



**APSACO** Talks

African Peace and Security  
Annual Conference

# COVID-19 and Security in Africa

September 23 - 25, 2020

**AGENDA**

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## Brief

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### Context

The outbreak of COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the global order across the globe including Africa. In fact, the pandemic is not just a health issue, the implications are far reaching on the socio-economic, political and security spheres; a development that poses the critical question on Africa's ability to absorb the consequences of COVID-19.

The pandemic has not led to disruptions to peace and security in the region, but protracted impacts from what it could lead to instability in the future. According to the African Union Commission and the UNDP Regional Service Center Africa's jointly published [report](#) (July 2020), most countries are experiencing a period of relative peace, especially across borders, which has not been impacted by COVID-19.

However, inter-communal and inter-ethnic violence continues in some of the countries in the region, which could increase as COVID-19's impact leads to the loss of livelihoods and increased food insecurity. Similarly, civil unrest could worsen with weakened socioeconomic conditions. Extremist groups could use the pandemic to improve their standing and increase their recruitment across the region. Thus, the impact of COVID-19 could lead to increased political instability if peace deals and reforms breakdown.

Further, terrorist and non-state armed groups are also capitalizing on the pandemic to increase attacks. Moreover, by restricting travel and closing borders, African nations hope to curb the spread of the coronavirus. But the measures also affect the movement of peacekeepers and aid, potentially intensifying conflicts.

In the light of all these considerations, this year's commemoration of the African Peace & Security Annual Conference (APSACO) sets out to come to grips with the global issue « COVID-19 and Security in Africa », while focusing on human security with regards to the role and impact of non-state armed groups and private security.

This conference aims to provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences with representatives of international and regional organizations, experts, politicians and civil society actors in order to assess the general performance in the implementation of the COVID-19's related security measures. The conference also intends to debate effective and innovative actions to improve the performance of countries to achieve a relevant implication of the security dimensions on their executions on the ground.

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## Sessions

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### **Panel 1: The security sector in Africa during and after COVID-19 health crisis**

This panel will examine the impact of the pandemic on security sector in Africa while shedding the light on areas that should be enhanced to counter conflicts and crimes under the rule of Law:

- National strategies to counter borders threats
- Securing the fight against COVID-19 and the rule of law
- Exacerbation of pre-existing conflicts
- Strengthening States capacities to limit conflicts and crimes
- New patterns of Post-COVID-19 security in Africa?

### **Panel 2: The privatization of violence in Africa: non-state armed groups and private security**

With regards to human security in Africa, this panel will highlight the evolution of organized crimes in Africa while exploring the privatization of security under international Law:

- Exploitation of the COVID-19 health crisis by extremist groups
- Evolution of organized crime in Africa
- Private actors at the service of human security in Africa, between cohabitation and rejection
- Does the privatization of security contribute to the exacerbation of tensions and conflicts?
- Private military companies in Africa under international law

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## Workshop

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### Workshop 1: Human security index in Africa

This workshop falls within UNECA's contribution to "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". The overall objective of the workshop is to provide an overview of the principles that embody the human security approach and elaborate on the usage of human security as a tool for developing effective policies and programmes by Governments and non-governmental entities, as well as regional and sub-regional intergovernmental institutions towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- Probe human security concepts, practices and methodologies;
- Identify the relevance and significance of developing an African perspective on human security;
- Explore the nexus of economic security, peace, and human security;
- Leverage an AU – ECA human security approach aligned with AU Agenda 2063 and UN 2030 Agenda;
- And develop the set of recommendations that will form the way forward on the efforts of developing a methodology.

### Workshop 2: Global Peace Index

The Global Peace Index is the flagship publication of the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) and is now on its fourteenth edition. The Global Peace Index (GPI) presents one of the most comprehensive data-driven analysis on trends in peace worldwide, the economic value of peace and how to develop peaceful societies. The GPI and its findings are widely used by governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and think tanks.

The GPI covers 99.7% of the world's population by ranking 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. The state of peace is measured on the basis of three thematic domains of Negative Peace: the level of Societal Safety and Security; the extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict; and the degree of Militarisation. Negative Peace is the absence of violence or fear of violence, and is a complement to Positive Peace. In addition to that, the GPI includes an analysis of trends in Positive Peace, which may be defined as the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. The analyses in the GPI are based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources.

