



ÓBUDAI EGYETEM
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International Conference on
**Counter-terrorism, Technology
& Development in Africa**

20 September 2023

CONFERENCE BOOKLET

2023

**Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University
Budapest, Hungary**

**Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS), Stellenbosch University
Stellenbosch, South Africa**

**International Conference on
Counter-terrorism, Technology & Development
in Africa**

20 September 2023

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2023

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ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS

Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary

The Africa Research Institute (ARI) was established in February 2019 within the framework of the Doctoral School of Safety and Security Sciences at the Óbuda University.

ARI's activities include academic research, higher education, organising scientific conferences, publishing research findings, consultancy, country-specific trainings, interviews for the media. The main fields of research of the Institute include African peacekeeping missions, terrorist and separatist organisations and terrorist activities in Africa, humanitarian response operations, food security and sustainable Africa, migration, the Global South and the Visegrad Countries and Africa.

The Research Institute publishes its own, double-blind peer-reviewed English language quarterly, the '*Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies*' (JCEEAS) (<https://jceas.bdi.uni-obuda.hu/index.php/jceas>). Senior research fellows of ARI provide the majority of the lecturers for the '*Humanitarian Response Manager*' international post-grad course. ARI has two yearly conferences, the '*Counter-terrorism, Technology & Development in Africa*' conference in cooperation with Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and the '*The Visegrad countries and Africa: history and contemporaneity*' conference with the Jagiellonian University, Poland and Stellenbosch University.

Additionally, ARI has multiple, various types of involvements in medical, educational, food safety-related and agricultural missions with its partners in several countries throughout the African continent (Ethiopia, Malawi, DRC, Kenya, etc.)

Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS), Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

The Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS) was established in 1990 and is part of the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of its research, CEMIS conducts research on defence and security issues, including, but not limited to, defence policy, resource management, leadership, technology, non-traditional threats to security and defence governance. It collaborates with various national and international academic institutions on specific themes. In addition to its academic activities, which include research, teaching, and academic supervision of post-graduate students, it also regularly undertakes research as part of the decision-support and advisory services to the Department of Defence on complex and strategic matters. Its team comprises full-time staff members and research fellows from institutions inside and outside South Africa.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő, Head of Institute, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary

Dr. Mathieu Gotteland, Analyst, Initiative pour la Paix et la Sécurité en Afrique, IPSA, France

Dr. Moses B. Khanyile CD(SA), Director, Centre for Military Studies Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Comfort Mkhize, Associate Professor, International and Diplomacy Studies, Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, University of South Africa, South Africa

Dr. habil Szabolcs Pásztor, Associate Professor, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary

Captain (SAN) Dr. Dries Putter, Senior Lecturer at Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Zoltán Rajnai, Dean, Bánki Donát Faculty of Mechanical and Safety Engineering, Óbuda University, Hungary

Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk, Newton International Fellow, University of South Wales

Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Pierre Scherman, Researcher, Centre for Military Studies, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Hussein Solomon, Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, Senior Professor in the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Director of the Institute for National and International Security, Serbia

Pieter Van Ostaeyen, Researcher, Counter Extremism Project

Dr. David Vogel, Senior Research Fellow, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p style="margin: 0;">Stellenbosch</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">UNIVERSITY IYUNIVESITHI UNIVERSITEIT</p> </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 20px;">  <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">ÓBUDAI EGYETEM ÓBUDA UNIVERSITY</p> </div> </div>
<p style="margin: 0;">2023 International Virtual Conference on "Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Development in Africa"</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">Co-hosted by the Óbuda University, Hungary and the Stellenbosch University, South Africa 20 September 2023; Time: 08h30 for 09h00 - 16h30 (GMT+2)</p>

09h00	Moderators: Prof. dr. János Besenyő, Óbuda University, Hungary - Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Plenary Session (Please click here to join)
09h00 - 09h10		Welcoming by the Moderators
09h10 - 09h40		"Terrorism in the Sahel after the coup in Niger" Keynote Address by Senior Professor Hussein Solomon, Free State University, South Africa

	Moderators	Dr. Mathieu Gotteland, Université Paris, France	Dr. habil Szabolcs Pásztor, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary - Dr. David Vogel, Óbuda University , Hungary	Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Institute for National and International Security, Serbia	Pieter Van Ostaeyen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
		Lt Col J.P. Scherman, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Prof. Comfort Mkhize, University of South Africa	Dr. Dries Putter, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk, Fulbright University, Vietnam
		Panel-1: Human Security	Panel-2: Socio-Economic Development	Panel-3: Technology & Cyber- Security	Panel-4: Leadership & Governance
		MS Teams Link (Please click here to join)	MS Teams Link (Please click here to join)	MS Teams Link (Please click here to join)	MS Teams Link (Please click here to join)
09h45 - 10h05		Presenter-1	Presenter-1	Presenter-1	Presenter-1
	Name & Surname	Dr. Kaleab T. Sigatu	Dr. Robert C. Castel	Rohan Malhotra	Mmaphuti Felicia Langa
	Institution	Defence War College, Ethiopia	Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Israel	Symbiosis School of International Studies, India	Óbuda University, Hungary
	Title of Paper	Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia: Will transition from AMISOM to ATMIS pacify Somalia?	The Car-Parts Incubator Goes to War: What We Got Wrong About Military Innovation	Tech's the bomb: Countering terrorists' use of social media and messaging apps in Africa	An assessment of South Africa's vulnerability to terrorism financing and the counter- terrorist financing framework
10h05 - 10h25		Presenter-2	Presenter-2	Presenter-2	Presenter-2
	Name & Surname	Dr. Hendrik Snyders	Nyandoro Omuria	Dr. Dries Putter	Dr. Getachew Toma Bilate
	Institution	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	University of Public Service, Hungary	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Ethiopian Civil Service University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ethiopia
	Title of Paper	"Safe areas and red zones?" - Ambulance and related attacks as an emerging security threat in South Africa	Status Counter Terrorism Measures in Nairobi County, Kenya	Intelligence in Asymmetric Conflict – South African Perspectives	Terrorists and Intricate Security Apprehensions and Institutional Perspectives in the Horn of Africa

10h25 - 10h45		Presenter-3	Presenter-3	Presenter-3	Presenter-3
	Name & Surname	Ilas Touazi	Dr. László Pálfi	Dr. Alta Grobbelaar	Ralitsa Savova
	Institution	University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghin Sétif "2", Algeria	Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary & Pilecki Institute, Poland	University of the Free State, South Africa	University of Pécs, Hungary
	Title of Paper	Africa, a new hotspot for the Wagner Group: between the dynamics of intra-jihadist groups and the privatisation of counter-terrorism	Russia's Relationship with Post-apartheid African Countries and the Former Portuguese African Colonies: A Comparative Study Based on Historical Context	Cyberterrorism in Africa – is this the real life, is this just fantasy?	Socio-cultural and Educational Perspectives on Africa: A case study from Zimbabwe
10h45 - 11h05		Presenter-4	Presenter-4	Presenter-4	Presenter-4
	Name & Surname	Dr. Tobias Burgers & Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk	Dr. Péter Gergő Juhász	Dr Moses B. Khanyile	Prof. em. William Hansen
	Institution	Fulbright University Vietnam, Vietnam" -"International Centre for Policing and Security, University of South Wales, United Kingdom Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary	Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	American University of Nigeria, Nigeria
	Title of Paper	The "Wagner factor" and beyond? The United Nations, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and New Technologies	Food supply chain as an element of the critical infrastructure	Africa's Relations with BRICS & the MERCUSOR: Prospects for Defence Industry Collaboration	Banditry, Terrorism and State Failure: The Politics of Religion, Identity and the Transition to Modernity in Northern Nigeria
11h05 - 11h20	COFFEE BREAK				
11h20 - 11h40		Presenter -5	Presenter-5	Presenter-5	Presenter-5
	Name & Surname	Animesh Roul	Prof. dr. Luz Marina Mateo	Dr. Rachael M. Rudolph	Pieter Van Ostaeyen

	Institution	Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, India	National University of La Plata, Argentina	Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai, China Bryant University, USA Nichols College, USA	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
	Title of Paper	Al Shabaab's propaganda campaign in the face of ineffective counter terrorism strategy	Plunder of natural resources and the pending right of self-determination as obstacles to economic development and peace: the case of Western Sahara	China and the Islamic State in the Sahel: An Assessment of Potential Threats to Chinese Interests	Assessing al-Qaeda and The Islamic State in the Sahel - 2023
11h40 - 12h00		Presenter-6	Presenter-6	Presenter-6	Presenter-6
	Name & Surname	Dr. Mathieu Gotteland	Prof. dr. Darko Trifunovic	Colonel Ditebogo P. Mashigo	Andreea Dincă
	Institution	Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, France	Institute for National and International Security, Serbia	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	West University of Timisoara, Romania
	Title of Paper	Somalia's foreign relations in the Context of the Latest Offensive Against al Shabaab	Contemporary security threats in Africa	The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa: The Influence of Technology and Africa's Cybersecurity Developmental Concerns	Fake news, real security threats. The role of Russian disinformation campaigns in fueling terrorism in Africa.
12h00 - 12h20		Presenter-7	Presenter-7	Presenter-7	Presenter-7
	Name & Surname	Dr. Getachew Toma Bilate & Assmamaw Wubishet Aweke	Prof. Amparo Pamela Fabe & Joan Andrea Toledo	Szilvia Veress Juhaszne	Dr. Andrea Hanna Sólyomfi & Győző Atkári
	Institution	Ethiopian Civil Service University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ethiopia - School of Management, Wuhan University of Technology, China	University of South Wales, Armed Forces of the Philippines	Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary	Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University & Hungarian Defence Force, Hungary

	Title of Paper	Migration and Human Security-Related Risks in the Horn of Africa: Analysis of EU and AU Institutional Cooperation Effectiveness	Picking up the Tab: Al Shabaab's Economic Costs of Terrorism and Kenya's Counter-Terrorism Efforts	International food safety alarm systems. The RASFF and the TRACES	The changing dynamics of terrorism in Africa under the shadow of the Russia-Ukraine war
12h20 - 13h00		Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion
13h00 - 13h30	LUNCH BREAK				
13h30 - 13h50		Presenter-8	Presenter-8	Presenter-8	Presenter-8
	Name & Surname	Lt Col J.P. Scherman	Prof. dr. János Besenyő	Mancha Johannes Sekgololo	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Dr. Tobias Burgers
	Institution	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	International Centre for Policing and Security, University of South Wales, United Kingdom Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary - Fulbright University Vietnam, Vietnam
	Title of Paper	"Fighting to survive" - South African National Defence Force <i>ad hoc</i> tasks in an era of mission uncertainty	The impact of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on Africa	Unleashing the Cyber Sentinel: Exploring the Interplay of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in South Africa's National Cybersecurity and Its Implications for National Security and Counter-Terrorism	The expansion of Chinese policing and surveillance models, and African security governance: technological fix or security fixation
13h50 - 14h10		Presenter-9	Presenter-9	Presenter-9	Presenter-9
	Name & Surname	Animesh Roul	Zsolt Szabó	Richard Schneider	Galgallo Abagaro
	Institution	Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, India	Károly Catholic University, Hungary,	Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary	National University of Public Service, Hungary

	Title of Paper	Between Sahara and Savannah: An examination of the Sahel region as the epicentre of violent extremism in Africa and states' counter-terrorism responses	The Security Policy Effects of the Algerian-Moroccan-Spanish Debate on Gas on Europe in the light of the Russian-Ukrainian War	Artificial intelligence for crisis management - new approaches in Africa using the example of Uganda	The Role of Social Media in Radicalization in Kenya
14h10 - 14h30		Presenter-10	Presenter-10	Presenter-10	Presenter-10
	Name & Surname	Prof. Aleksandra Skrabacz & Dr. Patrycja Bryczek-Wróbel	Dr. Primrose Sibusisiwe Mlambo	Francis Kwesi Kyirewiah	Marcell Pintér
	Institution	Institute for Security and Defence, Faculty of Security, Logistics and Management, Military University of Technology, Poland	Freelance Researcher	School of International and Public Affairs, Jilin University, China	Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary
	Title of Paper	Immigrant security in a culturally different environment. The Polish Experience after the Arab Spring	The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa Under the Shadow of the Russia-Ukraine War	The Triangle of Instability in Africa and the assessment of the African Union's countermeasures	The Impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Competition over Africa from the Chinese Perspective
14h30 - 14h50		Presenter 11	Presenter-11	Presenter-11	Presenter-11
	Name & Surname	Colonel Dr. Shaul Shay	Dr. Attila Novak	Dr. Gallous Atabongwong	Prof. Dr. Roger Kibasomba Man-Byemba
	Institution	International Institute for Counter Terrorism Policy, Reichman University, Israel	National University of Public Service, Hungary	University of Pretoria, South Africa	University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
	Title of Paper	The Russian involvement in the Sahel and the Maghreb regions	Israel's relations with emerging African states - in the light of Hungarian state security documents from the first half of the Kádár era	Coup d'états and counterterrorism in the Sahel: flip-flopping accusatory discourse	Drivers of chaos in the Eastern DR Congo warfare
14h50 - 15h10		Presenter 12	Presenter-12	Presenter-12	Presenter-12

	Name & Surname	Tibor Pintér	Csaba Szeremley	Jordán Petrócz	Nyandoro Omuria
	Institution	Doctoral School of Faculty of Law at University of Szeged, Hungary	Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences of the Óbuda University, Hungary	Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary	University of Public Service, Hungary
	Title of Paper	The ISCAP in the shadow of the Russian-Ukrainian war	Role of risk analysis in food safety	Turkish military training in Somalia	Perception of Corruption among Civil Servants in Migori County, Kenya
15h10 - 15h50		Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion
15h55		<u>Plenary Session (Please click here to join)</u>			
15h55 - 16h20	Feedback from Moderators	Feedback: Panel 1	Feedback: Panel 2	Feedback: Panel 3	Feedback Panel 4
16h20 - 16h30		Closing Address by Prof. Dr. Zoltán Rajnai, Óbuda University, Hungary			
16h30		Closure			

