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

“A Changing World Order and Africa”

30 September 2026

CONFERENCE BOOKLET

2026

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

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

International Conference on
**Counter-terrorism, Technology & Development
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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://jceeas.bdi.uni-obuda.hu/index.php/jceeas>). 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

Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann, Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest and Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Hungary

Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile CD(SA), Associate Professor, Department of Political Sciences University of South Africa, South Africa

Captain Rhondine Candice Joseph, Stand-in Lecturer, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Captain (SAN) Graeme Wesley Plint, Acting Director, Centre for Military Studies Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Captain (SA Navy) (Prof. Dr.) Dries Putter, Head of the Security and Africa Studies Division, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk, Senior Research Fellow, Corvinus Centre for Contemporary Asia Studies, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Hendrik Snyders, Senior Researcher, Centre for Military Studies Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Major (Dr.) Krisztián Sztankai, Deputy Head of the Scientific Research Division, Transformation Directorate, Hungarian Defence Forces Transformation Command, Hungary

Dr. David Vogel, Deputy Head of Institute, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary

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Programme

2026 International Conference on 'Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Development in Africa'

Theme: "A Changing World Order and Africa"

30 September 2026; Time: 09h00 - 16h30 (GMT+2)

MS Teams Link	PLENARY SESSION			
09h00 - 09h10	Moderators: Prof. Dr. J. Besenyo & Prof. Dr. M.B. Khanyile	Welcoming by the Moderators		
09h10 - 09h40		Keynote Address by Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann		
	Moderators	Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann, Corvinus University	Major (Dr.) Krisztián Sztankai, Hungarian Defence Forces	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk, Corvinus University & Óbuda University
		Capt Rhondine Joseph, Stellenbosch University	Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, University of South Africa	Dr. Hendrik Snyders, Stellenbosch University
		Panel 1: Human Security	Panel 2: Socio-Economic Development	Panel 3: Technology & Cyber-Security
		MS Teams Link 1	MS Teams Link 2	MS Teams Link 3
09h45 - 10h05		Presenter 1	Presenter 1	Presenter 1
	Name & Surname	Dr. Ibraheem Mikail Abiola	Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann & Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk	Dr. Martha Namufohamba & Dr. Mude Torque
	Institution	University of Ilorin, Nigeria	Corvinus University & Óbuda University, Hungary	University of Namibia, Namibia
	Title of Paper	Security concern: The reshape of African migrants to the Middle East prior the war of America-Israel and Iran	Gulf Rivalry and External Influence in the Horn of Africa: Proxy Competition and Maritime Geopolitics in the Red Sea Region	Geospatial Technologies and National Security: Addressing Challenges in the Namibian Defence Force in the 21st Century

10h05 - 10h25		Presenter 2	Presenter 2	Presenter 2
	Name & Surname	Dr. Ráhel Czirájék	Etame Ekombo Franklin	Azwihangwisi Faith Muthambi
	Institution	Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Hungary	University of Buea, Cameroon	South African Parliament, South Africa
	Title of Paper	Human Security Challenges and Responses in a Kenyan Slum: The International Development Activities of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in East Africa	Socio-economic Development and Connectivity Disparities among African Countries: Causes, Implications, and Policy Responses in a Changing World Order	An analysis of the national cybersecurity in the South African military sector: The case for further study
10h25 - 10h45		Presenter 3	Presenter 3	Presenter 3
	Name & Surname	Dr. Agata Maria Karbowska	Prof. Dr. János Besenyő & Dr. Zsolt Szabó	Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba
	Institution	Jagiellonian University, Poland	Óbuda University, Hungary	University of South Africa, South Africa
	Title of Paper	Türkiye's Military Presence and Security Cooperation in the Horn of Africa. Case study of Ethiopia	How Do the Newly Discovered African Gas Reserves Affect the International Gas Market?	Data Processing in Law Enforcement in South Africa: Lessons from European Union for the Border Management Authority
10h45 - 11h15		Panel discussion	Panel discussion	Panel discussion
11h15 - 11h30	COFFEE BREAK			

11h30 - 11h50		Presenter 4	Presenter 4	Presenter 4
	Name & Surname	Lukhanyo Lesedi Matiwane & Ipfi Harrold Ravele	Borbála Ágnes Horváth	Oge Samuel Okonkwo
	Institution	Stellenbosch University & The South African Naval Museum, South Africa	Óbuda University, Hungary	University of Ghana, Ghana
	Title of Paper	The Sinking of the SAS President Kruger: Human Factors and Maritime Safety Lessons Through HFACS	The Geopolitics of Strategic Resilience: Historical Continuity and Scientific Diplomacy in the System of Cuban–Egyptian Relations (1979–2025)	Technology, Counter Terrorism, and Human Security in Northern Nigeria
11h50 - 12h10		Presenter 5	Presenter 5	Presenter 5
	Name & Surname	Dr. Martha Namufohamba, Dr. Lindiwe Mhakamuni Khoza & Prof. Dr. HAP Smit	Retired Vice Admiral (Dr.) Asiel Elias Kubu	Dr. Stephen Ubong Andrew & Dr. Tope Joseph Omotosho
	Institution	Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Namibia; Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	University of Calabar & Arthur Jarvis University, Nigeria
	Title of Paper	Strengthening Human Security through Continuing Professional Development: Factors Influencing Implementation in the Namibian Defence Force	A Changing World Order: Readiness of Africa States in Addressing Current Socioeconomic Challenges Facing the Continent	Impulsivity and Dull Normalcy as Correlate of Susceptibility to Social Phishing Victimization: The Perception of Contemporary Criminologists in Nigeria

12h10 - 12h30		Presenter 6	Presenter 6	Presenter 6
	Name & Surname	Dr. Andrea Hanna Sólyomfi	Prof. Dr. Okpeh O. Okpeh	Dr. Tibor Pintér
	Institution	Budapest University of Economics and Business, Hungary	Federal University Lafia, Nigeria	University of Szeged, Hungary
	Title of Paper	Human Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: The Role of Security Awareness, Leadership and Resilience	Africa's Development Process in the Context of a Changing World Order: Interrogating the Nigerian Experience Since 1999	Batteries, Power, and Influence: China–DRC Relations in the Global Cobalt Race
12h30 - 13h00		Panel discussion	Panel discussion	Panel discussion
13h00 - 13h30		Lunch Break		
13h30 - 13h50		Presenter 7	Presenter 7	Presenter 7
	Name & Surname	Hanna Tietze	Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile	Dr. Rejoice Malisa-van der Walt & P. Malisa
	Institution	Óbuda University, Hungary	University of South Africa, South Africa	Stellenbosch University & Patsonmalisa Foundation, South Africa
	Title of Paper	External arms supply and human security in Africa: Evidence from the Sahel	The Paradoxical Relationship between Military Investment and Operational Value in Modern Warfare	Compute Governance and Digital Sovereignty in Africa: Pathways, Constraints, and Policy Design

13h50 - 14h10		Presenter 8	Presenter 8	Presenter 8
	Name & Surname	Prof. Dr. Andreas ('Dries') Velthuisen	Andiswa Matyolo & Zenani Tshangela	Samuella Oyejide Rodoye
	Institution	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	Admiralty University, Nigeria
	Title of Paper	From legacy of confrontation to transformative togetherness: Policy making for a post-transformation SANDF	Defence-Sector Lobbying and Election Outcomes: A Case Study of South Africa and Nigeria	Digital Colonialism and Africa's Place in the Changing World Order
14h10 - 14h30		Presenter 9	Presenter 9	Presenter 9
	Name & Surname	Dr. Buyisile Ntaka	Dr. Hendrik Snyders	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Prof. Dr. Kaan Namlı & Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann
	Institution	Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Corvinus University of Budapest & Médecins Sans Frontières, Hungary
	Title of Paper	Who governs the Sahel? JNIM, state authority and a changing world order	Strategic Fertiliser Resources in Africa: Guano, Fertiliser Security and Development in a Changing World Order	From Strategic Asset to Strategic Exposure: Türkiye's Drone Diplomacy and the Politics of Proxy Warfare in Africa
14h30 - 14h50		Presenter 10	Presenter 10	Presenter 10
	Name & Surname	Capt Rhondine Candice Joseph	Abutu Freeman Gabriel Adikwuoyi	Ilas Touazi
	Institution	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Admiralty University of Nigeria, Nigeria	The National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts, France
	Title of Paper	An Examination of the rationale behind Employee Turnover in the South African National Defence Force	Civil-Military Relations and Corporate Governance in Nigeria: Historical Trajectories	Algerian Counter-Terrorism Governance: An Evolving Policy from the "Black Decade" to the "Post-Hirak."

			and Contemporary Security Implications	
14h50 - 15h10		Presenter 11	Presenter 11	Presenter 11
	Name & Surname	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Prof. Dr. Kaan Namli & Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann	Maj. Nirmala Chengalroyen	Péter Balogh
	Institution	Corvinus University of Budapest & Médecins Sans Frontières, Hungary	South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) Research Institute, South Africa	University of Szeged, Hungary
	Title of Paper	Türkiye and Israel in the Horn of Africa: Recognition Politics, Strategic Competition, and Influence Portfolios in Somaliland	Adaptive Leadership and Corporate Governance Frameworks in African Defence and Security Institutions Amid a Shifting World Order	Changing patterns of great power competition in Africa in a transforming geopolitical context - Investigations of state-initiated security assistance and cyber proxy network activities
15h10 - 15h30		Panel discussion	Panel discussion	Panel discussion
15h35 - 16h30	PLENARY SESSION			
	MS Teams Link			
15h35 - 16h15	Feedback from Moderators			
16h15 - 16h30	Closing Address: Captain (SA Navy) (Prof. Dr.) Dries Putter			
16h30	Closure			

