

Documentation

Europe-Africa Relations. New realities, shifting priorities.

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Welcome by Georg Lennkh: Good evening dear excellences, ladies and gentleman, dear friends, I would like to welcome on behalf of the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue. Particularly, I welcome our guests on the panel and the participants of tomorrow's expert workshops.

The main document of the African – European relations is the Joint African European Strategy (JAES) which was adopted on the 2nd Summit in Lisbon in 2007. It is stated: „Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future, as well as by a **community of values**: the respect for human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy...”.

Ten year later, the ‘values’ discussion has taken on a totally different nature. The rise of populist and nationalist movements in western - and other - countries, the rise of Daesh and similar islamist movements, a dramatic rise of immigration into Europe – all these factors being interrelated – provide for a very new situation. The entire political world seems to be discussing “values”.

And the value discussion often takes on a divisive role: ‘our’ values against ‘theirs’. We should not allow such positions to flow into Africa Europe discussions, and put us back decades and centuries. What can we do to prevent, or at least channel this?

This evening is prepared for common reflections by the African, European and Austrian guests about the present state of relations between Africa and Europe. We will discuss about positive developments and hopes, but also about irritations and frustrations, about how the future should look like and about the international setting which has changed dramatically.

But now, I would like to ask our co-organiser of this event, Mr. Franz Schmidjell from the VIDC, to say some words about the conference.

Introduction Franz Schmidjell: Good evening. I warmly welcome you in the name of the VIDC, the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, to our panel discussion on Africa European relations: New realities, shifting priorities. Especially, I would like to welcome our speakers on the panel as well as our international guests for the expert workshop tomorrow. Thank you very much for accepting our invitation to come to Vienna. Our moderator Georg Lennkh will introduce each of the panelists later on. My name is Franz Schmidjell and I am in

charge of the Africa Policy Desk at the VIDC, an Austrian based civil society organization.



This panel discussion is part of a series of conferences and expert meetings organised by the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, the Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management (IFK) at the National Defence Academy and the VIDC. I would like to thank all the partners for the good cooperation and the ADA for their financial support.

The main objectives of these events are to involve Austrian stakeholders – public institutions, academia, civil society, media and African diaspora – in the preparation of the coming EU-AU summit and to formulate recommendations for the Austrian delegation. The summit will take place end of Nov 2017 in Cote D'Ivoire.

The first expert workshop focused on peace and security, especially the changing conflict patterns and the new security issues.

The second conference was on migration and development. Among others, it was recommended that Europe should scale down its obsession about migration, that development cooperation is a tool to fight poverty and inequality, but not to control migration and that more safe and legal avenues are needed to reduce illegal migration.

For tonight's topic, I just would like raise one question from the point of view of a civil society organization. While the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES) of 2007 upholds principles like human rights, rule of law and democracy, we observe in many countries a shrinking space for CSOs. I am not talking of NGOs as service delivers – they are accepted by the powerful and receive funds from EU institutions. But human rights activists, journalists and oppositional intellectuals, members of critical think tanks or social movements suffer from daily repression. This intolerable fact should be considered in a new African-European dialogue.

Because history has proven: Wise leaders engage in a dialogue with their critics, unwise leaders arrest them.

Now I would like to hand over to our moderator Georg Lennkh who curated with us this panel discussion and the following expert workshops tomorrow and Wednesday. I wish you an interesting and inspiring evening.

Georg Lennkh: Thank you Franz. We have invited very distinguished speakers for our panel discussion about the African European relations. Let me introduce our panellists for tonight.

Mrs. Stella Sabiiti is an Ugandan consultant and supports the AU Commission's Women, Gender and Development Directorate to establish the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation. Since 2005, she has worked in several capacities at the AU Commission's Peace and Security Directorate. As a survivor of war and torture herself, Stella Sabiiti has spent many years or decades in peace promotion and post conflict stabilization and can tell you a lot of stories about her experiences on the African continent.

Mrs. Thulisile Madonsela is a human rights lawyer and an equality expert from South Africa. Currently, she is the chairperson of the Centre for Reconciliation and Equality Studies. Before, she served as South Africa's Public Protector, which is similar to our Ombudsman, who is appointed by the parliament. One important work was the report about the public funds used for the renovation of the house of the South African president, Mr. Jacob Zuma. Not all funds were used for public purposes. Madonsela was very courageous.