This edition of the GPI includes a study on the evolution of civil unrest over the past decade. It also explores new frontiers in research, with featured chapters based on the findings from publication tackling COVID-19 and Peace, and Ecological Threat Register (ETR). In the COVID-19 and Peace report, IEP outlines the global impact of the pandemic, resilience and coping capabilities of countries, and changes in socio-economic systems and in patterns of conflict and violence. It also examines key aspects of the post-pandemic world and comments on forward-looking initiatives to reshape the global economy.

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## Agenda

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### September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

**15h00 – 15h15**      **OPENING REMARKS**

**Rachid El Houdaigui**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

**15h15 – 16h15**      **PANEL 1: THE SECURITY SECTOR IN AFRICA DURING AND AFTER COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS**

*Chair:*                      **Badreddine El Harti**, Principal RoLSI Adviser, UNDP

*Speakers:*                **Yonas Adaye Adeto**, Director, Institute for Peace & Security Studies (IPSS)

**Giovanni Faleg**, Responsible for analysis and research on sub-Saharan Africa, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

**Said Abass Ahamed**, Director, Thinking Africa

**Khalid Chegraoui**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

### September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**15h00 – 16h00**      **PANEL 2: THE PRIVATIZATION OF VIOLENCE IN AFRICA: NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS AND PRIVATE SECURITY**

*Chair:*                      **Alioune Ndiaye**, Head of Peace Division, ICESCO

*Speakers*                **Afua Boatemaa Yakohene**, Research Fellow, Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD)

**Rida Lyammouri**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

**Duncan E Omondi Gumba**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

**Al Mostafa Rezrazi**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

## September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

10h30 – 12h00

### WORKSHOP 1: Human Security Index in Africa

*Speakers*

**Jalal Abdel-latif**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

#### **Framing Human Security in Africa**

**Sara Hasnaa Mokaddem**, International Relations Specialist, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

#### **Approaches and Options in Designing the AHSI**

**Eleanor Keeble**, Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

#### **Challenges of the AHSI construction**

**Saad Badaoui**, Senior data scientist, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

15h00 – 16h30

### WORKSHOP 2: Global Peace Index

15h00 - 15h40

Presentation of the « Global Peace Index »

Chair

**Omayra Issa**, Journalist and News Anchor

Speaker

**Serge Stroobants**, Director Europe and the MENA Region, Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)

15h40 - 16h00

Discussants

**Rama Yade**, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

**Abdelhak Bassou**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

16h00 - 16h15

Q&A

16h15 – 16h30

### CLOSING REMARKS

**Karim El Aynaoui**, President, Policy Center for the New South

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## Biographies

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**Jalal Abdel-Latif,  
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South**

Jalal Abdel-Latif is currently the Governance and Human Security cluster head at the Capacity Development Division at the UNECA. JALAL has over 25 years of professional experience in the areas of corporate social responsibility, civic engagement, grant making, project design and enhancing the capacities of non-profit organizations. He began his career as researcher and capacity analyst at UCLA African studies center. He then worked as Grants manager for USA for Africa (the We Are the World project) in California. He was a co-founder and CEO OF Inter-Africa Group, regional think tank. He was appointed by the late prime minister to serve on the Ethiopian telecommunication Board of directors to assist in its modernization and expansion.



**Yonas Adeye Adeto,  
Director, Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)**

Yonas Adeye Adeto is Director of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS). He is an Assistant Professor of Peacebuilding and Security Sector Governance in Africa in the same Institute at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia since 2007. He obtained his PhD from the University of Bradford, UK (2016). He published peer reviewed journal articles (2018 New York, 2019 South Africa), book chapters (OSSREA, 2012; IPSS 2014; Routledge, London, 2019) and policy papers on Security-Development Nexus (2006, 2016, 2018 and 2019) on the Horn of Africa. He made academic paper presentations in African Studies Association (Washington, D.C., 2016; Chicago, 2017; Naples, 2019). He has also worked on State Fragility and Bad Neighbourhood in the Horn of Africa published in September 2019.”



**Saïd Abass Ahamed,  
Director of Thinking Africa,**

Saïd Abass Ahamed holds a doctorate in political science at the Panthéon-Sorbonne University in Paris. His thesis is entitled Democratizing in times of war: the intervention of the United Nations and the European Union in the Congolese transition 1996 and 2006. His master thesis also focused on the relations between Europe and Africa in the field of politics, rule of law and protection of human rights within the framework of the Lomé Accord. Saïd Abass is currently associate professor in negotiation and geopolitics at Rouen Business School (Rouen, France).

