



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY, CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY IN AFRICA (IDCPPA)

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH SECURITY INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA (SIGLA)

AND INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION (IJR)

Research Conference

“SADC Mission in Mozambique: Interrogating Regional Interventionism”

Wednesday 19th October 2022
IDCPPA/CSSR Seminar Room 4.89
Leslie Social Science Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town
Cape Town, South Africa

Call for Abstracts and Concept Note

“We have the means and the capacity to deal with our problems, if only we can find the political will.” – Kofi Annan

1. Introduction

The **Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (IDCPPA)**, situated at the University of Cape Town (UCT), will convene a one-day Research Conference on **“SADC Mission in Mozambique: Interrogating Regional Interventionism”** on **Wednesday 19th October 2022**, at the IDCPPA and Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) Seminar Room in the Leslie Social Science Building, at the University’s Upper Campus.

The IDCPPA would like to issue this **Call for Abstracts**, of 300 words in length, to include the name, affiliation, title, and key argument of your paper. We welcome papers on any aspect of Mozambique’s Islamist insurgency crisis, regional peacemaking efforts by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) or other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the continent. The intention will be to compile the papers presented at the Conference into an edited volume, for ongoing and future engagement with a broad range of actors across academia, policy development and the wider society.

The Conference will create a **research platform** and convene academics, students, policy analysts, and civil society practitioners to assess SADC’s efforts to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Mozambique. It will also include comparative insights from other regional interventions from across the African continent. The Conference will compile opinions and findings relating to the milestones and challenges noted since the beginning of the mission in 2021. The Conference will also interrogate and identify pathways towards improving regional early warning mechanisms and responses to insurgency.

To submit a proposal for the one-day conference, please follow this link <https://forms.gle/Sf1haRDfWpYmXGZA8>, to a Google form to complete the requested information, including contact details and an abstract, by **Friday 26th August 2022** and draft Conference paper by **7th October 2022**. Please email your abstract and paper to **Dr. Primrose Bimha** pzjbimha@gmail.com she can also be contacted if you have any questions or challenges accessing the form.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts!

2. Context for the Conference:

2.1 Background

The homegrown insurgency by an Islamist armed group locally known as both Al-Shabab, or Al Sunnah wa Jama’ah (ASWJ) in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, started in 2017. ASWJ seeks to denounce the Mozambican government. The insurgency is fueled by disgruntlement with foreign direct investment into ruby mining and liquified natural gas (LNG) projects in the northernmost province. A weak and ill-disciplined response from the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces (FADM) allowed the insurgent group to increase in membership and destabilise northern Mozambique.

The human rights situation in Cabo Delgado worsened from 2020 due to insecurity and violence. ASWJ continues to attack villages as well as public and private transport. They are also responsible for kidnapping and killing civilians, burning and destroying properties including homes, schools and hospitals. State security forces have also been implicated in cases of intimidation, abductions, torture, the use of excessive force against unarmed civilians, and extrajudicial executions. It is suspected that opposition party, Portuguese Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (Renamo) has also deployed dissident militants to attack and kill innocent civilians. There is great concern that the Islamist insurgency in Mozambique is gaining increasing support among regional and international armed extremist organisations hence calls on Mozambique to launch an independent and impartial investigation into torture and other grave violations in Cabo Delgado.

2.2 Regional intervention

Al Sunnah wa Jama'ah insurgency in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado created an opportunity for SADC member states to gain practical experience in fighting against terrorism. Combatting the threat requires stronger enforcement of early warning mechanisms and a shift away from ad-hoc deployment of peacemaking missions. The situation in Mozambique has the potential to destabilise the whole region and SADC cannot afford for the insurgency to escalate and/or spill over.

In 2021, external troops from Rwanda, and SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) which included Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Angola and Tanzania, travelled to the conflict-ridden Cabo Delgado province to join the fight ASJW. The deployment of SAMIM was prompted by a deadly attack on Palma in March 2021, which led to the suspension of a multi-million-dollar investment by French company Total Energies, the main investor in liquid natural gas in Cabo Delgado. The mission's actions promote the quest for African solutions to African challenges. However, the deterioration of the situation in Cabo Delgado also triggered a humanitarian crisis which is far from being resolved. It is in SADC and the African Union (AU) interests to ensure long-term peace and stability on the continent. This means helping Mozambique by facilitating plans to address the humanitarian, considering the economic imperatives of restoring peace to the area. SADC's record of ad-hoc interventions and poor coordination between SADC's Organ on Politics Defence and Security, and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) leave a lot to be desired.

3. Objectives:

The Research Conference has the objectives of:

- i) understanding latest developments regarding instability caused by Islamist-based insurgency in Mozambique;
- ii) discussing the role of external forces (SADC, AU, Rwanda, private security companies and defense firms);
- iii) reviewing steps taken to protect oil and gas resources; and

- iv) assessing national, regional, continental, and international stakeholders' efforts to counter violent conflicts on the continent.

4. Expected Outcomes:

It is expected that the Research Conference will achieve the following outcomes:

- i) Increase in knowledge-generation and development of insights on and analysis of approaches to peacemaking and dealing with insurgency in Africa, with a particular focus on Mozambique;
- ii) Development of key research findings which can be utilised to inform SADC and AU peacemaking strategies;
- iii) Establishment of a community of researchers focused on the issues and developments relating to regional peacemaking.

5. Meeting Venue:

The Research Conference will be held at the IDCPPA/CSSR Seminar Room 4.89, Leslie Social Science Building, University of Cape Town, on **Wednesday 19th October 2022** between 9h00 to 17h00.

6. Format:

The Conference will provide an overview of the past to present situation in Cabo Delgado and its Islamist-based insurgency. It will focus on the military/security response and look at the role of external forces, including the Rwandan and SAMIM intervention, the role of private security companies and defence firms, the need for security by oil and gas investors and the humanitarian response to the crisis. The conference will also contribute to ongoing discussions on peacebuilding in Africa hence the incorporation of lessons from dynamics of conflicts in other African contexts. Panels will debate ways to better address the situation to ensure restoration of peace and stability, avoid recurrence, and prevent Islamist extremism not only in Mozambique, but in other parts of the continent as well. The presentations will also be characterised by sharing of perspectives and lessons based on other cases of security crises on the continent.

Proposed Panels/Sessions:

To be confirmed once Abstracts have been reviewed.

About IDCPPA, SIGLA and IJR:

The Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (IDCPPA) was established to conduct research into the factors that strengthen and sustain democracy across Africa. Their focus includes studying political institutions, the role of political parties, factors that encourage critical citizenry, and the effects of public policies on social and economic dimensions of citizenship. See more at: <http://www.idcppa.uct.ac.za/IDAhome>

The Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) is a research institute of Stellenbosch University located with the Faculty of Military Science, at Stellenbosch university. The institute strives generate knowledge resources in the areas of security for sustainable development. Its research activities are linked to leadership governance matters. See more at: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/milscience/sigla>

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) is a think tank which adopts a transitional justice and reconciliation approach towards promoting democratic, inclusive, and peaceful societies in Africa. Their work includes facilitation of dialogues and peacebuilding interventions. See more at: <https://www.ijr.org.za/>



SAMIM (SADC Mission in Mozambique) conference correspondence email: pzjbimha@gmail.com