10th Edition

APSACO

African Peace and Security Annual Conference

TEN YEARS OF AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY

STRATEGIC OWNERSHIP IN A FRAGMENTING WORLD

June 11th - 12th, 2026 – Rabat, Morocco

SUMMARY REPORT

POLICY CENTER FOR THE NEW SOUTH
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SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The tenth edition of the African Peace and Security Annual Conference (APSACO) reflected a decade-long commitment to advancing dialogue on Africa's evolving peace and security landscape. Bringing together senior policymakers, military officials, diplomats, scholars and practitioners, the conference provided an opportunity not only to assess the continent's current security environment but also to reflect on the profound transformations that have reshaped Africa over the past ten years.

The discussions took place against an international backdrop characterized by geopolitical competition, the erosion of multilateralism, declining external financial support, and the emergence of new regional security configurations. Across all panels, participants agreed that Africa is entering a new era in which greater responsibility for peace and security increasingly rests with African institutions and governments themselves.

One of the dominant themes throughout the conference was the transformation of regional security governance. The emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), alongside the evolution of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture, reflects deeper political and institutional changes taking place across the continent. While speakers expressed different perspectives regarding these developments, there was broad consensus that regional fragmentation should not prevent continued dialogue and cooperation among African states.

The conference also highlighted the growing limitations of conventional security approaches. Participants repeatedly argued that military responses alone cannot resolve Africa's contemporary security crises. Terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime, and institutional fragility are increasingly interconnected, requiring integrated responses that combine security, governance, development and political dialogue.

Another central theme was the future of peace operations. Drawing on lessons from missions deployed across the continent over the past decade, speakers emphasized that peacekeeping remains an indispensable instrument but cannot substitute for political settlements or effective national institutions. Future peace operations must become more adaptive, locally owned and closely connected to long-term development objectives.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS



KARIM EL AYNAOUI

Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South.

Opening this edition of APSACO, Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South, welcomed participants by reflecting on the conference's evolution over the past decade. He explained that what began as an initiative to create a platform for dialogue on African peace and security has gradually developed into a recognized forum bringing together policymakers, researchers and practitioners committed to advancing strategic thinking on the continent.

El Aynaoui emphasized that APSACO has always been guided by a philosophy of long-term engagement rather than short-term crisis management. Building resilience, strengthening institutions and producing knowledge require continuity, sustained partnerships and investment in intellectual capacity. This vision has also shaped the Policy Center's broader activities, including the publication of its Annual report on African Geopolitics, which has become an important contribution to continental policy debates.

SESSION 1

TEN YEARS ON: PATTERNS, SHIFTS AND CONTINUITIES IN AFRICA'S PEACE & SECURITY LANDSCAPE

Moderator



Ousmane Ndiaye

Author, Journalist, Senegal

Speakers



Sidi Mohamed Sidi

Attorney-at-Law, Professor of Law and Public Policy Expert, Mauritania



Sampala Balima

Permanent Secretary, National Committee for the Follow-up of Burkina Faso's International Commitments



Garba Abdoul Azizou

Professor of Political Science, Abdou Moumouni University, Niger



Sharkdam Wapmuk

Director of Research, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs



The panel assessed the major transformations that have reshaped Africa's peace and security landscape over the past decade, focusing on regional integration, governance and evolving security paradigms. **Sidi Mohamed Sidi** and **Sampala Balima** highlighted the emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) as part of a broader reconfiguration of regional governance rather than simply a response to immediate security challenges. While acknowledging the institutional implications of the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from ECOWAS, they emphasized that dialogue and future cooperation between regional organizations remain essential.

Garba Abdoul Azizou argued that the growing interconnection between the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea demonstrates that transnational threats cannot be addressed through fragmented regional approaches. **Sharkdam Wapmuk** further noted that Africa's security architecture has become increasingly diversified amid geopolitical competition, changing international partnerships and declining external support, reinforcing the need for stronger coordination under the African Union while preserving regional flexibility.

The discussion also highlighted the evolution of security thinking across the continent. Speakers agreed that contemporary conflicts can no longer be addressed through military responses alone. Governance, political legitimacy, institutional resilience and socioeconomic development have become central pillars of sustainable security. Drawing on national experiences, the panel emphasized that counterterrorism strategies should be embedded within broader approaches that strengthen public institutions, rebuild trust between states and citizens, and promote regional cooperation.