In 2008, Saïd Abass became a facilitator in negotiation and mediation between Congolese politicians, military leaders and certain rebel groups. He was a facilitator in the process of rebuilding the army as part of the establishment of the integrated command center. Finally, in the prosecutor's office of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, he assisted a prosecutor and drafted motions.



**Saad Badaoui,**  
**Senior Data Scientist, Policy Center for the New South**

Saad BADAoui is a Senior Data Scientist at the Policy Center for the New South. He has a PhD in Applied Data Sciences and Financial Mathematics from Imperial College London where he published his papers in leading three stars academic journals. He has a combined experience of more than 12 years working on diverse analytical problems both in academia and the industry. Saad was a Senior Quantitative Index Analyst at a start-up where he designed and constructed indexes for large financial institutions in Wall street, he then lead a team of junior researchers at Fidelity Investments where he worked on various data analytics problems using machine learning and statistics. Before joining the Policy Center for The New South, he was Head of Research at BlackRock where he was responsible for developing, coordinating and driving the research agenda for the EMEA region. Saad is passionate about data sciences and believes that if we can't measure a problem with data then we can't improve it.



**Abdelhak Bassou,**  
**Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South**

Abdelhak Bassou is a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, previously known as OCP Policy Center, who focuses on Security Studies and Strategies and Defense. He occupied several offices within the Directorate General of the Moroccan National Security where he was Borders' Division Chief from 1978 to 1993. He was the former Director of the Royal Institute of Police in 1998. He also served as the Chief of Regional Security (Errachidia 1999-2003, Sidi Kacem 2003-2005) and was also Head of the Central General Intelligence from 2006 to 2009. He also contributed to the output of several international organizations endeavors including the Council of Arab Interior Ministers from 1986 to 1992, where he represented the Directorate General of National Security in several meetings. Abdelhak Bassou holds a Master's Degree in Political Science and International Studies from the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Agdal in Rabat.



**Khalid Chegraoui,**  
**Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South**

Khalid Chegraoui is a full Professor of History and Political Anthropology, Institute of African Studies, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco and Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South. He began his teaching and research career in 1992 as a Research Assistant Professor at Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdallah University in Fez after earning his first doctorate in African Studies from the Mohammed V University in Rabat focusing on West Sub-Saharan Africa. He also earned a Doctorate of State in African Studies from the same University in 2002, where he focused on Contemporary West Africa, in 2003 he become Professor of History and Political Anthropology at the Institute of African Studies, Mohammed V University, consultant on African and Middle East issue and strategic studies. He is currently Director of Research Group: African Politics, a doctoral supervisor at the Mohammed V University, Professor of African History in EGE School of Governance and Economy of Rabat, Polytechnic Mohammed VI University and Director of Africa and Middle East Centre Studies AMES Centre.





**Karim El Aynaoui,**  
**President, Policy Center for the New South**

President of the Policy Center for the New South, and Executive Vice-President of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and Dean of its Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. From 2005 to 2012, he worked at the Central Bank of Morocco where he served as Director of Economics, Statistics and International Relations. He was also in charge of the Research Department and was a member of the cabinet of the Governor. Prior to joining Bank Al-Maghrib, Karim El Aynaoui worked for eight years at the World Bank, as an Economist within the Middle East, North Africa, and Africa regions. He has published books and journal articles on macroeconomic issues in developing countries. His recent work includes co-authored books on renewing Morocco's growth strategy and on the Moroccan labor market. Karim El Aynaoui holds scientific and advisory positions in various institutions. He is a member of the Malabo-Montpellier Panel, the Scientific Council of the Moroccan Capital Market Authority, and the Strategic Advisory Board of the French Institute of International Relations. He is also a global member of the Trilateral Commission. In the past, he served as a member of the COP22 Scientific Committee. He also serves as advisor to the CEO and Chairman of the OCP Group, a world leader in the phosphate industry, and as board member of the OCP Foundation. Karim El Aynaoui holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bordeaux, where he taught courses in statistics and economics for three years.



