REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ANUMDI

THE AFRICAN RESEARCH NETWORK ON REGIONAL • & GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION

ANUMDI

ANUMDI

THEME:

ADVANCING THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE, G20 SOUTH AFRICA, AND AU's AGENDA 2063: THE ROLE OF AFRICAN SCHOLARS AND POLICY ADVOCATES

HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA | FROM 22 — 23 JUNE, 2025

Organized by: **SCDDD** SAVANNAH CENTRE FOR DIPLOMACY, DEMOCRACY & DEVELOPMENT   **STIMSON**

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FOREWORD

At the UN75 Summit in 2020, the global community committed to revitalizing the United Nations to better reflect the "**future we want and the UN we need.**" Motivated by this call to action, African scholars began framing their own vision on the "**Africa we want and the UN we need.**" This agenda has preoccupied many African scholars and policy researchers the past five years, and significant efforts have been made to achieve a more efficient and effective global order that provides for Africans **the future we want.**

African scholars, policy researchers, advocates, and practitioners, who gathered at the Second Annual Meeting of the African Research Network for Regional and Global Governance Innovation (ANUMDI), have been at the forefront of discussions to reshape the Africa we want through numerous contributions to UN Summit of the Future, the G20 South Africa Presidency, and the African Union Agenda 2063. The Second Annual Conference of ANUMDI, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 22-23 June 2025, sought to deepen conversations about "**The Role of African Scholars and Policy Advocates**" in shaping the future through the various multilateral institutions at global (UN and G20), regional (African Union), and sub-regional levels (Regional Economic Communities). As one ANUMDI scholar posited in Nairobi, "the dominant portrayal of Africa as a crises-ridden victim must give way to recognition of the continent as a strategic actor with the moral authority and institutional creativity to shape the global order."

This year, as we discuss UN@80, African scholars must raise their voices in an effort to contribute and to reshape the global order. The thematic areas covered during ANUMDI's 2nd Annual Meeting—namely, peace, security and humanitarian action, sustainable development and poverty eradication, human rights and democratic governance, climate and broader environmental governance, and a rules-based world order, and Africa in the global multilateralism—reflect deep empirical research and widespread aspirations across the African continent to build a just, sustainable, and peaceful region within today's hyperconnected world. Recognizing the importance of inclusive and globally relevant ideas, this year's annual conference was privileged to engage scholars from Asia, Europe, and North and South America too,
as observers and contributors to our discussions. We appreciate this collaboration and hope to deepen it for future engagements, in close collaboration with the Global Governance Innovation Network and ACUNS.

We are hopeful that the analytical findings and recommendations generated during

ANUMDI's 2nd Annual Meeting will be useful for follow-on research and global advocacy efforts. The ANUMDI Secretariat shall continue to explore ways to bring together scholars, policy researchers, advocates, and practitioners—from across Africa and beyond—to promote dialogue, publish joint research and analysis, and engage in advocacy for the benefit of the *African and global future we want and so urgently need*.

Ambassador Sani Bala | Executive Director, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (Abuja)

Professor Alice Atieno Oluoko-Odingo | Vice-President of the Academic Council on the UN System
and Co-Chair, ACUNS Annual Meeting 2025 | Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography, Population
and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi

Mikatekiso Kubayi | Member of the T20 South Africa Organizing Team | Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue associated with the University of South Africa (Johannesburg)

ANUMDI Co-Directors

25 July 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

Advancing the Summit of the Future, G20 South Africa, and AU Agenda 2063: The Role of African Scholars and Policy Advocates

Background

1. The theme of this Second Annual ANUMDI Conference is "Advancing the Summit of the Future, G20 South Africa, and AU Agenda 2063: The Role of African Scholars and Policy Advocates." Let us briefly recall the origins of this initiative. In preparing for UN75 in 2020, a group of scholars, policy researchers, and advocates came together to draw world attention to the need for a global conversation on the future of the United Nations. Culminating in the UN75 Global Governance Forum, the group put out a statement that "as a cornerstone of international order since 1945, the United Nations must continue to adapt and innovate to respond to new threats, challenges, and opportunities in our current age of complexity." This conversation deepened throughout 2020, where scholars, policy researchers, advocates, policymakers, the private sector, and philanthropic institutions highlighted the need for multilateral cooperation upon which the UN was founded. Central to this conversation were African scholars and civil society organizations who articulated key perspectives through regional conferences and other mediums, leading to the unifying message of "The Africa We Want and the United Nations We Need." The search for consensus led to the UN75 Regional Dialogue for Africa, an interactive dialogue that sought to serve as a transnational network for global-regional governance renewal and reforms of the UN.

The Abuja Declaration

2. In the lead-up to the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024, the Savannah Centre and Stimson Center sought to bring together African researchers to develop ideas and advocacy promoting "the Africa We Want and the United Nations We Need." African scholars and policy experts from across the continent, including international friends of Africa, met in Abuja in March 2024 to prepare for and feed critical Africa perspectives into the UN Summit of the Future preparations. The Summit, drawing from the earlier work of the Albright-Gambari Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance, identified the following thematic areas: Peace and security, Sustainable Development and Democratic Governance, Human Rights and Humanitarian Action, Climate Governance, Rules-based World Order, and the place of Africa in Global Governance. The outcome of the deliberations was the production of "**The Abuja Declaration",** a document intended to serve as a foundation for advancing African perspectives on global issues. Secondly,

and of particular importance, was the creation of an African regional body of researchers (ANUMDI who would sustain and advance original African perspectives for the place of Africa in global multilateralism.

ANUMDI: The African Research Network on Regional and Global Governance Innovation.

3. On 6 March 2024, at the Abuja Conference, the African Research Network on Regional and Global Governance was created. The body created three workstreams, namely: a Policy Research Workstream, a Policy Dialogue Workstream, and a Community of Practice and Advocacy Workstream. This new regional research network fully participated in the United Nations Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future, in May 2024 in Nairobi, in preparation for the United Nations Summit of the Future in September in New York. While in Nairobi, the desire to reflect an African identity in the name of the new network resulted in adopting the acronym ANUMDI, which stands for African Network for **Utafiti** (Swahili for Research), **Mulkin Duniya** (Hausa for regional and global governance), and Innovation. ANUMDI's main purpose is to bring together African scholars and policy experts to generate policy research and advocacy recommendations to strengthen global, regional, and sub-regional cooperation, including the policy and operational interface of institutions operating at each of these levels of governance.