Mr. Christian MANAHL is the Ambassador of the European Union in Asmara, in Eritrea. Mr. Manahl began his career as an Austrian diplomat before joining the European institutions. His assignments in the EU included postings in Nairobi with a regional observation mandate. He was a political adviser of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and he was the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Somalia.

You can see that the seat with the name plate of **Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas** is still empty. Mr. Chambas is the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel. I have to excuse him, but he missed his connecting flight. We expect him to arrive during our discussion and will ask him to present his key note afterwards.

Originally we had planned that Mr. Chambas would speak first and afterward we would hear Mrs. Stella Sabiiti and Mrs. Thusile Madonsela respond to his speech. Unfortunately, Mr. Chambas had problems with his flights and will arrive later. Therefore, I would like to ask Mrs. Stella Sabiiti to start with her observations about African European relations. How does Africa see Europe?



Stella Sabiiti: Thank you very much, Georg, guten Abend. I studied German and I taught for several years at the European Peace University in Stadtschlaining. It's great coming back home. As Georg has said, we hadn't arranged the session to go this way, but I guess we'll have to ride the wind or the wave and follow the situation as it unfolds. My name is Stella Sabiiti and I am from Uganda. For the last twelve years also I've been working at the African Union in Ethiopia in the Peace and Security Department. I was the team leader for building the APSA – the African Peace and Security Architecture. This was a very big challenge for me because of my civil society background. As languages we have English, French, Portuguese and Arabic. Now we are embracing Swahili and I think we are also going to get another language from West Africa. The internal communication was very different from what I was used to. I was surprised that you don't change anything. You don't even change a comma in an official document.

Secondly, my team was composed of former government ministers, very high-ranking government officials, and, at the same time, high-ranking military officials, officers. I had generals from big armies on our continent and I really didn't know how to go about it as a team leader. I had to learn how to deal with it. Third, another challenge was that I was the only woman on the team. I was not only the team leader, I was a woman and I was the youngest at the same time. Recently, someone from a Nordic country interviewed me and asked, "What are the challenges of being a woman leader in Africa?" And I said, "Well, I don't have many challenges, but many times when I was building the African Peace and Security Architecture, my colleagues, especially the male military colleagues would say, "Stella, we need coffee."

The first work I was doing at the African Union, together with the ECDPM, was an assessment on behalf of the EU about the funds channeled through the African peace facility, meaning funds coming from the EU through the African Union. Why the funds for building for peace and security on the continent were being used very fast, especially at a time where some countries were on fire, like Darfur in Sudan, the Central African Republic, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo. All the funds going towards peace keeping and peace support operations were going very fast, but the funds in the basket for building the capacity of the African Union and the regional economic communities were not being used. How would the EU respond to their taxpayers that they give money to someone that doesn't need it? So we were brought in to look at that. I came in from the EU side, but as an African in an African organization – that was another challenge. My experience then was that we were

more closely supervised by the EU side than by the African Union. That's what I noticed. Coming back to the question Georg asked: "How does Africa see Europe?"

Last January, on the sidelines of the African Union Summit, there was a group of women from Sudan and South Sudan. I was asked to facilitate their discussions so that they could feed into the summit. I remember these women's comments. The women said that much is said about the US, about Brexit, about all the threats that are going on in the Global North. And these women were saying, "Good, now it's our turn to go and show them how to do some of these things." If these women were on the podium here, they would say that for a long time we have been told how to do our business. Even, when we tried our best it was never enough. Maybe now it's time for us to go and share our experience out there in the Global North. To talk about our own experiences, to talk about our own challenges, but also to talk about our own strength and initiatives that we have undertaken ourselves, because we know the situation very well. This is what these women would have said, were they to be on this podium.

What I would like to say in conclusion and maybe I quote an African saying or an African proverb. When you approach someone's home you walk very carefully, you walk with respect, and you're ready to listen. So you're coming to speak, you're coming to share your own experience, your own ideas, your own thoughts, your own hopes, but at the same time you come ready to open up, to listen. I would like us to build a new relationship of trust, of confidence, of believing in each other. And also of showing and indicating that our experiences are different and that the lenses that we use are different. With this thought I would like to hand over to Georg.

