



**AFRICA  
AMANI  
INSTITUTE**

**CREATING  
IMPACT  
SINCE 2006.**



# STRATEGIC PLAN

**2025 - 2029**

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# *Introduction*

Africa stands at a pivotal point in its pursuit of sustainable peace, development, and security, grappling with a complex set of challenges that obstruct the path to peaceful and inclusive societies envisioned by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Issues like political instability, socio-economic inequality, poverty, weak governance, climate change, and limited economic prospects contribute to ongoing violence and unrest across the continent. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), almost half of sub-Saharan African countries (18 out of 49) were engaged in active armed conflicts as recently as 2021. Additionally, Africa has the highest number of non-state conflicts worldwide, involving actors such as terrorist groups, criminal networks, and insurgent forces, which further threaten peace and stability in local communities.

These security challenges are exacerbated by transnational organized crime, rising conflicts among groups over resources, and the effects of climate change. This climate of insecurity, coupled with economic difficulties, leaves many young Africans at risk of unemployment and deprived of access to adequate education or economic stability, which raises the likelihood of radicalization. With 600 million young people across Africa either unemployed or underemployed, the demand for transformative, locally driven solutions is more critical than ever. The African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative highlights the urgency of addressing these insecurity drivers, emphasizing that sustainable peace can only be achieved by tackling the root causes of violence.



## Amani Africa Institute's Unique Approach

In response to these challenges, Amani Africa Institute (AAI) is implementing a five-year strategic plan rooted in a distinctly African perspective on peace and security issues across the continent. Our approach prioritizes solutions driven by Africans, involving local communities and stakeholders in the creation of initiatives that move beyond conventional, often foreign models. AAI's focus areas include:

- **African Perspectives and Solutions:** Our approach is rooted in African perspectives while integrating global, regional, and national normative frameworks, allowing us to design solutions that are both context-specific and aligned with broader international goals.
- **Community-Led Initiatives:** AAI adopts a bottom-up approach, incorporating the views and needs of local communities, which are often overlooked in high-level peace and security missions.
- **Stakeholder Integration:** We bridge relationships among key actors across the development, peace, and security sectors to encourage collaborative solutions.
- **Evidence-Based Approaches:** AAI employs evidence-based methods in co-designing, piloting, and scaling community-led solutions, ensuring they are relevant and effective.
- **Leadership Development:** Recognizing the importance of both formal and informal leadership, AAI invests in leadership to address conflicts in culturally resonant ways that promote long-term stability.

Over the next five years, AAI is dedicated to advancing its vision for a conflict-free Africa. For AAI, success will be reflected in measurable advancements in peace and security across the continent, driven by sustainable, community-centered programs and strong collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders. By 2028, we aim to achieve significant milestones in conflict resolution, youth engagement, and the reduction of violent conflicts in key regions. Our ultimate goal is to align with the African Union's vision for a peaceful and secure Africa by building local capacities for peace and empowering communities to lead sustainable change.

This strategic plan accentuates AAI's commitment to tackling Africa's complex challenges through durable, community-based solutions that lay the groundwork for long-term peace and prosperity across the continent.



# Vision

We envision a secure, conflict-free, and prosperous Africa where all people experience welfare and stability, fostered by a deep-rooted culture of peace.

# Mission

To serve as a catalyst for conflict prevention and peacebuilding across Africa, advancing sustainable development through collaborative efforts that strengthen resilience and foster lasting stability.

# Our Values

01

## Inclusivity

We are committed to fostering inclusive processes that embrace diverse perspectives, cultures, and experiences across Africa. We ensure that all voices, especially those historically marginalized, contribute to shaping peace and development initiatives.

02

## Society-Centered Approach

Our work places African communities at the heart of our mission. By centering our initiatives on societal needs, we promote sustainable, locally-relevant solutions that directly address the unique challenges faced by each community.

03

## Human Dignity

We uphold the inherent dignity of every individual. Respect for human rights and a commitment to uplifting the well-being of all people drive our strategies in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and development.

04

## Dialogue & Trust

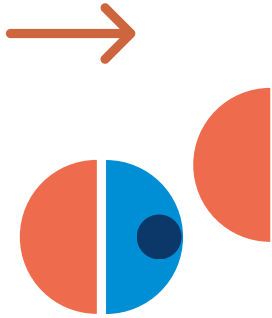
We believe in the power of dialogue to build bridges and trust across diverse groups. Our work promotes open communication and collaboration at all levels—locally, nationally, and internationally—to create sustainable pathways for peace and mutual understanding.