The Role of African Scholars and Policy Advocates

4. The questions before us at this 2nd Annual ANUMDI Conference are:

First, how do we promote African perspectives at the UN Summit of the Future, the G20 South Africa Presidency, and the AU Agenda 2063.

Second, how do we promote outcomes of the UN Summit of the Future, the G20 South African Presidency, and the AU Agenda 2063 as they affect directly efforts to address the needs and aspirations of all Africans.

ANUMDI's collaboration with the Global Governance Innovation Network and the Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS) has provided a critical platform for elevating ANUMDI's programs and perspectives. Additionally, ANUMDI has participated in the Think Tank (T20) South Africa network of scholars and policy researchers. We have yet to identify a suitable platform within the African Union ANUMDI has further identified within the African Union the

"Africa Think Tank Platform Initiative" as a strategic-partners for promoting ANUMDI

members' unique perspectives and research outcomes. Additionally, ANUMDI intends to soon launch joint publications, including newsletters, journals, and policy reports. In short, the ANUMDI network's Policy Research Workstream must publish authoritative research work, the Policy Dialogue Workstream must bring together key stakeholders in timely regional and sub-regional policy dialogues, and the Community of Practice/Advocacy Workstream must mobilize African leaders and other key stakeholders toward shared, common goals.

Conclusion

5. ANUMDI has created for itself a herculean task for which we must collectively mobilize and achieve together. We cannot afford to relent, for failure is not an option. I wish all participants, including our many supporters from beyond Africa, productive and meaningful deliberations during ANUMDI's 2nd Annual Meeting and beyond.

Abdulwahab Ademola Lawal, PhD, psc, fimc
ANUMDI Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Second Annual Conference of ANUMDI took place on 22 and 23 June, 2025, at MAA Hotel and Suites in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference brought together over 60 participants comprising leading scholars, policy researchers, advocates, diplomats, and policy practitioners. The conference aimed to explore the role of African scholars and policy advocates in advancing the Summit of the Future, the G20 (South Africa Presidency), and the African Union Agenda 2063. There were representatives from the African Union, the T20 South Africa, the Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS), and many other African and global organizations and networks. There were also observers from Asia, Europe, North and South America. The methodology for the conference was to generate perspectives through plenary and breakthrough discussions. Note-takers from the University of Nairobi and Institute for Economics and Peace documented key discussion points, analytical insights, and policy and institutional reforms recommendations during the various sessions. Several papers were presented by leading scholars and will soon be made available on ANUMDI's online platform. The conference culminated in a set of analytical findings recommendations intended to inform both the G20 South Africa Summit in November 2025, as well as follow-through efforts to drive implementation on the Pact for the Future and the Africa Union's "Africa 2063" initiative.

The Opening Plenary

The opening session set the tone for the conference. Key questions were asked, namely: Is Africa likely to be where it should be by 2030? What opportunities exist for Africa? What precautions should Africa take? Is it time for Africa to act decisively? The session also reiterated the thematic areas of focus, which were: peace, security and humanitarian action, sustainable development and poverty eradication, human rights and democratic governance, climate and broader environmental governance, and rules-based world order, Africa's leadership of the UN General Assembly, and the G20 in 2025.

Snapshots from the Five Thematic Breakthrough Groups Sessions

Peace, Security, and Humanitarian Action. Each of the seven sub-regions of Africa were examined. In five of these regions, insurgency was commonplace, and nineteen key drivers of insecurity were identified. In the Sahel, the proliferation of over ten million illegal weapons has fueled rising insurgency and banditry, raising serious doubts about the feasibility of achieving the "Silencing the Guns" goal by 2030. Sudan's ongoing conflict has resulted in a staggering humanitarian emergency, exacerbated by the presence of

approximately 500 militias and 20 mercenary groups, many backed by external actors. Drought caused by climate change has brought climate-induced displacement and compounded security challenges. The criminal economy, driven by kidnapping, drug and human trafficking, and illegal mining, continues to fuel conflicts across Africa. At the root of these crises is the inequitable distribution of resources, exacerbated by weak governance. State capture by powerful elites has entrenched a political economy that marginalizes the poor and undermines inclusive development. Poverty level and youth unemployment generates insecurity. Scholars have not sufficiently engaged in public discourse or advocacy on these issues. 25 suggestions were put forward for tackling these challenges. Some of the key recommendations include: women's inclusion in conflict resolution and their economic empowerment to maintain family harmony. Africa must deepen its democratic process to ensure that good governance is entrenched. Unconstitutional governments should be condemned, and efforts must be made to restore constitutional governments where they do not exist. Scholars must bring their sharp acumen in analyzing and promoting good governance through advocacy and participation in the life of their communities. Multilateralism must be strengthened; therefore, the UN, AU, and other regional bodies must be strengthened to take on leadership roles in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding roles.

Sustainable development and Poverty Eradication. Insufficient investment in education has left many Africans without the skills and opportunities needed for meaningful participation in development. As a result, youth across the continent face high levels of unemployment and marginalization. Women, who form the majority of the population, remain underrepresented in government and across developmental agendas. Corruption remains a significant challenge within governance systems, while the existence of robust welfare schemes for the poor is weak and, in most cases, non-existent. Many African governments have accrued unsustainable debt levels, often without clear repayment strategies, deepening national debt burdens and exacerbating poverty. The way forward is inclusive governance, where community-led engagement in budget planning and oversight is entrenched in the governance system. Priority must be given to education as the panacea for poverty alleviation. Scholars and policymakers should thus develop strategies for inclusive and responsible governance at the national and sub-national levels. The outdated education system must be overhauled and replaced with a more grassroots-oriented model that emphasizes practical skills. In addition, digital education platforms should be integrated into the education system to expand access and improve learning outcomes. The use of platforms like BRICS+ and the AU Youth Council to amplify young voices for inclusive policymaking should be encouraged. Universal basic services (healthcare, education, clean energy, etc.) as foundational rights should be implemented.

There is a need to advocate for research-driven policymaking and to urge governments to increase research expenditure to at least 1.5% GDP. Civil Society must also engage actively to hold governments accountable and promote transparency in governance.