Georg Lennkh: Thank you Stella. I will hand it on to Thulisile Madonsela.



Thulisile Madonsela: I thank you Georg and the organizers of the event for the privilege of being in this beautiful environment. I'm supposed to speak primarily about my experience in the context of administrative oversight. As you are preparing a dialog between African and European leaders, the best way to do this is to locate it in the broader context of Europe-Africa relationships. I would like to state up front that my interest would be to look at how do we democratize democracy? How do we deepen and defend democracy?

I was public protector for the last seven years and I believe that this institution, which is similar what is called an "Ombudsman" in Europe, is an institution that was created by visionaries who were aware that our democracies are in trouble. I

believe that in South Africa an institution such as the public protector was created by the architects of constitutional democracy with a view to bring back the demo part into democracy or the people part into democracy. A lot of things happen in the name of democracy, but when you look at where are the people in that democracy, you will realize that the people are not there.

In South Africa, the public protector was created under chapter nine of the constitution as one of several institutions created to support and strengthen constitutional democracy. Why do I say that an institution such as the public protector brings back the demo into democracy? It's because an institution such as the public protector in a context such as ours pulls back the people into the democratic process, beyond the traditional arrangements. Judicial review is part of democracy and direct interface between the people and the executive together with these structures is also part of democracy. It is another level of democracy to allow the people to hold those who have been entrusted with public power accountable. Like your European ombudsman, a public protector is typically a high level public officer who is elected through the parliamentary process through direct involvement of the people. The people do the selection, parliament elects, and then the president appoints administratively whomever has been recommended after a parliamentary vote. That person, together with the institution, becomes a grievance officer collecting complaints from the people and addressing them or resolving them. But in our case the public protector is not only supposed to receive complaints from the public. He or she may receive complaints from parliamentarians and he or she may also initiate investigations on his or her own if she or he perceives that there has been wrongdoing in the exercise of public power and control over resources, public resources.

How does this strengthen constitutional democracy? We understand democracy as an ongoing dialog between the people and those who have been entrusted with public power and resources. It is assumed that if you work within a collective, your fortunes are better than if you work alone. When people are in communities they surrender their power to a few who are going to use public power and resources to advance the fortunes of the collective. In other words, whatever they do will be premised on public good, not personal greed or personal preferences. That's the nature of democracy in an ideal set up. But we do know that power tends to corrupt, which is not only an African but a universal problem.

The political process is a natural process of holding people accountable and removing them when you don't want them anymore. The political process is excellent, but has its own limits. In a country where there's proportional

representation, it is even more complex. You don't have a constituency where you can say this particular person will never go back to parliament again. It's their party that determines who goes to parliament. So that's one limitation.

The courts then become an important tool for people to push back against excesses in the exercise of public power: The court system is excellent, but very sophisticated and exclusionary in effect, in the sense that it's lawyers who speak and the language is sophisticated - apart from the fact that it's expensive and takes a long time.

Therefore, our democratic architecture needs these institutions to ensure that they hold government accountable and, when necessary, reverse the decisions. That's exactly the nature of the institution like public protector. As I indicated, it receives complaints, sometimes initiates investigations. Most of the cases you know about are those that deal with corrupt excesses or unethical conduct by members of the executive. The other part of this institution which is similar to the European ombudsman is equally important. That is helping the ordinary person on the street with administrative justice. For example, if they are owed money by the state, as a businessperson, they can get their money back.

If you have a situation where those who are entrusted with public power find an easier way to improve their fortunes simply by using some of the resources for their own benefit, that creates anarchy, because everyone starts thinking, perhaps the fastest way to get rich is to go into the state. That creates then discord. Constitutional democracy needs proper institutions which are independent from the executive, with a high level officer who makes decisions and sees that those decisions are implemented. In South Africa, the public protector powers are similar to a court. The decisions of the public protector are binding.

But lastly, civil society institutions that are working at strengthening and supporting constitutional democracy should be supported. In the last 22 years of democracy in South Africa a lot of support went into civil society institutions that provide goods and services to people, like for HIV, which is important. But institutions supporting, deepening and defending democracy need to be supported too. If you don't support those institutions, then excesses within the governance system undermine a lot of things, including social justice. Constitutional democracy is needed so that democracy should work in the manner that improves everyone's fortunes. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Georg Lennkh: Thank you very much Thulisile for this interesting reference to constitutional democracy and importance of these institutions like a public protector. Now I would like to ask Christian Manahl for his contribution.