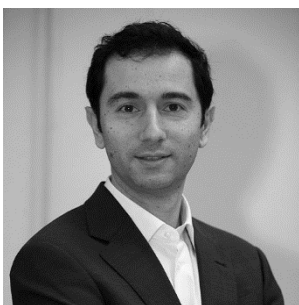
**Badreddine El Harti,**  
**Principal RoLSI Adviser, United Nations**

Badreddine El Harti is a Rule of Law and Security Institutions Director with the United Nations Development Program and Special Adviser to the President of Burkina Faso. Previously, he has been the Deputy, Policy and Doctrine at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York (2011-2015). He has served and supported rule of law and security sector governance and reform processes for the United Nations in Haiti, Central African Republic, Libya and Yemen. At a national level, he held senior positions in the defense institution. Badreddine holds a PhD in Humanities from Mohamed fifth University on "Cross cultural communication" (2001), a Master in Strategic Studies from the Air University in Alabama, US. He also holds a master in defense studies from the Royal Center of high military studies and an aeronautical engineering diploma.



**Rachid El Houdaigui,**  
**Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South**

Rachid EL Houdaïgui is professor of International Relations at Abdelmalek Essaadi University and Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South who focuses on International relations, geopolitics, Mediterranean region, North Africa and the Arab world. He is also professor at Royal College of Advanced Military Studies and professor invited at Cergy-Pontoise University, Cadix University and at La Sagesse University (Beirut). Mr. EL Houdaïgui is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with International relations and geopolitics: the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Arab world. Also, he is co-director of the Moroccan-Spanish review “Peace and International Security” and in charge of the Observatory of Mediterranean Studies (Abdelmalek Essaadi University).



**Giovanni Faleg,**  
**Responsible for analysis and research on sub-Saharan Africa. The European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)**

Giovanni Faleg joined the EUISS in July 2018. He is responsible for analysis and research on sub-Saharan Africa. He focuses on the drivers of state fragility in Africa and the EU’s engagement in the region, particularly conflict prevention and peacebuilding, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and the integrated approach to conflicts and crises.

Before joining the EUISS, he worked at the World Bank (2014-2018) in the fragility, conflict and violence unit; at the Centre for European Policy Studies (2011-2018) and the Istituto Affari Internazionali (2013), focusing on the EU’s foreign and security policy.

Giovanni holds a PhD in European Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science (2014), with a thesis on the evolution of security cooperation in the EU through institutional learning.



**Duncan E Omondi Gumba,**  
**Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)**

Deo Gumba is a research consultant based in Abidjan, Ivory. He publishes regularly on the ENACT Africa and ISS Today websites since October 2017 on security, transnational organized crime as well as national and international politics in sub-Saharan Africa. He continues to carry out research and write for the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) where he was up to 31 July 2020 coordinating the Regional Organized Crime Observatory for East and Horn of Africa under the ENACT (Enhancing Africa’s response to transnational organized crime) Project, which he joined in October 2017. He also carries out daily security and political analysis for BBC Monitoring on national and international politics in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Omayra Issa,  
Journalist & News Anchor,**

Omayra Issa is a journalist and news anchor with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/Radio-Canada, where she covers breaking news and investigates a wide range of stories. Her reporting focuses on the justice system. Prior to this, Omayra worked as a communications manager, where she developed and implemented a strategy for a multimillion-dollar conglomerate of cultural infrastructures. Omayra conducted research on gender and development in rural Niger as the recipient of a scholarship from the Canadian International Development Agency. Omayra also helped establish an organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada. She holds a Bachelors' degree in Economics and English Literature. Born in Morocco, raised in Niger, Omayra is fluent in five languages.

**Eleanor Keeble,  
Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**



Eleanor Keeble is a fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) working at the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) in Ethiopia. She is passionate about making statistics accessible, reliable and usable by policy makers in Africa to improve the lives of citizens and reduce inequality. As a development economist with degrees from the UK and USA, she has focused on Africa and social justice issues. Her professional career has been in economics and statistics and she has worked in both the public and private sectors in Africa and the UK, working with national governments, international agencies and companies. Her commitment is to work with developing country governments, NGOs and private sector stakeholders to enhance technical capability, conduct impact assessments and policy evaluations, and to support social justice programmes especially in the areas of gender and human security. She is currently researching rural to urban migration in Sub-Saharan Africa and its impact on inequality, with a particular focus on gender inequality.