Overall, the panel concluded that Africa's security architecture is entering a phase of institutional diversification rather than replacement. Managing this evolving landscape will require pragmatic cooperation between regional organizations, greater African ownership of security policies and more integrated approaches combining defence, governance and development.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen dialogue and coordination between ECOWAS, AES and the AU.
- Promote flexible regional security architectures adapted to changing political realities.
- Integrate governance, development and human security into security strategies.
- Reinforce African-led conflict prevention, mediation and early-warning mechanisms.
- Enhance cooperation against transnational threats including terrorism and organized crime.
- Strengthen domestic institutional resilience and African ownership of peace and security policies.

SESSION 2

STABILITY AT STAKE: LESSONS FROM A DECADE OF PEACEKEEPING

Moderator



Khadija Ihsane

Editor-in-Chief and TV Host, Medi1 TV, Morocco

Speakers



Jerome Mellon

Political Affairs Officer, UN



Hachem El Moummy

Diplomat and Researcher in International Relations, Morocco



Cdt Mame Rokhaya Lo

Commander in the Senegalese National Gendarmerie, Senegal



Gen. Sidiki Daniel Traoré

Former UN Force Commander, MINUSCA, Military Advisor to the Chief of Staff, Burkina Faso Armed Force



The panel reflected on the evolution of peacekeeping operations in Africa and examined how they must adapt to an increasingly complex security environment. **Jerome Mellon** emphasized that despite growing criticism, UN peacekeeping remains an essential instrument for protecting civilians, reducing violence and supporting political transitions. However, the rise of violent extremism and growing demands for national ownership require peace operations to become more politically driven, flexible and closely linked to peacebuilding efforts.

Hachem El Moummy highlighted the parallel evolution of Africa's own peace and security architecture, noting that the African Union has progressively strengthened its capacity through the Peace and Security Council, the African Standby Force and preventive diplomacy mechanisms. While peace operations have contributed to stabilizing several countries, he argued that their long-term effectiveness depends on adopting an integrated Peace–Security–Development approach that addresses governance, economic development and security simultaneously.

Drawing on her operational experience in MONUSCO, **Commander Mame Rokhaya Lo** illustrated how stronger engagement with local communities and the increased participation of women have enhanced the legitimacy and effectiveness of peace operations. She stressed that implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda is not simply a question of representation but a key operational asset that strengthens trust between peacekeepers and civilian populations.

General Sidiki Daniel Traoré concluded that contemporary conflicts increasingly combine violent extremism, organized crime and weak governance, exposing the limits of traditional peacekeeping models. Future operations, he argued, must adapt their mandates to African realities, strengthen national ownership and better integrate security, governance and development in order to respond effectively to multidimensional crises.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adapt peacekeeping mandates to evolving conflict dynamics, including terrorism and violent extremism.
- Place political dialogue and national ownership at the centre of peace operations.
- Consolidate the Peace–Security–Development nexus as the guiding framework for future missions.
- Strengthen coordination between the United Nations, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities.
- Promote sustainable financing and greater African ownership of peace operations.
- Increase the meaningful participation of women and strengthen partnerships with local communities.
- Integrate governance and institution-building into peacekeeping strategies from the outset.



CONVERSATION I

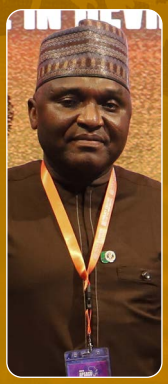
Chair



Nouzha Chekrouni

Senior Fellow, Policy Center for The New South

Speakers



Muazu Umaru

Acting Secretary-General of the ECOWAS Commission



Jean Patrice Koe Jr.

Director of Communication, Documentation and Diplomatic Archives, Spokesperson of the Ministry, Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon

The conversation examined the strategic importance of narratives in advancing Africa's interests in an increasingly complex international environment. Speakers argued that narratives have become a key dimension of governance, diplomacy and security, influencing how policies are understood, how states engage internationally and how Africa positions itself in global affairs.

Jean Patrice Koe Jr. stressed that African countries must take ownership of the narratives that define the continent rather than allowing external actors to shape its image. He argued that each African country contributes to a broader continental narrative and emphasized the need for stronger coordination among states and regional organizations to project coherent and credible messages. He also highlighted the importance of investing in strategic communication, public diplomacy and institutional memory to ensure that African perspectives are effectively articulated and sustained over time.

Focusing on the link between narratives and security, **Muazu Umaru** argued that strategic communication should be treated as an integral component of policymaking rather than a standalone communication function. Effective policies, he noted, depend on governments' ability to explain, defend and communicate them to citizens. He further warned that misinformation and disinformation can have direct consequences for stability and public security, underscoring the need for stronger institutional capacities to anticipate and counter harmful narratives.