Christian Manahl: Thank you Georg for inviting me to share with you my perspectives about the European - African relations. The subtitle of this session is new realities, shifting priorities. If we talk about new realities, I think we best understand them or diagnose them, if you like, if we look at them in a historic perspective, in which we try to understand where we come from.

History, as you know, is not a linear process. You have periods where a certain context is relatively stable and then suddenly things are moving fast. I believe we are in such a faster moment today. But let us look back first.

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fall of the Berlin Wall, international relations in general but also Europe-Africa relations were under the influence of the Cold War. Some countries were aligned with the East, some countries were aligned with the West. The Western World showed little concern about human rights, about democracy or about the rule of law. The big question was whether a country, a government was aligned with us or with them. Some countries found themselves in the crossfire. Angola is a classic example, of course, of what used to be called at the time a peripheral conflict of the Cold War in a bipolar world. The Horn of Africa was negatively influenced by this international fracture. In 1989 everything changed and, of course, also our interpretation. The West celebrated the victory of liberal democracy. And there were also great hopes for multilateralism, in the security council and in peace-keeping. The hope was that in particular the UN would play a much greater role in constructively engaging in conflicts in Africa.

Some of that enthusiasm was shattered in Somalia first and then in Rwanda. But still, we were in this era where we thought that the values, the institutions, the practices, the culture of liberal democracy would eventually gain ground. I still believe there was a process where democratic values and institutions did make progress. But again, it wasn't linear progress. It was progress that was faced with a host of challenges and there were setbacks.

In particular there were two elements which came into play, much stronger than the optimists at least would have expected. First, a bunch of conflicts had been buried under authoritarian regimes. In the 1990s, ethnic conflicts, border conflicts, land

conflicts, religious conflicts started to bubble up most dramatically again: in Rwanda, in Burundi, followed by the wars in the DR Congo, in the Horn of Africa, intensification of the conflict in Sudan which led to the independence of South Sudan, in Central African Republic, in some West African countries.

Another element was the emergence of new international players which became increasingly relevant in Africa and which do not share all of our liberal values. Most prominently is, of course, China, but also countries like Iran or other countries from the Middle East. They played an increasingly important role in Africa and challenged our policies about democracy, our policies about human rights, about the rule of law, but also our policies in terms of international financial management.

Now we are moving into a different phase, where it is difficult to predict how it will look like. Today, liberal democracy itself is challenged in the Western World. You've seen it by the rise in populism in a number of European countries and in the recent elections in the US. As our own societies are challenged by pressure from populist tendencies, multilateralism is also challenged. The EU has played a prominent role in conflict management, peace building, in support of multilateral institutions. That is challenged now, also in terms of uncertain financing. It is also challenged in terms of the political role that multilateral institutions should take. If Europe becomes essentially inward-looking in the next couple of years, it would be regrettable and could negatively affect our relationship with Africa.

Africa is a very dynamic continent, a continent with a lot of problems, but also with a lot of potential, with a lot of young people, with a lot of energy, with a lot of creativity. I think we need to look at the opportunities and work on them and develop them. But there are also huge risks, risks in terms of conflicts that have not been resolved. There is one huge risk which perhaps is still underestimated, which is human trafficking and human smuggling. It is already a billion dollar business.

But we also have to look at migration objectively. Migration is currently pictured in the media, in the public discourse as a problem, which is one part of the truth. But migration is also a fact of life, has always been. If human beings hadn't migrated out of Africa there wouldn't be any Europeans or Americans or Australians in the first place. Migration has always taken place. It will always take place. I have no doubt that migration out of Africa will accelerate in the next couple of decades. Nobody will be able to stop it. But it has to be managed. It has to be managed first and foremost in order to allow the people who want to migrate to do so in a humane manner.

But also diasporas are important for African countries, they are important financially. They are also important because they have the potential of bringing back experience, knowledge, and skills. And migration, I believe, properly managed has the potential to be an important driver of development, not only a problem. But we have to deal with both sides, the positive and the negative sides.



