



CONCEPT NOTE

PEACE DAY EVENT

I. Background and Rationale

On 31 August 2009, the Assembly of the African Union (AU) meeting in Tripoli declared 2010 to be *A Year of Peace and Security in Africa*. The main message of the Year of Peace and Security is, *2010 Make Peace Happen*. Furthermore, in its recent Kampala Summit, the Assembly of the African Union [AU Assembly/ AU/DEC. 275 (XIV)] called on partners including the Institute for Peace and Security (ISS) to work in partnership with the AU towards the realisation of *the Year of Peace*. Paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Declaration states that the main objective of the Year of Peace and Security is to show the commitment of African countries to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflict and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Year of Peace and Security has been celebrated with various kinds of events including the destruction of arms, lighting the flame of peace, football games, peace journeys, and workshops in various parts of Africa and the world at large. The ISS is among the few partner institutions of the AU Commission participating in its *Make Peace Happen in 2010 and beyond campaign*. The ISS is expected to assist the AU Commission by 'supporting various outreach initiatives. Accordingly, in its August 4-5, 2010 meeting, the Management Committee of the ISS decided that each ISS office would organise an event to celebrate Peace Day. The campaign *2010 Make Peace Happen* focuses on 21 September which is an international *Day of Peace* that resulted from the UN decision in 1982.

II. EIIPD and ISS: Partnership for Capacity Building

Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD) is an autonomous think-tank institute working on policy research, capacity building and training to promote cooperation and partnership between Ethiopia and the International Community. EIIPD and ISS have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 28 2007 to conduct a joint research, seminars, capacity buildings and information exchange programmes. They also agreed upon to conduct a diplomatic training through the ISS Africa Peace Academy (APA). The bilateral cooperation of the two Institutes is flourishing in the area of peace, good governance, democracy, climate change and natural resources management. In this regard the two Institutes are now working to utilize their partnership toward the popularization of the

AU Year of Peace and Security. EIIPD, in collaboration with ISS, will lead in the organization of events in marking of the *Peace Day*.

III. ISS: Partner of the AU in *the 2010 Make Peace Happen and Beyond Campaign*

ISS is one of the largest policy research institutes in Africa with more than 140 staff mainly from 17 African countries. A truly Pan-African organisation, the ISS established an office in Addis Ababa in 2005 following several years of work with the AU and IGAD. The ISS is an established think tank working in the area of human security in Africa. It seeks to mainstream human security perspectives into public policy processes and to influence decision makers within Africa and beyond. The objective of the Institute is to provide timely empirical research and contextual analysis of relevant human security issues to policy makers, executive bodies, advocacy groups, and the media.

IV. Events for Peace Day

The ISS intends to partner with the Department of Peace and Security of the AU Commission and the Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD). There will be three separate events to mark Peace Day:

1. With the AU Commission: *Awards of ISS Publications*

The ISS has approached the AU Department of Peace and Security which is working on lesson plans for schools on peace and security issues. It has also planned for competition awards between schools. The ISS will award some of its publications to the winners of these competitions.

2. With EIIPD

a. A Candlelight Vigil for Peace—with the Mayor of Addis Ababa

On the evening of 20 September, as prelude to Peace Day, the Mayor and other officials of AU, ISS and other organs together with high school students, will attend a candlelight vigil. The Addis Ababa City Government and the Mayor of Addis Ababa will be requested to name a street as 'Peace Street or Peace Avenue'.

b. Messages of Peace from Key Personalities on The Peace Day

On 21 September, a half day event will be organized. This event will be dedicated for brief and direct peace statements by key personalities including the AU Commission, IGAD, ISS, EIIPD, and the Ethiopian Government as host.

II. Objectives of the Events

In these two events, the varied organs of the AU, Embassies of the Member States of the AU, Liaison Offices of RECs, UN agencies, other key institutions universities and well known personalities will be invited. Apart from nurturing sustainable partnership ISS on the 2010 Make Peace Happen, with the AU Member States, host country and EIIPD, these events will also further expand the reach, visibility and influence of ISS.

Specifically the Project's objectives are to:

1. Support the AU in its 2010 Make Peace Happen and Beyond campaign;
2. Consolidate and strength constructive engagement between the ISS, AU Commission, Embassies of Member States the AU , Liaison Office of the RECs and other relevant institutions in the field of human security;
3. Enhance greater public awareness on the 2010 Make Peace Happen campaign and the Year of Peace and Security within the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa and the public at large.

V. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

1. Outputs

The outputs include

1. Publications of ISS awarded to students and disseminated to participants;
2. Two events with EIIPD conducted;
3. Press Release and Media Advisory Issued; and
4. Messages of Peace posted on ISS and AU website.

2. Outcomes

The outcomes include:

5. Improved knowledge and understanding of the Year of Peace and Security and the 2010 Make Peace Happen Campaign and the challenges at continental and regional levels;
6. Improved awareness and knowledge about the added value of the ISS in the realm of human security on the continent;
7. Enhanced solidarity and partnership mechanisms for ISS with AU, RECs and Ethiopian authorities and institutions as well as civil society organizations working on peace and security issues;
8. Cooperation with AU Commission, IGAD, Ethiopian Government, EIIPD and the Media strengthened;
9. Contributions of ISS to the 2010 Make Peace Happen Campaign strengthened; and
10. Events receive maximum coverage.

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