



ECOWAS COMMISSION  
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## Agenda WAPSI Forum

Date: 9-10 March 2022

Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Human Security and Governance  
in the ECOWAS region

### Legend

**Events held in plenary:** addressing emerging and pressing topics on peace and security in the region, speaking to both thematic clusters of the forum

**Cluster I:** The COVID-19 pandemic has hit West Africa as a sudden on-set disaster and laid bare long-standing vulnerabilities of the ECOWAS citizens and the fragility of the security landscape in West Africa. These sessions shall explore approaches, and lessons learned from managing regional peace and security matters amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Cluster II:** COVID-19 has accelerated digital transformations globally. While technology alters conflict dynamics and behavior of stakeholders, it can also be leveraged on for peace building interventions in the ECOWAS Region. These sessions shall explore digital adaptations to peace processes in the region, opportunities and limitations of tech approaches and highlight digital conflict drivers. The sessions shall be anchored by the report of the consultations held from May 2021 – September 2021 and explore the findings and challenges identified further.

### **Side event:**

**I: “Lessons from Covid-19 pandemic for West Africa”:** Launch of a series of policy briefs by WATHI. The first one published in February 2021 was about the lessons for the economies. The second one on lessons for political governance in West Africa was published in November 2021. The documents on education and African integration will be published in the next two months.

**II: Presentation of the AfDB Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026):** This session will explore the three strategic priorities, Strengthening institutional capacity; Building resilient societies; and Catalyzing private investment and their links with the guiding principles of Prevention—Selectivity—Patience (staying engaged)—Do-No-Harm—Ownership—Partnership and explore synergies within the Triple Nexus (Humanitarian - Development and Peacebuilding actors) for building resilience against shocks and the various drivers of fragility.



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WAPSI  
WEST AFRICA PEACE & SECURITY INNOVATION

All times listed are WAT / Abuja Time.

## Day One: Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

	Activity
09:30-10:00	<b>Virtual Tour through Online Event Platform</b>
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><i>Welcome Address</i></p> <p>Gen. Francis Behanzin, Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security</p> <p><i>Goodwill Messages</i></p> <p>Cécile Tassin-Pelzer, Head of the EU Delegation to Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States</p> <p>H.E. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the African Union Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security</p> <p>Amb. Birgitt Ory, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nigeria</p> <p>H. E. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria</p> <p><i>Opening Speech</i></p> <p>H.E. Jean Claude Kassi Brou, President of the ECOWAS Commission</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Chief Moderator</i></p>
10:30-11:00	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p>Impact of COVID-19 on the ECOWAS Peace and Security Agenda - rethinking regional peacebuilding</p> <p>by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E Mohamed Ibn Chambas</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitated by Chief Moderator</i></p>



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<p><b>11:15-12:15</b></p>	<p><b>Dive into Research on Human Security, COVID-19, and Technology</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of WAPSI Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Festus K. Aubyn, WANEP</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation of Leveraging Technology for Peacebuilding in the ECOWAS Region Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helena Puig Larrauri, BuildUp</li> </ul> <p>Launch of the Reports</p> <p>Facilitator: Chief Moderator</p>	
<p><b>12:20-01:15</b></p>	<p><b>Youth, Peace &amp; Social Media</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Caleb Gichuhi</p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obi P. Onyeigwe, YOUPEDA</li> <li>• Alassane Niamebe, IMRAP</li> <li>• Zigwayi Ayuba, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Nigeria Office)</li> <li>• Mohamed Kunta, African Youth Ambassador for Peace (West Africa)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning at the Intersection: Exploring COVID-19 as a challenge to human security and governance in the ECOWAS Region</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Prof. Isaac Olawale Albert</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salamatou Suleiman, former ECOWAS CPAPS</li> <li>• Prof. Isaac Adewole, former Minister of Health, Nigeria</li> <li>• Moudjib Djinadou, Head of Political Affairs, UNOWAS</li> <li>• Dr. Jakkie Cilliers, Institute for Security Studies</li> </ul>
<p><b>01:15-1:45</b></p>	<p><b>Under the Baobab tree with...</b></p> <p>tbc</p> <p><i>An intimate Q&amp;A session to allow audiences to find out more about the work of the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission and current ECOWAS-led peace and security initiatives.</i></p> <p>Facilitated by Chief Moderator</p>	