PLENARY SESSION
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő, Óbuda University, Hungary (besenyo.janos@bqk.uni-obuda.hu)

Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (mosesk@sun.ac.za)

09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming by the Moderators
09:10 – 09:40	Keynote Address by Senior Professor Hussein Solomon (Free State University, South Africa): <i>Terrorism in the Sahel after the coup in Niger</i>
09:45 – 15:50	<i>Panel sessions</i>
15:55 – 16:20	Feedback from the panels
16:20 – 16:30	Closing Address by Prof. Dr. Zoltán Rajnai (Óbuda University, Hungary)

PANEL 1
HUMAN SECURITY
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Dr. Mathieu Gotteland, Université Paris, France (mathieu.gotteland@gmail.com)

Lt Col Jean-Pierre Scherman, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (schermanj@sun.ac.za)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Dr. Kaleab T. Sigatu** (Defence War College, Ethiopia):
Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia: Will transition from AMISOM to ATMIS pacify Somalia?
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Dr. Hendrik Snyders** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
“Safe areas and red zones?”- Ambulance and related attacks as an emerging security threat in South Africa
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Ilas Touazi** (University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghin Sétif “2”, Algeria)
Africa, a new hotspot for the Wagner Group: between the dynamics of intra-jihadist groups and the privatisation of counter-terrorism
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Dr. Tobias Burgers & Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk** (Fulbright University Vietnam, Vietnam – International Centre for Policing and Security, University of South Wales, United Kingdom, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The “Wagner factor” and beyond? The United Nations, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and New Technologies
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Animesh Roul** (Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, India):
Al Shabaab’s propaganda campaign in the face of ineffective counter terrorism strategy
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Dr. Mathieu Gotteland** (Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, France):
Somalia’s foreign relations in the Context of the Latest Offensive Against al Shabaab
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Dr. Getachew Toma Bilate – Assmamaw Wubishet Aweke** (Ethiopian Civil Service University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ethiopia - School of Management, Wuhan University of Technology, China):
Migration and Human Security-Related Risks in the Horn of Africa: Analysis of EU and AU Institutional Cooperation Effectiveness
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

- 13:30 – 13:50 **Lt Col J.P. Scherman** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
“Fighting to survive” - South African National Defence Force ad hoc tasks in an era of mission uncertainty
- 13:50 – 14:10 **Animesh Roul** (Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, India):
Between Sahara and Savanah: An examination of the Sahel region as the epicentre of violent extremism in Africa and states’ counter-terrorism responses
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Prof. Aleksandra Skrabacz – Dr. Patrycja Bryczek-Wróbel** (Institute for Security and Defence, Faculty of Security, Logistics and Management, Military University of Technology, Poland):
Immigrant security in a culturally different environment. The Polish Experience after the Arab Spring
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Col Dr. Shaul Shay** (International Institute for Counter Terrorism Policy, Reichman University, Israel):
The Russian involvement in the Sahel and the Maghreb regions
- 14:50 – 15:10 **Tibor Pintér** (Doctoral School of Faculty of Law at University of Szeged, Hungary):
The ISCAP in the shadow of the Russian-Ukrainian war
- 15:10 – 15:50 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Dr. Kaleab T. Sigatu (Defence War College, Ethiopia):

Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia: Will transition from AMISOM to ATMIS pacify Somalia?

Somalia hosted more than ten peacekeeping missions since the 1990s. Namely, United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I), Operation Allied Provider, United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II), Unified Task Force (UNITAF), African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), EU Training Mission (EUTM Somalia), European Union Naval Force Somalia (Operation Atalanta), (EU NAVFOR Somalia), EU Regional Maritime Capacity Building for the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean (EUCAP Somalia), United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), and United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). Currently, African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) replaced AMISOM with its mandate end in 2024, with full transition of security operations to the Somali National Armed Forces. The aim of this paper is briefly analyze the peace support operations in Somalia and their outcome and most importantly the current mission of ATMIS, its fight against Al-Shabaab, insurgency and bringing the desired peace and stability in Somalia.

Dr. Hendrik Snyders (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

“Safe areas and red zones?”- Ambulance and related attacks as an emerging security threat in South Africa

Recently, South Africa witnessed an upsurge in the number of attacks on ambulances and emergency medical personnel while on duty. Some of these attacks are of a purely criminal nature aimed at stealing both state property (the vehicle, equipment and medication) and the personal belongings of individual EMS personnel (cellular phones, money, jewelry etc.). The other category included cases of manhandling, intimidation and physical attacks by either family of a patient or others for no reason other than that the functionaries in question had to exercise their professional judgment with regard to either appropriate care, or the best or nearest location for hospitalization of a victim. Often EMS personnel find themselves in the wrong place, such as during a service-delivery protest during which they became a target for an already agitated mob. Whether they are victims of criminal intent or merely accidental victims, these attacks disrupt the effective rendering of public health services. This is manifested by significant increase and absence from work in the number of stress-related and other trauma illnesses among EMS personnel. Collectively, suspension of emergency care services, death of patients, the designation of no-go or red zones off-limits to ambulances without a police escort, or the need for the demarcation of ‘safety-zones’, undermines public confidence in the ability of the state and its organs. This situation is aggravated by the existence of a public perception that ambulance attacks are given a low priority by the South African Police Service. Based on their features and consequences, attacks on ambulances and EMS personnel, satisfy the legal definition of acts of terrorism as defined by the country’s *Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act* (Act 33 of 2004). It also satisfies the definition a threat as per the definition of the *Critical Infrastructure Act* (Act 8 of 2019).

This raises a number of questions: Should ambulance attacks be treated as acts of terrorism or is a softer response needed given its implications? Further, what should be the collective response of both the South African government (local, provincial and national) and society to this evolving situation?

Ilas Touazi (University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghin Sétif “2”, Algeria):
Africa, a new hotspot for the Wagner Group: between the dynamics of intra-jihadist groups and the privatisation of counter-terrorism

The post-Cold War international context has been essentially characterised by the extension of the concept of security from the national to the human dimension, with a multitude of actors ranging from transnational terrorism to the new role of private military and security companies (PMSCs). This has allowed Russia to expand its geopolitical footprint through the Wagner Group as a tool to extend its foreign policy to the African continent and become a key player on the regional scene. Thus, Russia's approach relies on irregular means, such as the deployment of mercenaries, to extend its influence over the whole of Africa, which is already marked by the growing global jihadist threat. This research examines the complexity of the interaction of the spread of jihadist groups from African networks affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State with a spiral spreading in North, East, West, and Central Africa, forming a continuum of security threats. On the one hand, counter-terrorism cooperation policies have been reoriented regionally at the African level. On the other hand, the dynamic shift from the privatisation of security to the privatisation of counter-terrorism has opened the way for the Wagner Group to reposition itself on the geostrategic chessboard as a key player, particularly in the aftermath of the war with Ukraine. Hence the need to adopt new mechanisms in the fight against terrorism and to focus on prevention and the strengthening of coordination and cooperation in the fight against terrorism, while competition between the major powers has become a major challenge in current international relations.

Dr. Tobias Burgers & Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk (Fulbright University Vietnam, Vietnam – International Centre for Policing and Security, University of South Wales, United Kingdom, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):

The "Wagner factor" and beyond? The United Nations, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and New Technologies

The Malian government has been advocating for the termination of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which was established through Security Council Resolution 2100 on April 25, 2013. Although the mission has seen its successes, it is evident that the presence of the PMC Wagner Group, famed for its perpetration of atrocities in Ukraine and more recently in Mali, has influenced the Mali government's decision to host the United Nations. In addition to the influence of the "Wagner factor," it is contended that the military effectiveness of the United Nations (UN) has also been a contributing factor in the deliberations of the Malian government regarding their request for the withdrawal of the UN mission. In this context, it is posited that the constrained effectiveness of UN missions exerted considerable impact on the interplay between the UN

and the government of Mali. Notwithstanding the fact that the UN mission in Mali continued to possess a relatively superior level of armament and logistical support compared to other UN forces along the spectrum of its peacekeeping and enforcement operations. When considering its technological capabilities which have historically been a point of concern for United Nations peace missions, MINUSMA can be regarded as one of the most well-equipped missions. The mission has possessed significant access to a range of technological capabilities, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), cyber tools, and advanced signal intelligence. Given these capabilities, one could reasonably anticipate that the mission would present substantial opportunities for generating a favourable effect. However, upon careful examination of the present dynamics, it becomes apparent that MINUSMA has not successfully attained its operational objectives. This raises issues that this presentation aims to investigate: 1) What is the impact of technological resources on United Nations (UN) missions, and 2) to what degree do technological capabilities serve as a valuable instrument in the contemporary landscape of counter-terrorism and UN operations? We posit these questions and examine the conditions for answering them within the context of the African security landscape broadly and specially within the context of MINUSMA. By examining these two dimensions, this analysis contributes to the existing body of research on the burgeoning issue by enhancing comprehension of the degree to which the United Nations, as the most engaged and proactive actor in military interventions in Africa, can uphold its relevance in shaping the security dynamics of the African continent in the 21st century.

Animesh Roul (Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, India):

Al Shabaab's propaganda campaign in the face of ineffective counter terrorism strategy

The capabilities of Al-Shabaab are widely recognised and continue to exert significant influence over the jihadist landscape in Somalia, owing to its formidable military capabilities and sophisticated propaganda apparatus. The recent instances of violent attacks directed towards a hotel and peacekeepers from the African Union, specifically those of Ugandan origin, have demonstrated the robustness and capability of the aforementioned entities. This study investigates the factors contributing to the group's resilience against persistent counter-terrorism measures. It takes into account the group's violent tendencies, propaganda strategies, objectives of implementing sharia law in Somalia, and the spread of violence to neighbouring regions. The study broadly illuminates the prevalent African issues that contribute to the proliferation of violent extremism by various potent terrorist organisations and their factions, as well as the counter-terrorism tactics and methodologies employed by African nations to combat them. This study investigates the challenges posed by inadequate governance, pervasive corruption, and insufficient law enforcement capabilities. The subsequent section of the paper examines socio-economic variables such as poverty, unemployment, and inadequate educational opportunities that may foster extremist ideology and facilitate the recruitment of individuals into terrorist organisations. The second-to-last segment evaluates the role of ethnic and tribal disputes and political unrest in creating power vacuums that are conducive to the proliferation of terrorist organisations. The concluding segment pertains to the strategies adopted by the state and society in response to counter-terrorism, which have been observed to be uncoordinated and inadequate.

Dr. Mathieu Gotteland (Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, France):

Somalia's foreign relations in the Context of the Latest Offensive Against al Shabaab

The political and military weight of clans, foreign interventions, the relations between the local, provincial and federal levels, the strength of the national idea and attachment to political islam have historically been determining factors behind either success or failure of state policy in Somalia. 2021 was an annus horribilis in Somalia's annals, marked by an electoral crisis, mutiny, tensions between the president and prime minister, a conflict between the federal state and Puntland, the departure of the last American soldiers, intensifying crisis with Kenya and Djibouti and attacks of the capital by al Shabaab, which are on the offensive since 2019. 2022 however saw the stars aligning for the strengthening of the state and the recovering of Somalian sovereignty: election of president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, nomination of PM Hamza Amdi Barre, appeasement of the wars in Tigray and Yemen, setting of ATMIS to give the former AMISOM a clear mandate to support the Somali Transition Plan. Despite the new president's willingness to address the Shabaab menace not only militarily but ideologically, calls for dialogue and the appointing of a Shabaab co-founder as religion minister, 2022 also saw the deadliest engagements ever recorded by NGO ACLED in the country during an offensive that seemed to gain momentum in the second half of the year with the support of ATMIS and other foreign partners. This paper therefore aims to explore the new paradigms behind Somalia's foreign relations under her new leadership, to evaluate how much they help or hinder Somalia's war effort against al Shabaab and state consolidation and to explore possible scenario in the near future.

Dr. Getachew Toma Bilate – Assmamaw Wubishet Aweke (Ethiopian Civil Service University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ethiopia - School of Management, Wuhan University of Technology, China):

Migration and Human Security-Related Risks in the Horn of Africa: Analysis of EU and AU Institutional Cooperation Effectiveness

The Horn of Africa region is receiving criticism for the size of new migration trends and human security related risks. In order to provide a critical perspective on new migration trends and critical human security issues, this study will primarily focus on the roles of the EU and AU, two regional institutions, in resolving the cases that have been looked at. The finding indicates the migration policies and activities generated by both institutions have been facing new confronts. The escalating instances of terrorist networks, political strife, and domestic scuffles are to blame for the illegal migration related issues and for new irregular migration trends. Recently, the Horn region has been the origin, transit, and final destination for illegal and irregular migrants. As well, migrants who are seeking asylum and refugees travel within the area and beyond for a variety of factors, including socioeconomic conditions in their respective countries of origin and human rights concerns. Irregular and illegal migration is increasing in the region mainly facilitated by illegal dealers, smugglers and traffickers. These trends of migration make it a challenge to identify diverse types of migrants and their specific security vulnerabilities. Particularly, in the Republic of Somalia and N. Sudan the poor people are generally seen as those affected by terrorist fear, and conflict-induced migration and some are migrating for hidden objectives which is related to third-party agendas mainly can cause security threats to host countries. Indeed, migration both within countries and across borders

can be seen as an integral part of labour markets and livelihoods across countries. The rising migration and securities-related risks need EU-AU and horn of Africa institutional cooperation mechanisms mainly the regional securities and intelligence institutions shall focus on promoting common strategies and policies to minimize illegal and irregular migration and human insecurities-related risks.

