Regional Integration in Africa: Bridging the North-Sub-Saharan Divide
November 5-7, 2010
Venue: Salon Vert Room; Marriott Hotel, Zamalek, Cairo

Day 1, November 5, 2010

5:00-5:30 pm  Registration

5:30-7:00  Welcome Note and Opening Session
Dr. Matlotleng MATLOU, Chief Executive Officer, The Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA)
Prof. Mustapha K. AL-SAYYID, Director, Partners in Development (PID)

  Keynote Speech
H.E. Amb. Mona OMAR, Assistant to the Egyptian Minister for African Affairs for African Affairs

7:00-8:00  Reception
Day 2, November 6, 2010

9:30-10:00 am  Registration continues

10:00 – 12:00  Session 1: NORTH-SUB-SAHARAN RELATIONS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Does the assumed distinction between North and Sub-Saharan Africa have any empirical manifestations? Is there a difference between the behavior of North and Sub-Saharan African countries in African regional organizations? And if the process of African integration is based on strengthening the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), is the Arab Maghreb Union a relevant organization for representing the North African region?

Chair: Amb. Ahmed HAGGAG, Secretary-General of the African Society in Cairo and Member of the Board of Cairo University's Institute of African Studies

The Myth and Reality of North Africa in Africa: Empirical Evidence and Theoretical Approaches
Dr. Ahmed SALEM, Assistant Professor, Zayed University, UAE

The Arab Maghreb Union: Between NEPAD and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
Dr. Koiuder BOUTALEB, Professor, University of Telmecen, Algiers
Dr. Gamil ABDEL GALIL, Professor, Sidi Bel Abbes University, Algiers

Discussant: Dr. Shahida EL-BAZ, Board member, Arab-African Research Centre

12:00-12:30  Coffee Break
Session 2: INTERNATIONAL POWERS AND NORTH-SUB-SAHARAN COOPERATION

North and Sub-Saharan Africa are connected by economic, political and military links with international powers. Such connections sometimes link, but often separate, north from Sub-Saharan Africa. What is the impact of these connections on the North and Sub-Saharan relations? Do these connections contradict the imperatives of African regional integration? And what is the level of coordination between regional powers of the different regions of the continent towards the military, political and economic policies of the USA, EU and rising Asian powers towards Africa?

Chair: Mr. Helmi SHARAWY, Director, The Arab-African Research Centre

Balkanizing Africa Again?
Dr. Monica JUMA, Executive Director Research, AISA
Dr. Thokozani SIMELANE, Head of Unit, Science and Technology, Research Division, AISA

Discussant: Prof. Ibrahim ELNUR, Professor of African Studies, American University in Cairo

Lunch Break

Session 3: NORTH AFRICAN STATES’ FOREIGN POLICIES AND AFRICAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION

What is the vision of North African countries towards African regional integration? What tools do they use to pursue this vision? To what extent is the absence of Morocco from the African Union an impediment to African integration and cooperation?

Chair: Dr. Matlotleng MATLOU, AISA

Morocco’s Relationship with Sub-Saharan Africa in the Free Trade Era
Dr. Khaled CHIAT, Professor, University of Mohamed I, Morocco
The Libyan Role in Africa’s Integration
Dr. Bashir ELKOT, Senior Lecturer, Al- Fateh University, Tripoli.

Mauritania: The Unstable Bridge between North and Sub-Saharan Africa?
Mr. Issaka SOUARE, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria

Discussant: Dr Ibrahim Nasr EL-DIN, Professor, Institute of African Research & Studies, Cairo University.

7:00-9:00 Dinner (by invitation only)
10:00 – 12:00  **Session 4: EXPLORING AREAS OF CO-OPERATION**

What can Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa learn from each other in different areas of governance? What are the top issues on the agenda of co-operation between African countries North and South of the Sahara?

**Chair:** Prof. Ibrahim AWAD, Professor, American University in Cairo

**Women Empowerment in Tunisia: The Particularity of the Experience and its Learning Benefit for Africa**
Dr. Mohamed JUILI, Associate Professor, Tunis University, Tunisia

**The New Challenges of Migration in Africa: A Study of North Africa as a Buffer Zone**
Dr. Samir BOUDINAR, Head, Social Research and Studies Center, Wajda, Morocco

Ms. Rawia TAWFIQ, D. Phil candidate at the Department of Politics and International Relations, the University of Oxford

**Discussant:** Dr. Ghada MOUSSA, Professor, Cairo University

12:00-12:30  **Coffee break**

12:30-2:30  **Session 5: NORTH AFRICA AND AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION**

If the march of Afro-Arab co-operation in the 1950s and 1960s was based on mutual support in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid, what is the basis for a sustainable and viable Afro-Arab co-operation in the 21st century? And what is the role of North Africa in reviving this co-operation?
Chair: Dr. Mahmoud Mansour, Secretary General of the Arab Society for Economic Research

Towards a Critical Review of the Foundation of Arab-Afro Relations (With Special Emphasis on the Libyan Role)
Dr. Mohamed ASHOUR, Assistant Professor, Institute for African Research and Studies, Cairo University and Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Zayed University

Afro-Arab Relations and the Arab World
Prof. Adeoye A. AKINSANYA, Prof of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Nigeria

Discussant: Dr. Farg ABDEL-FATAH, Professor of Economics, Cairo University

2:30-3:30 Lunch break

3:30-5:30 Session 6: Open Discussion: CO-OPERATION AMONG DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTES

Different joint training programs for diplomats from north and sub-Saharan Africa are implemented, how can these programs be evaluated and developed? What are the expectations of diplomatic academies from these programs? And do the current programs meet these expectations?

Moderator: Counsellor Selly Ramokgopa, Charge d'Affaires, The Embassy of South Africa in Egypt

Amb. Soaad Shalaby, Director, Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa

5:30-6:00 Coffee break

6:00-6:30 Closing Session: Bridging the North-Sub-Saharan Divide: A Research Agenda
Dr. Matlotleng MATLOU, AISA
Prof. Mustapha K. AL-SAYYID, PID