**Rida Lyammouri,**  
**Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South**

Mr. Lyammouri is Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South focusing on geopolitics and international relations issues. He has more than eight years of experience focusing on the North Africa and Sahel regions. His extensive experience supporting governmental and non-governmental organizations includes the areas of international development, security, countering violent extremism, and counter-terrorism. Mr. Lyammouri has elaborated more than 200 in-depth research reports that cultivate deeper understanding of regional and domestic challenges. He has also frequently made programming recommendations to address various security, economic, and political challenges related to a specific region or a country in Africa. Mr. Lyammouri has also presented as an expert at various conferences, including at the National Defense University (NDU), the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in addition to multiple contributions to well-known media outlets such as BBC, NPR, and France24. Mr. Lyammouri holds a Master of Public Policy with an emphasis on National Security from the school of Policy, Government, and International Affairs at George Mason University.



**Sara Hasnaa Mokaddem,**  
**International Relations Specialist, Policy Center for the New South**

Sara Mokaddem is an International Relations Specialist in the Geopolitics and International Relations' research program at the Policy Center for the New South. Prior to that, she has worked as a research analyst in charge of specific due-diligence reporting and risk analysis on private placements for a London-based investment fund focused on the mining and energy sectors. She has also worked with firms and individuals on attaining FCA authorization and regulation in the United Kingdom. Her previous professional experience includes a position as a visiting researcher at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in 2011 and 2012 where she has produced research on the post-revolutionary situation in Tunisia and Libya and on the security of the Sahel. Having written modules on corporate forensics and on employee protection as part of the certificate in corporate security policy, Sara was a member of the RUSI academic team for the ACTIS center for security policy. She holds an MBA in Finance and International Management supported by an analysis on the piracy off the coast of Somalia and its effects on the insurance business, and a Master's degree in International Relations and Security with a dissertation on the Northern Mali conflict (2012) completed at Westminster University.



**Alioune Ndiaye,**  
**Head of Peace Division, ICESCO**

Alioune Ndiaye is Head of Peace, Governance and Citizenship Division in the Directorate of Human and Social Sciences at the Islamic World Educational, scientific and cultural organization (ICESCO).

He has served as a Lecturer at University of Sherbrooke Canada and a trainer in geopolitics at Canadian Institute of Foreign Service. Alioune Ndiaye has an extensive experience as a lecturer in Canadian universities, as consultant on peace and security for governmental and international institutions and as a trainer on leadership in peace and security for youth and civil society organisations.

His latest publications include, "Beyond Identities and Ideologies: the Multiple Dynamics of Insecurity in Nigeria", "Nigeria under Buhari: from economic diversification to social federalism, and "Africa in India's foreign policy: the new ambitions of New Delhi in Africa".



**Al Mostafa Rezrazi,**  
**Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South**

Dr El Mostafa Rezrazi is a professor of Crisis Management, and Security Studies and a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, who focuses on Terrorism, Security and East Asia studies. His area of Expertise covers Afro-Asian Affairs, Strategic & Security Studies, Terrorism, Extremism and Deradicalization, mainly from the view of Criminal; Legal and Forensic Psychology. He got his Ph.D. in Regional & International Affairs from the University of Tokyo in 1998, and later a Doctorate from the University of Mohammed V on the Psychological dynamisms of Suicide Bombers (2014). He is the executive director of the Moroccan Observatory on Extremism and Violence, Director of the African Center for Asian Studies, Rabat. Currently, he is Visiting Professor at the University Mohammed V Rabat. In 2017, was appointed a Co-coordinator of the OBOR China-Morocco Research Group, and a member of the Advisory Board of The Euro-African Studies Institute, Hanyang University Seoul, South Korea. Rezrazi is the president for the second term of the Moroccan Association for Asian Studies. Dr Rezrazi has served in the past as a distinguished professor in the school of law of Sapporo Gakuin University (Japan), a professor & Deputy Director of the Institute of International Relations in Haboromo University in Osaka (Japan). A political Analyst at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research in Abou Dhabi, and was also a Visiting Fellow in Princeton University, USA.



