSPC) in Sarajevo from 23 to 26 March 2026. Major General Juan Rodriguez Soto, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Multi-Domain Force Development Directorate at NATO Headquarters Allied Command Transformation (ACT), visited CCCPA's booth, where he commended the wide range of activities undertaken by the Center and its valuable contributions to the work of the NATO PTEC community. For his part, Counsellor Karim Ismail, Deputy Director General of CCCPA, highlighted the Center's extensive training, capacity-building, and research activities across its eight thematic areas of work, aimed at strengthening national capacities, especially in Africa and the Middle East, to address growing peace and security challenges amid increasing regional and global instability.

**Authors : CCCPA**

**Source**

## Peacekeeping This Quarter 2026

The APSTA “Peacekeeping This Quarter” 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** :

### IPSS

Join us on 4 February 2026 as the **Institute for Peace and Security Studies – IPSS** and **#ISS** organize a high-level Pre-AU Summit seminar in Addis Ababa at the Skylight Hotel, New Building, from 10:00 to 12:30 EAT, with online access. Experts and policymakers will analyze **#APSA** reforms amid shifting conflict dynamics and global power trends. The seminar will highlight strategies to enhance institutional effectiveness, subsidiarity, and sustainable financing. What steps should African institutions take to strengthen peace and security in a changing world ? [Read More](#)



### KA IPTC

« Africa is estimated to possess some 40 million small arms and light weapons, of which about 11 million are in West Africa » said **Niloy Banerjee**, UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, representing the Regional Hub Director for West and Central Africa, at the opening ceremony of the two-day Regional Dialogue on Arms and Ammunition Management currently taking place in Accra. in Ghana. Organized by UNDP, in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), and supported by Japan, this regional dialogue brought together more than 50 participants from the African Union, ECOWAS and other regional actors. Welcoming the participants, ... [Read More](#)



## International Peace Support Training Centre - IPSTC



Empowering the next generation of peacekeepers 🌍🌟 The Women’s Military Peace Operations Course, currently underway is a transformative three-week programme equipping military women with critical skills, leadership capacity, and operational knowledge for effective deployment in UN missions. Sponsored by the <sup>GB</sup> United Kingdom, <sup>AT</sup> Austria, and <sup>FI</sup> Finland, the course is strengthening readiness while advancing inclusive peacekeeping. By strengthening their readiness and expanding the pool of qualified women in peace operations, the course is driving meaningful participation, enhancing mission effectiveness, and paving the way for more women to take on strategic leadership roles in global peace and security.

[#WomenInPeacekeeping](#)

[#WomenPeaceSecurity](#)

[#Empowerment #GlobalPeace](#)

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## Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (MRPC)



MRPC and Afrobarometer formalize partnership to strengthen policy research: Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (MRPC) has entered into a strategic partnership with Afrobarometer (AB), the continent's leading provider of public opinion data, to strengthen evidence-based policy research across Africa. The collaboration will advance knowledge exchange, capacity development, and deeper understanding of citizen perceptions, while enhancing analytical approaches to security foresight and governance challenges.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 26 March 2026 by MRPC CEO Brig. (Rtd) Dr Robert Kabage and Afrobarometer COO Mr Felix Biga during the 2026 CEO Conclave and Investors Forum in Nairobi. By combining Afrobarometer's public attitude survey expertise with MRPC's regional conflict risk analytics and foresight research, the partnership aims to support more informed and timely policy responses. [Read More](#)



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