05

## Evidence-Based Approach

We prioritize data-driven and research-backed strategies in our work. Grounded in rigorous analysis and empirical insights, our programs and interventions are designed to produce measurable and lasting impact on the continent.

# *Our Philosophy* →



Our organization is driven by a commitment to building a future grounded in good governance, peace, and security for Africa and beyond. We actively promote capacity building in governance and engage in national policy-making processes to shape a more resilient and inclusive society. Through rigorous research, we aim to generate insights that inspire dialogue among politicians, academics, activists, and the public, sparking new thinking on critical issues.

We believe that sustainable peace requires collaborative platforms, and we create spaces for decision-makers and thought leaders to engage in meaningful discussions on security matters facing Africa and the global community. Our work is informed by scientific evidence on the root causes of conflict, brought to life through workshops, retreats, and roundtable discussions. Additionally, we champion peace and security efforts in Tanzania and the region, aligning with UN Resolution 1325 and commitments adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Our philosophy is centered around the belief that through open dialogue, informed research, and collaborative action, we can build a more peaceful and secure world.

# *Our Impact so far*



Established in 2006 and formerly known as Integrity Watch (IW), Africa Amani Institute (AAI) has achieved a wide range of milestones, including:

1. Conducting evidence-based policy advocacy and dialogue on peacebuilding, leadership, and anti-corruption at national, regional, and international levels.

2. Leading research on the social and cultural drivers of corruption and evaluating the effectiveness of behavioral approaches to anti-corruption in East Africa.

3. Pioneering youth-led social accountability mechanisms through governance clubs in Dar es Salaam.

4. Mainstreaming anti-corruption practices into election observation in Tanzania since 2010.

5. Promoting leadership development through a flagship program on women's political empowerment in Tanzania.  
Since 2017, AAI has developed a training manual and handbook for local councilors and trained more than 300 female and 100 male councilors in the Mwanza, Geita, Tabora, Lindi, Mara, Arusha, and Mbeya regions.

# *Charting the Path Forward*



## **2025– 2029**

***We rededicate ourselves to the enduring Pan African vision of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.”***

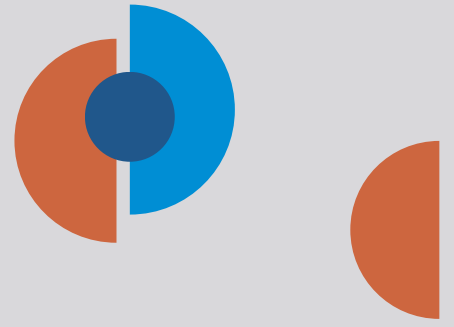
**AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS FOR 2063**

***“You cannot have peace without security, and you cannot have security without inclusive development.”***

*Kofi Annan,  
Former Secretary General,  
United Nations;  
2001 Nobel Peace Prize.*



# Our Main Programs



## PIILAR I: Research Hub

The AAI Research Hub will generate rigorous, evidence-based insights to guide peace and security policies across Africa. Through its research on conflict drivers, governance issues, and emerging trends, the Hub aims to equip policymakers and practitioners with data-driven tools and frameworks for developing effective solutions.

The Peace Innovation Lab will focus on new technologies and their impact on peace in Africa. AAI will invest in developing new technological solutions for peace, including the use of automated warfare technologies such as drones and robots, accompanied by robust guidelines. The Lab will work to mitigate the negative impacts of technology on peace, promote positive social behavior through behavioral approaches, and analyze social media trends. This analysis will aim to develop counter-narratives and provide actionable solutions.

Research is at the core of AAI's strategy to address the interconnected challenges within Africa's development, peace, and security landscape.