Human Rights and Democratic Governance. The roll back of democracy and the rise of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa have had a serious impact on human rights. The resurgence of military takeovers and the manipulation of constitutional provisions undermines democracy and leads to a decline in public trust. The erosion of democratic norms often results in the capture of state institutions, including the judiciary, electoral bodies, and the civil service. In such contexts, human rights are routinely undermined, and conflict becomes more likely. Limited access to education, healthcare, and housing further erodes public trust and contributes to voter apathy. The suppression of opposition voices exacerbates tensions and fuels instability. To overcome these challenges, institutional governance must be strengthened through an independent judicial system, and politicization of the judiciary must be prevented. Similarly, the electoral system must be reformed to adopt Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to enhance electoral transparency. However, caution must be exercised to mitigate risks of glitches, malware, and disinformation. Press freedom, the protection of journalists, and the promotion of fact-based reporting should be encouraged to rebuild public trust. Gender and minority inclusion, particularly Persons Living With Disabilities, should be prioritized in all decision-making. The African Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance should be fully implemented, with the AU taking a more proactive role in preventing democratic backsliding across the continent. Collaboration and consultation between the UN, AU, and the regional bodies should be intensified. This must include conflict prevention, human rights monitoring, and harmonized interventions. The ANUMDI network should help to shift the international focus from a preoccupation with civil-political rights to strike a better balance with socioeconomic and development rights. ANUMDI should also strive to directly influence or partake in policy decision-making.

Climate and Broader Environmental Governance. Climate change disproportionately impacts Africa. The continent receives only 2% of global climate finance, and the high costs of green technology continues to limit access, making both mitigation and adaptation efforts difficult. Weak coordination between institutions, academia, policymakers, and local communities has led to fragmented environmental governance. Traditional knowledge and cultural practices are often overlooked, and national priorities frequently lack alignment with broader environmental goals. A significant challenge remains the absence of a strong continental network and effective knowledge-sharing mechanism. To build resilient climate strategies, local communities must be placed at the center of all

mitigation and adaptation policies. Greater use should be made of carbon credit mechanisms, ensuring that benefits reach the communities most impacted by climate change. The SDG7 (clean energy) and the AU Green Recovery Plan must include and uplift vulnerable populations, while industrial and trade policies, especially in agriculture, need to strengthen the science-policy interface. We must encourage African countries to join and actively participate in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). In connection with Sustainable Development Goal #13 (Climate Action) and related AU Agenda 2063 targets, Africa must invest in capacity building to train local scientists, develop research infrastructure, and create long-term datasets that measure species vulnerability to climate change.

Rules-based World Order, Africa's Leadership of the UN General Assembly and G20 in 2025. The world is at a geopolitical inflection point. The current international order is unraveling, yet no clear alternative has emerged. Despite comprising 28% of UN member states, Africa remains underrepresented in key decision-making bodies—most notably, the Security Council. While the proposal for two permanent African seats continues to circulate, it remains largely confined to talking points. Thus, the call to invoke Article 109 of the UN Charter is most apt and must be intensified by Africa. Africa must be the leading voice in delivering on the promise of last year's Summit of the Future and to champion principles of inclusive multilateralism. It is important to note that the G20 cannot speak for all countries. Africa's voice must not be absent from global decision-making, particularly in the face of international silence on conflicts that threaten Africa and the integrity of the rules-based world order. Africa should establish a G20 task force and present a unified voice in connection with annual G20 deliberations. Africa should also be a rule-maker and not a rule-taker. The African Continental Free Trade Area should be rapidly developed to serve as a global trade hub, leveraging the continent's size, resources, and immense potential. At the same time, African scholars must work to reshape the global order toward inclusivity by integrating African philosophies, legal traditions, and values into global and regional governance frameworks.

Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions featured a panel of eminent scholars and practitioners who synthesized key themes from the conference and highlighted areas requiring deeper attention. A central insight was the need to reject narratives of Africa as a passive actor in the global order. Instead, Africa must assert itself to gain meaningful influence, beginning with securing seats on the UN Security Council and actively participating in international decision-making. To achieve this, Africa must unify around common priorities and speak with one voice.

ANUMDI Strategic Session

ANUMDI held a strategic planning session where members explored concrete steps to advance the network's overall mission of joint, evidenced-based research, policy dialogue, and advocacy in support of international policy-making through the United Nations, African Union, and eight Regional Economic Communities across Africa. Key points raised included the urgent need to formally register ANUMDI as a legal entity, enabling it to engage authoritatively with the UN and other international institutions. Registration with both the UN and AU ECOSOC was deemed necessary.ANUMDI must also engage in collaborative research work with its individual and institutional members in the network's various areas of substantive interest. Newsletters and policy reports should be produced regularly, a website/portal should be created, and the enhancement of communication strategies including social media is imperative.

Closing Plenary

The Second Annual Conference of ANUMDI emphasized the need for Africa to be more assertive in global governance, especially within the framework of the UN Pact for the Future, AU Agenda 2063, and the G20 South Africa Presidency. Scholars and advocates should ensure a unified and impactful voice for Africa. To achieve this, civil society must also be engaged. Multilateralism remains essential to global cooperation, and Africa must continue to engage with it, despite ongoing challenges. ANUMDI must position itself to promote this core mission.

OPENING PLENARY

Welcome Address by Prof Alice Atieno Odingo

Prof. Alice Odingo, the Chief Host of the Second Annual Conference of ANUMDI in Nairobi, delivered a welcome address. She warmly received all participants and outlined the conference's key objectives. . In particular, she emphasized the importance of focusing on the selected thematic areas and producing clear, actionable recommendations to inform the

UN Pact for the Future, the G20 South Africa Presidency, and the African Union. She noted that current global dynamics demand ANUMDI's active engagement in shaping international discourse and policy. To frame the deliberations, Prof. Odingo posed a series of guiding questions to participants:

- Is Africa likely to be where it should be by 2030?
- What opportunities exist for Africa?
- What precautions should Africa take?
- Is it time for Africa to act decisively?

Finally, she urged participants to enjoy the ambience and hospitality of the people of Kenya.

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Sani Salauwa Bala.

Ambassador Sani Salauwa Bala, Executive Director of the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development and Co-Chair of ANUMDI, delivered opening remarks (*note: due to Amb. Bala's delayed arrival, his prepared remarks were delivered by ANUMDI's Coordinator, Dr. Ademola Lawal*). He began by warmly thanking the Chief Host, Professor Alice Odingo, for her gracious welcome and her pivotal role in organizing and facilitating the conference. He acknowledged the support of ANUMDI members based in Kenya, as well as ACUNS for their collaboration in the lead-up to the event. Special appreciation was extended to several of the conference co-sponsors including Humanity United, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the Global Challenges Foundation for their generous financial and in-kind contributions.