Georg Lennkh: Thank you, Christian, for this historic perspective. Instead of making my own remarks, I would rather that we use this time for a discussion with you. Who would like to make remarks, ask questions, or also manifest discontent?

Audience: I'm from Nigeria. I live here and I work here. We talk today about relationships between Africa and Europe; we see, that Africa is for Europe like a raw material production continent. For example, gold is being mined in a country and 97% is moved out of the continent. 3% is left for the people to struggle for their part. How can we build a good relationship if Europe treats us like that?

Audience: I'm from Guinea. I really appreciate this discussion. I'm going to make a comment related to what was said over there, saying that everybody is trying to take advantage of the resources. I don't really think that this is how we should look at things. First of all, we should tackle our own governments that don't really try to put this in place or policies that can ensure that a country will benefit from any partnership. The other thing is that I am studying and working here in Austria, but I want to go back to Africa one day to work in my country. But currently I do not see possibilities for me to work, for example, in a government where jobs are not open to young people because older people do not retire because of their professional benefits.

Audience: Europe is losing quite some credibility, some leverage in Africa. As Christian Manahl said, the liberal democracies in Europe are under pressure. We have a whole range of new players in Africa. My question is: what is the place of the value agenda in the current Europe-Africa dialog? Is there still a place? What place should it be?

Stella Sabiiti: All right, I hear all the comments. You know I should have retired already. I've just celebrated my 64th birthday last week. I should have retired already. But then when I look at the energy that we have...so maybe the question is: how can we, those of us who have been around for this long, how can we share the space with the younger ones, with "our sons and our daughters," as we say in Africa?

I have heard the word creativity being mentioned. I'd like to say that our youth are very full of creativity. Of course, the world has opened up with globalization, in a positive way. I'm not looking at the negatives. Africa is, I think, the youngest continent in the world. What are we doing as Africans to open that space for our youth to play their role, to take the place that they deserve? I'm seeing a lot of hope with our youth. I'm seeing a lot of hope with our women on the continent. I think that these two groups are going to be the savior, but they can't do it on their own. There is something we always talk about – political will. I've heard it over and over again when we are discussing Africa. But the moment you mobilize and you move, you find you can go, you can move. So those spaces are there. You have to reach out, you have to claim those spaces. So, hope is not lost in Africa. I'm thinking of the focus, we need to continue focusing on our people, For me, life has been very challenging. I've been tortured, I've been arrested. I've gone through so much, you don't want to hear about it. But I still believe, when you focus on the goodness of the individuals, the goodness of the people, you find your answer. The answer lies in the people.



Thulisile Madonsela: I would like to refer to the comment of the colleague from Nigeria about Africa being seen as a supplier of raw materials for Europe. Whether in our relationship with Europe there are more advantages for them or not, is a question of perceptions. Many young people see it as a relationship of non-equals. This fuels some of the

African countries to go to friends like China, Brazil, and Russia. But it doesn't necessarily mean they are better friends. Africa should create first its own map, so to speak, first decide what do you want. I think the AU has tried to do this with the Agenda 2063, to say this is the Africa we want. Afterward you can create a relationship. The idea is to create relationships that would assist Africa to achieve that vision. A relationship where there is more equality, where there's more equity in trading arrangements. But it's no longer really the time for Africa to blame Europe or to blame anybody else, because these relationships are negotiated. But African countries should make sure that the people who are there at the negotiating table have the right skills and the right knowledge.

I think the question about what does Europe have to do to leverage its relationship with Africa or to improve its relationship with Africa will say personally is if you don't add value, you don't matter. But sometimes even if you do add value, but if you're not perceived to add value, you don't matter. Young persons have to cease to have that picture of Europe as the giant that uses Africa as a footstool. The relationships are no longer like that, but the narratives stay. The narrative is if you

are a black person and you're working with white people, you are a stooge of the white people. But this narrative has to have been created by a racist white person who believes that whenever there's a relationship between a black person and a white person, the black person is a stooge and is being controlled by the white person. But this racist concept has also taken hold because of these black persons' perception of disadvantage. In other words, what I'm saying is that Europe should also find ways to minimize this old perception of Africa as a footstool, because that kind of perception muddies the waters.