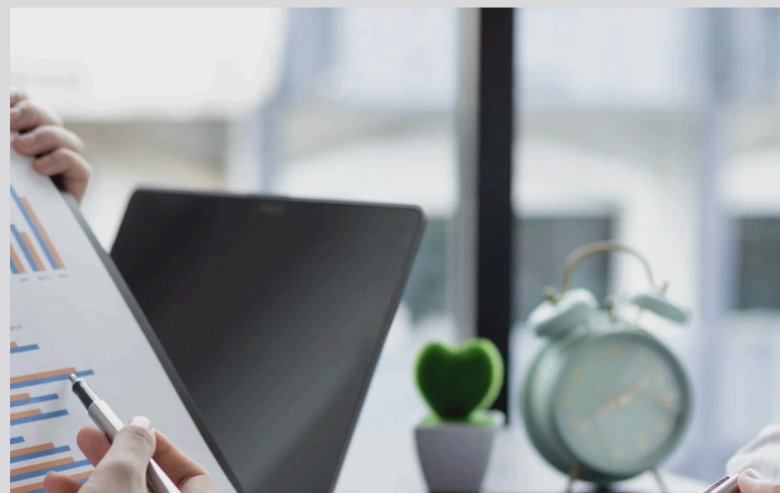
AAI's research will fulfill several critical functions:

- **Deepening Understanding of Complexities**

By exploring the multifaceted drivers of conflict and development challenges, AAI's research will provide nuanced insights into Africa's peace and security landscape. This understanding will guide AAI's interventions, ensuring they are well-informed, context-sensitive, and aligned with real-world needs.

- **Tracking Trends and Emerging Dynamics**

Research enables AAI to monitor evolving trends within peace, security, and development. By staying attuned to shifts in political, social, and economic contexts, AAI can design responsive strategies that anticipate challenges before they escalate.



## I.1. Disseminating Research for Policy Impact

AAI's research will be a powerful tool for advocacy, policy influence, and capacity building at both national and regional levels. Key strategies include:

- **Communication Strategy**

The organization will implement a targeted communication strategy to share research findings with policymakers, institutions, and the public. This approach will include policy briefs, media campaigns, and digital dissemination to broaden research visibility.

- **Engagement in Regional and National Platforms**

By participating in regional and national platforms, AAI will promote its research and advocate for policies aligned with its mission. These engagements will provide opportunities for real-time feedback, networking, and collaboration with decision-makers.

- **Advocacy and Engagement Strategy**

AAI's advocacy efforts will center on using research to drive policy change. This will involve direct dialogues with policymakers, public education initiatives, and strategic partnerships that amplify research findings at all levels of governance.





## I.2. Developing and Implementing a Research Agenda

To maximize its impact, AAI's research agenda will target pressing peace and security issues, while remaining adaptable to emerging trends. AAI will focus on three primary strategies to develop and implement this agenda:

- **Collaborations with Research Institutions**

Partnering with African and international think tanks will allow AAI to leverage diverse expertise, expand data sources, and gain deeper insight into cross-cutting issues. These partnerships will enhance research quality and foster collective learning across the continent.

- **Alignment with Agenda 2063**

Grounding the research agenda in the African Union's Agenda 2063 framework ensures that AAI's work supports Africa's long-term goals for peace and development. This alignment will make AAI's research especially relevant to policymakers and institutions driving the continent's transformation.

- **Incorporating Dialogue and Partnership Insights**

Insights from dialogues and strategic partnerships will continually inform AAI's research priorities, ensuring the agenda remains relevant and responsive to Africa's changing needs.

AAI's Research Hub will produce rigorous, evidence-based insights that inform peace and security policies across Africa. By conducting research on conflict drivers, governance challenges, and emerging trends, the Hub will support policymakers and practitioners with data-driven tools and frameworks for creating effective solutions.



# PILLAR II: Innovative Homegrown Solutions

Through collaboration with local communities, AAI will pilot and scale culturally relevant, homegrown approaches to peacebuilding and development. These solutions leverage traditional practices and indigenous knowledge to address security and social challenges, fostering resilience and ownership within communities.



## II.1. Establish a Network of Peace Ambassadors



Creating a network of Peace Ambassadors can be a powerful strategy to promote peace and stability in communities across Africa. Peace Ambassadors serve as local advocates, role models, and facilitators of peace initiatives, helping to bridge divides, reduce tensions, and foster positive relationships within their communities. Here's how a Peace Ambassador program will be structured:

**a) Recruitment and Selection:** Identify and recruit individuals committed to peacebuilding, including community leaders, educators, youth advocates, and individuals with strong community influence. Selection criteria might include demonstrated leadership skills, a strong reputation within the community, and a passion for peace and conflict resolution.