Ambassador Bala also commended the exceptional efforts of ANUMDI's Executive and Planning Committees, and he highlighted the instrumental role of the Stimson Center staff in New York for their guidance and assistance in securing sponsorships, which contributed significantly to the success of the gathering. Reflecting on ANUMDI's journey, he recalled the inaugural conference, held in Abuja from 4—6 March 2024, centered on the theme *"The Africa We Want and the UN We Need."* This theme was explored through five sub-themes, namely: Peace, Security and Defence; Sustainable Development and Democratic Governance; Human Rights and Humanitarian Action; Climate Governance; Rules-based World Order; and the place of Africa in Global Governance.

At the end of last year's Abuja conference, "The Abuja Declaration" was produced. Building on this momentum, a new initiative, the **African Research Network for Regional and Global Governance Innovation** was launched to promote African scholarship and advocacy in multilateral spaces. This new organization debuted at the UN Civil Society Conference in support of the Summit of the Future, held in May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, where it used the Africa-wide research platform to strategize and reaffirm its commitment to African-led dialogue and research. It was also during this period that the name **ANUMDI** was adopted. The headquarters of ANUMDI is domiciled at Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, Abuja. The organization was broken into three main workstreams, namely; the Policy Research Workstream, The Policy Dialogue Workstream, and Community of Practice and Advocacy Workstream.

This Second Annual Meeting of ANUMDI aligned closely with the 38th Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on the UN System-ACUNS (held from 23-25 June 2025, also in Nairobi (co-hosted by the University of Nairobi and the UN Office in Nairobi. Our theme for this year's annual ANUMDI dialogue is "**Advancing the Summit of the Future, G20 and AU's Agenda 2063: The Role of African Scholars and Policy Advocates**"

Objectives of the 2nd Annual Meeting:

The objectives of the meeting were highlighted as follows:

(I) `To convene leading policy researchers, practitioners, and advocates from Africa and around the world to debate and recommend specific regional and global institutional, policy, legal, normative, and operational innovations that could inform the agenda and raise the ambition of the G20 South Africa Summit (22-23 Nov),

with follow-through to the September 2024 Summit of the Future and the African Union's Agenda 2063, with special attention to African perspectives and innovations.

(ii) To further develop the new ANUMDI platform for Africa, Policy Researchers, Scholars, and Advocates to critically discuss and advance policy research on "what Africa wants" and the type of relationship the continent needs to have with the United Nations, the G20, and the International Financial Institutions;

(iii) To strengthen African Union, African Regional Economic Communities, G20, and UN System collaboration, including through the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, Declaration on Future Generation, and the New Agenda for Peace.

(iv) To prepare for ANUMDI's first participation in the ACUNS General Meeting, with the goal of making meaningful contributions and fostering a sustained partnership. Last but not the least, to afford members the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences, and build bridges of unity on various issues.

Expected outcome of the Conference

At the end of the conference, Amb. Bala stressed how participants, through the ANUMDI Secretariat, would produce a concise and actionable set of recommendations, culminating in a relatively concise synthesis report. To facilitate this objective, the conference had adopted a thematic breakthrough group session format, with each group focusing on a specific theme in working toward common, detailed analyses and recommendations. These finding and ideas would then be brought together and "road tested" during larger plenary sessions where participants would work to harmonize, summarize, and validate their shared, collective ANUMDI 2nd Annual Meeting outcomes and recommendations.

ANUMDI Strategic Session.

Ambassador Bala reminded members of the ANUMDI 2nd Annual Meeting's strategic planning meeting on the first evening (22 June) to discuss the overall ANUMDI approach and work plan for the coming year and beyond.

Partnership with the Academic Council of the United Nations System.

The partnership between ANUMDI and ACUNS was of great importance; therefore, members were encouraging to attend fully and actively participate and make presentations at the 38th ACUNS meeting from 23-25 June 2025 in Nairobi.

Conclusion

In concluding his opening remarks, Amb. Bala once more thanked all participants and wished for fruitful deliberations.

FIVE THEMATIC BREAKTHROUGH GROUP SESSIONS

█ **Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action**

Overview. The breakthrough group session brought together participants from academia, policy circles, and subject matter experts. A step-by-step sub-regional analysis was conducted. Participants observed that, across much of the continent, the goal of "silencing the guns" remains elusive; in fact, armed conflict is intensifying. A thriving criminal economy, fueled by activities such as illegal mining, trafficking, and arms proliferation, continues to destabilize many regions. Moreover, the growing presence of foreign mercenaries and private military companies has added another layer of external interference. Unconstitutional changes of government in Africa have, in some instances, enjoyed local support, contributing to the erosion of democratic norms. Participants also expressed concern that African leaders, and the African Union Peace and Security Council, have increasingly ceded responsibility for peace negotiations to external actors, as seen in the ongoing conflicts in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Note takers of the breakthrough session recorded the following:

Problem-Sets Analysis.

1. Of Africa's seven Regional Economic Communities, five have become e hotbeds of insecurity, with more than 1,000 insurgent groups active within these territories.
2. The Sahel has experienced twelve major droughts and a wave of coups d'états, with regional responses to these political upheavals varying widely depending on local dynamics and institutional capacity.
3. The Sahel has become a bedrock of terrorism, driven primarily by the activities of two major groups — Al Qaeda and Al Shabab. These groups have successfully recruited a large number of young people, many who now work for terrorist networks or trafficking operations. The Sahel is home to an estimated ten million small arms, many of which are in the hands of unemployed and illiterate youth, an alarming combination that fuels insecurity. Most heads of state have yet to offer a clear or effective solution to this growing threat. The war is shifting from the Sahel to coastal Africa, following similar patterns of instability, youth radicalization, and arms proliferation.
4. The case of Sudan is increasingly pointing toward fragmentation rather than unity, with over 500 militia and 20 mercenary organizations operating across the country.
5. Guinea Bissau — Government operations are sustained through revenues from trafficking networks, including drug trafficking. It is estimated that one ton of cocaine can provide livelihoods for up to 2,000 people. The supply route stretches from Guinea Bissau through Egypt and Turkey, ultimately reaching Europe. Central Africa — DRC and CAR. Numerous militant groups continue to exploit mineral resources to finance their operations and sustain conflict. Chad and Gabon have unconstitutional governments.
6. Somalia — remains divided into three distinct regions, with the persistent presence of Al-Shabab posing a major security threat across the country. South Sudan — separated from North Sudan in July 2011, has struggled to achieve stability. Ongoing infighting within the government continues to pose a serious risk to national cohesion and peace.
7. Political elites are complicit in trafficking networks, reflecting the broader failures of governance.
8. Many cases of conflict in Africa are a result of unequal distribution of resources.
9. The criminal economy (arms and drug trafficking, illegal mining) is thriving, particularly in conflict zones, and drawing in large numbers of youth, further driving instability. The criminal economy is connected to the political economy. There are

deep issues of governance that are embedded in the system.