Christian Manahl: Africa has been a source of raw materials in often very unequal terms, and not only for Europe. It continues to be. There are a lot of other countries interested in Africa's raw materials. Trade relationships are rough and they have to be negotiated. The more Africa is united and, I believe, the more the African Union plays a role and interacts with other international organizations, not only the UN but organizations like the Kimberley Process, for example, the easier it will be for individual African countries to deal with their foreign business partners.

Concerning your question of the place of the value agenda, it's a very interesting question and I don't have a straightforward answer to it. What I would say is what I didn't mention in my presentation, although I had it written down but I overlooked it when I was speaking, is that one of the new developments in the last twenty years was, of course, the creation of the African Union. It reflects a different self-confidence, I would say, of Africa, but also a recognition by Africans that they have to take a much more prominent role in addressing their problems. I also believe this is a framework for this value debate within Africa, which is complex and difficult. I have been watching with dismay the debate on the International Criminal Court within the African Union. But this debate has to take place within Africa, this value debate, together with Europe. But we in Europe have to have that debate as well. What are liberal values that are the bedrock of our union and how do we defend them against the pressure that we are exposed to now from various political extremes within Europe. It's going to be an interesting debate and we have to get into it the sooner the better. Thank you.

Georg Lennkh: Thank you Christian. Now we come to our second part of our discussion. I would like to welcome Mohamed Chambas. There were higher forces that made it difficult for him to come to Vienna. Two flights were cancelled, but now we very glad that you are here.

See separate presentation Mohamed Ibn Chambas

Biographies of Panelists

Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

Dr. Chambas has been the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa and Head of UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in Dakar since November 2014. He first entered government service in 1987 as Deputy Foreign Secretary of Ghana, going on to serve as a Member of Parliament from 1993 to 1996 and as Deputy Minister for Education in charge of Tertiary Education from 1997 to 2000. Between 1991 and 1996, he was involved in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mediation efforts for the First Liberian Civil War. He then served as Executive Secretary of ECOWAS from 2002 to 2005, and President of the ECOWAS Commission, from 2006 to 2005. From 2010 to 2012, Dr. Chambas was Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. Upon joining the United Nations, he served as the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur and Head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 2013-2014.

He received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Ghana, master's degree and PhD from Cornell University, and a law degree from Case Western Reserve University.

Thulisile MADONSELA, Lawyer, South Africa

Dr. Madonsela is a human rights lawyer and equality expert, currently chairperson of the Centre for Reconciliation and Equality Studies. She served as South Africa's Public Protector from 2014 to 2016. Before she was a full-time member of the South African Law Reform Commission. She is one of the eleven technical experts who helped the Constitutional Assembly draft the final South African constitution in 1994 and 1995. In 2016 she was chosen as one of BBC's 100 Women.

Dr. Madonsela was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree, *LL.D. (Honoris causa)* from the University of Stellenbosch. She was further awarded another Doctor of Laws degree, *LL.D. (Honoris causa)* from the University of Cape Town.

Christian MANAHL, Ambassador of the European Union to the State of Eritrea. Dr. Manahl began his career as an Austrian diplomat, with brief secondments to UNDP (in Rwanda and Mozambique) before joining the European institutions in 1996. Assignments in the EU included postings in Nairobi (with a regional mandate), Juba, and in the Policy Unit of the High Representative for the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (2003-2006). From 2007 to early 2012, he worked in different assignments for the Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Somalia.

He earned a PhD in humanities from the University of Vienna, as well as post-graduate degrees in humanities and international law from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, respectively.

Stella SABIITI, Ugandan Consultant, African Union Commission Grounded in her own experience as a survivor of war and torture in the 1970s and early 1980s, Stella Sabiiti has spent close to 40 years brokering peace in Africa and other parts of the world through dialogue, negotiation and mediation, and peace journalism, focusing on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, post conflict stabilization, security sector reform and the role of women in such processes. Currently, she is supporting the AU Commission's Women, Gender and Development Directorate to establish the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation. Since 2005, she has worked in several capacities at the AU Commission's Peace and Security Directorate, such as team leader for the capacity-building program under EU partnership, and with regional groups to build and operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture. She played a key role in the peace processes in Burundi and Rwanda, ensuring the participation of women. She is the founder of the Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in Uganda.

Stella Sabiti holds degrees in sociology, social psychology and journalism - print and broadcasting (Uganda, Canada, The Netherlands).