

**CENTRE FOR MEDIATION IN AFRICA: ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2015**

**Mission and Objectives**

The Centre for Mediation in Africa (CMA) was established in September 2011. It is housed in the Department of Political Sciences. Its mission is as follows:

To contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of mediation in major conflicts in Africa through teaching, research, training and the provision of support to the UN, the AU, the sub-regional organisations and African governments.

The Centre has the following objectives:

* To conduct, publish and disseminate research on mediation that contributes to best practice by highlighting positive and negative lessons.
* To design and present teaching modules on mediation at post-graduate level.
* To provide mediation skills training to students and diplomats.
* To forge and maintain partnerships with other universities that undertake research and teaching in the field of peace and conflict studies.
* To assist the UN, the AU, the sub-regional organisations and key African governments to build their mediation capacity and engage in effective mediation.

**Research**

2015 was an active year for the two CMA working paper series. The following papers were published or commissioned:

* Theuns Eloff, 2015, ‘The importance of process in South Africa’s peace and constitutional negotiations’, *Practitioner Notes* 3, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
* Welile Nhlapo with Chris Alden, 2015, ‘South Africa’s role in the Burundi mediation: from Nyerere to Mandela’, *Practitioner Notes* 4, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
* Welile Nhlapo with Chris Alden, 2015, ‘South Africa’s role in the Burundi mediation: implementing the Arusha agreement’, *Practitioner Notes* 5, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
* Chris Saunders, 2015, ‘Managing complexity in mediation: the Namibia case’, *Mediation Arguments* 7, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
* Kasaija Phillip Apuuli, 2016, ‘Wither the notion of “African solutions to African problems’’? The African Union and the Mali crisis (2012-2013)’, *Mediation Arguments* 8, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
* Joshua Levkowitz, 2016, ‘Picking up the pieces: mediation strategies in fragmented conflicts’, *Mediation Arguments* 9, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
* Henning Melber, 2016, ‘Dag Hammarskjold and conflict mediation’, *Mediation Arguments* 10, Centre for Mediation in Africa.

Prof Nathan was invited to join a research symposium on ‘Managing Peace and Security in Africa’, led by Chester Crocker and Pamela Aall. The symposium will result in the publication of an edited volume in 2016. Prof Nathan’s chapter focuses on the question of subsidiarity in African mediation.

Prof Nathan was contracted by the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council in New York to conduct a study of mediation in African coups. The paper will be published in 2016. In 2015 the UN Department of Political Affairs downloaded an early version of the paper onto its Policy and Practice Database and interviewed Prof Nathan for its online publication, ‘Politically Speaking’, which has over 10,000 subscribers within the UN system.

Dr Tim Murithi, CMA Senior Associate, published the following in 2015:

* Tim Murithi, 2015, ‘Ensuring peace and reconciliation while holding leaders accountable: the politics of ICC cases in Kenya and Sudan’, *Africa Development* 40(2): 73-97.
* Tim Murithi, 2015, ‘People-to-people regional reconciliation in the Horn of Africa’, *Horn of Africa Bulletin* 27(6).
* Tim Murithi, 2015, ‘The AU as a norm entrepreneur: Agenda 2063 and the prospects for a pan-African accountability framework’, in Yarik Turianskyi and Steven Gruzd (eds), *African Accountability: What Works and What Doesn’t* (Johannesburg: South African Institute for International Affairs).
* Tim Murithi, 2015, ‘Bridging the gap: the pan-African school and international relations theory’, in Paul-Henri Bischoff, Kwesi Aning and Amitav Acharya (eds), *Africa in Global International Relations: Emerging Approaches to Theory and Practice* (London: Routledge), pp.164-174.
* Tim Murithi, 2015, ‘Pan-Africanism and the crises of postcoloniality: from the Organization of African Unity to the African Union’, in Kenneth Omeje (ed), *The Crises of Postcoloniality* (Dakar: CODESRIA), pp. 217-234.

In June CMA hosted an academic conference on international mediation. The partners were swisspeace and the Global South Unit for Mediation at the Catholic University of Rio Janeiro. The conference aimed to deepen understanding of international mediation, contribute to more effective mediation and facilitate discussion between researchers and mediation practitioners. All these aims were achieved. Noteworthy features of the conference included the contributions of Prof Bill Zartman as the guest speaker; extensive interaction between academics and senior officials from the UN, the AU and SADC; and the participation of a number of students. The organisers decided to make the conference an annual event. The 2016 conference will be hosted by swisspeace in Berne.