**b) Training:** Equip Peace Ambassadors with the knowledge and skills they need to foster peace. Training manuals and guidelines will provide ongoing education. This could involve training in conflict resolution, negotiation, communication, cultural sensitivity, and trauma-informed approaches. They would also be trained in leadership and program facilitation, so they can independently lead peace-building initiatives.

**c) Monitoring and Support:** Provide continuous support to Peace Ambassadors through regular check-ins, mentorship, and access to resources. Establish a reporting structure so Ambassadors can document challenges, share successes, and seek guidance.

**d) Recognition and Incentives:** Recognize the contributions of Peace Ambassadors through awards, public acknowledgment, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. This encourages sustained commitment and motivates others to become involved.





## II.2. Peace and Security Clubs in Schools

Peace and Security Clubs in schools are essential platforms that encourage students to learn and practice conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and safety skills. These clubs typically focus on fostering values of tolerance, respect, and cooperation among students, which can help create a peaceful and secure society in the future. Here are the core areas of focus for Peace and Security Clubs:

**Conflict Resolution Skills:** These clubs teach students practical skills like communication, mediation, and negotiation, which they can use to resolve conflicts peacefully.

**Awareness of Rights and Responsibilities:** Members learn about human rights, including the rights of children and responsibilities within a community, which fosters respect for diversity and equality.

**Community Engagement and Advocacy:** These clubs often engage in community outreach activities to spread messages of peace and unity beyond the school. Club activities focus on preventing all forms of violence, including physical, emotional, and cyber, through educational campaigns and discussions on how to recognize and address such issues.



## II.3. Raising Peace Awareness (Community Training)

Raising peace awareness involves educating communities about the importance of peaceful coexistence and equipping them with the skills and understanding needed to prevent conflicts. The key ways to raise peace awareness effectively:

### Media Campaigns

Use social media, radio, and other platforms to share messages of peace, inspiring stories, and awareness of nonviolent solutions. This can help reach a wide audience and create a culture of peace. Organize events for International Day of Peace and similar occasions to foster unity, educate on peace issues, and celebrate progress made toward peaceful goals. Public gatherings, speeches, and cultural events can highlight peace's importance.

### Dialogue and Mediation Programs

We will facilitate open discussions and dialogues in communities that address grievances and foster understanding and we will establish mediation programs that help to prevent conflicts from escalating.



## II.4. Testing Homegrown Solutions

Through research and pilot programs, AAI will explore and validate homegrown approaches to peacebuilding. This evidence will demonstrate the effectiveness of locally-rooted solutions, helping to expand these strategies.

## II.5. Institutionalizing Homegrown Solutions

To ensure sustainability, AAI will work with governments, civil society, and regional organizations to embed locally-driven peace and development initiatives within national policies and institutions. By institutionalizing the proven homegrown solutions, AAI promotes lasting peace that is rooted in African contexts and values.





## PILLAR III: Peace Lab



The Peace Lab will be mandated to develop strategies to promote peace, prevent conflicts, and resolve existing tensions in communities, nations, or globally. The Lab will also bring together experts, researchers, activists, and policymakers to create actionable insights and innovative solutions to issues related to conflict and violence. AAI will convene leaders, policymakers, and community advocates at the annual Africa Peace Summit, fostering high-level dialogue on the intersections of peace, security, and development. This summit will serve as a platform to shape shared goals, drive continental peace strategies, and influence regional and international policies that support sustainable development.

### Conferences, Forums, and Dialogues for Policy Influence

AAI will organize high-level conferences and community-focused forums to champion its vision for a peaceful Africa. These gatherings will facilitate knowledge-sharing, inspire collective action, and generate policy impact:

- **Annual Africa Peace Summit**

The Africa Peace Summit's Strategic Dialogue aims to promote sustainable peace and development. This flagship event will bring together African leaders, representatives from international and regional organizations, and thought leaders to discuss peace, security, and sustainable development. The summit aims to shape continental peace agendas, create new partnerships, and promote unified efforts toward "The Africa We Want".

- **Grassroots Dialogue Series**

AAI will host dialogues with youth, women, and other local policy actors to engage communities in meaningful discussions on peace and security. These forums ensure inclusive representation, amplify diverse perspectives, and foster a culture of peace at the community level. Dialogues will analyze conflicts and propose cooperative management strategies. Policy actors will assist in developing frameworks for reconciliation in post-conflict regions, with an emphasis on truth and forgiveness.