**Serge Stroobants,**  
**Director Europe & MENA, Institute for Economics and Peace**

Serge Stroobants is the Director of Operations for Europe and the MENA region at the Institute for Economics and Peace. He is a former Colonel in the Belgian Armed Forces with an academic specialization in political sciences, international relations, security and defense, global risk analysis, foresight and crisis management. He holds degrees from the Belgian Royal Military Academy, the Free University of Brussels, Université Jean Moulin Lyon III (France), the German General Staff College and Vesalius College. He is an Assistant-Professor at Vesalius College in Brussels, teaching courses on NATO and the Transatlantic approaches to security and on Global terrorism and radicalization. He is considered to be a senior academic specialist on global terrorism and radicalization in Belgium and Europe, with numerous conference and media interventions on this topic. He is a senior fellow at the Atlantic Treaty Association, the Irish College of the KU Leuven and the Global Governance Institute. He is a senior associate at the European Institute for Asian Studies and the Global Institute for Cybersecurity Technologies. He is the founder of BANTS Consulting, his own strategic security consultancy company.



**Rama Yade,**  
**Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council**

Ambassador Rama Yade is a Senior Fellow in the Atlantic Council's Africa Center and a teacher of African affairs at Sciences-Po Paris. She is also a consultant for the World Bank, advising the institution and private sector partners on education, youth, sports, and disability issues in Africa.

Yade has over a decade of experience working in French, European, and international politics. At the age of thirty, she was appointed as the deputy minister for foreign affairs and human rights of the Republic of France, the first woman of African descent to become a member of the French cabinet. She was subsequently appointed to the position of deputy minister of sports in 2009. In 2010, Yade was appointed as the ambassador of France to UNESCO. During her government service, Yade focused on democracy and the rule of law, women's rights, child protection, the struggle against homophobia, and freedom of speech issues.

Prior to her political and diplomatic career, Ambassador Yade was a high civil servant in the French Senate and developed a deep knowledge of worldwide parliamentary networks as the executive director of the France-West Africa Parliamentary Friendship Group. In 2007, Yade was appointed by the ruling Union pour un mouvement populaire party as a national delegate for Francophonie. She is also the founder and executive director of the think tank Allons Enfants and a member of the Young Global Leaders Forum and the French club Le Siècle. After serving France, Ambassador Yade's aim is to serve the African continent where she was born.

Ambassador Yade received a master's degree in political science and public affairs from Sciences-Po Paris. Yade is the author of several books, including Blacks of France, Human Rights Explained to Children from 7 to 77 years, Letter to the Youth, Advocacy for a Public Instruction, A Chronicle of Power, and Anthology of Sexism in Politics.



**Afua Boatemaa Yakohene,  
Research Fellow, Legon Centre for International Affairs and  
Diplomacy (LECIAD)**

Afua Boatemaa Yakohene is a Research Fellow at the Legon Centre of International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana, Legon, where she teaches Africa in World Politics, Gender and International Relations and Research Methodology inter alia. She was educated at the University of Ghana (BA and MPhil) and the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento, Pisa, Italy (Ph.D). She examines and supervises Masters and Doctoral students across the wide spectrum of international affairs at the University of Ghana and the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College. Her research and publication areas include Peacebuilding, Governance and Gender issues in Africa. She also has experience in consultancy, training, workshop facilitation, teaching and research on diverse areas of governance, gender, peace and security. Afua has had the privilege of being a part of various African Union trainings, workshops and rostering exercises geared towards establishing the African Standby Force. She is currently a member of the Greater Accra Regional Peace Council.



## About the Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank aiming to contribute to the improvement of economic and social public policies that challenge Morocco and the rest of the Africa as integral parts of the global South.

The PCNS pleads for an open, accountable and enterprising "new South" that defines its own narratives and mental maps around the Mediterranean and South Atlantic basins, as part of a forward-looking relationship with the rest of the world. Through its analytical endeavours, the think tank aims to support the development of public policies in Africa and to give the floor to experts from the South. This stance is focused on dialogue and partnership, and aims to cultivate African expertise and excellence needed for the accurate analysis of African and global challenges and the suggestion of appropriate solutions.

As such, the PCNS brings together researchers, publishes their work and capitalizes on a network of renowned partners, representative of different regions of the world. The PCNS hosts a series of gatherings of different formats and scales throughout the year, the most important being the annual international conferences "The Atlantic Dialogues" and "African Peace and Security Annual Conference" (APSACO).

Finally, the think tank is developing a community of young leaders through the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders program (ADEL) a space for cooperation and networking between a new generation of decision-makers from the government, business and civil society sectors. Through this initiative, which already counts more than 300 members, the Policy Center for the New South contributes to intergenerational dialogue and the emergence of tomorrow's leaders.

[www.policycenter.ma](http://www.policycenter.ma)