PLENARY SESSION
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

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

Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, University of South Africa, South Africa (Ekhanymb@unisa.ac.za)

09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming by the Moderators
09:10 – 09:40	Keynote Address by Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann , (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary): <i>African agency in the era of global uncertainty</i>
09:45 – 15:30	<i>Panel sessions</i>
15:35 – 16:15	Feedback from moderators
16:15 – 16:30	Closing Address by Captain (SA Navy) (Prof. Dr.) Dries Putter (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

PANEL 1
HUMAN SECURITY
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary (laszlo.csicsmann@uni-corvinus.hu)

Captain Rhondine Candice Joseph, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (rhondinej@sun.ac.za)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 09:45 – 10:05 | Dr. Ibraheem Mikail Abiola (University of Ilorin, Nigeria):
<i>Security concern: The reshape of African migrants to the Middle East prior the war of America-Israel and Iran</i> |
| 10:05 – 10:25 | Dr. Ráhel Czirájék (Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Hungary):
<i>Human Security Challenges and Responses in a Kenyan Slum: The International Development Activities of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in East Africa</i> |
| 10:25 – 10:45 | Dr. Agata Maria Karbowska (Jagiellonian University, Poland):
<i>Türkiye's Military Presence and Security Cooperation in the Horn of Africa. Case study of Ethiopia</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | <i>Panel discussions</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:50 | Lukhanyo Lesedi Matiwane & Ipfi Harrold Ravele (Stellenbosch University & The South African Naval Museum, South Africa):
<i>The Sinking of the SAS President Kruger: Human Factors and Maritime Safety Lessons Through HFACS</i> |
| 11:50 – 12:10 | Dr. Martha Namufohamba, Dr. Lindiwe Mhakamuni Khoza & Prof. Dr. HAP Smit (Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Namibia; Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
<i>Strengthening Human Security through Continuing Professional Development: Factors Influencing Implementation in the Namibian Defence Force</i> |
| 12:10 – 12:30 | Dr. Andrea Hanna Sólyomfi (Budapest University of Economics and Business, Hungary):
<i>Human Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: The Role of Security Awareness, Leadership and Resilience</i> |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | <i>Panel discussion</i> |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch break</i> |

13:30 – 13:50	Hanna Tietze (Óbuda University, Hungary): <i>External arms supply and human security in Africa: Evidence from the Sahel</i>
13:50 – 14:10	Prof. Dr. Andreas ('Dries') Velthuisen (Stellenbosch University, South Africa): <i>From legacy of confrontation to transformative togetherness: Policy making for a post-transformation SANDF</i>
14:10 – 14:30	Dr. Buyisile Ntaka (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary): <i>Who governs the Sahel? JNIM, state authority and a changing world order</i>
14:30 – 14:50	Capt Rhondine Candice Joseph (Stellenbosch University, South Africa): <i>An Examination of the rationale behind Employee Turnover in the South African National Defence Force</i>
14:50 – 15:10	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Prof. Dr. Kaan Namlı & Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann (Corvinus University of Budapest & Médecins Sans Frontières, Hungary): <i>Türkiye and Israel in the Horn of Africa: Recognition Politics, Strategic Competition, and Influence Portfolios in Somaliland</i>
15: 10 – 15:30	<i>Panel discussion</i>

ABSTRACTS

Dr. Ibraheem Mikail Abiola (University of Ilorin, Nigeria):

Security concern: The reshape of African migrants to the Middle East prior the war of America-Israel and Iran

The ongoing conflict/war involving the United States (US), Israel, and Iran has intensified with sustained airstrikes, rising casualties, and shifting alliances drawing in neighbouring countries. As positions harden, several states are beginning to align either in support of or opposition to the escalation. In the latest update of the conflict, Iran warned of possible retaliatory attack on key regional infrastructure if the United State President Donald Trump follows on his ultimatum over the Strait of Hormuz, while Trump has stated that he would “obliterate” Iran’s power plants if the country fails to fully reopen the Strait within the next 48 hours. This is the reason why this research is important to raise voice about the security concern of African migrants in the regions. Beyond the immediate region, the conflict is already exerting pressure on the global economy, contributing to rising in oil prices, increased airfares, and broader disruptions across multiple sectors. This research is aiming to adopt qualitative mode of research so as to be objective to the topic of discussion, interviews are going to be conducted to give this research a proper backing, while recommendations and possible solutions to the escalating problems are going to be provided.

Dr. Ráhel Czirják (Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Hungary):

Human Security Challenges and Responses in a Kenyan Slum: The International Development Activities of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in East Africa

The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (HCSOM) has been implementing international development projects in the urban slums of East Africa since the early 2010s, where living conditions still allow diseases to devastate local communities that in Europe last posed significant challenges in the 19th century. In these urban slums, which are home to more than one billion people worldwide, the basic elements of formal urban infrastructure and public services are almost entirely absent. Regarding the Kenyan urban slums, one of the greatest challenges is the lack of access to clean and healthy drinking water. In response to this need, the HCSOM is primarily engaged in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) development projects, which, due to its operational model, also create opportunities for a more sustained presence in settlements with highly fluctuating populations. Owing to the lasting presence, through a better understanding of local dynamics and a deeper knowledge of community needs, HCSOM has been able to diversify its development activities to support the difficult lives of slum residents in the most effective way possible. In this presentation, through the example of professional work carried out in Bogo Bogo, a slum area in Mombasa, we demonstrate the human security risks associated with informal urban settlements and the solutions that HCSOM seeks to provide in response to these challenges.

Dr. Agata Maria Karbowska (Jagiellonian University, Poland):

Türkiye's Military Presence and Security Cooperation in the Horn of Africa. Case study of Ethiopia

The evolving Turkish military presence in the Horn of Africa, with a specific focus on its security infrastructure in Somalia and its indirect but growing strategic implications for Ethiopia. While Türkiye's military engagement is often framed through a counterterrorism lens (particularly in relation to operations against Al-Shabaab) this study argues that its role increasingly reflects a broader model of hybrid security projection combining military training, defence diplomacy, and geopolitical positioning in the Red Sea corridor. The study finds that although Türkiye does not maintain a formal military base in Ethiopia, its presence is increasingly perceived through three channels: indirect security influence via Somalia-based military infrastructure (Camp TURKSOM), expanding defence-industrial exports including UAV systems and training programs, and diplomatic mediation between Ethiopia and Somalia in moments of escalation. Fieldwork in Ethiopia indicates a dual perception of Türkiye, as both a pragmatic security partner and a potential external actor reshaping regional security balances in ways that intersect with Ethiopian strategic anxieties regarding Red Sea access and encirclement narratives. It suggests that contemporary security dynamics are increasingly interpreted through a framework of dual-use militarisation, where external procurement of military capabilities is simultaneously oriented toward external deterrence and internal security management. Respondents frequently associate Ethiopia's expanding defence acquisitions and security cooperation networks with two overlapping strategic logics: external deterrence vis-à-vis Eritrea, particularly in the context of unresolved border tensions and Red Sea access anxieties, and internal counterinsurgency and state consolidation in relation to armed actors in Amhara and Tigray regions. Rather than indicating an imminent interstate war, these perceptions reflect a broader regional security dilemma, where military modernisation is interpreted by multiple actors as both stabilising and potentially escalatory. In this context, external partnerships (including Turkey's defence diplomacy and military training cooperation in the Horn of Africa) are embedded within Ethiopia's efforts to recalibrate its security posture amid fragmented internal authority and shifting regional alignments. The presentation further situates Turkish engagement within the broader competitive security environment involving Gulf states, China, and Western actors. It argues that Türkiye represents a "light footprint military power" that integrates counterterrorism assistance with long-term strategic entrenchment.

Lukhanyo Lesedi Matiwane & Ipfi Harrold Ravele (Stellenbosch University & The South African Naval Museum, South Africa):

The Sinking of the SAS President Kruger: Human Factors and Maritime Safety Lessons Through HFACS

Tragedy struck on 18 February 1982 in the deep waters southwest of Cape Point when a routine naval manoeuvre resulted in the collision between the SAS President Kruger and the SAS Tafelberg. An incorrect helm order issued by an unqualified Sub-Lieutenant on his first night watch, after only six months of sea experience, placed the President-class anti-submarine frigate on a collision course, ultimately leading to its sinking. The sinking of this vessel claimed sixteen lives and this will always go down as a sad period in the South African

Naval history. Extensive writing has been done on the commemoration and operational capabilities of the South African naval vessels, but limited research has been conducted on the sinking of SAS President Kruger through the lens of human factors. This study uses the Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS) to address the gap and re-examine the incident, moving beyond individual error to identify supervisory and organisational conditions that shaped the unsafe acts preceding the collision. By integrating HFACS with 4 decades of historical analysis, the study offers a systemic interpretation of the disaster and contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of maritime loss, responsibility, and remembrance.