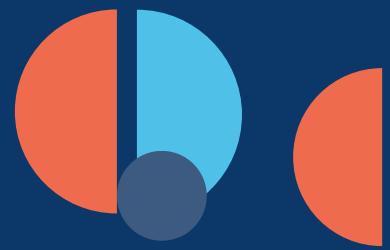
- **Facilitating Evidence-Based Dialogue**

Armed with data and empirical insights, AAI will lead discussions aimed at tackling Africa's most pressing challenges. This research-driven dialogue will inform policy advocacy and encourage stakeholders to adopt solutions rooted in robust evidence.

A Peace ThinkTank will serve as a hub of innovation and knowledge in peacebuilding, offering practical tools, influential ideas, and guidance for shaping a peaceful world. Through research, policy, and advocacy, it will play a crucial role in transforming societies toward harmony and sustainable development.



# Cross-Cutting Areas



AAI will integrate several cross-cutting themes into its programs to ensure a holistic and sustainable approach to peace, security, and development across Africa. These themes include:

## I. Anti-Corruption

Recognizing corruption as a significant barrier to stability and development, AAI will emphasize transparency and accountability within all program areas. By promoting anti-corruption practices, AAI aims to reduce the misuse of resources and reinforce trust in institutions, thus fostering an environment where peace and security initiatives can thrive. AAI advocates for governance systems that emphasize equity, resource accessibility, and inclusion. Enhancing democratic governance and responsible resource management will contribute to building more stable societies.



## II. Gender Equality

Gender equality will be a core component, ensuring that women have equitable opportunities to participate in peacebuilding, governance, and economic activities. AAI's programs will prioritize gender-sensitive policies and leadership initiatives, empowering women as key agents of change in their communities and strengthening social cohesion. All people, especially women and marginalized groups, are empowered to actively participate in building peace.

## III. Emerging Technologies

Emerging technology in peacebuilding acts as a bridge, bringing together people, resources, and information to foster understanding, prevent conflicts, and support the growth of peaceful societies. However, ethical use and equitable access remain critical to ensure technology benefits all stakeholders in the peacebuilding process. To address Africa's evolving challenges, AAI will explore and incorporate emerging technologies such as digital tools, artificial intelligence, and others. These technologies hold the potential to advance research, support efficient resource management, and enhance policy implementation, ultimately accelerating progress in peace, security, and development across the continent.





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## Program Area 1: Research Hub

### Short-Term Goal [1-2 years]:

Establish the Peace Innovation Lab by assembling a team of innovators to develop two technological solutions and accompanying guidelines for promoting peace as well as producing two analytical reports on social media narratives and emerging trends.

### Long-Term Goal [3-5 years]:

Expand the Peace Innovation Lab network to develop 10 new technological solutions and guidelines for fostering peace, along with 5 analytical reports on trends in social media narratives and emerging patterns.

## Program Area 2: Innovative Homegrown Solutions

### Short-Term Goals:

1. Launch and pilot two homegrown initiatives in collaboration with local communities, focusing on community-driven peace-building and conflict resolution. Track results and develop a framework to scale effective solutions across other communities.
2. Train 100 of peace ambassadors and establish peace and security clubs in 50 African schools. Develop and distribute three training manuals and guidelines on conflict resolution and mediation practices tailored to African contexts.

### Long-Term Goals:

1. Scale five successful homegrown solutions to at least 5 African countries, with 70% of pilot communities reporting improved peace and stability metrics. Develop a toolkit on best practices for scaling homegrown solutions and collaborate with national governments to integrate these into community development plans.
2. Expand peace ambassador training to include 300 of individuals and establish peace and security clubs in schools across Africa. Update training materials biennially and create region-specific conflict resolution models that are integrated into 5 % of national educational curricula.

## Program Area 3: Peace Lab

### Short-Term Goal:

Organize and host the first annual Africa Peace Summit with participation from at least 10 African countries, bringing together 50+ high-level African leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders to establish collaborative frameworks for peace and security across Africa.

### Long-Term Goal:

Institutionalize the Africa Peace Summit as an influential annual platform, with attendance from all African countries, and secure strategic partnerships with at least three major international peace organizations. Aim to integrate 50% of summit outcomes into actionable regional policies by 2028.





# Thanks You.

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