Lt Col J.P. Scherman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

“Fighting to survive” - South African National Defence Force ad hoc tasks in an era of mission uncertainty

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) currently finds itself between a rock and a hard place. On a ridiculously small budget, that is shrinking by the minute, the organization is still expected to recruit, train, and deploy conventional forces for military operations. As of 2023, these operations including providing military forces to the Force Intervention Brigade as part of the United Nations mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as providing a Combat Group to the mission in Northern Mozambique. With both missions requiring substantial resource investments in terms of training, equipment, and manpower, the SANDF continues, despite its limited budget, to provide combat ready formations to both missions. Notwithstanding the above, the SANDF still finds itself having to ‘Fight for survival’ back home. In order to justify its existence and the continued expenditure of taxpayer rands, SANDF leadership feels compelled to accept numerous ad hoc tasks within the country all in service to the state and its people. These tasks, ranging from anti Covid measures to guarding power stations are in direct contrast to the conventional mandate required by the SANDF in their external military missions and it might be argued is degrading the fighting capability of the force – the focus of this paper.

Animesh Roul (Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, India):

Between Sahara and Savannah: An examination of the Sahel region as the epicentre of violent extremism in Africa and states’ counter-terrorism responses

The Sahel region, particularly Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, has garnered considerable global interest in light of the mounting incidences of terrorism and violent extremism, the proliferation of transnational organised crime, and the trafficking of humans, arms, and drugs across borders. The Global Terrorism Index reports that the West and Central African region has surpassed all other countries and regions in the world in terms of terrorism-related fatalities, accounting for 43% of such incidents. The escalating concern is that terrorism may extend beyond national borders, thereby jeopardising the stability of neighbouring regions. The occurrence of violence has resulted in the forced migration of individuals, potentially causing instability, providing a secure environment for terrorist and criminal organisations, and generating significant humanitarian emergencies. The groups classified as the primary instigators of the intensification of aggression and the growing obstacles to states' endeavours to combat their ideologies, propaganda, and violent undertakings are Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), and additional associates or divisions of IS/AQ. This study primarily examines the actions of various groups and their violent tendencies, with a specific focus on

the types of terrorist organisations that are currently active. Additionally, the study analyses the propaganda and radicalization tactics utilised by these groups. The study also highlights key factors that contribute to the issue, such as ethnic divisions, religious differences and conflicts, inadequate governance, advancements in technology, and socio-economic challenges. The subsequent section of the manuscript centres on the counter-terrorism endeavours undertaken by impacted African nations, specifically the G5 Sahel Joint Force, as well as international organisations and alliances, such as the United Nations. Furthermore, an evaluation of the prospects of terrorism and counter-terrorism in the Sahel is conducted. The interdisciplinary nature of the research is attributed to the complex and resilient nature of the issues being studied, as well as the factors that enable their occurrence. The study is characterised by its interdisciplinary nature and the utilisation of a multimethodological approach. The aim of this study is to address the current and emerging obstacles presented by particular African nations and the wider African region. This research contributes to the inadequate body of literature and inadequate scholarly discussion on this subject matter due to the rapidity of change in terrorist operations and states' responses and measures adopted to counter them.

Prof. Aleksandra Skrabacz – Dr. Patrycja Bryczek-Wróbel (Institute for Security and Defence, Faculty of Security, Logistics and Management, Military University of Technology, Poland):

Immigrant security in a culturally different environment. The Polish Experience after the Arab Spring

Since the decolonisation of Africa - especially after 1960 - more and more people have been arriving from the African continent to Europe for settlement purposes. In 2017, the countries of the European Union there were already 9.1 million African nationals living in the European Union. Of this group, 5 million people came from North Africa (most from Morocco) and the rest from Africa south of the Sahara. There are various reasons for migrating to Europe: looking for work, getting an education, creating families. The latter was the main reason for legalising a presence in Europe for Africans.

From a European perspective, the last significant wave of migration in 2011, initiated by the Arab Spring, caused significant impacts on the European population. Data from the International Organisation for Migration, shows that more than 390,000 people moved to the European continent in 2016. Data also shows that in 2017 there were more than 180,000 irregular migrants, and by November 2018, almost 130,000 had arrived, of which more than 106,000 by sea and the rest by land (IOM 2019).

The increase in irregular immigration is, among other things, a result of the tightening of the EU migration policy. European countries are increasingly less likely to grant Africans permission to residence before entry. Meanwhile, as a result of destabilisation in the Sahel region, climate change climate change, armed conflicts, new migration routes to Europe have emerged and the number of migrants has increased. More and more people also have the financial and logistical opportunity to leave African countries for Europe to fulfil their life aspirations.

Poland is one of the countries in the European Union that has received many migrants from different parts of the world. Figures indicate that 2.1 million foreigners, mostly from Africa and Asia, will live in Poland in 2020. The possibility of frequent contact with immigrants has increased. Meeting a person of African origin in their place of residence is now declared by 39% of respondents, while in 2015 it was only 13%.

The attitude of Poles towards immigrants from Africa has also changed in recent years. Poles have become accustomed to the everyday presence of foreigners, as indicated by a clear increase in their level of acceptance in their immediate environment. An African as a close neighbour is now accepted by 84% of Poles (up from 61%) and as their son or daughter-in-law by 58% (up from 34%).

There is also a growing concern for keeping immigrants safe, especially when it comes to situations where their life or health may be at risk. However, difficulties arise due to differences in culture, religion, customs and the lack of a common language. The paper will discuss and clarify these problems.

Col Dr. Shaul Shay (International Institute for Counter Terrorism Policy, Reichman University, Israel):

The Russian involvement in the Sahel and the Maghreb regions

The world order after the "Cold War" era was designed by America and the West and in current "Great Game" Russia and China are challenging the Pax-Americana world order. The Magreb and Sahel regions are theatres of geopolitical struggle between Russia and the U.S. and its European allies. The ongoing war in Ukraine has not diminished Russia's desire to extend its influence on Africa's Sahel and Maghreb regions. Africa's Sahel and Maghreb regions although rich in resources, suffer from a long history of political instability and armed rebellions. In last decades Islamist insurgency groups control large parts of the region and fight against government forces and local populations. France—the Magreb and Sahel's former colonial power—took a traditional anti-terror approach to the region but after a decade of failed anti-terror and stabilization efforts, France withdrew its forces from Mali in 2022 and from Burkina Faso in 2023. Moscow has proven that it knows how to take advantage of governance shortfalls, instability, and security vacuums in Africa. Russian trade and investment in Africa have grown significantly, particularly in north Africa. Yet, Russia remains a minor economic player on the continent in comparison to China or the U.S. Russia's strategy in Africa appears to involve a mix of arms sales, political support to authoritarian leaders and security collaborations – in exchange for mining rights, business opportunities and diplomatic support for Russia's foreign policy preferences. The main tools that Russia uses to expand its influence in the region are: the sale of weapons, counter-terrorism training and the use of mercenaries (Wagner force) in the service of local rulers in the region. Currently, U.S. has a modest military presence in the regions and the Biden administration seems unwilling and unable to push Russia out of the region. The article will describe the characteristics of Russia's presence and influence in the region and the policies of the U.S. and the West as a response to the challenges posed by Russia in the region.

Tibor Pintér (Doctoral School of Faculty of Law at University of Szeged, Hungary):
The ISCAP in the shadow of the Russian-Ukrainian war

After the shock of the coronavirus, the world was hit by another blow: the Russian-Ukrainian war. This had a number of effects on the world, causing inflation and an energy price explosion. In the case of Africa, even food security was at risk due to the decline in Russian and Ukrainian grain. However, what is chaos for the world is an opportunity for jihadist movements to gain strength, as the burden on citizens increases social discontent. The situation in sub-Saharan East Africa is no different. The Islamic State's youngest province, ISCAP (Islamic State of Central Africa Province), created in 2019, remains dangerous, although the jihadist movements that make it up are not achieving the spectacular successes of the past. The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) is based in the Congo-Uganda border region, while al-Shabaab in Mozambique has emerged in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Their exact links to the Islamic State are not fully known, but recent reports suggest that the Islamic State of Somalia may be a centre of back-and-forth communication between the two parties. The study focuses on ISCAP and the period since the Russian-Ukrainian war. In other words, what trends can be observed, how dangerous they could be and, most importantly, what opportunities they face and what kind of response is coming from the security forces. For the status of jihadist organisations, I refer to Stig Jarle Hansen's book *Horn, Sahel and Rift*, published in 2019. For the others, I rely on reports, analyses and, above all, recent news that may bring about changes in the way things have been done so far, one example being the LNG project being built in Cabo Delgado.

PANEL 2
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Prof. Comfort Mkhize, University of South Africa (mkhizmc@unisa.ac.za)

*Dr. habil Szabolcs Pásztor, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary
(pasztor.szabolcs@uni-nke.hu)*

Dr. David Vogel, Óbuda University, Hungary (voegel.david@bqk.uni-obuda.hu)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Dr. Robert C. Castel** (Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Israel):
The Car-Parts Incubator Goes to War: What We Got Wrong About Military Innovation
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Nyandoro Omuria** (University of Public Service, Hungary):
Status Counter Terrorism Measures in Nairobi County, Kenya
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Dr. László Pálfi** (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary – Pilecki Institute, Poland)
Russia's Relationship with Post-apartheid African Countries and the Former Portuguese African Colonies: A Comparative Study Based on Historical Context
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Dr. Péter Gergő Juhász** (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):
Food supply chain as an element of the critical infrastructure
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Prof. dr. Luz Marina Mateo** (National University of La Plata, Argentina):
Plunder of natural resources and the pending right of self-determination as obstacles to economic development and peace: the case of Western Sahara
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Prof. dr. Darko Trifunovic** (Institute for National and International Security, Serbia):
Contemporary security threats in Africa
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Prof. Amparo Pamela Fabe – Joan Andrea Toledo** (University of South Wales – Armed Forces of the Philippines):
Picking up the Tab: Al Shabaab's Economic Costs of Terrorism and Kenya's Counter-Terrorism Efforts
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 13:50 **Prof. dr. János Besenyő** (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The impact of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on Africa

- 13:50 – 14:10 **Zsolt Szabó** (Károly Catholic University, Hungary, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The Security Policy Effects of the Algerian-Moroccan-Spanish Debate on Gas on Europe in the light of the Russian-Ukrainian War
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Dr. Primrose Sibusisiwe Mlambo** (Freelance Researcher):
The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa Under the Shadow of the Russia-Ukraine War
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Dr. Attila Novak** (National University of Public Service, Hungary):
Israel's relations with emerging African states - in the light of Hungarian state security documents from the first half of the Kádár era
- 14:50 – 15:10 **Csaba Szeremley** (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences of the Óbuda University, Hungary):
Role of risk analysis in food safety
- 15:10 – 15:50 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Dr. Robert C. Castel (Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Israel):

The Car-Parts Incubator Goes to War: What We Got Wrong About Military Innovation

One of the most overlooked lessons of the current Russia-Ukraine War is the dysfunctional nature of most of the technological innovations developed by the belligerents. On many occasions technological solutions developed for the world's cutting-edge armed forces proved to be brittle, unreliable and short-lived in the hands of less than well-trained troops supported by less than well-equipped maintenance personnel. The service record of many of these putative gamechangers followed a remarkably similar pattern. After a short burst of exceptional effectiveness, minor technical glitches, which could not be serviced in real time, developed into major problems, rendering the system inoperable. The tool had to be sent back to maintenance depots, sometimes more than a thousand miles away, greatly diminishing the deployable fleet. Failing to develop the necessary critical mass, much of the operational effect associated with technological surprise on the battlefield was rather unsurprisingly lost. The thesis of my paper is that the above-described pattern is not a bug, but a feature of contemporary military innovation thriving to generate military effectiveness by the means of a qualitative edge alone. This approach may have proven effective in the small wars of the last decades, waged by the leading industrial nations, however in the context of the emerging mass warfare fought by large proxy armies it is self-defeating.

Future military innovation in general, and technological innovations developed for the use of the developing nations in particular, should better follow a rather different path, beaten by the technologists developing an incubator made of used car. For instance, the ideal military drone for the developing nations should be built on components widely available everywhere like parts of the ubiquitous Toyota 4-Runner and cell phones. This type of military innovation will revolve less around basic research and much more around adaptation, creativity and bottom-up innovation.

The other side of this coin is the exploitation of these very same technological opportunities by terrorist organizations to develop new, easily manufactured and highly lethal means of attack.

Nyandoro Omuria (University of Public Service, Hungary):

Status Counter Terrorism Measures in Nairobi County, Kenya

Counterterrorism is a deliberate and proactive effort that is used to deter, combat, prevent and overcome religious or politically inspired violence which is directed at non-combatants and civilians by employing a large array of responsive measures such as economic, political, psychological and social. Kenya has also enacted various anti-terrorism and violent extremism laws with varying degrees of success. These laws criminalise terrorism, the funding of terrorist groups and the pursuit of terrorist suspects, and are aimed at preventing the country from becoming a sanctuary for terrorists. They also have a symbolic value of showing the country's support of the fight against terrorism. This study sought to find out the status of counter

terrorism measures in Nairobi County, Kenya. This study was guided by the Organizational approach theory. The study adopted cross-sectional survey research design. The target population of the study was the 9000 youths in Nairobi. Stratified sampling was used to get the sample of 144 participants. Data was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study include; majority of the participants have not been sensitized on counter terrorism measures particularly through civic education. The county action plans on counter terrorism are yet to be implemented fully in the county and there is a disconnect between citizen expectations and policy implementers on counter terrorism measures. The study recommends both national and county government to use different forums to reach citizens and educate them on counter terrorism measures.