Dr. Martha Namufohamba, Dr. Lindiwe Mhakamuni Khoza & Prof. Dr. HAP Smit (Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Namibia; Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Strengthening Human Security through Continuing Professional Development: Factors Influencing Implementation in the Namibian Defence Force

Human security in contemporary Africa is increasingly shaped by the capacity of state institutions to respond effectively to complex and evolving threats, including disasters, internal instability, and regional insecurity. The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) plays a critical role in supporting national resilience and public safety, with military instructors serving as key agents in preparing personnel for these responsibilities. However, the effectiveness of such preparation depends significantly on the successful implementation of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This study examines the factors influencing the successful implementation of CPD within the NDF, with particular attention to its implications for human security. The study is underpinned by Experiential Learning Theory and Human Resource Planning Theory. An inductive qualitative approach was adopted, using purposive sampling to select 50 participants from diverse NDF sectors. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and supplemented by document analysis. The findings reveal that while CPD is widely recognised as essential for maintaining professional competence, its implementation is hindered by several interrelated factors. These include limited financial resources, inadequate institutional support, the absence of a formalised CPD framework, and weak policy coordination mechanisms. Additionally, the study highlights the reliance on informal and ad hoc learning practices among military instructors, resulting in inconsistencies in training quality and limited preparedness to address complex human security challenges. These constraints undermine the NDF's ability to effectively contribute to national stability, disaster response and community protection. The paper argues that addressing these implementation barriers is critical for strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing human security outcomes. It contributes to the discourse on security sector reform in Africa by identifying key enablers for effective CPD and underscoring the importance of structured professional development systems in building resilient and responsive defence institutions.

Dr. Andrea Hanna Sólyomfi (Budapest University of Economics and Business, Hungary):
Human Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: The Role of Security Awareness, Leadership and Resilience

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping contemporary societies, economies, and security environments. While AI creates significant opportunities for innovation, efficiency, and improved decision-making, it also generates new risks that directly affect human security. The growing reliance on digital technologies, automated systems, and AI-supported decision processes highlights the need to reconsider security from a human-centred perspective. This paper examines the relationship between AI and human security, focusing on the role of security awareness, leadership, and resilience in addressing emerging challenges. It argues that technological solutions alone are insufficient to ensure sustainable security. Human factors - including awareness, trust, ethical decision-making, and adaptive leadership-remain critical determinants of how societies respond to technological change and uncertainty. The study explores key areas where AI influences human security, including information integrity, cyber threats, critical infrastructure protection, crisis management, and public trust. Particular attention is given to the importance of security awareness as a preventive and resilience building tool. Individuals, organizations, and public institutions must develop the capacity to recognize risks, evaluate information critically, and respond effectively to rapidly evolving threats. The paper adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on security studies, leadership research, and digital transformation literature. It also considers challenges faced by both developed and developing regions, where technological advancement often intersects with governance, social stability, and development concerns. The findings suggest that strengthening human security in the AI era requires more than technological innovation. It demands responsible leadership, resilient institutions, and a culture of security awareness capable of supporting informed decision-making and societal adaptation. Human-centred strategies will therefore play a decisive role in shaping secure and sustainable digital futures.

Hanna Tietze (Óbuda University, Hungary):
External arms supply and human security in Africa: Evidence from the Sahel

Human security risks in Africa are not a single-issue problem, but rather a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. These risks are driven by economic vulnerability, climate change, food and health crises, migration and weak state institutions. Within Africa, one of the regions most affected by security risks is the Sahel. This study first examines the relationship between climate vulnerability and armed conflicts within the Sahel region. Several organizations or nations provide military support to Africa in an effort to enhance governmental stability, however, this can lead to an increase in military clashes, a rise in illegal arms trade, and the looting of government arsenals. Consequently, in the second part of the study, a time-series analysis is used to examine the relationship between arms exports and the rise in armed conflicts. The analysis is expected to show a statistically significant relationship between the growing food shortages resulting from the climate crisis and the rise in armed conflicts, while concluding that arms exports intended to stabilize governments do not necessarily achieve the desired effect on their own. The study helps to better understand the impact of militarization in the Sahel region on heightening human security risks and highlights that a complex problem cannot be solved with a single solution like militarization.

Prof. Dr. Andreas ('Dries') Velthuis (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

From legacy of confrontation to transformative togetherness: Policy making for a post-transformation SANDF

This presentation is encouraged by the premise that defence is a vital instrument of human security and an essential element of national and global security. In recent years, a choir of discontent emerged in South Africa over the state of defence, sometimes characterised by cynical, sarcastic, politically or commercially motivated weaponised criticism of how defence is managed. Such criticisms, some of which are warranted, unfortunately undermine the defence's credibility in South Africa rather than adding value. Ideally, defence policymaking should be founded on credible research, including conceptualisation and empirical evidence of the legacy of confrontational togetherness that the South African defence establishment experienced before and during the transformation of defence in South Africa. The aim of the presentation is to share knowledge and start a conversation to translate complex data into a narrative (replacing noisemaking with knowledge useful for policymaking), aligned with governance frameworks, multiple interests, time and resource constraints. This aim will be achieved by offering a theoretical framework for transformative human security from a post-liberal ontological and epistemological lens, replacing the increasingly obsolete lens of liberalism, which has become illiberal and violent. From a methodological perspective, the presentation will present the tentative findings of a comparative analysis of defence policy factors before transformation (pre-1995) and since 1995, to identify future themes for policymaking in South Africa. The findings will be informed by scholarly literature, my own observations as a participant in the pre-transformation and transformation processes over 50 years, and complementary reflections with fellow scholars. The main argument of the presentation is that defence policymaking in South Africa should consider adaptability to changing circumstances, including the impact of food insecurity, infrastructure vulnerability, climate change and catastrophe management such as pandemics and dealing with animosities near and far, focusing on violence prevention and the well-being of South Africans, narrowing the arches of international defence collaboration. Dealing with flexible circumstances will mean upscaling to effective deterrence, downsizing to affordability and practicality, maintaining sovereignty in participation, regenerating military leaders who can serve as catalysts to achieve the end state of being 'transformed', and protecting the human security of all South Africans.

Dr. Buyisile Ntaka (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary):

Who governs the Sahel? JNIM, state authority and a changing world order

The persistence and expansion of insurgent groups in the Central Sahel raises a fundamental question: who governs in areas where state authority is weak, contested or absent? This paper addresses that question through an examination of Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and its growing influence across parts of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. While much of the existing literature focuses on military responses to insurgency, this paper shifts attention to the broader issue of governance and authority. The paper argues that the changing international order has important implications for state authority in conflict-affected African states. The decline of coherent international state-building efforts, the reconfiguration of external security partnerships and the emergence of a more fragmented

geopolitical environment, has altered the context within which governments and insurgent actors compete for legitimacy and control. In this environment, JNIM has increasingly positioned itself not only as an armed movement but also as an alternative source of governance. Drawing on a qualitative case study of the Central Sahel and secondary literature, the paper analyses how changing patterns of international engagement intersect with local governance dynamics. It contends that the challenge posed by JNIM is not solely one of security but of political authority. By examining the relationship between insurgent governance, state legitimacy and changing global dynamics, the paper contributes to debates on conflict, state-building and Africa's place within an evolving world order.

Capt Rhondine Candice Joseph (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

An Examination of the rationale behind Employee Turnover in the South African National Defence Force

Employee turnover is an ever-present challenge faced by many organisations. Military institutions are no exception. Extraordinary employee turnover impacts adversely the general effectiveness of all organisations, including non-profit organisations. Relatively high employee turnover is seen as a routine phenomenon in military working environments. Thus it is often unknown to line managers and commanders why employees decide to either leave the organisation or stay. While military leadership regard regular and even high levels of employee turnover as a normal phenomenon, it becomes a cause of concern when increasing numbers of military personnel voluntarily withdraw their services from the organisation. For effective service delivery and overall security of South Africa, the SANDF needs to focus on the retention of their valuable employees. Through maintaining the effectiveness, well-being and satisfaction of its personnel, it will secure retention of the best. Yet, an unusually high percentage of military personnel leave the SANDF prematurely. Therefore, a study was undertaken determine the reasons why military employees leave the SANDF, and to investigate factors that may contribute to their decisions to leave. Possible retention strategies would also be investigated. The study adopted a mixed research approach. The study had a sample size of (N=160) of which 140 were members still employed in the SANDF, and 20 members who had resigned. Quantitative data were analysed through IBM SPSS, and a thematic coding system was used to analyse qualitative data. The results of the study revealed that military employees make their decision to leave the SANDF based on three primary factors, namely: unfair treatment; incompetent leaders, managers, seniors; lack of organisational support. Recommendations were made that policy procedures should be adhered to when decisions are made, that leaders, managers and seniors should undergo a screening process before being appointed in critical command posts, and that support systems be implemented to assist military employees feeling compelled by circumstance to leave the organisation.

Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Prof. Dr. Kaan Namlı & Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann (Corvinus University of Budapest & Médecins Sans Frontières, Hungary):

Türkiye and Israel in the Horn of Africa: Recognition Politics, Strategic Competition, and Influence Portfolios in Somaliland

This article examines Türkiye and Israel's engagement with Somaliland, a de facto state with limited international recognition, and analyses how their contrasting approaches reflect different strategies for navigating legal norms, strategic competition, and influence building in the Horn of Africa. Drawing on a hybrid theoretical framework that integrates International Recognition Theory, Realist Geopolitical Theory, and Soft Power Analysis, the study situates state behaviour across legal, strategic, and non-coercive dimensions of influence. Türkiye emphasises institutional depth, development assistance, education, and security cooperation within the recognised Somali state framework, reinforcing territorial integrity while consolidating long-term regional presence without formal recognition. Israel, by contrast, leverages formal recognition as a strategic instrument to expand security cooperation, maritime positioning, intelligence access, and selective economic and technological partnerships. The article demonstrates how recognition, security policy, and attraction-based instruments interact in contested political spaces. The findings show that emerging and middle powers construct integrated influence portfolios that combine legal positioning, strategic calculation, and reputational tools, thereby reshaping regional alignments and the diplomatic baseline in geopolitically sensitive territories, while also highlighting implications for future regional diplomatic competition and evolving norms of recognition in contested territories and policy formulation practices.

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

Moderators:

Major (Dr.) Krisztián Sztankai, HDF Transformation Command (k.sztankai@gmail.com)

Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, University of South Africa, South Africa (Ekhanymb@unisa.ac.za)

09:45 – 10:05	Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann & Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary): <i>Gulf Rivalry and External Influence in the Horn of Africa: Proxy Competition and Maritime Geopolitics in the Red Sea Region</i>
10:05 – 10:25	Etame Ekombo Franklin (University of Buea, Cameroon): <i>Socio-economic Development and Connectivity Disparities among African Countries: Causes, Implications, and Policy Responses in a Changing World Order</i>
10:25 – 10:45	Prof. Dr. János Besenyő & Dr. Zsolt Szabó (Óbuda University, Hungary): <i>How Do the Newly Discovered African Gas Reserves Affect the International Gas Market?</i>
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Panel discussions</i>
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 11:50	Borbála Ágnes Horváth (Óbuda University, Hungary): <i>The Geopolitics of Strategic Resilience: Historical Continuity and Scientific Diplomacy in the System of Cuban–Egyptian Relations (1979–2025)</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Retired Vice Admiral (Dr.) Asiel Elias Kubu (Stellenbosch University, South Africa): <i>A Changing World Order: Readiness of Africa States in Addressing Current Socioeconomic Challenges Facing the Continent</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Prof. Dr. Okpeh O. Okpeh (Federal University Lafia, Nigeria): <i>Africa's Development Process in the Context of a Changing World Order: Interrogating the Nigerian Experience Since 1999</i>
12:30 – 13:00	<i>Panel discussion</i>
13:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 13:50	Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile (University of South Africa, South Africa): <i>The Paradoxical Relationship between Military Investment and Operational Value in Modern Warfare</i>

13:50 – 14:10	Andiswa Matyolo & Zenani Tshangela (University of Johannesburg, South Africa): <i>Defence-Sector Lobbying and Election Outcomes: A Case Study of South Africa and Nigeria</i>
14:10 – 14:30	Dr. Hendrik Snyders (Stellenbosch University, South Africa): <i>Strategic Fertiliser Resources in Africa: Guano, Fertiliser Security and Development in a Changing World Order</i>
14:30 – 14:50	Abutu Freeman Gabriel Adikwuoyi (Admiralty University of Nigeria, Nigeria): <i>Civil-Military Relations and Corporate Governance in Nigeria: Historical Trajectories and Contemporary Security Implications</i>
14:50 – 15:10	Maj. Nirmala Chengalroyen (South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) Research Institute, South Africa): <i>Adaptive Leadership and Corporate Governance Frameworks in African Defence and Security Institutions Amid a Shifting World Order</i>
15: 10 – 15:30	<i>Panel discussion</i>

ABSTRACTS

Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann & Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary):

Gulf Rivalry and External Influence in the Horn of Africa: Proxy Competition and Maritime Geopolitics in the Red Sea Region

Its geostrategic location means the Horn of Africa plays a pivotal role in geopolitical rivalry between regional and global powers. Three GCC states—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar—have made substantive infrastructure investments in an unstable region. The Horn of Africa is of key importance due to its proximity to Bab al-Mandeb, whose significance has increased due to the dual blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. The Saudi–UAE rivalry emerging in the Middle East is manifesting itself in this region; for example, Abu Dhabi brokered Israel’s recognition of Somaliland. The UAE has enabled Ethiopia to gain access to the sea through a recognised entity. Saudi Arabia strongly opposes this and is attempting to counter these developments through ties with the Mogadishu government, in conjunction with Türkiye and Egypt. The article adopts a qualitative case study approach, drawing on geopolitical analysis, regional security assessment, and process tracing to examine how Gulf rivalries intersect with local political fragmentation and maritime strategic competition. The article contributes to literature on Gulf geopolitics, proxy competition, and Red Sea security by demonstrating how external regional actors instrumentalise fragile political environments to advance broader strategic objectives. In this sense, external regional actors do not contribute to the region’s security; rather, their rivalry exacerbates internal fault lines.

Etame Ekombo Franklin (University of Buea, Cameroon):

Socio-economic Development and Connectivity Disparities among African Countries: Causes, Implications, and Policy Responses in a Changing World Order

Africa’s contemporary development crisis is increasingly shaped by the intersection of structural underdevelopment, weak governance systems, and unequal integration into the global digital economy. In the context of a changing world order characterized by digital globalization and artificial intelligence expansion, connectivity has become a critical determinant of socio-economic transformation. Yet, despite notable progress in ICT regulation and digital reforms, profound disparities persist among African countries in relation to Internet penetration, broadband affordability, digital governance, technological innovation, and access to emerging technologies. These inequalities reinforce broader patterns of socio-economic exclusion, institutional fragility, and developmental dependency across the continent. This paper investigates the causes, implications, and policy responses to connectivity disparities among African countries within the evolving international political economy. Specifically, it seeks to explain the structural and political factors accounting for uneven digital transformation in Africa, assess the developmental consequences of digital inequalities, and examine how African states can strategically respond to the opportunities and constraints of the changing global order. The paper further draws on human development perspectives which conceptualize development beyond economic growth to include social inclusion, access to opportunities, and technological empowerment. Methodologically, the

study adopts a qualitative comparative design based on secondary data from the International Telecommunication Union, World Bank, UNDP reports, and scholarly literature. Comparative case studies of South Africa, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya, are contrasted with Chad, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. The findings reveal that connectivity disparities are driven by governance deficits, infrastructural inequalities, weak regulatory frameworks, political crisis, security crisis, poverty, and technological dependence. The paper concludes that digital inequality constitutes a new dimension of Africa's development crisis and recommends a more inclusive digital transformation policies, investment in broadband infrastructure and AI for local innovation.

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő & Dr. Zsolt Szabó (Óbuda University, Hungary):

How Do the Newly Discovered African Gas Reserves Affect the International Gas Market?

If anybody among the great international gas and oil firms would have asked for advice about who calls the shots in the business, the first tips would not have been Algeria, for sure. Rather, they would have been Russia, the USA, the Middle East countries, and so-on. However, in reality, in the North African gas and oil fields, Algeria is home to one of the most promising partly unexplored gas fields and the largest reserves. It is one of the most promising countries in the petrol business sector, and it is still improving. With the ongoing events of the Russian-Ukrainian war, its significance rose even further.

In fact, along with Algeria, another player is beginning to make an appearance on the international market with huge unexplored sources of gas and oil. Since Nigeria possesses sufficient reserves to at least partially meet the needs of North Africa, which have been exacerbated by the war. The new oil pipeline project, known as the TSGP (Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline), has therefore sparked intense controversy and business competition, significantly enhancing the new country's role. From this point on, an interesting picture begins to emerge of the competition among international and local oil companies seeking to exploit North African reserves in order to play a leading role in keeping pace with the changes taking place in the emerging international oil trade.

From this point on, the ultimate question is: who will be able to get their hands on this lucrative deal—whose value has only increased due to the war—and thereby gain an advantage in this global geopolitical game? This presentation explores precisely this question in greater depth and seeks to find an appropriate answer to it.

Borbála Ágnes Horváth (Óbuda University, Hungary):

The Geopolitics of Strategic Resilience: Historical Continuity and Scientific Diplomacy in the System of Cuban–Egyptian Relations (1979–2025)

This paper investigates the strategic resilience of Cuban foreign policy through its partnership with Egypt (in the period of 1979–2025), identifying the late 1970s geopolitical shifts as a critical adaptation point. The study argues that the relationship's durability is anchored in deep-structural solidarity: Egypt was the first Arab and African state to recognize Cuba's independence on September 5, 1949, and both nations have maintained an unwavering, shared commitment to the Palestinian cause as a cornerstone of their international agenda. Methodologically, the study employs an autoethnographic approach, utilizing the author's

family ties to the Hungarian technical mission in Cairo (the "Rába team") during the 1980s as a vantage point to analyse broader diplomatic shifts. This perspective provides unique insights into the tenure of Ambassador Luis Karakadze Berrayarza, appointed in December 1982. Utilizing Bruce Mazlish's concept of the "revolutionary ascetic," the paper attempts to illustrate how Karakadze's technocratic credibility—rooted in his previous experiences—allowed the bilateral axis to navigate the existential challenges of the post-Camp David era. The research demonstrates how Cold War industrial-military logistics evolved into a modern paradigm of "scientific diplomacy" aimed at technological sovereignty. It analyses the milestone March 2024 Havana agreements, which established the export of Egyptian human insulin ("Insulinagyp") to Cuba. Strategically, this agreement represents more than a pharmaceutical exchange; it marks Egypt's entry into the Latin American market and a reciprocal model for diversifying trade independent of Global North dependencies. The study concludes that this 45-year continuity, now reinforced by the BRICS+ framework, serves as a primary model for fostering a resilient multipolar world order.