10. The impact of climate change and the disruption of ecosystems are pushing people into the criminal economy.

11. Africa is experiencing state capture by powerful elites, while existing governance structures fail to deliver. Scholars are often perceived as detached observers rather than agents of change.   Africa also failed to approach conflict from a long-term perspective, addressing symptoms rather than tackling root causes.

12. The system is failing to apply laws uniformly, creating double standards between the Global South and the Global North.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Africa has to reinvent itself, beginning with the empowerment of women, who make up 52% of the population. Integrating women as peace ambassadors challenges the outdated notion that only men can build peace. Africa must prioritize security as the foundation for peace. Without security, there is no foundation for peace.

2. Tough measures are needed to address political repression, including cases where governments imprison women and girls without access to basic necessities. Constructive internal cooperation among civil society is needed to fill in for UN system failures and the growing lack of public trust in it.

3. Rethink the failure of the UN and regional organization systems.

4. The need to look at the power structures, impact of colonization, political will, and interests of different groups.

5. The need to address the structural drivers of the criminal economy.

6. The need to address state fragility or its absence by expanding its presence in terms of services. Reform the legal framework.

7. Conflict response failures must be critically examined. Develop a new index focusing on the future of the state. A new way of thinking about the state and our futures.

8. Power and leadership must align with the aspirations of the people.

9. Prioritize concrete actions for African peace and security within the context of Summit of the Future and AU Agenda 2063 follow-through.

10. Examine how international aid systems may contribute to conflict, and explore delivery of assistance directly through local organizations as viable alternatives to international agency delivery.

11. Actions 23 and 24 of the Pact for the Future envision a future free from terrorism and illicit financial flows, building on civil society and empowering them.

12. The African Union's Agenda 2063 calls for an integrated continent and political

unity. Countries should be incentivized to either remain in and or rejoin regional organizations after an earlier exit.

13. With a growing number of partners, African countries must rethink their relationships and adopt a more assertive stance on the global stage. A strong AU-UN partnership is needed more than ever; their partnership relates to, inter alia, Actions 21 and 55 of the Pacts for the Future. Both organizations are complementary to one another. The UN brings predictable financing, multidimensional expertise, and accounting mechanisms, while the AU has close proximity to African conflicts, political legitimacy, knowledge, a willingness to deploy in high-risk environments, and the flexibility to act when the UN might be constrained.

14. To enhance partnerships, strategic and operational alignment is recommended. There is a need to promote joint briefings and information-sharing, including with Regional Economic Communities. Establish and fund liaison offices within the UN system for the AU and Regional Economic Communities, and ensure AU involvement in UN system strategic reviews concerning Africa. Develop joint deployment models and scenario planning frameworks to enhance readiness and coordinated response. Promote African ownership and strengthen peace operations, with active support for Security Council deliberations.

15. Use AU frameworks to anchor legitimacy within international peace operations and other conflict management efforts across Africa.

16. Prioritize political solutions through diplomacy rather than the new for costly and complex military and police-oriented operations in a fragile and conflict-affected African country or region.

17. Explore joint (hybrid) envoys and contact groups between the UN, AU, and Regional Economic Communities to avoid fragmented diplomacy and weakened international responses.

18. Academics, researchers, and policy-makers must reframe approaches to international peace and diplomacy.

19. Identify investment areas with the greatest impact to drive long-term, transformative societal change.

20. Ensure the inclusion of non-traditional partners and actors in peace and development efforts, including NGOs, community-based organizations, and religious leaders.

21. Continental early warning systems should be fully integrated into the work of the African Union.

22. Adopt a multi-dimensional peacekeeping approach through the United Nations and AU, simultaneously, that engages all relevant actors and stakeholders.

23. Identify areas of divergence and work toward a unified approach between the United Nations, African Union, and Regional Economic Communities.

Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

Overview: Africa continues to fall short of the UN SDG targets. As 2030 approaches, poverty deepens and development goals remain unmet. Similarly, progress under the AU Agenda 2063 has been limited. With the G20 South Africa presidency in 2025 nearing its end, its impact on the continent remains unclear. African scholars, particularly through the T20, must act with urgency. Key points are captured below:

<u>Problem-Sets Analysis</u>

1. Education & South-South cooperation often reinforce inequality by failing to equip marginalized populations with the skills and tools necessary to escape poverty.
2. Rural and gender gaps persist, and the youth continues to remain excluded from policymaking.
3. Decentralized governance models, such as participatory budgeting and community-led oversight, offer a viable path forward but remain underutilized.
4. Corruption continues to concentrate wealth among political and economic elites.
5. With over 4 billion people lacking access to basic social safety nets, the cycle of poverty continues unchecked
6. In many Global South countries, governments borrow irresponsibly, and the mismanagement of funds deepens debt without addressing poverty. This reflects a systemic denial of dignity and choice.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. To break the cycle of inequality, Africa must deconstruct outdated education models through grassroots programs, like Brazil's MST movement, which integrates land rights advocacy with practical skills training. Promoting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and leveraging innovations from peers like India's digital platforms should be pursued, rather than relying on Western-centric models

2. The SOTF can use platforms like BRICS+ and the AU Youth Council to institutionalize youth engagement in policymaking.

3. AU Aspiration 6 (People-Driven Development) can ensure education as a tool for empowerment, not exclusion. Reinforce the AU's governance frameworks (Aspiration 3) with community-driven accountability systems, like Makueni County's contractor inspections.

4. Civil society must act as a bridge, not a gatekeeper, using technology to amplify grassroots voices and hold leaders accountable, as seen in Kenya's social media-driven activism.

5. At the SOTF, Africa should demand a binding UN Pact on Anti-Corruption, to curb illicit financial flows and enforce transparency in resource-rich states.

6. Reimagine social protection models for the 21st century, shifting from conditional aid to universal basic services and direct cash transfers, aligned with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and AU Agenda 2063's Aspiration 1 (Prosperous Africa).

7. Public finance systems must also be overhauled, replacing predatory loans with grants and community-led financial governance.

8. Africa should push for a Global Public Investment Fund, where financing is collectively governed rather than dictated by traditional donors, to enhance equitable resource distribution.

9. There is a need to reject temporary aid in favor of systemic dismantling, replace debt traps with fair trade, enforce private sector accountability, and empower communities to co-govern resources.

10. Civil society and academia must move beyond reports to co-design policies with governments. Institutions like AfCFTA and BRICS+ should amplify Africa's bargaining power.