The discussion concluded that shaping Africa's narrative is a strategic imperative requiring stronger coordination between governments, regional organizations, media and research institutions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate strategic communication into the full policymaking process.
- Strengthen African ownership of narratives through coordinated national and regional communication strategies.
- Invest in public diplomacy, diplomatic archives and research to reinforce African perspectives.
- Develop national capacities to prevent and respond to disinformation.
- Strengthen cooperation with media and fact-checking institutions to improve the credibility of public information.
- Enhance coordination among African states and regional organizations to promote coherent continental narratives.

SESSION 3

A DECADE OF TERRORISM: CONTAINMENT AND ADAPTATION AMID STRATEGIC FATIGUE

Moderator

Speakers



Khadija Ihsane

Editor-in-Chief and TV Host, Medi1 TV, Morocco



Alberto Munisso

Economic Analyst at the NATO Strategic Direction South Hub



Henry Pambi Sini

Deputy Director Intelligence, National Counter Terrorism, Office of the National Security Advisor, Nigeria



Mady Ibrahim Kanté

Lecturer and researcher at Kurukanfuga University in Bamako, and associate researcher at CIRAM, Laval University, Mali



Rida Lyammouri

Senior Fellow, Policy Center for The New South, Morocco



Reflecting on the evolution of terrorism across Africa over the past decade, the panel examined whether counterterrorism efforts have effectively contained the threat or merely displaced and transformed it. Speakers agreed that while military operations have disrupted several terrorist organizations and limited their territorial control, armed groups have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to adapt. Rather than disappearing, they have become more decentralized, technologically sophisticated and deeply embedded within local governance and illicit economies, raising concerns about a growing sense of strategic fatigue among states and international partners.

A central theme throughout the discussion was the transformation of terrorist organizations into increasingly adaptive and hybrid actors. **Alberto Munisso** highlighted the emergence of "shadow governance" systems through which armed groups exploit governance vacuums by collecting informal taxes, providing protection and embedding themselves within local communities. **Mady Ibrahim Kanté** similarly argued that terrorism should be understood primarily as a governance challenge rather than solely a security threat, emphasizing that state fragility, weak institutions and socioeconomic grievances continue to provide fertile ground for terrorist expansion.

The discussion also highlighted the rapid evolution of terrorist capabilities. **Henry Pambi Sini**, **Alberto Munisso** and **Rida Lyammouri** noted that these groups increasingly exploit digital communication platforms, cryptocurrencies, drones and other commercially available technologies to strengthen their operational resilience. At the same time, speakers cautioned against reducing the terrorist threat to technological innovation alone. **Lyammouri** emphasized that successful attacks are typically the outcome of long-term planning, intelligence gathering and organizational preparation, while terrorist groups continue to outpace state responses through their ability to anticipate, innovate and adapt.

Despite important operational gains over the past decade, speakers agreed that counterterrorism strategies remain largely reactive. Current approaches often respond to the

latest attack rather than anticipating emerging threats, while fragmented legal frameworks, limited regional coordination and insufficient intelligence-sharing continue to undermine effectiveness. The panel concluded that addressing the next decade's security challenges will require moving beyond predominantly military responses towards adaptive strategies that combine governance, intelligence, community resilience and regional cooperation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop anticipatory counterterrorism strategies capable of adapting to rapidly evolving terrorist tactics and technologies.
- Strengthen governance and state institutions to address the structural conditions that facilitate terrorist expansion.
- Tailor counterterrorism responses to the specific characteristics and operational models of different terrorist organizations.
- Enhance regional legal harmonization and intelligence-sharing to counter increasingly transnational terrorist and criminal networks.
- Invest in both technological capabilities and human intelligence to improve early warning and threat detection.
- Strengthen community resilience and local partnerships as integral components of counterterrorism strategies.
- Improve the regulation of illicit financial flows and emerging technologies exploited by armed groups.
- Promote integrated approaches linking security, governance and development to build long-term resilience against violent extremism.