Retired Vice Admiral (Dr.) Asiel Elias Kubu (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
A Changing World Order: Readiness of Africa States in Addressing Current Socioeconomic Challenges Facing the Continent

The end of First and Second World War also the beginning of the Cold War in 1945 are indicative of changes the global community underwent over time. The 21st Century despite efforts in the global space to advocate peace internationally failed to contain wars between countries. The conflicts experienced between Russia and Ukraine since 2023 as well as the current situation between Israel supported by America against Iran during February 2026 to date among other conflicts in the world reflects a failure to contain wars globally. Unfortunately, these conflicts lead to regional and global security challenges with grave impact on socioeconomic development as infrastructure is targeted simultaneously; individual lives are compromised. Unfortunately, Africa after obtaining independence from previous colonial masters has continued to uphold their legacies, similarly, are involved in number of conflicts internally and with their neighbouring states within the continent. The African Union despite the structure's good intention to build, promote and enhance political, economic and social cohesion within the continent has never succeeded and this dream seem unrealistic to achieve. The continent in particular the Horn of Africa region is affected seem to be worse as conflicts seem to be the order spiralling year in year out. It has been reported that about 15 to 20 African countries experienced active armed conflicts, internal and even regional crises. Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa Republic, Somalia, and Uganda being some these countries that faced these security challenges. These conflicts reshaped and continue to reshape the political, economic, social and humanitarian landscape in the continent. Economic dependency, political instability and economic challenges are structural challenges facing the African continent South Africa as a developing country is facing own challenges where high unemployment, socioeconomic and human security issues are prevalent post 1994 democratic dispensation. Despite being the only member of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa structure or organ, this country has yet to use this opportunity to improve its socioeconomic landscape, worse off is failing to advance aggressively the interest of Africa in the global space. This paper therefore intends to appreciate the extent of Africa socioeconomic challenges created within the "so called" new

world order notwithstanding the fact that the continent has vast amount of minerals resources and also possesses enormous land for agricultural purpose. In addition, reference will be made in South Africa as a progressive African country referred to as developing in the global space and impacted by changing dynamic in the world.

Prof. Dr. Okpeh O. Okpeh (Federal University Lafia, Nigeria):

Africa's Development Process in the Context of a Changing World Order: Interrogating the Nigerian Experience Since 1999

Analysts have observed that since the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, the world appears to have become unpredictable. Against the backdrop of the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, the emergence of a unipolar world with the United States and its Western allies as the dominant state actors, the brief but quite impactful emergence of the globalization and transnationalization phenomena and its counterpoise, the nationalism and regionalism; the exit of the Cold War has indeed provoked radical changes across regions and nations. While it may be argued that the world has historically never remained the same, it is also true that the forces driving global orders have been immutable. Indeed, the emerging order has been fluid, unsteady and gravely insecure. In Africa for example, the exit of the Cold War terminated one-party states and military on the one hand and on the other, accelerated democratic governance in the first two to three decades. Today, a combination of misgovernance, leadership deficit and economies in permanent crises have generated insurgencies, banditry, kidnapping for ransom and a spectre of social conflicts which have collectively threatened democratic governance much of Sub-Saharan Africa. It is against this background that this paper proposes to examine the changing world order and its implications on African development. Using the experience of Nigeria since 1999, the paper will interrogate how the changing world order has impacted socio-economic and political developments in the country and why it may be difficult to conclude that Nigeria has significantly benefited from these changes. Relying on extant literature derived largely from primary and secondary sources and articulating from a human security perspective, the paper draws far-reaching conclusions on what must urgently be done to arrest the development deficit the country appears hemmed and puts forward some recommendations for the way forward.

Prof. Dr. Moses B. Khanyile (University of South Africa, South Africa):

The Paradoxical Relationship between Military Investment and Operational Value in Modern Warfare

The emergence of cheap but effective alternative military equipment such as uncrewed systems (also known as 'drones') has called into question the rationale for current baselines of military spending in traditional heavy and expensive equipment. The efficiency associated with precision-guided weapons, together with advanced electronic warfare, and increasingly becoming autonomous, has introduced a new discourse on military return on investment (ROI) in heavily-engineered and bulky weapon systems, especially in the face of nimble and fast-paced adversaries. Given the increased role of civilians in designing, building, maintaining and sometimes deploying uncrewed systems in operational areas, the lines between military

and civilian combatants become blurred, thus making civilians legitimate military targets. It is this paradox of military investment and the involvement of civilians in the battlespace which is the focus of this paper. While acknowledging that heavy conventional equipment will remain relevant for some time, it argues that the modern fast-paced warfare, conducted across various domains (land, air, sea, space, cyber and cognitive), seems to favour smaller, cheaper and less engineered military equipment. Furthermore, it proposes an alternative framework in the rules of war and rules in war, especially in relation to the role and protection of civilians.

**Andiswa Matyolo & Zenani Tshangela (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
*Defence-Sector Lobbying and Election Outcomes: A Case Study of South Africa and Nigeria***

This paper argues that defence-sector lobbying has an influential role in shaping electoral outcomes in Africa through strategic constructions of security narratives in influencing the civilian vote. It expands on this argument by examining the underexplored relationship and strategic interplay between defence sector lobbying and electoral outcomes in Nigeria and South Africa during the 2024 election season. This analysis is conducted using the two interconnected avenues: the strategic construction of security narratives, defence engagements in response to constructed and identified security crises, and sectoral lobbying thereof, across state and private sectors in shaping voter behaviour and outcomes. Specifically, In Nigeria, the active construction of jihadist-linked insurgency as a security threat enabled a surge of procurement during the election season. Private defence lobbyists strategically leveraged this security narrative in exchange for post-election emergency procurement guarantees. This dynamic, coupled with the passage of the DICON Act mandating localization, disproportionately influenced voter behaviour in Nigeria's conflict-ridden regions and reinforced a preliminary security vote, all while the absence of lobbying regulation facilitated diversions, and irregularities in procurement and contracting. In South Africa, on the other hand, the electoral discourse cantered on the institutional decay and underfunding of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and comparatively framed a distinct (in)security crisis that is institutional and capability erosion. Lobbying in this instance, operated through public campaigns threatening mass job losses and backchannel policy briefs, yet political paralysis deferred the progression of major SANDF projects like Project Hoefyster, thus, rendering the lobby's electoral influence as structural in its shaping of the composition of the post-election cabinet. Comparing the two country case studies, both countries leveraged (in)security constructions to justify defence-sector realignments during the 2024 elections. Specifically, Nigeria through external threat and self-reliance, and South Africa through institutional decay and renewal. Both lacked robust and comprehensive lobbying regulation, and thus, creating environments where private-sector interests could substantially influence procurement and election outcomes. The divergence, however, is evidenced in Nigeria's surge in arms procurement and legislative consolidation of localization, while on the other hand, South Africa experienced paralysis and deferral amidst coalition uncertainty. Together, both these country case studies reveal a new landscape within the African defence and security sectors – that electoral politics and sectoral lobbying increasingly mediate the relationship between threat narratives, procurement decisions, and private-sector engagement in the absence of transparent oversight and regulatory accountability. This paper proposes an analytical framework for understanding defence-sector influence on

elections that examines the channels under which defence interests can shape electoral outcomes.

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

Strategic Fertiliser Resources in Africa: Guano, Fertiliser Security and Development in a Changing World Order

The growing disruption of global fertiliser supply chains resulting from geopolitical conflict, economic uncertainty and shifting international alliances has highlighted the strategic importance of fertiliser security as a prerequisite for agricultural resilience, food security and sustainable development. While contemporary debates focus largely on synthetic fertilisers and global markets, Africa's historical experience with guano offers valuable insights into the long-standing relationship between natural resources, agricultural production and strategic resource governance. Drawing on historical case studies from South Africa, Namibia, Seychelles and Mauritius, this paper examines the extraction, trade and use of guano as a strategic natural fertiliser and assesses its contribution to agricultural development within changing political and economic contexts.

The paper argues that Africa's guano industry provides an important historical perspective on contemporary concerns surrounding fertiliser security. Although guano cannot meet the nutrient demands of modern agriculture on its own, its historical significance demonstrates how access to essential agricultural inputs has long influenced economic development, food production and national resilience. In an era characterised by geopolitical competition, disrupted supply chains and increasing pressure on global food systems, the historical management of guano resources offers lessons for diversifying fertiliser sources, strengthening resource resilience and promoting sustainable agricultural development. By positioning fertiliser security as a strategic component of Africa's development agenda, the paper contributes to broader debates on environmental governance, resource security and the implications of a changing world order for the continent.