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<b>02:15-03:15</b>	<b>Countering Harmful Narratives Online</b>  Facilitator: Stanley Bentu  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eyesan Okorodudu, ECOWAS Democracy and Good Governance Division</li> <li>Idayat Hassan, Centre for Democracy and Development</li> <li>Faiza Nasir, Timbuktu Institute</li> </ul>	<b>Pandemics and Coups: Exploring priorities for the implementation of UNSCR 1325</b>  Facilitator: Fakhriyyah Hashim  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Odile Ndoumbe Faye, ECOWAS Gender Development Centre</li> <li>Ndeye Amy Ndiaye, Timbuktu Institute</li> <li>Yvette Chesson-Wureh, FemWise West Africa</li> <li>Dr Joannie Marlene Bewa, Young Beninese Leaders Association</li> </ul>
<b>03:15-03:30</b>	<b>Musical Interlude</b>	
<b>03:30-04:30</b>	<b>Open Networking Space</b>	

**Day Two: Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Time	Activity	
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>Recap from Day One</b>	
<b>10:15-11:15</b>	<b>Leveraging Technology for Early Warning and Early Response</b>  Facilitator: Caleb Gichuhi  Deep Dive Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phoenix (Social Media Monitoring Platform), Build Up</li> <li>Elva, Dr. Mark van Embden Andres, ELVA</li> <li>Nantene Coulibaly, ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate</li> </ul>	<b>Reflections from the Member States</b>  Facilitator: Gilles Yabi  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omolara Balogun, West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)</li> <li>Florence Ouattara, Coalition Bukinabe des Defenseurs des Droits Humains</li> <li>Mr. Barry Mamadou, Youth Group Guinea</li> <li>Dr. Abdoulaye Bousso, Senegalese Emergency Health Operations Center</li> </ul>
<b>11:20-12:10</b>	<b>Chief Moderator</b>	



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<p><b>Under the Baobab tree with...</b>  Mme. Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security</p> <p><i>An intimate Q&amp;A session to allow audiences to find out more about the work of the Special Envoy on WPS and other topics they would like to address.</i></p> <p>Facilitated by Chief Moderator</p>		
12:15-01:00	<p><b>Side Event</b></p> <p><b>Lessons from COVID-19 for the Economy and Political Governance</b></p> <p>Curated by the Think Tank Citoyen de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WATHI)</p>	<p><b>Side Event</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the AfDB Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026)</b></p> <p>Curated by the African Development Bank</p>
01:30-02:30	<p><b>Digital Mediation</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Mira ElMawla</p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrico Formica, UNDP</li> <li>• Andrea Bernate, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue</li> <li>• Prince Charles, Plateau State Multi-Donor Court</li> <li>• Dr. Onyinye Onwuka, ECOWAS Mediation and Coordination of Regional Political Affairs division</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responses to peace and security challenges amidst COVID-19: AU and ECOWAS Responses</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Kofi Busia</p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Emmanuel Kwesi Aning, KAIPTC</li> <li>• Justice Agbezuge, USAID West Africa</li> <li>• Ambassador Fred Ngoga, AU Conflict prevention and Early warning division</li> <li>• Sybil Ossei-Agyeman-Yeboah, WAHO</li> </ul>
<p><b>02:40-03:00</b></p> <p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Main Takeaways from Cluster I and II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP</li> <li>• Dr. Onyinye Onwuka, Head of Mediation and Coordination of Regional Political Affairs division</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Speech</b></p>		



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- Gen. Francis Behanzin, Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security

Facilitator: Chief Moderator