SESSION 4

EVOLVING GOVERNANCE MODELS AND POLITICAL TRANSITIONS IN AFRICA

Moderator



Samantha Simmonds

News Anchor, BBC World News

Speakers



Ousmane Ndiaye

Author, Journalist



Thomas Kent

Adjunct Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, USA



Helio Sanches

President of the 3D Foundation - Democracy, Development and Human Rights



Houyame Hakmi

Phd, Researcher in International Relations, Morocco



The fourth panel explored the evolution of governance models and political transitions across Africa, examining how changing political realities are reshaping debates on democracy, legitimacy and state-society relations. While acknowledging the diversity of political trajectories across the continent, speakers agreed that the current governance debate extends beyond the dichotomy between democracy and authoritarianism. Instead, it increasingly centres on the ability of political systems to deliver security, development and responsive governance while maintaining public trust and legitimacy.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the need to rethink democratic governance from an African perspective. **Ousmane Ndiaye** challenged the widespread assumption that democracy is a purely Western concept, arguing that many African societies possessed sophisticated systems of political organization long before colonization. Rather than rejecting democracy itself, he suggested that many citizens are questioning governance models that have failed to transform inherited colonial institutions or deliver meaningful political participation. Speakers noted that the current crisis reflects growing disillusionment with democratic practices perceived as procedural rather than genuinely representative.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of legitimacy during political transitions. **Houyame Hakmi** argued that recent crises across the continent stem less from democratic principles than from governments' inability to respond to citizens' expectations. Referring to recent peaceful transfers of power and public opinion surveys, she stressed that democratic aspirations remain strong among African populations, despite declining confidence in political institutions. Successful transitions therefore require inclusive and legitimate political processes that address the underlying grievances driving instability, rather than relying on standardized institutional responses or postponing democratic governance in the name of security.

Another dimension of the discussion focused on the information environment and its implications for governance. **Thomas Kent** emphasized that disinformation has become

a defining feature of international competition, with external actors increasingly shaping narratives through sophisticated information campaigns. However, he argued that the vulnerability of African societies also reflects structural weaknesses within the continent's media landscape, including limited resources, insufficient international reporting and inadequate journalistic capacity. Strengthening independent, professional journalism was presented as essential to enabling African countries to produce and disseminate their own perspectives on global and domestic affairs.

While speakers offered different perspectives on democratic trajectories, **Helio Sanches** reaffirmed that democracy remains a universal principle whose legitimacy ultimately depends on its capacity to improve citizens' lives. He argued that democratic governance requires credible elections, respect for constitutional principles, political alternation and inclusive dialogue, while emphasizing that education remains a fundamental driver of democratic resilience and long-term development. Across the discussion, participants agreed that strengthening governance in Africa will require institutions that are not only democratic in form, but also capable of delivering tangible results, responding to citizens' expectations and rebuilding trust between states and societies.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote governance reforms that strengthen both democratic legitimacy and state effectiveness.
- Ensure that political transitions are inclusive, context-specific and responsive to citizens' grievances.
- Strengthen the implementation and consistent application of African Union governance frameworks.
- Reinforce civic education and citizen participation as foundations of democratic resilience.
- Invest in independent and professional media to strengthen the quality of public debate and counter disinformation.
- Develop governance models that combine democratic accountability with effective service delivery and socioeconomic development.
- Promote dialogue and institutional trust as essential components of peaceful political transitions.

SESSION 5

LOW-COST TECHNOLOGIES AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF CONFLICT DYNAMICS

Moderator

Speakers



Samantha Simmonds

News Anchor, BBC World News



Emiliano Alessandri

Senior Advisor on International Partnerships and Global Outreach, Agency fore Peacebuilding, Italy



Djenabou Cissé

Associate Researcher, Foundation for Scientific Research, France



Salem A. Salem

Nonresident Fellow, Stimson Center, Libya



Niccola Milnes

Independent Conflict and Security Advisor, USA



The fifth panel explored how the rapid diffusion of low-cost technologies is transforming the nature of armed conflict across Africa. Speakers agreed that affordable and commercially available technologies - including drones, encrypted communication platforms, mobile applications and social media - are reshaping conflict dynamics by lowering barriers to entry, increasing the capabilities of non-state armed groups and accelerating the pace of military innovation. While these technologies have expanded tactical opportunities for both state and non-state actors, participants emphasized that they do not alter the root causes of conflict, which remain closely linked to governance deficits, political exclusion and institutional fragility.

A central theme of the discussion was the erosion of the state's traditional monopoly over advanced military capabilities. **Emiliano Alessandri** argued that the widespread availability of low-cost technologies has contributed not to a "democratization of violence" but rather to its privatization and decentralization. Technologies initially developed for civilian or commercial purposes are increasingly adapted for military use, allowing a growing range of actors to project force and sustain violence at relatively limited cost. Speakers noted that this evolution has intensified asymmetric warfare and contributed to the growing duration and complexity of contemporary conflicts.