Abutu Freeman Gabriel Adikwuoyi (Admiralty University of Nigeria, Nigeria):

Civil-Military Relations and Corporate Governance in Nigeria: Historical Trajectories and Contemporary Security Implications

This study interrogates the historical relationship between civil-military relations and corporate governance in Nigeria, with particular attention to how military leadership cultures have shaped governance practices in public and private institutions. Situating the analysis within the broader institutional evolution of post-colonial Nigeria, the paper argues that prolonged military intervention in politics between 1966 and 1999 fundamentally reconfigured leadership norms, administrative hierarchies, and accountability mechanisms within the country's corporate governance architecture. Drawing on archival materials, policy documents, and existing scholarly literature, the study traces how command-oriented decision-making, centralised authority, and limited transparency hallmarks of military governance were transmitted into civilian corporate institutions. The paper further examines the persistence of these legacies in the post-military era, highlighting how they continue to influence leadership behaviour, boardroom dynamics, and regulatory compliance across key

sectors of the Nigerian economy. By engaging the analytical lens of civil-military relations theory, the study demonstrates that the boundaries between military and civilian institutional cultures remain porous, thereby complicating efforts at reforming corporate governance frameworks. Importantly, the research connects these governance deficits to broader national security concerns, arguing that weak corporate accountability, corruption, and institutional inefficiencies undermine economic stability and, by extension, national security. Through a historically grounded and interdisciplinary approach, this paper contributes to ongoing debates on governance reform by foregrounding the enduring impact of military rule on Nigeria's corporate environment. It concludes by advocating for governance reforms that prioritise transparency, institutional autonomy, and ethical leadership, while recalibrating civil-military relations to strengthen democratic accountability and corporate integrity in Nigeria.

Maj. Nirmala Chengalroyen (South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) Research Institute, South Africa):

Adaptive Leadership and Corporate Governance Frameworks in African Defence and Security Institutions Amid a Shifting World Order

The emergence of a multipolar world order presents both structural challenges and transformative opportunities for leadership and corporate governance in Africa's defence and security sector. As the African Union's formal inclusion in the G20 in 2023 shifted Africa from passive observer to active participant in global governance, African states are increasingly recalibrating their leadership approaches to assert agency in a changing geopolitical landscape. Yet institutional governance frameworks across the continent remain inconsistent, raising critical questions about their fitness for purpose in an era of heightened strategic competition.

This paper examines how adaptive leadership theory — underpinned by principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance — can be applied to reform defence and security institutions in Africa. Drawing on evidence from recent developments, the concurrent leadership transitions at the African Union, African Development Bank, and African Export-Import Bank in 2025 offer a rare opportunity to reimagine Africa's trajectory as a unified, resilient, and globally influential force, making governance reform not merely procedural but strategically imperative. Many African countries have moved to establish governance frameworks through formal institutions and regional conventions aimed at improving resilience and upholding the rule of law, yet implementation gaps persist in the security domain.

The paper further draws on the 2025 African Chiefs of Defence conference, which underscored the importance of adaptive leadership and African-led solutions in addressing emerging security challenges in an interconnected world, to argue that homegrown governance models — aligned to Agenda 2063 and rooted in continental norms — are essential for sustainable institutional performance. Centres of excellence at national, regional, and continental levels are increasingly being leveraged to develop leadership professionalism and best practices within security institutions, offering a scalable model for governance reform.

The paper concludes by proposing an integrated governance framework that links adaptive leadership competencies, ethical accountability mechanisms, and regional institutional

coordination as a strategic response to the demands of a changing world order. Policy implications for defence ministries, regional bodies, and multilateral partners are discussed.

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

Moderators:

Dr. Scott Romaniuk, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary (scott.romaniuk@uni-corvinus.hu)

Dr. Hendrik Snyders, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (snydersh@sun.ac.za)

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|---------------|---|
| 09:45 – 10:05 | Dr. Martha Namufohamba & Dr. Mude Torque (University of Namibia, Namibia):
<i>Geospatial Technologies and National Security: Addressing Challenges in the Namibian Defence Force in the 21st Century</i> |
| 10:05 – 10:25 | Azwihangwisi Faith Muthambi (South African Parliament, South Africa):
<i>An analysis of the national cybersecurity in the South African military sector: The case for further study</i> |
| 10:25 – 10:45 | Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba (University of South Africa, South Africa):
<i>Data Processing in Law Enforcement in South Africa: Lessons from European Union for the Border Management Authority</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | <i>Panel discussions</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:50 | Oge Samuel Okonkwo (University of Ghana, Ghana):
<i>Technology, Counter Terrorism, and Human Security in Northern Nigeria</i> |
| 11:50 – 12:10 | Dr. Stephen Ubong Andrew & Dr. Tope Joseph Omotosho (University of Calabar & Arthur Jarvis University, Nigeria):
<i>Impulsivity and Dull Normalcy as Correlate of Susceptibility to Social Phishing Victimization: The Perception of Contemporary Criminologists in Nigeria</i> |
| 12:10 – 12:30 | Dr. Tibor Pintér (University of Szeged, Hungary):
<i>Batteries, Power, and Influence: China–DRC Relations in the Global Cobalt Race</i> |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | <i>Panel discussion</i> |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:30 – 13:50 | Dr. Rejoice Malisa-van der Walt & P. Malisa (Stellenbosch University & Patsonmalisa Foundation, South Africa):
<i>Compute Governance and Digital Sovereignty in Africa: Pathways, Constraints, and Policy Design</i> |

13:50 – 14:10	Samuella Oyejide Rodoye (Admiralty University, Nigeria): <i>Digital Colonialism and Africa's Place in the Changing World Order</i>
14:10 – 14:30	Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Prof. Dr. Kaan Namli & Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann (Corvinus University of Budapest & Médecins Sans Frontières, Hungary): <i>From Strategic Asset to Strategic Exposure: Türkiye's Drone Diplomacy and the Politics of Proxy Warfare in Africa</i>
14:30 – 14:50	Ilas Touazi (The National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts, France): <i>Algerian Counter-Terrorism Governance: An Evolving Policy from the "Black Decade" to the "Post-Hirak."</i>
14:50 – 15:10	Péter Balogh (University of Szeged, Hungary): <i>Changing patterns of great power competition in Africa in a transforming geopolitical context - Investigations of state-initiated security assistance and cyber proxy network activities</i>
15: 10 – 15:30	<i>Panel discussion</i>

ABSTRACTS

Dr. Martha Namufohamba & Dr. Mude Torque (University of Namibia, Namibia):
Geospatial Technologies and National Security: Addressing Challenges in the Namibian Defence Force in the 21st Century

In the 21st century, the convergence and advancement of geospatial technologies have become pivotal in safeguarding both human and state security. This study explores the challenges of geospatial technology on national security, specifically focusing on the Namibian Defence Force (NDF). The research is grounded in Human Security Theory and Securitisation Theory, providing a theoretical framework for understanding the critical role of geospatial technologies in modern defence strategies.

The study employed an inductive qualitative approach with purposive sampling to select 25 officers of the Ministry of Defence and the NDF, from the rank of Captain and above, working in key directorates such as DDI, DJops, and DICT. Data were collected through structured interviews to assess the current state of geospatial technology in Namibia's defence sector. Findings revealed several key challenges: the absence of laws and policies regulating the use and ownership of geospatial technologies; inadequate integration of defence databases; limited funding; a shortage of trained personnel capable of interpreting geospatial imagery; and the reliance on private companies for geospatial technology, which raises concerns about the security and sovereignty of the country. Moreover, the lack of dedicated security satellites and drones further complicates Namibia's capacity to address national security threats effectively.

The study recommends that the Namibian government introduce comprehensive policies and laws to regulate the use of geospatial technologies in national security operations. Additionally, it suggests that security personnel undergo specialized training in geospatial technology, including proficiency in satellite data interpretation and the use of advanced technological tools. Finally, it advocates for increased government funding to acquire state-owned geospatial technologies, dedicated to intelligence gathering and national security, and recommends the inclusion of geospatial technology courses in military institution curricula. This research underscores the urgent need for strategic investment in geospatial technologies to enhance state security, improve defence governance, and ensure the human security of Namibians in an increasingly digitized and geopolitically complex world.

Azwihangwisi Faith Muthambi (South African Parliament, South Africa):
An analysis of the national cybersecurity in the South African military sector: The case for further study

This study addresses the pressing concern that, despite the introduction of the National Cybersecurity Policy Framework (NCPF) in 2015, South Africa remains ranked unacceptably high for cyber-attacks and has become a haven for cybercriminals, with severe implications for national security and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The purpose of the study is to explore whether the Department of Defence (DoD) is satisfactorily implementing the NCPF and related legislation to counter increasing cyber-attacks, viewed through a Neo-Weberian State and Theory of Information Security lens. The study adopts a qualitative methodology, using

purposive sampling to recruit 25 senior managers, cybersecurity specialists, and officials from Denel, ARMSCOR, the CSIR, the Ministry of Defence, and the DoD. Semi-structured face-to-face interviews are employed, with data analysed using Atlas.ti. The study aims to empower the academic community with new knowledge on effective cybersecurity strategy implementation, enhancing awareness among DoD employees and entities about phishing and network infrastructure attacks, and improving cybersecurity awareness for South African society at large. Furthermore, this study will develop a conceptual framework that will assist in effectively implementing the NCPF. This will not only serve as an instrument that guides the effective implementation of the NCPF but also contribute to measures that will ultimately become the blueprint for robust cybersecurity in various public sector departments and state-owned enterprises in South Africa. Achieving this will further assist in ensuring national security and economic stability, thereby directly benefiting the public sector's ability to protect critical infrastructure and maintain government service delivery in an increasingly digitised environment.

Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba (University of South Africa, South Africa):

Data Processing in Law Enforcement in South Africa: Lessons from European Union for the Border Management Authority

Lawful data processing has become a central feature in the global data privacy discourse, covering ordinary business operations as well as in the discharging of law enforcement functions. In South Africa, the need to better safeguard the country's borders led to the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster proposing a Border Management Authority (BMA) with the mandate of managing South Africa's land and maritime borders. The BMA was subsequently established in terms of the Border Management Authority Act 2 of 2020 under the authority of the Minister of Home Affairs. In 2025, the Border Management Authority began deploying unarmed aerial vehicles (UAVs) for purposes of surveillance. This deployment raises privacy concerns both under the Act and the Constitution.

The main objective of the study is to establish data processing practices guiding law enforcement through drone deployment in South Africa and the EU.

The significance of the study is to establish lessons that may be gleaned by South African law enforcement agencies from the strategies in the EU? As well as identify challenges South Africa face in adopting EU data processing lessons in its law enforcement sector? While South Africa has made significant strides in data protection through POPIA, the lack of a specific framework for law enforcement data processing remains a gap. The EU's LED provides a model for addressing this gap, emphasizing principles such as necessity, proportionality, and legality, which are crucial for safeguarding individual rights while maintaining public safety. However, South Africa must also consider its unique legal and socio-political context when adapting these lessons to ensure effective implementation and enforcement. In contrast, the European Union's Law Enforcement Directive (LED), read in tandem with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), provides a useful framework for protecting personal data during law enforcement, emphasising principles such as necessity, proportionality, and legality as being crucial for safeguarding individual rights while maintaining public safety.

Oge Samuel Okonkwo (University of Ghana, Ghana):
Technology, Counter Terrorism, and Human Security in Northern Nigeria

This study examines the recent technological adaptations of armed groups operating in Northern Nigeria to critically investigate how these insurgents utilize emerging digital infrastructures and cyber networks to compromise human security within an increasingly volatile and changing global order. Previous research on violent extremism within the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin has predominantly demonstrated the historical evolution of jihadist ideologies, the socio-economic drivers of radicalization, and the conventional military responses deployed by regional state security apparatuses. By pointing out the fundamental limitations of these traditional methodological approaches, which frequently overlook the rapid and decentralized integration of commercial drone technology and encrypted cyber propaganda by non-state actors, this paper provides a highly critical rationale for new research into asymmetric digital warfare and its impact on civilian populations. Utilizing a qualitative research design grounded in secondary sources of data from regional security indices, counter terrorism policy briefs, and technological tracking reports, this new study employs critical security analysis to comprehensively map the digital footprint of insurgent networks, generating significant findings that armed groups actively weaponize cyberspace to outmanoeuvre traditional military governance and bypass national borders. The far-reaching implications of this study effectively redefine the parameters of modern counter terrorism operations, signifying that sustainable human security and socio-economic development in Africa require an urgent paradigm shift toward robust, pre-emptive cyber security protocols that neutralize technological threats before they manifest as physical political violence.

Dr. Stephen Ubong Andrew & Dr. Tope Joseph Omotosho (University of Calabar & Arthur Jarvis University, Nigeria):

Impulsivity and Dull Normalcy as Correlate of Susceptibility to Social Phishing Victimization: The Perception of Contemporary Criminologists in Nigeria

Early Victimologists sustained the believe that crime victims possess some unique characteristics that make for their susceptibility to victimization. On the basis of this believe, a number of them proposed some forms of victim typologies which are taught to students in victimology classes till date. There have been quite some studies which either validated or repudiated some of these typologies over the years but no know study on the opinion of criminologists in Nigeria has been done. This study shall attempt to find out the perception of contemporary 'Nigerian' criminologists on the relationship between victim impulsivity and susceptibility to social phishing victimization on the one hand and the relationship between the dull normal and susceptibility to social phishing victimization on the other hand. The study shall employ the correlational survey design, drawing a sample of 100 accidentally from among registered Lecturers and Practitioners member of Nigeria Society of Criminologist. The instrument for collecting data for the study shall be a self-developed questionnaire which shall exhibit a test-retest reliability coefficient of not less than 7.0 in line with the acceptable standard. The questionnaire shall be entitled "Impulsivity and Dull Normalcy as Correlates of Susceptibility to Social Phishing Victimization: The Perception of Contemporary Criminologists in Nigeria Questionnaire" (IDNCSSPVPCCNQ). Data analysis shall be done using Pearson

Correlation in SPSS version 23. The study is expected to establish some form of perceived relationship between impulsivity and susceptibility to social phishing victimization as well as between dull normalcy and susceptibility to social phishing victimization. On the basis of the findings, the author shall make some suitable and practicable recommendations for the development of victimology and victims as the case may be.

Dr. Tibor Pintér (University of Szeged, Hungary):

Batteries, Power, and Influence: China–DRC Relations in the Global Cobalt Race

Cobalt is one of the most crucial minerals on Earth, as it is an indispensable component of today's next-generation batteries. With an increasing number of electronic devices now equipped with this type of battery, the extraction and availability of this material are of critical importance. Africa plays a significant role in this process, as the majority of mined cobalt comes from there, which is why developed countries have a strong presence on the continent. A large proportion of production takes place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The study seeks to answer the question of which of the two sides is actually more vulnerable: the producing countries or the developed nations that use cobalt? Can we still speak of the phenomenon of neocolonialism in 2026, or might Africa's position also shift in the changing world order? The starting point for this is primarily the relationship between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and China.

To what extent is the former interested in selling cobalt to as many countries or companies as possible, and to what extent is the latter able to diversify its cobalt imports? The relationship between the two parties is growing ever closer; the Asian country has been gaining significant ground in the region for years, partly due to cobalt. The presentation uses the Congo-China relationship as a lens to examine the peculiar dynamic between African resource-producing nations and developed countries.

Dr. Rejoice Malisa-van der Walt & P. Malisa (Stellenbosch University & Patsonmalisa Foundation, South Africa):

Compute Governance and Digital Sovereignty in Africa: Pathways, Constraints, and Policy Design

The semiconductor cold war between the United States and China has emerged as the defining technical conflict of the 21st century. In this conflict, semiconductors, which are the foundational components for artificial intelligence (AI), defence systems, and computing, have been elevated from commercial goods to national security assets. The United States adopted a "small yard, high fence" strategy to limit China's ability to manufacture or acquire advanced chips by imposing export controls of advanced chips rather than direct military engagement. This strategy is driven by the understanding that securing and maintaining access to large-scale, high-quality computing resources will determine the trajectory of AI capabilities and, consequently, many aspects of economic and military power. However, in this conflict Africa faces a dilemma in that, for the two rivalries, it is both a significant provider of critical raw materials such as cobalt and lithium and also presents a rapidly growing market for end-user hardware and is a large net importer of processed silicon from both of them too. Of high concern in this arrangement is that the imported hardware is used in critical

infrastructure such as telecoms, banking, and energy. Leaving African nations exposed to the Black Box Problems and the high risk that comes with geopolitical dependency. To deal with some of the risk that African states face in this conflict robust compute governance can be a solution. However, currently there is limited research on compute governance in the African context. Therefore, to explore how compute governance can be implemented in Africa to advance digital sovereignty and address the concerns mentioned above, this study conducts comparative case studies, document analysis, expert interviews, and infrastructure mapping in South Africa, Nigeria, and Rwanda. The study finds that high dependence on foreign compute and lack of AI expertise and resources to process earth rare minerals significantly limit African states in achieving digital sovereignty. However, applying compute governance principles emerged as a solution that can reduce some of the barriers to digital sovereignty. Consequently, this study provides a framework for compute governance tailored to African states.

Samuella Oyejide Rodoye (Admiralty University, Nigeria):
Digital Colonialism and Africa's Place in the Changing World Order

When a people fail to control its resources, they will one day find themselves being controlled. This proverb, although finds its root in material history, however, in this digital age, it has a renewed relevance. As the international system experiences a rapid transformation, patterns reminiscent of earlier imperial encounters are being reflected in the way Africa is integrated into the digital economy.

This paper questions the concept of digital colonialism in a changing world order, emphasising that historical structures of domination are being replicated through contemporary forms of technological dependence, although in a more subtle and complex ways. Using insights from international security studies and historical analysis, the study examines how world technological powers, specifically the United States, China and European Union shape Africa's cyber infrastructure, frameworks, data governance and digital policies. The study argues that Africa is strategically placed as a consumer and data provider rather than a regulator or innovator in the global cyber governance which has reinforced existing power imbalances in the international system.

This paper extensively analyses the implications of this imbalance for security, sovereignty and development in the global South. Showing how data extraction, limited technological capacity and platform dependency challenges, constrain Africa's ability to assert its digital autonomy. It also looks at emerging efforts to resist and adapt, including regional policy initiatives and therefore calls for a digital self-determination.

This study contributes to contemporary debates on power, development and technology in Africa, by placing digital colonialism within a broader historical discourse. It ultimately calls for a reshaping of Africa's role in the global digital order towards more equitable participation.