11. Mandate documentation and transfer of institutional knowledge across political transitions to avoid governance resets every election cycle.

12. Use public official scorecards to track and publish conflicts of interest, illicit trade ties, and service delivery performance.

13. Tailor financial architecture to African needs, focusing debt servicing on public benefit.

14. Strengthen the demand for research at a policy level and call for governments to increase research expenditure to 1.5% of GDP.
15. Measure progress via access to healthcare, education, and social protection, not just economic output.
16. Implement universal basic services (e.g. enhancing policy-research interface, data management, Socioeconomic and development rights advocacy, etc.) as foundational rights.

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Human Rights and Democratic Governance

Overview: In the face of pervasive violence in Africa, criminal economy, and unconstitutional overthrow of governments, human rights suffer. Dividends of democracy seem to be illusive while poverty escalates. The use of force, gender inequality, and the prevalence of gender violence exacerbated democratic governance. Manipulation of the constitution and silence of the AU in enforcements create the environment for abuses of human rights and poor governance and lack of transparency, accountability, and justice. The details are as recorded below by note takers:

<u>Problem-Sets Analysis</u>

1. Democratic Erosion and Unconstitutional Changes of Government;
a. Military coups in Niger, Gabon, Burkina Faso, and others reveal discontent over governance failures.
b. Constitutional manipulations, such as term-limit extensions, and electoral malpractice undermine democratic institutions, leading to a decline in public trust.
c. Weak electoral integrity, voter suppression, and foreign interference further destabilize democratic processes.

2. State Capture and Geopolitical Exploitation
a. External actors and local elites exploit weak governance structures, particularly in

resource-rich sectors like mining, to influence policies through proxy support for political parties.

b. Misinformation campaigns, often sponsored by foreign or domestic actors, discredit local governments and manipulate public opinion, especially in local languages.

c. Under-resourced judiciaries and politicized courts enable state capture, eroding institutional checks and balances.

3. Socioeconomic Rights and Youth Vulnerability

a. High youth unemployment makes young people susceptible to manipulation by extremist groups or political sponsors.

b. Climate change exacerbates food insecurity and displacement, with Southern Africa facing severe droughts while conflict zones like Sudan and the DRC suffer from violence-induced hunger.

c. Limited access to education, healthcare, and housing fuels discontent, reducing public participation in governance.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Strengthening Institutional Governance

a. Independent Judiciary: Ensure judicial autonomy to prevent politicization and uphold constitutionalism.

b. Electoral Reforms: Adopt AI and machine learning cautiously to enhance electoral transparency while mitigating risks of disinformation.

c. African Union (AU) Oversight: Strengthen AU mechanisms to uphold democratic norms, including sanctions against unconstitutional regime changes.

2. Combatting Misinformation and Enhancing Civic Education

a. Regulate AI in Elections: Develop African-specific frameworks to counter disinformation while protecting digital rights.

b. Media Freedom: Protect journalists and promote fact-based reporting to rebuild public trust.

c. Civic Education Programs: Launch civic education campaigns to build constitutional literacy and resilience against misinformation.

3. Promoting Inclusive Socioeconomic Development

a. Youth Employment Initiatives: Prioritize youth employment and skills training to reduce vulnerability to radicalization.

b. Gender and Minority Inclusion: Ensure women, youth, and persons with disabilities

(PLWD) participate in decision-making.

c. Climate Resilience: Integrate climate adaptation into governance frameworks, with a focus on sustainable agriculture and disaster response.

4. Strengthening the African Charter of Democracy and Governance through preventive   measures.

a. The African Union should shift from reactive measures to preventive actions to address the democratic backsliding in Africa.

b. Focus more on prevention measures to include a real-time monitoring system for the detection of democratic erosion at early stages, such as media censorship, suppression of opposition, and constitutional manipulation to stop the regression of democratic governments before they worsen to coups or violent conflicts.

5. Enhance Collaboration and Consultation between UN and the regional bodies.

a. Promote stronger collaboration between the UN and other regional bodies, such as the AU and the UN Security Council, for upholding effective observation of human rights and promoting democratic governance interventions.

b. Collaborations should include joint conflict prevention and human rights monitoring between the UN Human Rights Council and the AU's Human Rights bodies for unified interventions.

6. The ANUMDI Network's potential shift in focus from civil-political rights to socio-economic rights and rights to development.

a. Ensure that human rights frameworks address matters such as poverty, public welfare, and inequality.

b. Relate human rights and democratic governance to socio-economic rights to meet the needs of the people and development.

c. Advocate for policies that ensure access to healthcare, education, and employment, and economic policies that align with UN sustainable development goals and reduce inequalities.

d. Expand digital civic engagement platforms, and educate communities about their rights.

e. Empower national technical committees to inform the AU/UN on policymaking. By enhancing the infiltration of ANUMDI in key decision-making spaces, will directly influence policies that advocate for human rights and effective democratic governance.

Climate and Broader Environmental Governance

Overview: For Africa, climate change is not a distant threat, it is a lived reality, especially for grassroot communities who experience its harshest impacts. Addressing climate requires moving beyond rhetoric and high-level dialogue. Advocacy on mitigation and adaptation must go beyond international conferences to include community-led initiatives and equitable technology transfer. These efforts must bring local actors and organizations together to address challenges of climate governance collaboratively. Climate financing should prioritize channeling carbon credits directly to the communities where they are most impactful. Details of the breakout analysis and recommendations are found below:

Problem-Sets Analysis

1. Africa receives just 2% of global climate finance, and green technologies remain unaffordable for most in the region despite bearing the brunt of the crisis
2. Carbon markets are often exploitative, which further marginalizes the Global South.
3. Climate change, pollution, and biodiversity are the triple planetary crisis.
4. Linkage gap between institutions, academia, people, and policies.
5. Economic models do not adequately value nature; while prevailing value systems prioritize short-term economic gains over long-term ecological sustainability.
6. Nature's contribution to people, including intangible benefits like cultural and

emotional well-being, is overlooked.

7. National priorities often skew towards economic returns, neglecting broader environmental elements such as air and water quality. For instance, Nigeria's focus on biodiversity loss is disjointed from other interdependent sectors.

8. Lack of comprehensive, context-specific scientific data.

9. Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and organizations often fail to integrate environmental priorities within their operational frameworks.

10. There is insufficient emphasis on *real* and actionable environmental protection commitments beyond 2025. Current ambitions do not match the urgency of the crisis.