Dr. László Pálfi (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary – Pilecki Institute, Poland)

Russia's Relationship with Post-apartheid African Countries and the Former Portuguese African Colonies: A Comparative Study Based on Historical Context

The Russia-Ukraine war, which lasts since 2014, started a new period in 2022: Russia proclaimed its claim to annex Ukrainian territories inhabited by the Russian and Russian-speaking minority and economic relevance. Since the neighbouring regions have got excellent soil, the Ukrainian grain and wheat production are located there. Many African leaders expressed their concerns that a possible food shortage could cause revolts across the continent.

However, the Ukrainian food-producing potential seemed to be a widely-known fact, the Western media did not pay attention to the plausible negative outcomes in the Global South. Quite the contrary, the mainstream opinions of Western public intellectuals and politicians ruled the discussion when it came to negotiating values and positions. The members of the European Union and NATO showed more or less sympathy toward Ukraine, although the Global South, where billions of people are living currently, could not gain emancipation in the public discussion.

Pro-Russian sentiments are depicted as a form of ignorance of political extremism in Western public opinion. Hence, the common naval exercises led by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of South Africa from February 2023 shocked the West. Analysts with an impartial attitude began to talk about the importance of this European war in a global context.

The aim of my presentation is to create a comparative analysis of the past and the current period: An examination of development in international relations based on Cold War experiences can explain the background of the positive picture of Russia in the political mindset in the post-apartheid countries (Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe), and the former Portuguese colonies (in this case Angola and Mozambique).

Dr. Péter Gergő Juhász (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):

Food supply chain as an element of the critical infrastructure

The food supply chain plays a vital role as an element of critical infrastructure to ensure the availability, accessibility and safety of food for the population. It encompasses all processes, activities and resources involved in the production, processing, distribution and transport of food from farm to fork, from "farm to table". The food supply chain is a complex and interconnected system involving various stakeholders, including farmers, food processors, distributors, retailers and consumers. Its efficient functioning is vital for food security, public health and economic stability. The resilience of the food supply chain is essential to address the various challenges that disrupt its smooth functioning. Natural disasters, climate change, disease outbreaks and global pandemics, such as COVID-19, can have a significant impact on food production, transport and availability. Collaboration and coordination between stakeholders, including governments, industry and international organisations, is key to managing crises and mitigating the impacts on food security. In recent years, the concept of a sustainable and flexible food supply chain has gained ground. This involves integrating the principles of environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic viability into the whole chain. Sustainable practices include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water resources, promoting biodiversity and minimising food waste. In addition, ensuring fair labour practices, supporting local food systems, and addressing food access and affordability issues are important for building a resilient and inclusive food supply chain. In this topic, I will analyse the factors that affect the food supply chain as an element of critical infrastructure and discuss their importance.

Prof. dr. Luz Marina Mateo (National University of La Plata, Argentina):

Plunder of natural resources and the pending right of self-determination as obstacles to economic development and peace: the case of Western Sahara

The question of Western Sahara gained dimension on the international agenda concomitantly with the decolonization process that began in Africa in the 1950s, whose objective was the independence of the peoples of the continent with respect to the powers that had colonized them, including the then Spanish Sahara, currently known as Western Sahara. We will briefly see throughout this work what is the historical development of this dispute up to the present, configured by a right to self-determination that the Saharawi people possess and that cannot be exercised, despite the abundant regulations that support it, causing serious damage to their economic, social, and cultural development. Within this framework, we recall that the principle of self-determination of peoples enshrined in multiple international instruments (UN Charter, ICESCR, ICCPR, Resolutions 1514, 2189 and 2625 of the General Assembly, among others) covers three aspects: the sociopolitical, the cultural and economic. We will focus on the latter, since the principle leaves the free and sovereign decision on the economic system that they will adopt in the hands of the peoples and guarantees the right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources (Pastor Ridruejo, 1996:286). Thus, we will rely on different sources (scientific and legal, for example) that allow us to describe how the natural resources of Western Sahara are exploited without the consent of the Saharawi people, which impedes their economic development, to which is added the presence of a 2,720 km long mined wall,

which has an impact not only on the economy and the environment, but also on the sociocultural sphere, further weakening peace and security in the region.

It should be noted that the theoretical framework adopted for the realization of this work is decolonial thought. This is because, when investigating the case studied and its causes, development, and consequences, everything is part of a process of coloniality of power, being and knowledge. To do this, in addition to basing ourselves on the classical authors (Quijano, Dussel, Mignolo, Rivera Cusicanqui, among others), we will use data published by NGOs (e.g. Mundubat and Western Sahara Resource Watch-WSRW) and documents from international organizations such as the United Nations, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the African Union and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Prof. dr. Darko Trifunovic (Institute for National and International Security, Serbia):
Contemporary security threats in Africa

The Russian aggression against Ukraine and the Covid 19 pandemic has captured the attention of the entire international community for the past few years. Terrorists and their activities were no longer headline news from the world media, so the impression was created that they had stopped their activities or that their activities were "invisible" to the rest of the world. By analysing the activities of terrorists in Africa, from Al Shabab in the Far East of Africa to Boko Haram in West Africa, some interesting things can be concluded. The African continent is also divided over Russia's aggression against Ukraine. It is necessary to investigate why this is so. Thirty countries - just two more than last year - voted in favour of a UN general assembly resolution that condemned Russia, supported Ukraine's territorial integrity, and called for peace. The Russian influence in some African countries and the presence of criminal Wagner operatives, which Vladimir Putin finally admitted Wagner was officially financed and supported by the Russian state, is very prominent in many countries such as Sudan and Libya. Africa has always attracted the attention of the great colonial powers. Geopolitical interests have intertwined on the African continent, given that the continent is rich in ores and minerals as well as other resources. In the achievement of their goals, confrontations and conflicts were often provoked, as well as tensions in which military formations, para formations, but also terrorists and terrorist groups played a significant role. The study of the mentioned phenomena is extremely important in terms of prevention and conflict prevention. Special attention must be paid to the vector projection of the influence of both global powers and local key African countries. In the new circumstances, new threats have appeared, from those coming from the cyber zone to hybrid actions and methods of warfare.

Prof. Amparo Pamela Fabe – Joan Andrea Toledo (University of South Wales – Armed Forces of the Philippines):
Picking up the Tab: Al Shabaab's Economic Costs of Terrorism and Kenya's Counter-Terrorism Efforts

This study investigates the strategies, including its counter-terrorism methods and approaches on various levels that include the use of technology, regulatory policies, and legal procedures, employed by the Kenyan Government to mitigate the economic ramifications of

Al Shabaab terrorism. Specifically, we analyse the anti-terrorism laws and regulatory policies in the security sector, as well as regional cooperation programmes aimed at identifying Al Shabaab's partners and supporters. Additionally, we explore the challenges faced by police officers who must contend with inadequate programme planning by government security forces. Although terrorist attacks often result in significant property damage and casualties, the majority of the expenses related to terrorism are indirect costs. Whilst terrorism has the potential to diminish a country's overall economic growth, the expenses incurred as a result of terrorism are primarily concentrated within specific sectors. The researchers analyse the expenses incurred by Kenya due to the acts of terrorism perpetrated by Al Shabaab, drawing from secondary sources. The assessment and evaluation of both the direct and indirect costs of terrorism were conducted with precision.

Prof. dr. János Besenyő (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The impact of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on Africa

During the past year, the attention of the international community has been captured and divided by the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict that will break out in 2022. On a daily basis, hundreds of analysts evaluate the activities and actions of opposing parties and their possible effects. In my planned presentation, I will examine the effects of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and its possible consequences for the African continent. To this end, I will describe Russia's presence in Africa, its positions and its activities in Africa, with particular regard to the activities of the Wagner group. I deal with the reactions of African countries to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the effects of the conflict on the economic life of African countries (Food, Fertilizer and fuel insecurity), as well as the long-term consequences of the conflict.

Zsolt Szabó (Károly Catholic University, Hungary, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The Security Policy Effects of the Algerian-Moroccan-Spanish Debate on Gas on Europe in the light of the Russian-Ukrainian War

My presentation would be about the conflict between Algeria, Morocco and Spain and its relation to Europe and the Russian-Ukrainian war. The reason for the conflict is on the one hand the Algerian gas that the country transits to Spain, who gives it to Morocco, which the Algerians oppose, and on the other hand, the issue of Western Sahara which is – after a long independent position – is supported by Spain and that is a problem for Algeria, which has historic enmities with the Moroccan agenda.

The Algerian government was so angry that it rendered back its ambassador from Spain and because of its opposition to the Moroccan regime it cut the gas transition to the country. There was another problem which angered Morocco: the Spanish government first gave healthcare treatment to the leader of the Polisario Front, Brahim Ghali, and this made the Moroccan government furious as well, because this helped the Algerian standpoint, which supports the independence of Western Sahara instead of the Moroccan plan. After this, the Spanish had no choice but to support the Moroccans which resulted in the Algerians to withdraw their gas supply to the country.

Another important fact is that the Algerian government was a decade-long standing ally of the Soviet Union in the past and is at least neutral, but rather supportive to the Russian government at the present. This is an important fact when one would like to assess the international relations between the aforementioned countries.

One of my main points is that the Algerian cutting the gas line to Europe (Spain) in the shadow of the Russian-Ukrainian war will threaten on the one hand the security of the MENA region, and on the other hand it will result in difficulties for the European community which has to rely on other sources of gas because of the sanctions against the Russian Federation. My point is that the solving of the conflict between Algeria, Morocco and Spain would ease the tensions also on the European continent and it would help to ensure the security situation of the European countries who are reliant on other sources of gas because the prohibitions.

Dr. Primrose Sibusisiwe Mlambo (Freelance Researcher):

The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa Under the Shadow of the Russia-Ukraine War

Russia and Ukraine are major suppliers of agricultural exports to Africa. Thus, the conflict between the two countries complicates trade relations and the flow of goods and services. On the one hand, Russia is a key player in the global energy market and is ranked the second-largest oil exporter worldwide. On the other hand, 70% of Ukraine's food exports are distributed via ship and many parts of the Black Sea are now dangerous or unpassable. The current sanctions and bans or restrictions imposed on the sale of Russian agricultural goods by the United States of America (USA), European Union (EU), and its allies has created a shortfall on various food commodities.

These sanctions and countersanctions adversely affected Africa's food security. This is because Africa's food systems are susceptible to the impacts of exogenous shocks including geopolitical conflicts, due to the inherent physical, socioeconomic, environmental and institutional characteristics of agricultural production and food sectors. Increasing global food prices and shortages in the food supply in African markets stimulate inflation in domestic food prices and decrease the purchasing power of poor households. Together, the disruption of food supply chains and spikes in domestic food prices may inevitably lead to social and political unrest.

The current geopolitical and strategic confrontation, and the shifts the war causes, also require that Africa plays an active role on the world stage in terms of policy and diplomacy. It is important that, through the African Union, the continent seeks to limit the damage in direct engagement with both Russia and Ukraine. Against this background, the purpose of this paper is to underscore and explore viable solutions that could potentially minimise the impact of the conflict on the markets in Africa. Using the conflict in question, and drawing from other conflicts, this paper is going to recommend new way of management and resolving such conflicts peacefully and how to prevent similar violent conflicts in the future.

Dr. Attila Novak (National University of Public Service, Hungary):
Israel's relations with emerging African states - in the light of Hungarian state security documents from the first half of the Kádár era

Israel started to develop relations with African countries (and we are not dealing with South-Africa) relatively early. The initial boom in the 1950s was followed by a slowdown in the 1960s and then, in many respects, a standstill after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Israel was seen by many African countries as an anti-colonial power, which gradually changed over time. In 1957, the Jewish state recognized the independence of Ghana, and in 1958 it set up a separate organization, the Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), to assist the newly independent African states. In 1963, it established a new embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Based on newly discovered Hungarian state security documents, this presentation will give an insight into how Hungary, as a member of the Soviet-led Eastern European socialist bloc in the early 1960s and 1970s, viewed its relations with Israel and African countries, and the information and political-ideological patterns on which it based its approach. The state security surveillance (through the Hungarian diplomatic missions) covered not only Israel, but also the American Jewish organizations which, according to the agencies, had been in contact with African states and organizations at the instigation of Israel. Archival sources with a strongly anti-imperialist tone and bearing the imprint of Soviet state security suggest that the treatment of Israel as an enemy occurred in this region before the 1967 break-up, i.e. the diplomatic freeze did not significantly affect the way the Jewish state's relations with the emerging African nations were viewed.

Csaba Szeremley (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences of the Óbuda University, Hungary):
Role of risk analysis in food safety

I would like to discuss risk analysis's importance in food safety in this presentation. Risk analysis is crucial in the food supply chain to maintain security and quality. The food supply chain includes all processes and activities, from production to distribution and sale. This vast and complex chain system involves various risks that can compromise food safety and quality. Risk analysis aims to identify and assess the risks that may occur at any stage of the food supply chain. These risks may be physical, biological, chemical or other and may include food contamination, the spread of disease, allergic reactions, food spoilage or safety deficiencies in production processes.

The risk analysis helps to:

Identifying risks: we can identify potential hazards and risks at every stage of the food supply chain. This allows a proactive approach to addressing problems before they become serious.

Risk assessment: risk analysis helps to assess the likelihood and severity of different risks. This allows priorities to be set and resources to be used more effectively to address risks.

Prevention and mitigation: Building on the risks identified in the food supply chain, it is possible to develop preventive measures. Preventive measures implemented based on the precautionary principle can reduce the likelihood of risks arising.

Compliance with legislation and standards: Risk analysis helps ensure compliance with legislation and standards in food safety and quality. The food industry is subject to many regulations, which must be strictly considered in risk analysis.