Dr. Scott N. Romaniuk & Prof. Dr. Kaan Namlı & Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann (Corvinus University of Budapest & Médecins Sans Frontières, Hungary):

From Strategic Asset to Strategic Exposure: Türkiye's Drone Diplomacy and the Politics of Proxy Warfare in Africa

This article examines the strategic contradictions emerging from Türkiye's expanding drone diplomacy in Africa. Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) exports have evolved from instruments of influence into sources of strategic exposure. While Turkish drones initially enhanced Ankara's reputation as a flexible middle power offering affordable security partnerships without colonial baggage or restrictive political conditions, their proliferation across fragmented conflict zones increasingly risks undermining Türkiye's broader diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian objectives. Focusing on Sudan as a critical case study, the article analyses how the diffusion of Turkish-made Bayraktar systems into proxy-saturated environments complicates Ankara's balancing strategy and exposes the limits of compartmentalised defence diplomacy. The article draws on middle-power theory, securitisation studies, and critical military technology literature to conceptualise drones not merely as weapons systems but as political symbols that reshape perceptions of external influence, legitimacy, and sovereignty. The study employs qualitative geopolitical analysis and process tracing, combining conflict reporting, defence export data, policy statements, and regional security dynamics to examine how drone transfers interact with proxy warfare ecosystems. We argue that Türkiye's long-term influence in Africa depends less on defence-industrial expansion than on its ability to manage the political, reputational, and humanitarian consequences of drone proliferation across fragile regional orders.

Ilas Touazi (The National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts, France):

Algerian Counter-Terrorism Governance: An Evolving Policy from the "Black Decade" to the "Post-Hirak."

Jihadist terrorism posed an existential threat to the survival of the Algerian state during the 'Black Decade'. Consequently, counter-terrorism policies were implemented to address the transnational jihadist threat, combining hard-line measures with softer approaches within the framework of deradicalisation, the prevention of violent extremism and post-conflict reconciliation. However, the evolution of transnational terrorism from Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) to the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (GSIM) has been accompanied by a renewed counter-terrorism effort adapted to regional and international challenges since the end of the Hirak movement marked a turning point, given, on the one hand, the unstable regional and geopolitical context in the Sahel and, on the other hand, internal changes, notably within the framework of the 2020 constitutional reform, aimed at combating jihadist networks affiliated with the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. This research therefore examines the interrelationships between Algeria's various policies – from counter-terrorism to the prevention of violent extremism – covering the period from the 'Black Decade' to the post-Hirak era, through an analysis of the historical context. This is why it is necessary to rethink Algeria's counter-terrorism policy, giving new priority to refocusing regional cooperation programmes through an integrated and sustainable approach within a strengthened framework of bilateral and multilateral governance.

Péter Balogh (University of Szeged, Hungary):

Changing patterns of great power competition in Africa in a transforming geopolitical context - Investigations of state-initiated security assistance and cyber proxy network activities

BIOGRAPHIES

Keynote speech by

Prof. Dr. László Csicsmann has been a Full Professor and head of the Corvinus Centre for Contemporary Asia Studies at the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS) of the Corvinus University of Budapest since November 2023. He has been a Senior Research Fellow at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA) since 2024. Previously, he was the Dean of the Kautz Gyula Faculty of Economics and Business at the Széchenyi University in Győr between 2022 and 2023. Before that, he worked at the Corvinus University of Budapest in various capacities between 2002 and 2022, including Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs (2021–2022), Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and International Relations (2013–2021), and Director of the Institute of International Studies (2015–2021). Professor Csicsmann obtained his PhD from the Corvinus University of Budapest's Doctoral Program in International Relations. His main research interests include area studies with a special focus on the broader Middle Eastern region and South Asia, theories of International Relations (IR) and development, as well as the formation of regional order(s). He has been awarded the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of the United States twice; in 2007 and 2010, he conducted research at the Amman-based American Center of Research. Since then, he has frequently visited the region, from Morocco to Iran, on field trips. His research focus includes the foreign policy behaviour of regional states and the post-Arab Spring (dis-)order in the Middle East, as well as global dynamics and the Middle East and South Asia. He has recently published in several Scopus-indexed journals, including the *Asian Perspective*, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, the *Journal of the Middle East and Africa, Issues and Studies*, and the *International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies*. He is also the lead editor of *The Palgrave Handbook of Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific* (Springer, 2026, in press). ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6090-056X, e-mail: laszlo.csicsmann@uni-corvinus.hu.

Closing remarks by

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With a career spanning over 20 years in clinical and administrative leadership roles — including Operational Nurse Manager and Critical Care Advance Specialist within the SANDF — Nirmala brings a practitioner's perspective to questions of governance, leadership resilience, and institutional reform in African defence and security contexts. She is a certified Assessor and Moderator (ETDP SETA) and has championed evidence-based practices, mentorship, and innovation across research and health systems environments.

Her scholarly interest lies at the intersection of adaptive leadership, corporate governance in defence institutions, and Africa's evolving role in global security architecture. She is committed to Ubuntu values — promoting diversity, inclusion, and African self-determination — as foundational principles for building resilient institutions capable of navigating a changing world order. E-mail: nirmala.chengalroyen@dod.mil.za, cetu.1mil@gmail.com.

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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 29 September 2026 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 entire 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](#),

Or scan the QR-code:



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 29 September 2026 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.

Reviewers will be asked to complete their review within two weeks but are allowed to extend the review period in order to complete and submit their report.

5. Decision

After each round of peer-review, the editor(s) of the issue will be asked to assess the submitted manuscript and the peer-review reports collected. Decisions regarding each submission will be taken without exception by the editor(s), guaranteeing the excellence and high standard of our decision-making process. The editor(s) may decide between the following options:

- Accept the submission: the manuscript is considered to warrant high quality and can be published in the journal.
- Revisions required: authors are asked to perform revisions to their manuscript, and, after resubmission, the manuscript is sent directly to the editor(s) for assessment and decision (accept submission, ask for further revisions, or decline the submission).
- Decline submission: the manuscript is considered to have major flaws that could not be resolved by revision and resubmission.

In order to guarantee swiftness of the editorial process, each submission will only be allowed two rounds of review and revisions. Authors are thus urged to address all issues raised by the reviewers directly after the first round of peer-review.

6. Copyediting

After the manuscript is accepted for publication, it will undergo a first stage of copy editing where the editorial staff will correct any minor mistakes (such as punctuation or references) and check that all necessary information regarding the manuscript and authors has been provided.

Authors will receive an edited version of their manuscript for author copy editing after acceptance of the manuscript for publication. This is the last stage where any substantial

copy-editing changes to the text are allowed (the next stage – proofreading – is restricted to correcting typographical and layout errors).

7. Proofreading

The editorial staff will create the final version of the manuscript in the journal's template, and the PDF proof will be sent to the author for final proofreading before publication. Authors should carefully check the proofs for typographical or layout errors and use the sticky notes tool to mark and explain any changes necessary.

8. Publication

After the final proofread manuscript has been received and the last corrections have been performed the manuscript will be published. The manuscript will be published in the issue, and the author will be promptly informed as soon as the article is available online. In some cases, the publication may be delayed in order to guarantee that all articles are published simultaneously.

Peer Review and Ethics

Peer-review integrity and upholding the highest standards of review are of paramount importance. Once the paper has been assessed for suitability by the editor, it will be double blind peer reviewed by a minimum of two experts in the field of research.

Preparing Your Paper

Structure

Your paper should be compiled in the following order: title; abstract; keywords; main text introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion; acknowledgments; declaration of interest statement; references; appendices (as appropriate); table(s) with caption(s) (on individual pages); figures; figure captions (as a list).

Word Limits

Please include a word count for your paper. A typical paper for this journal should be no more than 10,000 words.

Submission

Authors may only submit their paper in **APA style**. Manuscripts may be supplied as single or multiple files. These can be Word, rich text format (rtf) or open document format (odt). Figures and tables can be placed within the text or submitted as separate documents. Figures should be of sufficient resolution to enable refereeing.

- There are no strict formatting requirements, but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to evaluate a manuscript: abstract, author affiliation, figures, tables, funder information, and references. Further details may be requested upon acceptance.
- Harvard style referencing is applied in the journal (if you need help in referring in Harvard, use this [free generator](#)). Where applicable, author name(s), journal title/book title, article title/chapter title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter, pagination, and **DOI** should be included. The inclusion of DOIs is highly recommended to ensure references are citable and discoverable. **DOI may be included in a weblink form** (e.g.: <https://doi.org/10.59569/jceeas.2021.1.1-2.14>).
- Spelling can be US or UK English as long as usage is consistent.
- All authors of a manuscript should include their full name and affiliation on the first page of the manuscript. Where available, please also include [ORCID](#)s. One author will need to be identified as the corresponding author, with their email address normally

displayed in the article. Authors' affiliations are the affiliations where the research was conducted. If any of the named co-authors moves affiliation during the peer-review process, the new affiliation can be given as a footnote. Please note that no changes to affiliation can be made after your paper is accepted.

- Please supply a short biographical note for each author. This could be adapted from your departmental website or academic networking profile and should be relatively brief.
- Figures should be high quality (1200 dpi for line art, 600 dpi for grayscale and 300 dpi for colour, at the correct size). Figures should be supplied in one of our preferred file formats: EPS, PDF, PS, JPEG, TIFF, XLS, or Microsoft Word (DOC or DOCX) files are acceptable for figures that have been drawn in Word.
- Tables should present new information rather than duplicating what is in the text. Readers should be able to interpret the table without reference to the text. Please supply editable files.
- All manuscripts should contain an abstract of max. 200 words.
- All manuscripts should have between min. five keywords.

Note that, regardless of the file format of the original submission, an editable version of the article must be supplied at the revision stage.

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Disclosure statement

This is to acknowledge any financial interest or benefit that has arisen from the direct applications of your research.

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