Salem A. Salem and **Djenabou Cissé** emphasized that low-cost technologies should be understood within a broader political and security ecosystem. Beyond drones, armed groups increasingly exploit encrypted communication platforms, digital networks and social media to recruit, coordinate operations and disseminate propaganda. Their growing access to these technologies is facilitated by weak governance, porous borders, transnational criminal networks and external sponsorship. While technology has transformed the conduct of conflict, speakers stressed that it remains an enabler rather than the primary driver of violence.

The discussion devoted particular attention to the expanding role of drones in African conflicts. Speakers described affordable drone systems as a strategic shortcut to air power, enabling states with limited military capabilities and non-state armed groups alike to conduct

surveillance, coordinate operations and carry out precision strikes. However, participants cautioned against viewing drones as decisive weapons capable of winning wars independently. Experiences from Libya, Ethiopia and Sudan illustrate that while drones can significantly influence battlefield dynamics, their effectiveness ultimately depends on integration with intelligence, logistics, communications and broader military strategies.

Niccola Milnes highlighted the growing asymmetry created by drone warfare, noting that violence has become relatively inexpensive to inflict while increasingly costly to defend against. Armed groups can disrupt military operations using commercially available systems, forcing states to invest substantial resources in countermeasures. Nevertheless, she argued that states continue to possess significant structural advantages through their industrial capacity, resources and ability to scale production. Rather than relying exclusively on imported technologies, governments should invest in domestic innovation, local manufacturing and partnerships with national technology ecosystems to develop solutions adapted to African operational environments.

The panel concluded that technological diffusion will continue to reshape conflict across the continent. While low-cost technologies have increased the resilience and adaptability of armed groups, they do not eliminate the fundamental advantages enjoyed by states. Future responses will therefore require not only technological adaptation but also stronger governance, regional cooperation and regulatory frameworks capable of ensuring that innovation contributes to security rather than instability.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop national strategies to address the security implications of emerging low-cost technologies.
- Invest in domestic innovation, research and local production of affordable security technologies.
- Strengthen regulatory frameworks governing the acquisition and responsible use of drones and other dual-use technologies.
- Improve intelligence and early warning systems to anticipate technological adaptation by armed groups.
- Enhance regional cooperation to combat the illicit trafficking of technological equipment through transnational criminal networks.
- Integrate technological innovation into broader security strategies while addressing the governance conditions that enable armed groups to exploit new technologies.
- Strengthen partnerships between governments, research institutions and the private sector to accelerate the development of context-specific technological solutions.
- Promote international cooperation to prevent the uncontrolled proliferation of technologies that could fuel armed conflicts and regional instability.



CONVERSATION II

Moderator



Khadija Ihsane

Editor-in-Chief and TV Host, Medi1 TV, Morocco

Speaker



Lana Bleik

Fellow and Deputy Director, North Africa, Mediterranean, and Sahel Program, The Stimson Center, USA

In this conversation, **Lana Bleik** examined the evolving security landscape across Africa, arguing that sustainable security requires moving beyond predominantly military responses toward stronger institutions, resilient governance and greater strategic autonomy. While immediate security threats demand operational responses, she emphasized that long-term stability depends on states' ability to anticipate risks, strengthen public institutions and create economic opportunities for their populations.

Bleik highlighted that insecurity across the continent has become increasingly transnational, extending from the Sahel to Sudan and beyond. Although governments have relied heavily on military operations and external partnerships to contain these threats, she argued that insufficient progress has been made in reforming national security institutions and addressing the structural drivers of instability, including corruption, weak governance and limited state capacity.

The conversation also explored the growing complexity of external engagement in African security. Drawing on examples from Libya and Sudan, Bleik noted that international actors pursue diverse political, economic and strategic interests, resulting in highly differentiated partnership models across the continent. She emphasized that the approaches adopted by China, Turkey, Russia and Western partners differ significantly according to context and national interests.

Another key aspect of the discussion focused on the financing of terrorism and armed groups. **Bleik** argued that counterterrorism strategies cannot succeed without addressing the financial networks, illicit economies and resource flows that sustain these organizations. While technological developments and military capabilities remain important, disrupting the economic foundations of armed groups should become a central component of comprehensive security strategies.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen public institutions and governance as the foundation of sustainable security.
- Develop more integrated security strategies that anticipate emerging threats rather than reacting to crises.
- Strengthen African defence and security institutions while reducing dependence on external actors.
- Improve understanding and disruption of the financial networks sustaining terrorist and armed groups.
- Enhance regional cooperation to address the transnational nature of contemporary security threats.
- Promote balanced and diversified international partnerships that reinforce African strategic autonomy.