PANEL 3
TECHNOLOGY & CYBER-SECURITY
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Dr. Dries Putter, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (putter@sun.ac.za)

Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Institute for National and International Security, Serbia (galileja@yahoo.com)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Rohan Malhotra** (Symbiosis School of International Studies, India):
Tech's the bomb: Countering terrorists' use of social media and messaging apps in Africa
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Dr. Dries Putter** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Intelligence in Asymmetric Conflict – South African Perspectives
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Dr. Alta Grobbelaar** (University of the Free State, South Africa)
Cyberterrorism in Africa – is this the real life, is this just fantasy?
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Dr. Moses B. Khanyile** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Africa's Relations with BRICS & the MERCOSUR: Prospects for Defence Industry Collaboration
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Dr. Rachael M. Rudolph** (Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai, China, Bryant University, USA, Nichols College, USA):
China and the Islamic State in the Sahel: An Assessment of Potential Threats to Chinese Interests
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Col Ditebogo P. Mashigo** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa: The Influence of Technology and Africa's Cybersecurity Developmental Concerns
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Szilvia Veress Juhaszne** (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):
International food safety alarm systems. The RASFF and the TRACES
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 13:50 **Mancha Johannes Sekgololo** (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Unleashing the Cyber Sentinel: Exploring the Interplay of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in South Africa's National Cybersecurity and Its Implications for National Security and Counter-Terrorism

- 13:50 – 14:10 **Richard Schneider** (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):
Artificial intelligence for crisis management - new approaches in Africa using the example of Uganda
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Francis Kwesi Kyirewiah** (School of International and Public Affairs, Jilin University, China):
The Triangle of Instability in Africa and the assessment of the African Union's countermeasures
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Dr. Gallous Atabongwoung** (University of Pretoria, South Africa):
Coup d'états and counterterrorism in the Sahel: flip-flopping accusatory discourse
- 14:50 – 15:10 **Jordán Petrőcz** (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):
Turkish military training in Somalia
- 15:10 – 15:50 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Rohan Malhotra (Symbiosis School of International Studies, India):

Tech's the bomb: Countering terrorists' use of social media and messaging apps in Africa

Violent extremists and terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), and al-Shabaab have increasingly been turning to and using online platforms, including smaller platforms and apps, to facilitate their violent operations while circumnavigating government authorities controls and abilities to mitigate their operations. This phenomenon is notably the case in Africa, and specifically in West Africa, where Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which has been described as one of the most prevalent users of online platforms and digital forms of communication in the region of West Africa, has employed to a considerable degree of success so-called "beacon" websites in an effort to attract netizens to smaller sites where terrorists disseminate their messages and propaganda. This can be done without any indication of the online movement to another website or collection of websites. They are especially useful for enabling terrorists to provide viewers (i.e., potential followers and recruits) with a collection of links that will take online viewers to the exact same site that contains terrorist content using "aggregators". Thus, terrorist groups can easily and successfully evade content moderation and effectively disseminate their messages. Unlike "larger" social networking sites like Facebook (with approximately three billion people using it monthly), Twitter (with approximately 450 million monthly users), and WhatsApp (the most popular public messaging app with over 2.4 billion users monthly), smaller platforms are either unable to, hesitant to, or outright refuse to moderate content. These are the sites that terrorists prefer to use the most. Additionally, terrorist groups can use social media to plan and coordinate deadly attacks anywhere in the world through real-time planning and communication. For example, the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks that left more than 166 people dead relied on Twitter for their successful execution. Terrorist groups can still use, and arguably with greater ease, social media sites (e.g., live tweets) to cover an attack against any target they choose. This research examines the opportunities and challenges presented to terrorist groups with social media and both large and small online platforms and sites and considers the role that companies ranging in size from massive to tiny play in the potential, if even inadvertent or unintentional support, of terrorist attacks and their potential role in mitigating and countering terrorist groups dissemination of violent ideology and carrying out attacks. The research's foci specifically address terrorist groups operating in Africa and pay special consideration to operations in West Africa. It seeks to address a lacuna of research and literature in the fields of terrorism and counter-terrorism studies, as well as society, technology, and security (SCS).

Dr. Dries Putter (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

Intelligence in Asymmetric Conflict – South African Perspectives

The paper aims to provide insight into the readiness of the South African Intelligence Community (SAIC) to face asymmetric threats. The research was based on a relativist ontological assumption with a qualitative approach to the search through published literature, legislation, policy, reports, and media releases for relevant descriptions of the current state of

SA security threat and its intelligence community—more specifically the State Security Agency. The study concluded that the SAIC is unlikely to be capable of neutralizing evolving domestic and international asymmetric threats due to chronic incapacity caused by overbureaucracy, state capture, politicization, corruption, and continuous restricting (among other ills). The paper contributes to the ongoing introspection in South Africa about developing a functional state security apparatus that effectively contributes to the ethos of "freedom from want and freedom from fear."

Dr. Alta Grobbelaar (University of the Free State, South Africa)
Cyberterrorism in Africa – is this the real life, is this just fantasy?

This paper seeks to examine the relevance of the term 'cyberterrorism' within African spaces. Although the notion of cyberterrorism as a concept is contested by scholars such as Jason Burke and Marc Sageman, the application of the concept in an African context raises a number of concerns. Firstly, rather than focusing on the semantic and conceptual issues only, more attention should be paid to the material implications of such discourses for people and states on the continent who are on the receiving end of such conceptualisation. Discourses regarding fear are always very complex and shape reality, the way it is perceived, understood and how hegemonic power-relations are formed within certain contexts. Secondly, these discourses reflect a Eurocentric bias, because, as visible in the definition used and accepted by US defence analysts, cyberterrorism would refer to "Unlawful attacks and threats of attack against computers, networks, and the information stored therein when done to intimidate or coerce a government or its people in furtherance of political or social objectives.". These types of discourses are largely state-centric or government-centric, created to operate in spheres where effective governance varies from what is accepted as such on the African continent. While connectivity and globalization are becoming increasingly important for Africa as a whole, it begs the question whether the term is not more appropriate for highly globalized, technologically advanced contexts of the global North. In contrast with countries in the global North, African countries' limited use and penetration of information technology thus underlines the need for a critical (re)examination of the discourses relating to cyberterrorism in the African context. What needs to be established is whether cyberthreats, specifically cyberterrorism, poses a real threat on the continent, or whether the concept has become a platitude or blanket term to describe any form of information-based hostility. With this in mind, the paper questions the application of concepts such as cyberthreats, cyberterrorism and cybersecurity in a one-size-fits-all manner and argues for African-centred approaches to deal with this issue – both conceptually and strategically in the development of appropriate security responses.

Dr. Moses B. Khanyile (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Africa's Relations with BRICS & the MERCOSUR: Prospects for Defence Industry Collaboration

There has been a growing focus on the collaborative efforts among the countries in the global South, especially following the challenges that emerged during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and currently within the context of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Africa's foreign

policy ambiguity in terms of its strategic alignment along the east-west divide has received criticism from the global North. Even though Africa has strong economic ties with the west, it has strong political ties with the east. BRICS, as a trading bloc, and the recent expansion of its membership with six additional countries, has gained global prominence, and increased its socio-economic and geo-strategic value.

This paper explores the potential for increased collaboration of Africa's defence industries with those of the BRICS and the Mercosur countries, based on the learnings emanating from the international community's management of non-traditional security threats such as COVID-19 and the failure of the UN Security Council to deal with the Ukraine-Russia conflict. It sets out by analysing the current status of relations between Africa and the two trading blocs (BRICS and Merosur) before highlighting potential complementarities and synergies in the defence industry that could catalyse high-impact initiatives.

Dr. Rachael M. Rudolph (Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai, China, Bryant University, USA, Nichols College, USA):

China and the Islamic State in the Sahel: An Assessment of Potential Threats to Chinese Interests

Do the Islamic State affiliates in the Sahel pose a threat to Chinese interests, and how are they likely to impact Beijing's relations with the Sahelian countries? Existing scholarship has primarily examined the threat of the Islamic State to Chinese interests in South Asia and the Middle East. Very few scholars have examined the threat posed to Chinese interests in Africa, let alone the Sahel. Scholars have referenced Chinese hostages taken in Mali, but there exists no study examining exclusively the challenges the affiliates pose to Chinese interest in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. Building on Xi Zhang's study examining the general threat that international terrorism poses to Chinese foreign direct investment, this study seeks to conduct a threat assessment of the Islamic State Sahelian affiliates to Chinese interests in the Sahelian countries. More specifically, it draws on publicly available data on Chinese investments and the Islamic State affiliates' attack patterns to assess to the extent of the threat and the impact it may have on each country's relations with China. Part one provides an overview of China's economic, political, and security relations with the Sahelian countries. Part two examines more closely Chinese investment, the presence of the Chinese diaspora community in the region, and changes in Chinese law regarding the protection of the country's overseas interests. Part three turns to examining more closely the Islamic State affiliates' operations in the Sahel and how China has handled increasing terrorist incidents. Part four concludes with an assessment of which interests could be a potential target in the future.

Col Ditebogo P. Mashigo (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa: The Influence of Technology and Africa's Cybersecurity Developmental Concerns

The fast-developing science and technology is an enabler of activities for both good and bad. Technology makes activities easy at a very short time but also gets to be misused to hurt and

exploit others, businesses, and critical infrastructures. Criminals and terrorists misuse technology for selfish criminal reasons resulting in negative impacts on countries' economies and the security of their people. The African continent with over 500 million internet users experienced increased cyberattacks during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 due to reliance on technology at the time (2021 INTERPOL African Cyberthreat Assessment Report. The attacks included theft of personal information and banking details which were subsequently used to make fraudulent purchases, theft of funds from organizations and selling in markets. The African populace is reliant on technology for digital and online banking rendering it vulnerable to cyber threats. About 700 major bank branches were closed in South Africa in 2019 due to the increased dependency on technology (Moneyweb, 7 June 2019).

According to the 2021 African Cyberthreat Assessment Report, African states reported online scams, targeting the banking and credit card fraud as serious threats in Africa. The report highlighted high exposure to cyberthreats which includes online scams, digital extortion, business email compromise, ransomware and botnets which are manifesting more in Africa than in the North and South America and the Middle East due to its large population of internet users. Africa must develop policies and standards of cyber-security to curb the exposure of its internet users to criminals and terrorists. Terrorism and technology are intertwined and are speedily evolving, multiplying, and growing (Lowenthal, 2015:352). Terrorists share information and conduct operations online, opposing leadership, discrediting their opponents, and technologically targeting infrastructure of critical importance using the internet. The dark nets and dark webs within the deep web offer clandestine information technology services to the international terrorists and transnational criminals to conduct cyber operations undetected on social media. Economies are attacked through the web (Clark,2020:18). To counter terrorism, Africa must evolve with the development and evolution of technology and master cyber-security to thwart the operations of terrorists and criminals within the Continent.

Szilvia Veress Juhaszne (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):

International food safety alarm systems. The RASFF and the TRACES

International food safety alert systems play an important role in maintaining global food security and identifying potential hazards and threats. These systems operate effectively throughout the international food chain to rapidly detect and report potential food-related risks, illnesses and other hazards.

Food safety alert systems are important for the following reasons:

Early warning: alert systems can detect and identify food safety hazards such as foodborne illnesses or the presence of contaminants in the food chain at an early stage. This allows authorities and organisations to take immediate action and minimise health risks.

Exchange of information: alert systems allow food safety information to be exchanged quickly and efficiently between participating countries and organisations. This helps stakeholders to respond to incidents in a timely manner, share best practices and best practices and coordinate actions.

International cooperation: food safety alert systems facilitate international cooperation in addressing food safety issues. Through the exchange of information and cooperation between different countries and organisations, food safety challenges and threats can be addressed more effectively.

Building confidence: alert systems contribute to maintaining consumer and operator confidence in the quality and safety of food. Transparent and effective alert systems provide consumers with reliable information and a sense of security when shopping.

Hazard prediction: food safety alert systems not only report current hazards, but also help to predict future risks and threats. This allows authorities and organisations to take appropriate measures to prevent and manage risks.

International food safety alert systems are therefore essential to maintain global food safety and protect consumers. These systems help to ensure timely intervention, minimize risks and share information, thereby contributing to the availability of safe and healthy food around the world.

This presentation will focus on the Rapid Alarm System for Food and Feed and the TRAdE Control and Expert System.

Mancha Johannes Sekgololo (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Unleashing the Cyber Sentinel: Exploring the Interplay of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in South Africa's National Cybersecurity and Its Implications for National Security and Counter-Terrorism

The present study investigates the pivotal function of AI in the cybersecurity operations of South Africa, with a particular focus on the national security standpoint. It also evaluates the methods and approaches employed by the country to combat terrorism and terrorist threats. The study explores the extent of the interaction between AI and cybersecurity to determine whether AI can be regarded as a universal remedy for the (cyber)security predicaments faced by South Africa. The present chapter scrutinises the potential ramifications of South Africa's delay in integrating AI into cybersecurity. Specifically, it highlights the possibility of non-state actors, such as terrorist organisations like ISIS, and state actors utilising AI to intensify their cyberattacks. The absence of terrorist incidents in South Africa throughout 2020 could be attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country. Following an exceptional surge in frequency during 2018, the downward trajectory persisted throughout 2019. The ongoing threat of ISIS cells and their networking groups remains a concern after South Africa's initial disclosure of the matter in 2016. The increasing prevalence of terrorist groups in the regions neighbouring South Africa, specifically in Mozambique, has resulted in an expanding concern regarding the emergence of terrorist risks beyond the nation's boundaries. South Africa engaged in discussions with its neighbouring countries, such as Mozambique, to develop tactics to reduce the potential threats of ISIS and other extremist groups. According to recent reports, ISIS has issued a warning that it may expand its terrorist operations to South Africa if the South African government interferes with ISIS activities beyond the borders of South Africa. The fundamental inquiry pertains to whether South Africa possesses the financial means to maintain a neutral stance while adopting AI's involvement in safeguarding cyber systems, regardless of whether it involves external nations or extremist groups, given the potential ramifications for the country's security. This study seeks to elucidate the crucial

significance of AI integration within South Africa's cybersecurity domain and its potential implications for national security vis-à-vis state and non-state actors. This will be achieved by examining the interplay between AI and cybersecurity, evaluating the effectiveness of AI as a universal remedy, and analysing the consequences of lagging.