11. Local knowledge and scientific input from Africa are underrepresented in global bodies like IPBES processes.

12. Weak continental networks and fragmented knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

13. Lack of national assessment reports and coordination structures to feed into global platforms.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Build stronger connections between local, national, and regional knowledge ecosystems. Increase African contributions to global biodiversity discourse.

2. Redefine the impact of environmental crises, while increasing the production and submission of national biodiversity assessments, particularly from underrepresented regions.

3. Analyze indicators of environmental agreements.

4. To make renewable energy accessible, the G20 and BRICS must prioritize tech-transfer agreements, reducing costs for solar and wind infrastructure.

5. A just energy transition requires community-led solutions such as urban green spaces (modeled after Singapore's policies) and indigenous reforestation integrated into AU climate resilience plans.

6. The SOTF should address carbon market reforms, with African academics co-designing frameworks to prevent exploitation.

7. Redirect funds from carbon credits and illicit funds towards development financing. Africa should ensure that climate policies are uplifted by anchoring the efforts in SDG 7 (Clean Energy) and AU's Green Recovery Action Plan, rather than excluding its most vulnerable populations.

8. Align industrial and trade policies (especially in agriculture) with sustainability goals, and strengthen science-policy interfaces.

9. Introduce institutional reforms that prioritize governance, human rights, and ecological valuation. Integrate pricing mechanisms for nature's contributions and implement rights-based regulatory frameworks.

10. Invest in training local scientists and building long-term datasets to track species vulnerable to climate change and pollution.

11. Promote clean technologies and green development. Advocate for climate-resilient agriculture subsidies and improve sustainability labelling practices (e.g., replicating WTO's labelling standards pre-, during-, and post-Paris Agreement).

12. Commit to actionable environmental protection agendas post-2025, ensuring continuity into the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) phase.

13. Encourage more African countries to actively join and participate in IPBES.

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Rules-based World Order, Africa's Leadership of the UN General Assembly and G20 in 2025

Overview: The world stands at a pivotal moment in the evolution of the global order. The urgency to reform multilateral institutions is well recognized, including by the UN Secretary General, who has emphasized the need for a forward-looking institutional framework that meets the aspirations of future generations. Africa must not be left out of this conversation. Through the instrumentalities of the Pact for the Future, the G20, BRICS, and Global South Initiatives, Africa's voice must be amplified. To ensure meaningful participation, sustained African scholarship is required to position Africa within the global future. The following key insights and recommendations emerged from this breakthrough session:

Problem-sets Analysis

1. There are concerns about the G20's foundational ideology serving the Global North.
2. The current world order is eroding, yet a new, inclusive framework has yet to be established
3. Africa's neutral position on key global issues (e.g., on Ukraine, among other global occurrences) risks making it a "spectator" or passive observer in shaping global history.
4. The UN Security Council is dominated by post-WWII power structures, with Africa

continuing to face marginal representation. There are increased calls for reconfiguring the UN Security Council to ensure Africa is not just an observer in global decision making.

5. Article 109 of the UN Charter provides a legal basis for reform, but action is needed to prevent another global crisis before any change can occur.

6. The G20, originally a U.S.-led initiative in 2008, cannot claim to represent the world when nearly 25% of countries are excluded.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Sustainable solutions are needed, not just quick fixes to address today's global challenges.

2. Community inclusion is vital for achieving SDGs. Civil society must be seen as a core actor, not optional.

3. A renewed sense of shared purpose is needed as progress on the SDGs stalls or regresses, especially given Africa's unique challenges.

4. Countries like Kenya, Zambia, Morocco, and South Africa are already shaping SDG implementation pathways, but these efforts must align with Agenda 2063 to ensure coherence.

5. Implementation must focus where it has the most impact, with civil society leading on initiatives like the "Pact for the Future."

6. Civil society must adopt inclusive, innovative, and impact-driven collaboration models in response to shrinking funding landscapes.

7. Africa must resist isolation and monitor national progress to Agenda 2063.

8. Local priorities must take precedence, and siloed approaches must be replaced with integrated strategies.

9. Africa should establish a dedicated G20 task force and secretariat to coordinate sectoral priorities and present a unified voice. Africa should assert its role as a rule-maker, rather than a rule-taker.

10. Improved coordination within the AU and enhanced local resource mobilization are important for long-term sustainability.

11. The UN should support actions at intergovernmental, country, and regional/civil society partnership levels.

12. Africa should prioritize the development of its own frameworks, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, to assert sovereignty in global economic systems

13. Africa must promote a body of scholarship that contributes to reshaping global governance, integrating African philosophies, values, and legal contributions in a more inclusive manner.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Co-Moderators: Prof. Alice Atieno Odingo, University of Nairobi; ACUNS Vice-President, **Amb. Sani Saluawa Bala,** Executive Director, Savannah Centre; and **Florence Syevou,** SDGs Kenya Forum.

Keynote Speakers: Amb. Themba Kalua, Director, Pact of the Future Implementation, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General; and **Seraphine Kando,** Human Rights Specialist, African Union Commission.

Panel of Eminent Discussants: Dr. David Obura, Director, CORDIO East Africa and Chair, IPBES; **Prof. Jackline Nyerere,** Kenyatta University; **Themba Kalua, Director,** Pact Implementation Team, UN; **Prof. Erin McCandless,** University of Johannesburg; **Dr. Michael Mlynar,** Deputy Executive-Director, UN-Habitat & former Ambassador of Slovakia to the UN; and **Anja Olin-Pape,** Global Challenges Foundation.

Overview

The conference's plenary sessions enabled a nuanced and multifaceted examination of Africa's developmental trajectory and global stature. A high-level moderated panel convened a diverse group of experts, researchers, and stakeholders to report back on insights from the breakout sessions and engage in strategic deliberations. Over the two-day event, participants addressed critical challenges and proposed actionable recommendations to advance the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas that will inform future initiatives and cross-sector collaborations.