SESSION 6

AFRICA'S SECURITY FUTURE: PROSPECTIVE TO 2036

Moderator

Speakers



Samantha Simmonds

News Anchor, BBC World News



Thembisa Fakude

Senior Research Fellow, Africa Asia Dialogues (Afrasid), Director and Co Shareholder of the Mail and Guardian, South Africa



Abdelhak Bassou

Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South, Morocco



Abdisaid Muse Ali

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Somalia, Somalia



Ibrahim Thiaw

Former Under-Secretary-General, UN, Environment and Development Policy, Mauritania



The closing panel explored the major trends likely to shape Africa's security landscape over the next decade, emphasizing the need to move beyond reactive crisis management toward strategic foresight. Speakers argued that the future of peace and security on the continent will depend less on responding to individual threats than on strengthening governance, building resilient institutions and anticipating the profound political, demographic, economic and environmental transformations expected by 2036.

A central theme of the discussion was the diversity of Africa's security realities. **Thembisa Fakude** and **Abdelhak Bassou** cautioned against adopting uniform approaches to security across the continent, stressing that Africa's 54 states face distinct political, economic and security challenges. While continental cooperation remains essential, they argued that effective security policies must be tailored to national contexts while reinforcing African solidarity, knowledge-sharing and mutual support among states.

Looking ahead, several speakers identified state capacity as the defining factor shaping Africa's security future. **Abisaid Muse Ali** argued that many of today's security challenges - including terrorism, insurgencies and political instability - are symptoms of weak governance rather than isolated security phenomena. He emphasized that the states most likely to succeed by 2036 will be those capable of strengthening institutional effectiveness, generating economic opportunities, managing political competition and harnessing the continent's youthful population as a driver of growth rather than instability.

The discussion also highlighted the growing importance of environmental and resource governance as strategic security issues. **Ibrahim Thiaw** noted that both resource scarcity and resource abundance increasingly fuel conflict across the continent. Competition over land, water and strategic minerals, combined with climate change and unequal resource exploitation, continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Addressing these structural drivers, he argued, requires stronger national institutions as well as greater continental cooperation in managing shared natural resources and negotiating collectively with

international partners.

The panel concluded that Africa's security future will depend on its ability to anticipate change rather than simply respond to crises. Investing in strategic foresight, strengthening governance, promoting regional cooperation and building resilient institutions will be essential for enabling the continent to navigate an increasingly complex global environment while transforming its demographic and natural assets into long-term stability and prosperity.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen state institutions and governance as the foundation of long-term peace and security.
- Develop forward-looking strategic foresight capacities to anticipate emerging political, economic, technological and environmental risks.
- Promote context-specific national security strategies while reinforcing continental cooperation and solidarity.
- Strengthen the management of natural resources and address environmental pressures as integral components of security policy.
- Enhance African coordination in the governance of shared resources and international negotiations.
- Foster predictable governance frameworks that strengthen state legitimacy and encourage sustainable economic growth.
- Build more resilient institutions capable of responding to both domestic vulnerabilities and external geopolitical shocks.

CLOSING REMARKS



ABDELHAK BASSOU
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South, Morocco

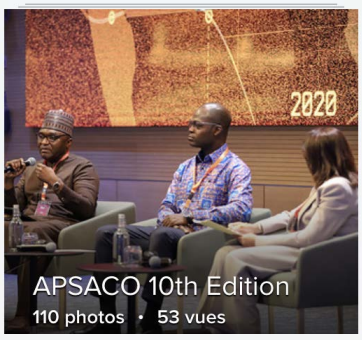
In his closing remarks, **Abdelhak Bassou** reflected on the main insights emerging from the conference, emphasizing that security, governance and development are inseparable pillars of Africa's long-term stability. He highlighted the growing role of technology as a transformative factor in conflict, empowering both states and non-state actors while reshaping the conduct of warfare. He also noted that recent international conflicts have demonstrated the unexpected resilience of actors once considered weaker, challenging traditional assumptions about power and conflict.

Bassou concluded by stressing that the international order is undergoing a profound period of strategic uncertainty, marked by intensifying geopolitical competition and the rise of emerging powers. Against this backdrop, he argued that the coming decade will be decisive in determining whether Africa can establish itself as an autonomous geopolitical actor or remain primarily an arena for external competition, underscoring the importance of strategic foresight, stronger African cooperation and collective action.

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