Richard Schneider (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):

Artificial intelligence for crisis management - new approaches in Africa using the example of Uganda

Wars have always played a crucial role in the creation and formation of states. However, some meaningful qualitative changes regarding the nature of armed conflicts pose critical challenges to that international system as they reshape the concept of sovereignty and responsibility. “New wars” theorists stress that such qualitative changes in wars also induce a fundamental shift from the earlier peacebuilding approach characterized with military and law enforcement priorities. Technological revolution and artificial intelligence (AI) have changed social interactions, and also have decisive implications for armed conflicts and peace operations. The United Nations (UN), which is still by far the largest actor in the field of peace operations, is to enhance its analytical as well as predictive capacities, and support the adoption of automated algorithmic systems to manage large-scale data and better react in conflict situations. UN Pulse Lab Kampala aims at embracing such mission targets when applying Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) toolkits for African languages, Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques and text-mining algorithms for verbal radio broadcasts throughout Uganda. Based on fieldwork experiences and an expert interview at Pulse Lab Kampala, as well as on systematic literature review (SLR), this presentation is: to briefly review past results; present new approaches in the field of armed conflict resolution; and explore the role and activity of Pulse Lab in the application of artificial intelligence for the prevention and management of conflicts.

Francis Kwesi Kyirewiah (School of International and Public Affairs, Jilin University, China):
The Triangle of Instability in Africa and the assessment of the African Union's countermeasures

In recent times, the spread of religious extremism has increased in Africa. A triangular shape of instability is gradually taking shape in West Africa, North Africa, and East African sub-regions. This has subsequently made Africa become the new hub for global terror activities. The spread of terror activities with a high incidence of major activities such as frequent cross-border attacks, retrofit of terrorist means, and increasing collusion with international and regional terrorism, all indicate that the terrorist threat faced by the African region is becoming more and more complicated.

This study seeks to outline this “triangle of instability” that is gradually taken shape in Africa while evaluating the role of the African Union (AU) in combating international terrorism in Africa. The study will also assess the various counterterrorism strategies of the Africa Union in combating international terrorism.

In evaluating these combative mechanisms, the article emphasizes their strengths and weaknesses and offers suggestions on how to make the role of the AU more effective in combating terrorism in Africa.

This study opined the urgent need to address this dangerous triangle that is taking shape in Africa which has dire consequences to the peace, security, and development as envisioned by the African Union Agenda 2063.

Dr. Gallous Atabongwoug (University of Pretoria, South Africa):

Coup d'états and counterterrorism in the Sahel: flip-flopping accusatory discourse

The growing need for resources and French influence in the political affairs of Francophone Africa since the dawn of independence has come under severe scrutiny. This is partly because of accusatory discourses that point at France as the instigator of a series of military coups in Francophone Africa during the 19th and 20th centuries. However, less than a decade in the 21st century, Francophone Africa has experienced another series of coup d'états. Currently, France is not accused as the instigator of the coup d'états. But rather is accused of inability to guaranty the security of the Sahel amid rising terrorism in the region. Coups leaders have justified the military takeover as efforts to fight against terrorism in Francophone African countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The coup leaders in practice have dismissed the aspiration of the flagship initiative of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 re: Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. This paper therefore seeks to determine the cause coup d'états in Francophone Africa in the 21st century? It seeks to examine whether coup d'états can resolve the problem of terrorism in the Sahel? And to understand whether coup d'états can guaranty democratic stability in the region. Answers to these questions would be obtained through secondary data journal articles, books, newspaper and other relevant publications that includes; censuses, information collected by government departments and organizational records etc.

Jordán Petrőcz (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):

Turkish military training in Somalia

The AKP-led Turkey has opened the scale and has built connections all over Africa, including the Sub-Saharan part to the southern end of the continent and even the Horn of Africa.

In Somalia Turkey has an intense and active presence in the last years. Besides building and renovating hospitals, schools and an airport terminal and the port of Mogadishu, in 2015 Turkey started to build a 400-hectare military complex in the Somalian capital. The complex now houses military schools, dormitories, depots and a lounge. The name of the facility is Turkish Task Force Command in Somalia (STGK), known in Somalia as Camp TURKSOM. The plan is that Turkish officers will train thousands of Somali soldiers and police officers, which means when this project finishes a great percentage of the Somalian forces will have their

crucial training and education from Turkey. But Turkey uses this facility to train soldiers from other African countries also.

In this study, we would like to give a picture of the Turkish military presence and training in Somalia.

PANEL 4
LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Pieter Van Ostaeyen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

(pieter.vanostaeyen@kuleuven.be)

Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk, Fulbright University, Vietnam (scott.n.romaniuk@gmail.com)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Mmaphuti Felicia Langa** (Óbuda University, Hungary):
An assessment of South Africa’s vulnerability to terrorism financing and the counter-terrorist financing framework
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Dr. Getachew Toma Bilate** (Ethiopian Civil Service University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ethiopia):
Terrorists and Intricate Security Apprehensions and Institutional Perspectives in the Horn of Africa
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Ralitsa Savova** (University of Pécs, Hungary)
Socio-cultural and Educational Perspectives on Africa: A case study from Zimbabwe
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Prof. em. William Hansen** (American University of Nigeria, Nigeria):
Banditry, Terrorism and State Failure: The Politics of Religion, Identity and the Transition to Modernity in Northern Nigeria
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Pieter Van Ostaeyen** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium):
Assessing al-Qaeda and The Islamic State in the Sahel - 2023
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Andreea Dincă** (West University of Timisoara, Romania):
Fake news, real security threats. The role of Russian disinformation campaigns in fueling terrorism in Africa.
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Dr. Andrea Hanna Sólyomfi – Győző Atkári** (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University & Hungarian Defence Force, Hungary):
The changing dynamics of terrorism in Africa under the shadow of the Russia-Ukraine war
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 13:50 **Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk – Dr. Tobias Burgers** (International Centre for Policing and Security, University of South Wales, United Kingdom Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary - Fulbright University Vietnam, Vietnam):
The expansion of Chinese policing and surveillance models, and African security governance: technological fix or security fixation

- 13:50 – 14:10 **Galgallo Abagaro** (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary):
The Role of Social Media in Radicalization in Kenya
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Marcell Pintér** (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The Impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Competition over Africa from the Chinese Perspective
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Prof. Dr. Roger Kibasomba Man-Byemba** (University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)):
Drivers of chaos in the Eastern DR Congo warfare
- 14:50 – 15:10 **Nyandoro Omuria** (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary):
Perception of Corruption among Civil Servants in Migori County, Kenya
- 15:10 – 15:50 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Mmaphuti Felicia Langa (Óbuda University, Hungary):

An assessment of South Africa's vulnerability to terrorism financing and the counter-terrorist financing framework

Terrorism financing poses a direct threat to South Africa's national security as well as the integrity and reputation of its financial system. Terrorism financing has the potential to finance and enable terrorist activities locally and abroad. Over and above posing a security threat, it also impacts the integrity of non-financial institutions such as charities and non-profit organisations which could be exploited, often unwittingly, for the financing of terrorism. Terrorist groups make use of multiple methods to raise, move, store and/or use funds and exploit the inherent vulnerabilities of countries' regulatory, financial, law enforcement and security frameworks. Their techniques vary and depend on the sophistication and objectives of terrorists, terrorist organisations and their sympathisers. Terrorism financing investigations are usually extremely complex, particularly with regard to the identification of financiers and ultimate end-users of the generated funds. This is due to the myriad financial transaction mediums such as cash and crypto assets, the international nature of transfers between financial jurisdictions, the informal financial sector (e.g. Hawala), as well as the capacity and capability challenges faced by financial institutions, regulators, supervisory bodies and law enforcement agencies. Funds intended for terrorism related activities may be derived from legitimate as well as from illicit sources, making terrorism financing particularly difficult to detect, disrupt and prevent. The constant evolution of terrorism financing methods in response to new and increasingly sophisticated countermeasures remains a continual challenge locally and for international financial oversight bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its regional-style bodies. This paper will investigate and assess South Africa's vulnerability to terrorism financing and the counter-terrorist financing framework to effectively combat terrorism financing. The key issues to be appraised include an assessment of factors that contribute to SA's vulnerability to terrorism financing. The financial costs of terrorism including weakening of the national institutions and the impediment of financial growth for SA. The social and political impacts of terrorism financing on human security in the country, Africa and the world. A counter-terrorist financing framework adopted by SA.

Dr. Getachew Toma Bilate (Ethiopian Civil Service University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ethiopia):

Terrorists and Intricate Security Apprehensions and Institutional Perspectives in the Horn of Africa

In the horn of Africa, the terrorism threats and apprehensions are anticipated to increase in the coming years. This is due to weak cooperation's trends among securities and intelligence institutions in the horn of Africa region. Particularly Republic of Somalia, North Sudan and Ethiopia may face a complicated and new set of securities threats due to the new movements of terrorist networks. The regional and local governments are worried about terrorists, extremists, and insurgent networks. The main focus of this study is on the complex security apprehensions and counter-terrorism institutional issues. The study also looks at how terrorist

networks are surviving in North Sudan and Somalia. Terrorist networks' tendencies from earlier decades are projected to become more severe in form and type in the next years due to the secret services of Al-Shabaab networks spreading in the horn of Africa countries. The Secret Service of al-Shabaab and the al-Shabaab intelligence wing lead by Amniyat networks are recently creating securities issues in the horn of Africa mainly in North Sudan and Republic of Somalia. However, the Ethiopia government is critically looking and investigating the terrorists' trends in its land and neighbouring countries. Terrorism attempts and current extremist groups movements in Somalia's, Mogadishu, North Sudan and in Ethiopia's the south-eastern boarder's areas and the western parts of Ethiopia provinces are more recently and directly linking to new terrorist threats in North Sudan and Somalia. Terrorism's survival, threats, and rising internal security problems are critical uncertainties for the communities. Insurgent threats are arguably more complicated than they have been in recent memory. The question is "What are the most pressing apprehensions when looking at the intricacy, recent tensions and ramifications of terrorization from an interrelated ideological and institutional standpoint?"

Ralitsa Savova (University of Pécs, Hungary)

Socio-cultural and Educational Perspectives on Africa: A case study from Zimbabwe

When we try to analyze the economic and social problems facing Africa today, we must do so not only in terms of the present or the last few years, including 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began, and the following two years in which it continued, but look much further back in time, paying attention to its colonial, even pre-colonial period. In this sense, generalizations about the current economic and social situation of Africa in the style of "Africa is poor because it is poor" sound neither serious, nor convincing. Like anything, to be understood, it must be studied with the mind, known with the soul, and felt with the heart. And so, it is with Africa. Because Africa is not poor - it is incredibly rich with its vast continental territory, with its valuable underground natural resources that God-Creator has so generously gave it as a gift, and with its human resources. Although the African population has gone through many difficulties and challenges in its history, it has preserved its dignity. It only needs to be trained and educated even more so that it does not live so poorly on the richest continent on Earth.

The purpose of this lecture is to introduce to the audience some aspects of education in Zimbabwe, where the author of the text herself lived and studied, as well as to pay attention to the prospects for cultural and wine tourism there, for social, educational, and cultural initiatives and cooperation, through the possibilities, which cultural and scientific diplomacy gives.

Prof. em. William Hansen (American University of Nigeria, Nigeria):

Banditry, Terrorism and State Failure: The Politics of Religion, Identity and the Transition to Modernity in Northern Nigeria

This paper is an attempt to synthesize and theorize the continuing disintegration of the Nigerian post-colonial state especially as it applies to the North. In so doing it combines the

theoretical insights of Eric Hobsbawm, E.P. Thompson and Paul Lubeck having to do with the intersection of a peasant-based, pre-modern agricultural society with a modern capitalist system. It also argues that the political class running the independent Nigerian state, wallowing in its venality, will continue to fail miserably at managing this transition. It concludes that post-colonial Nigeria meets all the criteria of a failed state.

The paper is divided into five substantive sections bookended by an introduction and a conclusion (1 and 7). Section 2 describes the “obsessive religiosity” that engulfs Nigeria and the dominance of what is essentially a pre-modern cultural outlook. Section 3 addresses the intersection of politics and religion in the North and the way in which the Northern elites manipulate religious feeling, especially that of the millions of alienated youths, to serve their own selfish interests. Section 4, pace Hobsbawm, Thompson and Lubeck, outlines the theoretical insights of social banditry, the moral economy of peasant society and a semi-industrialized stagnation. Section 5 discusses the concept of state failure and why I think Nigeria is a primary example of such a phenomenon. It also suggests that Nigeria’s massive state failure is the essential driver of what is described as terrorism, kidnapping and banditry. Section 6 discusses Nigerian state policy in the face of mass dissent; the gratuitous use of force instead of policies to protect the miscreant political actors and to try to terrorize the population into a fearful submission. A short conclusion follows.

Pieter Van Ostaeyen (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium):
Assessing al-Qaeda and The Islamic State in the Sahel - 2023

This paper aims to provide an overview of nearly a year of reporting on Jihadi activities throughout the Sahel. Since the landscape is so diverse we only take the main networks in scope; being Jama’at Nusra al-Islam wa’l-Muslimin (JNIM) – al-Qaeda’s official Sahelian branch – on the one hand and the two Islamic State affiliates in the area, The Islamic State in Western Africa Province (ISWAP) and the Islamic State in Sahel Province (ISSP), on the other end of the spectrum.