Highlights from breakout groups and panelists:
The moderated panel discussions yielded valuable insights and recommendations, highlighting the need to:

- **Balance critique with action** by empowering regional blocs and offering tools for implementation.
- **Reject passive narratives** as Africa must be recognized as central to global transformation.
- **Bridge the state-society gap** through effective leadership.
- **Assert Africa seriousness** to secure meaningful global representation (e.g., UNSC reform).
- **Strengthen unity and leverage**, including shared positions and pressure tools at the AU and UN.
- **Learn from recent leadership** examples in Namibia and Uganda.
- **Ensure ANUMDI's presence** at all levels (AU, regional, and global) and act as a bridge in trilateral dialogues (AU, UN, and BRICS).
- **Support civil society**, including the C20 launch and broader inclusion in governance forums.
- **Develop a unified African voice** for G20 engagement.
- **Leverage African leadership** in the G20 and UNGA.
- **Prioritize implementation-oriented research**, linking academic insight to real-world outcomes.
- **Proactively support Member States** with negotiation tools and information.
- **Use the "Three Ps"**—People, Participation, and Partnerships—to translate frameworks into impact.
- **Think tanks must ground institutions** by offering context-sensitive, reality-based analysis.
- **Final call to action**: *"All tracks are ready; now we must build the train and jump on it."*

ANUMDI STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The ANUMDI 2nd Annual Meeting welcome reception dinner and strategic planning session, held on the first day of the conference, marked a significant milestone in the ANUMDI Network's journey. The reception dinner provided a platform for in-depth discussions, focusing on charting a forward-thinking agenda and formulating actionable recommendations.

Key Recommendations

The strategic session underscored ANUMDI's commitment to advancing its mission through a multifaceted approach. Key focus areas identified include:

    a. Focus on food security and governance - laws and regulations
    b. Conduct research on collaborative issues/topics
    c. Organize periodic policy dialogues and capacity building sessions for researchers, and policymakers
    d. Create indicators to guide strategies and advocacy efforts
    e. Engage in human rights tracking and promote public participation, incorporating community perspectives
    f. Identify topics for collaborative policy research
    g. Secure funding for capacity building, targeting the private sector

h. Pursue legal recognition and regulation to establish ANUMDI's official status
i. Conduct outreach and advocacy with key stakeholders, including AU, ECOSOC, UN, and other global governance bodies
j. Develop an organogram to support sustainable institutional structure
k. Promote gender equality across all initiatives
l. Publish newsletters to showcase research outputs and updates
m. Build a website/portal with publications, thematic blogs, and resources for diverse stakeholders
n. Use infographics to highlight key issues and support communication strategies, including multilingual and social media outreach

CLOSING PLENARY

Vote of Thanks

Florence Syevuo, representing the SDGs Kenya Forum, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing sincere appreciation to all participants, co-moderators, speakers, discussants, organizers, and partners who contributed to the success of the ANUMDI 2nd Annual Conference. She acknowledged the active participation, valuable insights, and collective commitment demonstrated during the conference, which enriched the discussions and recommendations, ultimately shaping a stronger future for Africa's development agenda.

Closing Remarks

Amb. Sani S. Bala, Executive Director of SCDDD and Co-Chairman of the ANUMDI Executive Committee, delivered the closing remarks. He emphasized the importance of transitioning from discussion to action, noting that the ANUMDI Network has been engaged in conversations for the past two years. He expressed hope for tangible progress and outcomes from the network's efforts.

He announced that the ANUMDI Network's next annual meeting will be held in South Africa the following year, where members will be expected to present reports on the actions taken and progress made since the last conference. This will provide an opportunity for the network to assess its impact and chart a course for future activities.

CONCLUSIONS

The 2nd Annual Conference of ANUMDI emphasized Africa's need to transition from a passive to an active, resilient role in global governance, especially within the frameworks of the G20, AU Agenda 2063, and the UN's "Pact for the Future." Scholars and policy advocates were urged to drive consensus, bridge research and policy, and ensure Africa's voice is unified and impactful at all levels. Civil society engagement, local resource mobilization, and practical implementation of frameworks were highlighted as critical for achieving "The Africa We Want".

Furthermore, the discussions during the two-day conference underscored the significance of multilateralism and collaborative approaches in addressing Africa's development challenges. Key takeaways from the deliberations include:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for achieving transformative development, with aspirations grounded in achievable and actionable targets.

The "Pact for the Future" presents an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and foster global cooperation, which is essential for advancing Africa's development agenda.

Despite the challenges posed by global polarization, collaboration and collective action remain crucial for realizing the objectives of the "Pact for the Future" and achieving the SDGs.

The ANUMDI Network has harvested actionable recommendations that will propel the network forward, grounded in joint consensus and collective commitment. These recommendations will inform future initiatives and strategies, enabling the network to gain strong footing, enhance its impact, and effectively advance Africa's development agenda through collaborative efforts, research, and informed decision-making.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

a) Research Recommendations for ANUMDI

- ANUMDI should position itself as a credible, research-driven platform connecting scholarship and policy on issues related to the emerging global order.
- Link with AU think tanks and Peace Networks to forge strong partnerships with African Union think tanks and the Network for Peace to enhance influence and knowledge sharing.
- Strengthen ANUMDI's institutional presence within the African Union by leveraging access to networks such as Amani Africa and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) to build its profile in Addis Ababa.

b) Recommendations for the United Nations

- Invoke Article 109 by advocating for the reworking of Article 109 of the UN Charter and actively participate in shaping the future structure of the UN.
- Appoint a special envoy for inequality and a special rapporteur for the implementation and alignment of African reform ideas within the UN system.

c) Recommendations for the African Union

- Reaffirm and implement the ANUMDI Abuja Declaration 2024 recommendations, with particular emphasis on sustainable development and democratic governance.
- Promote a continental mindset shift to move beyond perceptions of inferiority in global forums and negotiations.
- Strengthen AU Mechanisms by enhancing the AU's mechanisms and convening power in the multilateral system to push for the African agenda, including revitalizing the Early Warning System.

ANNEX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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21.	Prof.	Joshua Olusegun Bolarinwa	National Institute of International Affairs, Lagos	Nigeria
22.	Prof.	Zakaria Ousman Ramadan	Chadian Centre for Strategic Studies and Prospective Research (CETES)	Republic of Chad
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24.	Mrs.	Seraphine Kando	PAPS, African Union Commission	Burkina Faso
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2nd ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS

ABOUT SAVANNAH CENTRE

The Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD) is an authoritative non-governmental Organization committed to research, advocacy, training, and policy analysis in the areas of con ict prevention, management, democratization and sustainable development in Nigeria, Africa, and the world. It was founded in 1993 by Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR; a renowned scholar and seasoned diplomat, former Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, and former United Nations Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs. Visit: https://savannahcentre.org/

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The Stimson Center promotes international security and shared prosperity through applied research and independent analysis, global engagement, and policy innovation. Stimson's Global Governance, Justice & Security Program aims to advance more capable global and regional institutions to better cope with existing and emerging global challenges, and to create new opportunities through effective multilateral action, including with the global business community and civil society. Visit the Global Governance Innovation Network, a collaborative project of the Stimson Center, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), Plataforma CIPÓ, Global Institute for Strategic Research, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water, and Leiden University: https://ggin.stimson.org/