We will provide an overview of 2023’s most important operations and evolutions like the retreat of French and other European forces from the region and their replacement (in Mali and Burkina Faso) by the Russian Private Military Contractor (PMC) The Wagner Group. A most important development is the withdrawal from MINUSMA-forces from Mali, it will become clear in the next few months what the effect of the termination of operations will lead to; general expectation however is that the situation will continue to exacerbate with both Jihadi affiliates and the Wagner Group on the field.

Apart from the data-analysis we will look into the evolution of the Jihadi presence throughout the region, hereby stressing some of the main trends such as the continuous infighting between JNIM and ISSP for the control of parts of Mali, the intensifying attempts by the Islamic State’s affiliates to impose a strict interpretation of Islamic Law, the plundering of resources by the Wagner Group, ...

In a final section we will provide some policy recommendations, not only for governments in the region but for the international community in its entirety. If nothing is done, we will see

the repercussions of our inability to act on a wider scale while the region further evolves into a quagmire. As has been remarked, not only by international researchers but also by al-Qaeda and Islamic State leaders, the Sahel has become the international hotbed for Jihad. Our paper will look into this evolution, attempts to look ahead and deal with lessons learned and future evolvments.

Andreea Dincă (West University of Timisoara, Romania):

Fake news, real security threats. The role of Russian disinformation campaigns in fueling terrorism in Africa.

In 2022, the Global Terrorism Index assessed terrorist activities and concluded that there was a severe deterioration in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the Sahel. Moreover, almost half of all terrorism deaths globally occurred in this region. Simultaneously, the Sahel is also the fiefdom of Wagner Group, which has been operating in the region in recent years.

With the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Russian presence in Africa has gained new momentum, especially in the form of disinformation campaigns led mainly by the Wagner Group. While current research suggests that the Wagner Group's approach to Africa is likely to destabilize further the countries in which it operates, there is a scarce debate about its impact on terrorism in those countries. Furthermore, the impact of disinformation campaigns in fuelling terrorism in Africa constitutes a research gap that this paper is trying to address.

Therefore, drawing on the human security theory, this paper assesses how the Russian-led disinformation campaigns fuel terrorism in Africa, particularly in the Sahel region. Employing a case study approach of enquiry consisting of the disinformation campaigns in the Sahel region, this paper aims to answer the research question: How do the Russian-led disinformation campaigns impact terrorism activities in Africa?

This paper uses document analysis and process tracing methods by deploying a qualitative research design. The results of this approach reveal several aspects. Firstly, the themes of disinformation campaigns – namely neocolonialism – can contribute to grievances among the population, which in turn feed the violence spiral, thus providing fertile ground for terrorist groups. Secondly, Russian-led disinformation campaigns further distort already fragile political dynamics and contexts in which democratic social initiatives have been silenced. Lastly, the human security dimension is severely affected in the long run, fuelling internally displaced people's movement in the region – a complex state of affairs that overlaps the region's heterogeneous ethnic and religious landscape.

In this context, the result of the Russian-led disinformation campaigns in Africa has the potential to fuel a spillover of violence in unaffected countries and, furthermore, to exacerbate terrorist activities in the region.

Dr. Andrea Hanna Sólyomfi – Győző Atkári (Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University & Hungarian Defence Force, Hungary):

The changing dynamics of terrorism in Africa under the shadow of the Russia-Ukraine war

In our contribution, I would like to analyse the role and importance of private armies. Narrowing down the topic to the African continent, we would like to focus on Russian assistance and the acquisition of influence through it and its increase in the individual countries concerned.

Looking for a connection between the activities of the individual supporting countries UN and EU and the "non-governmental" military organizations (Wagner Group) Wagner Private Military Company.

Its contractors have reportedly taken part in conflicts around the world, including the civil wars in Syria, Libya, the Central African Republic and Mali, often fighting on the side of forces aligned with the Russian government. Wagner operatives are accused of committing war crimes including murder, torture, rape and robbery of civilians, as well as torturing accused deserters.

In summary, we are researching the answer to the decisions of the current leadership of various countries regarding the rise of private military organizations instead of the aid of the supporting countries.

**Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk – Dr. Tobias Burgers (International Centre for Policing and Security, University of South Wales, United Kingdom
Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary - Fulbright University Vietnam, Vietnam):**

The expansion of Chinese policing and surveillance models, and African security governance: technological fix or security fixation

In both local and global contexts, particularly in Europe, South America, and Africa, the rise of smart cities has been increasingly linked to Chinese surveillance technologies, raising questions about the role of the Chinese state, technology, and security practises. China's first "safe city system" was implemented in Kenya in 2014, and as a result, Nairobi now has approximately 2,000 HD video systems and a developing digital surveillance infrastructure. Since then, this infrastructure project has grown to incorporate more monitoring systems in other Kenyan municipalities in addition to other African nations including Egypt, Uganda, and South Africa, among others. However, reports suggest that crime has risen in Kenyan cities since their adoption between 2014 and 2018, illustrating a logical and casual contradiction between expanding security practises under these parameters and their ostensible reductions in criminal and terrorist activity. The efficacy of these activities is currently poorly supported by empirical and data-based research. Therefore, more specialised research in this field of study is required. China's increasing policy operations and engagements in Africa could potentially have negative ramifications for African security governance and the construction of oppressive policing and security methods and models. Our study investigates these connections and aims to understand how China's policing and technological surveillance strategies in Africa relate to one another, as well as the connections between technologies

that support law enforcement efforts and how public and private actors perceive and react to digital technologies as important development tools and potential threats to or boosters of national security. In addition to using data from other African nations where China has become involved in policing through technical surveillance systems and infrastructure, we use Kenya as our primary case study for our analysis. Our research contributes to the rising scholarly conversation and the dearth of data and knowledge based on research.

Galgallo Abagaro (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary):
The Role of Social Media in Radicalization in Kenya

The use of social media as a tool for extremist groups to spread their ideologies and recruit individuals into violent extremist groups in Kenya has posed a persistent threat to national security. This conference presentation provides a critical evaluation of the role of social media in radicalization and recruitment processes in Kenya. Extremist groups in Kenya leverage social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, and WhatsApp to disseminate propaganda, share updates, and communicate with their followers. Through the use of videos, images, and texts that glorify extremist actions, social media has become a powerful force for the propagation of extremist ideas, particularly in the context of violent extremism. Furthermore, social media offers a sense of community and belonging to individuals who may be susceptible to radicalization, particularly those who feel marginalized or excluded from mainstream society. The anonymity provided by social media platforms allows individuals to connect with like-minded individuals and extremist groups without fear of being identified by law enforcement agencies. Additionally, extremist groups utilize social media as a low-cost platform for conducting recruitment campaigns, targeting vulnerable individuals. The use of personalized communication and direct engagement by extremist recruiters on social media facilitates the identification of individuals who are receptive to extremist messaging. To prevent the spread of extremist ideologies, it is imperative that effective counter-terrorism strategies take into account the role of social media and address the root causes of extremism and radicalization in Kenya. By limiting the use of social media by extremist groups and addressing the underlying factors that contribute to radicalization, it is possible to promote a more peaceful and secure society. This presentation emphasizes the critical significance of understanding the role of social media in radicalization and recruitment processes for developing appropriate counter-terrorism measures.

Marcell Pintér (Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences, Óbuda University, Hungary):
The Impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Competition over Africa from the Chinese Perspective

The presence of the People's Republic of China has been increasing in recent decades as the main alternative to the Western colonial powers of old, expanding on the continent economically, culturally, politically, and also militarily. This paper attempts to examine the changes in influence, expansion, employed tactics, the African countries' acceptance, and generally re-evaluate the current situation in the competition over Africa between the long-

established actors from the continent's colonial past as well as relatively newer actors such as China in light of the currently ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War.

Prof. Dr. Roger Kibasomba Man-Byemba (University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)):

Drivers of chaos in the Eastern DR Congo warfare

Eastern DR Congo is seriously affected by a protracted warfare involving illicit exploitation of natural resources, corruption, humanitarian crisis and terrorism carried out by armed groups including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Movement of 23 March (M23). According to DRC government, M23 is a terrorist movement supported by Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF). For Rwanda, the warfare and chaos resulted from ethnic conflicts over land, citizenship and local political power, state failures. To many observers, ongoing violence and fighting are driven by rent seeking by Congolese military commanders, lack of State authority, distorted rule of law at national and local levels, the abuse of public office for private gain (corruption), failed defence/security and justice sector reforms, undisciplined civilian armed and unarmed combatants, warlords and opportunist warmongers. Overall, State failures combined with globalized war diseconomy as conducted by multinational companies, failed multiparty system regarding democratic governance drive ongoing chaos and armed violence, beyond government control and defence capabilities, despite peace agreements and the involvement of international and regional peacekeeping initiatives. Our analysis suggests that used war strategy resembles to what McKew refers to as the Gerasimov Doctrine, a chaos theory of political warfare being used by Russia in Ukraine war. It is a silent total warfare combining politics and war activities with the objective of weakening, controlling and submitting an enemy by influencing its domestic politics and security. It creates a chaotic environment as a result of Clausewitzian friction. Hence, sustainable effective solutions need to address chaos drivers. Such change calls on the involvement of the Head of State as the commander in chief of the armed forces because it is a matter of rebuilding the State, transforming non-state forces into a professional military (FARDC) and inducing few innovations into the defence sector. Territorial armies portray such innovation.

Nyandoro Omuria (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary):

Perception of Corruption among Civil Servants in Migori County, Kenya

Corruption is not a new phenomenon in Kenya; it has been existing since the birth of government institutions. In Kenya a transition is taking place towards an understanding of corruption which transcends the accepted everyday meaning of the word. In everyday parlance, corruption usually signifies a specific, illegal or illegitimate transaction. Corruption determinants are sub-divided into economic determinants and non-economic determinants. The economic determinants include economic freedom, globalization, level of education, distribution of income and average level of income. The non-economic determinants list consists on press freedom, democracy and share of population affiliated with particular religion. The focus of this study was to determine the perception of Corruption among civil Servants in Migori County. The methodologies used included descriptive research survey and simple random sampling technique was used to ensure equal chance of representation of all

respondents selected for the purpose of this study. Instrument of data collection mainly focused on questionnaires and interviews. Findings showed bribery, extortion, embezzlement, favouritism, nepotism and fraud are forms of corruption which are rampant in Migori County. I can conclude that corruption does really exist and it's very rampant in Migori County. Presence of opportunity, poverty or lack of money, ambitions to be rich, unexpected financial needs, poor working conditions, poor salaries and job insecurity are the main causative agents of corrupt malpractices. The government should take an initiative to address these problems. Other factors such as lack of auditing, improper supervision, unclear segregation of duties are some of contributing factors. Recommendations include Bringing those involved in corruption to face the law, protecting corruption whistleblowers and increasing transparency. Key words are; corruption, embezzlement, social injustice, victim, perpetrators, and governance.

BIOGRAPHIES

Keynote speech by

Senior Professor Hussein Solomon holds a D.Litt et Phil (Political Science) from the University of South Africa. Currently he is Senior Professor in the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State. Until 2022, he was Academic Head of Department in the Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of Free State. His previous appointments include being Executive Director of the International Institute of Islamic Studies (2009-2010); Professor and Director of the Centre for International Political Studies, University of Pretoria (2000-2010), Research Manager at the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (1998-2000), Senior Researcher: Institute for Security Studies (1996-1998) and Research Fellow: Centre for Southern African Studies, University of the Western Cape (1993-1995). In 2011, he was Visiting Professor at the Osaka School for International Public Policy (OSIPP). In 2007 and 2010 he was Visiting Professor at the Global Collaboration Centre at Osaka University in Japan and in 2008 he was Nelson Mandela Chair of African Studies at Jawahrlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. In 1994, he was Senior Visiting Fellow at the Department of War Studies, King's College, University of London. In 2019 he was he was Visiting Professor at the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Stellenbosch University. Currently he is Visiting Fellow at the MacKinder Programme for the Study of Long-Wave Events at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the United Kingdom, a Senior Associate for the Israeli-based think tank Research on Islam and Muslim in Africa, a Visiting Professor at the Osaka School of International Public Policy, a Visiting Professor at Nelson Mandela University, Visiting Professor at the Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Military Science at Stellenbosch University, an Extraordinary Professor at the School of Government, North-West University, a Research Fellow at Niger Delta University, a researcher at the Africa Research Institute at Hungary's Óbuda University and a Senior Analyst for New York-based WikiStrat.

His research interests revolve around political Islam and issues of terrorism. His most recent books include *'African Security in the Anthropocene'* (with Jude Cocodia, Springer, 2023), *'The Future of War in Africa'* (with Eeben Barlow, Amazon Kindle, 2023), *'Intersectionality and LGBTQI Rights: A Comparative Analysis of Iran, Turkey and Egypt'* (with Simone Bekker, Nova Publishers, 2023), *'Directions in International Terrorism: Theories, Trends and Trajectories'* (Palgrave, 2021), *'Terrorism in Africa: New Trends and Frontiers'* (with Glen Segell and Sergey Kostelyanets, Institute for African Studies, Moscow, 2021), *'Arab MENA Countries: Vulnerabilities and Constraints Against Democracy on the Eve of the Global COVID-19 Crisis'* (with Arno Tausch, Springer 2021), *'Exporting Global Jihad'* (with Tom Smith, IB Tauris/Bloomsbury 2020), *'Islamism, Crisis and Democratization: Implications of the World Values Survey for the Muslim World'* (with Arno Tausch, Springer, 2020), *'African Security in the Twenty-First Century: Challenges and Opportunities'* (with Stephen Emerson, Manchester University Press, 2018), *'Understanding Boko Haram and Insurgency in Africa'* (with Jim Hentz, Routledge, 2017), *'Islamic State and the Coming Global Confrontation'* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), *'Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Africa: Fighting Insurgency from Al Shabaab, Ansar Dine and Boko Haram'* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and *'Jihad: A South African Perspective'* (Sun Media, 2013).

Closing remarks by

Prof. Dr. Zoltán Rajnai is currently the National Cyber Coordinator of Hungary and professor at the Óbuda University. Previously Dr. Rajnai served as Colonel in Hungarian Defence Forces (1981-2013) and was professor at the National Defence University in the field of Information, info-communication, and telecommunication systems (1993-2013). Since 2013, Dr. Rajnai also is the Dean of faculty of Mechanical and Safety Engineering, Head of Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences with main responsibilities in the field of Cyber Security, Information Security, info-communication, and telecommunication systems. Dr. Rajnai received education from the High School at the Hungarian Defence Forces (1981-1985), the Military Academy (1990-1993), the Doctoral School on Military Sciences (1997-2000), and the Joint Security College- Paris, France (2003-2004).

Moderators and presenters

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Lieutenant Colonel (Res) Atkári, Győző finished his active military service in May 2023 as deputy chief of Evaluation Branch the General Staff J7. As a direct evaluator of the Hungarian missionary roles, he gained experience in the EU, UN and NATO operations carried out in various crisis zones. He personally served for a year in the work of the EU training mission in Mali in 2017-18.

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Besenyő, János (Prof. dr.) served as a military officer between 1987 and 2018, and from 2018 he is a professor at the Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences of the Óbuda University where he is the head of the Africa Research Institute. His research interests include contemporary and recent history of Africa, migration and the Middle East, and peacekeeping,

military logistics, Hungarian peacekeeping operations in Africa, with particular reference to Western Sahara, and in addition, comparing political cultures, political communication and intercultural communication, DDR programs in Africa, terrorism, and Christian-Muslim relationship on the continent. Served several times in Africa (Western Sahara, Darfur) and Afghanistan. He received his PhD in Military Science from Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University in 2011, and in 2017, he received a habilitated doctorate at Eötvös Loránd University. In 2014, he established the Scientific Research Centre of the Hungarian Defence Forces General Staff, and as colonel he was the leader of it from 2014-2018. He wrote several books and articles. His most recent publication is *“MINURSO United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara: Peace Operation Stalled in the Desert, 1991-2021”* (Helion & Company, 2023). Email: besenyo.janos@phd.uni-obuda.hu

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Bryczek – Wróbel, Patrycja (PhD) is a doctor of Social Sciences. She has been employed at the Military University of Technology since 2009, first at the Department of New Technologies and Chemistry, then at the Science Department (since 2014). Since December 2019 Deputy Director of the Institute of Security and Defence for Scientific Affairs and Head of the Laboratory of Crisis Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection. Since 2020, Director of the Institute for Security and Defence in the Department of Security, Logistics and Management. She is editor-in-chief of the scientific journal Defence Science Review and a member of the editorial board of the journal National Security Studies.

Her recent publications include *‘The geopolitical situation of Poland in relation to the foreign policy of the Russian Federation’* (book chapter, 2023), *‘The evolution of the concept of information warfare in the modern information society of the post-truth era’* (article, “Defence science review”, 2022), *‘Crisis management plan, Crisis management system, Critical infrastructure, Emergency system, State of natural disaster’* (lexicon, 2022), *‘The concept of improving the security of IT systems supporting the storage of knowledge in organizations’* (article, “Systems Science & Control Engineering”, 2022), *‘The geopolitical situation of Estonia in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation’* (article, „Polityka i Społeczeństwo”, 2021), and *‘The Change in the Security Conditions of Developed Societies Resulting from the Rapid Development of Cognitive Science’* (article, IBIMA, 2020).

Burgers, Tobias (PhD) focuses on emerging technologies and their (political) impact on international conflict and security, the governance of (new and emerging) technologies, and international security relations in the Indo-Pacific as his primary research interests. He received his doctorate in political science from the Otto Suhr Institute, Free University of Berlin. His doctoral research examined how cyber and robotic technologies change the (political) nature of international conflict and war, focusing on the United Nations peace operations. During his doctoral studies, he worked for the Berlin N.G.O. Crisis Simulation for Peace, developing conflict simulation scenarios. Following his doctorate, he was a Taiwan Fellow at the National Chengchi University and a Canon Foundation fellow at the Cyber

Civilization Research Center, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, where he researched the governance of technologies in the Asia Pacific, as well as the impact of cyber and robotic technologies on security dynamics in the region. Most recently, he was a project assistant professor at the Cyber Civilization Research Center, where he taught on these subjects and ran a region-wide research project understanding the societal impact of cyber conflict and its impact on conventional security relations. Email: tobias.burgers@protonmail.ch

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Commissioned in the Army, Castel became a paratrooper and a captain in military intelligence. He is a decorated combat veteran, having served in Lebanon and several other areas of operation. A senior law enforcement official with a background in police special operations, his current position deals with combating wildlife crime. Email: robertccastel@gmail.com

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Hansen, William (Prof. em.), born in Ohio, USA, Bill Hansen is Emeritus professor of Politics and International Studies at the American University of Nigeria in Yola where he has taught for the past 19 years. He was educated at the universities of Maryland, London (SOAS) and Boston and has taught in North America, Western Europe, Central Asia and West Africa. An activist in the US Civil Rights and a former Freedom Rider (1961), Hansen's research focuses on nationalism, identities, the intersection of religion and politics, Fanon's political thought. Boko Haram and the post-colonial Nigerian state.

Juhasz, Peter Gergo (PhD) graduated from the Nyiregyhaza College (now University of Nyiregyhaza) in 2002 with a degree in agricultural engineering, and in 2006 from the Szent Istvan University of Godollo (now Hungarian University of Agricultural and Life Sciences) with a degree in environmental agricultural engineering. Since 2007, he has been active as an entrepreneur in the field of import-export of food and other products. He has worked as a development consultant in Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, South Africa, Namibia and Zambia. His research and publications focus mainly on food security in developing countries. As the President of the Planetrise Association for Culture and Environmental Protection, he is active in civil society, mainly in the field of sustainability and international development. He is the head of the "Sustainable Africa Research Group" at the Africa Research Institute of the Óbuda University. His work has focused on the development and operation of humanitarian, environmental and agricultural projects, mainly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, South Africa and Malawi.

Szilvia, Juhaszne Veress graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Agriculture of Nyiregyhaza College (now University of Nyiregyhaza) in 2006 with a degree in agricultural engineering, environmental management. Afterwards she obtained her diploma in agricultural engineering and MSc in conservation engineering at the Faculty of Agriculture, Food Science and Environmental Management of the University of Debrecen. He is a founding member of the Planetrise Association for Culture and Environmental Protection, where he

coordinates the organisation's programmes. His professional work is used in conservation, environmental management and food security programmes. She is responsible for data analysis, textual evaluation and studies based on data collection for the association's international and national development programmes. He regularly teaches in the field of environmental education, editing educational booklets and publications. He started his studies at the Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences at the Óbuda University in September 2022. His research topic is the protection of specific elements of critical infrastructure (food supply chain) under specific conditions.

Khanyile, Moses B. (PhD) CD(SA) is currently the Director of the Centre for Military Studies at Stellenbosch University. He has served in various capacities within the public and private sectors. He has received several Ministerial assignments including being a non-executive director in the Armscor SOC Board of Directors, and also being a committee member responsible for drafting the Defence Review for the Department of Defence (DOD) which was adopted by the South African Parliament in 2015. From an academic perspective, he holds a PhD in International Politics from the University of Pretoria and two master's degrees from Stellenbosch University and the University of South Africa (UNISA). He is also chartered director from the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa (IoDSA). He provides academic services, including post-graduate supervision and moderation, at Stellenbosch University, Free State University, Da Vinci Business School, and UNISA. He has written and published papers on defence industry dynamics, regional security, intelligence, and defence policy.

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Langa, Mmaphuti Felicia is a South African Master of Arts graduate. She has graduated with two Master of Arts Degrees from University of Limpopo in International Politics (2016). Her second Master of Arts degree was obtained from the University of Johannesburg in Development Studies (2022). She is currently studying a Humanitarian Response Manager (HRM) Course with the Óbuda University as well as working full-time as an analyst for the South African government. Her research interests include Terrorism, refugee studies, and role of religion in politics, conflict and security studies. She aspires to be a PhD candidate at the Óbuda University Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences.

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GUIDELINES

For presenters

Each panel will be facilitated by two moderators who will introduce the presenter to the audience but also provide guidelines on an ongoing basis.

As background information, please note the following information as a presenter:

- All presentations are in English.
- Time allocation is 20 minutes per presentation.
- There will be a panel discussion after all presentations in a specific session have been made. This will be facilitated by the moderators.
- If the presenter wants to use PowerPoint slides, these will have to be sent to Dr, David Vogel (e-mail address: vogel.david@uni-obuda.hu) by not later than 18 September 2023 at 16h00.
- Be mindful of time and the moderator will alert you five (5) minutes before the allocated time expires.
- It is advisable to keep your Video and Audio On when you present, but if there is a problem with your network or bandwidth, you can switch the Video Off.
- Try and find a room that is quiet and does not have a lot of background noise or movement of people.

GUIDELINES

For moderators

The conference is co-hosted by Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and Óbuda University (Hungary). In the spirit of working together, we deemed it wise to have co-moderators who will preside over various sessions as indicated in the programme. In this way we believe that it would enable co-moderators to establish long-lasting academic relationship which would benefit their institutions. We have therefore provided a Contact List for all moderators for your interaction prior to, during and after the conference. While co-moderators are at liberty to decide on how they would manage their sessions, the following guidelines are proposed for their consideration:

- Given that each session has multiple presenters, moderators may alternate in introducing each presenter e.g. the Óbuda co-moderator could introduce the first presenter, then the next one would be introduced by the Stellenbosch moderator, and so on.
- Presenters are given 20 minutes to present their papers. Once all presenters have made their presentations, there would be a panel discussion session where all presenters would be taking questions from the audience.
- Questions from audience could be handled in the same manner, where moderators alternate in facilitating questions e.g. the first round of questions would be handled by one moderator, and then the next round of questions is managed by the other moderator until there are no more questions or the time runs out.
- Moderators are advised to keep their microphones and videos OFF during the presentations.
- Moderators are encouraged to keep their videos ON the whole time during panel discussions, unless there are technical issues.
- Panel Members are encouraged to keep their videos ON during the panel discussion, while microphones should be switched ON only when answering the questions.
- It is suggested that the moderator should switch ON the video five (5) minutes before the end of presentation as an indication to the presenter to start wrapping up.
- In introducing the presenter, the moderator will only read the 'Name & Surname, Title of the paper, the institution and country'.
- If the presenter is not available or has technical problems, the next presenter in line should proceed in order to save time. When the previous presenter arrives or gets reconnected, he/she will take the next slot or as moderators would decide.
- Audience should be advised to keep their videos and microphones OFF the whole time, unless when asking a question.
- Questions and comments would be sent via the Chat facility.

GUIDELINES

For registration

Participation in the conference is free of charge but all delegates are required to register.

For registration, click [here](#).

The information provided during registration will be kept confidential and will not be shared with any person or entity, but it will be used to send to the delegates all the information relating to the upcoming and future conferences.

Registration ends 18 September 2023 23:59 hrs (GMT+2).

All those who have registered can participate in the various sessions – plenary and all panels – by clicking on the hyperlinks included in this booklet at the beginning of the pages with the detailed programme of the different sessions.

GUIDELINES

For publication

Presentations submitted in a written format that match the criteria and successfully go through the editorial process will be published either in the *Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS)* or the *Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies*.

About the Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS)

The Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal publishing high-quality, original research. It accepts the following types of articles: original articles, book reviews.

Please note that only manuscripts written in English are considered for publication.

The Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies advances scholarship on a broad range of issues related to modern and contemporary Africa and their historical evolution. It is managed by the Africa Research Institute of Óbuda University in Budapest, and welcomes studies in the following subjects: human geography, history, historiography, literature, culture and anthropology, politics, conflict studies, ethnic studies, security studies, defense studies, migration, critical infrastructure and economy, development studies, and humanitarian management.

The journal is essential reading for all academics, decision-makers, and security specialists concerned with understanding issues related to modern and contemporary Africa. Besides, special focus is placed on all past, present, and future areas of shared concern in the African and Central and Eastern European contexts.

About the Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies

Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal published bi-annually by the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Our journal has a long and proud history of researching and publishing on a broad spectrum of matters and issues relating to defence, security and military affairs using a discipline-based and inter-disciplinary research approach. Published articles are of high quality since all submissions are refereed (peer-reviewed) by at least two experts in the field. Refereeing is done with complete anonymity and confidentiality.

Scientia Militaria does not charge any APCs or submission charges. More importantly, it is [DHET accredited](#), allowing their research the opportunity to qualify for a subsidy from the South African Department of Higher Education and Training. Apart from academics, the journal has also attracted researchers from different backgrounds, experiences and sectors to publish their work. Furthermore, the journal's editorial team has and continues to welcome research beyond our domestic borders despite its South African focus, which further adds to its rich and diverse character.

The Editorial Process

You have the option to publish open access in both Journals. Publishing open access means that your article will be free to access online immediately on publication, increasing the visibility, readership and impact of your research.

1. Online Submission

The author should submit the manuscript through e-mail to *Dr. David Vogel* (vogel.david@bgk.uni-obuda.hu), complying with the instructions for authors. The author receives an acknowledgment by email confirming the article submission.

2. First Check

The editorial staff will make a first assessment of the article submitted. Manuscripts that do not comply with the instructions for authors may be returned to the authors.

3. Contact by Editorial Staff

The editorial staff will contact the author with a decision as to whether the manuscript will be considered for publication in the journal.

4. Peer-Review

Manuscripts will undergo a very stringent double-blind peer-review process, where both the identities of authors and reviewers remain undisclosed in order to guarantee the highest quality of the journal. All manuscripts (except for book reviews) will be sent out for review and two review reports per manuscript will be collected. All reviewers will be carefully selected by the journal's editors for each submitted manuscript.

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