**Teaching**

During the reporting period Prof Nathan taught the following post-graduate courses:

* International Mediation, Honours programme, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria.
* Mediation in Africa, LLM / M.Phil in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria.
* Mediation and the UN System, Winter School, Global South Unit for Mediation, Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

**High Level Mediation Skills Training**

CMA staff and associates are viewed internationally as being among the top trainers in high level mediation. In 2015 they were involved in the following training initiatives:

* In March Ms Maloka and Dr Odendaal conducted training on mediation and implementation of peace agreements for African women government officials, organised by DIRCO and SADC, Pretoria.
* In March Dr Odendaal was co-facilitator of a UNITAR workshop on conflict prevention and resolution for members of the Pan African Parliament, Midrand.
* In April Dr Odendaal served as a resource person at the training on negotiation and mediation for senior government officials, UNITAR/Africa Union (AU), Addis Ababa.
* In April Ms Maloka conducted a training-of-trainers workshop to support the AU’s Long-Term Election Observers Programme, hosted by the AU, Addis Ababa.
* In May Ms Maloka and Ms Busi Ncube (UNDP) conducted training on ‘Women’s Empowerment in Negotiation and Mediation Towards Agenda 2063’, hosted by the AU Commission in collaboration with UNWOMEN and DIRCO, Addis Ababa.
* In June Ms Maloka conducted training on conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation for South African youth leaders, hosted by DIRCO and the National Youth Development Agency, Pretoria.
* In September Prof Nathan led a mediation skills training and strategizing workshop for UN officials involved in the peace processes for Sudan and South Sudan. The training took place in Addis Ababa at the UN Office to the AU.

**Seminars**

During the reporting period, CMA organised the following events:

* In March CMA and the Department of Political Sciences organised a public seminar on mediation in Sudan and South Sudan. The keynote speaker was Haile Menkerios , the Head of the UN Office to the AU and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. Ms Maloka chaired the meeting and Prof Nathan was one of the speakers.
* In April CMA, in conjunction with the Department of Political Sciences and the UN Academic Advisory Council on Mediation, hosted a seminar on ‘The Relevance of Culture in International Mediation’.
* In June CMA and the Department of Political Sciences hosted a panel discussion on ‘Women and Peacebuilding’. The keynote speakers included Ms Bineta Diop, the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security.

CMA staff and associates made the following presentations at events hosted by other organisations:

* In March Ms Maloka participated in a panel discussion on International Women’s Day hosted by DIRCO, Pretoria.
* In May Ms Maloka presented a paper on ‘Gender Matters in Electoral Democracy’ at a discussion forum on electoral democracy, hosted by the WIPHOLD-Brigalia Bam Chair in Electoral Democracy in Africa, University of South Africa.
* In May Prof Nathan and Ms Maloka participated in the University of Pretoria’s ‘Vice Chancellor’s Ambassadorial Dialogue’ held with members of the diplomatic corps.
* In June Ms Maloka participated in the panel discussion on youth, hosted by DIRCO and the National Youth Development Agency, Pretoria.
* In June Prof Nathan presented a paper on ‘International Mediation as the Management of Complexity’ at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO).
* In June Ms Maloka presented a paper on ‘Women in Peacebuilding in Africa’ at the event ‘Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063’, hosted by the Southern African Liaison Office, Pretoria.
* In November Prof Nathan led a discussion on the African Peace and Security Architecture for the International Training Programme on Peace and Security in Africa, ACCORD, Cape Town.

**Policy and Field Support**

CMA is held in high regard by international organisations that seek policy and field support on peacemaking and related activities in Africa. The following important engagements in 2015 enabled CMA staff and associates to share lessons and deepen their experience:

* In February Ms Maloka was part of the AU’s Election Observation Mission to the Kingdom of Lesotho.
* In February and March Dr Nyathi was appointed by UNDP in Lesotho to serve as a Conflict Prevention Advisor.
* In March Dr Odendaal was Technical Advisor to the Political Dialogue Platform of the Nepal Transition to Peace Institute.
* In April CMA hosted the annual meeting of the UN Academic Advisory Council on Mediation. This three-day event, organised on behalf of the UN Mediation Support Unit, focused on the benefits and challenges in mediation partnerships between the UN, the AU and sub-regional African bodies. It contributed to the drafting of the recent report on this topic by the UN Secretary-General.
* In 2014-15 Prof Nathan was the Team Leader of the 2014 Assessment of the African Peace and Security Architecture, commissioned by the AU and the EU.
* In May Dr Nyathi was appointed by UNDP to facilitate a national stakeholder consultation workshop to develop the Zimbabwe National Position Paper on Post-2015 Development Agenda.
* In May Prof Nathan was the lead facilitator at the Fourth Meeting of Regional, Subregional and Other International Organisations on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation, hosted by the UN, EU, OIC and OSCE, Brussels.
* In July Dr Nyathi was engaged by the Office of the President and Cabinet in Zimbabwe to facilitate dialogue in preparation for the tabling of legislation on the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.
* In July Prof Nathan was invited to make inputs on the draft report by the UN Secretary-General, ‘Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and Subregional Organizations on Mediation’, UN document A/70/328.
* In August Dr Nyathi was contracted by UNDP to design and co-facilitate a dialogue on peacemaking and reconciliation for national peace actors from South Sudan.
* In August Prof Nathan was the facilitator of the Roundtable on Establishing a Mediation Support Unit in the AU Commission, Addis Ababa.
* In November Prof Nathan was the lead facilitator of the UN-IGAD High Level Dialogue on Peace and Security, held in Djibouti. This event led to the approval of a partnership agreement between the UN and IGAD.
* In 2015 Dr Odendaal served on a panel set up by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, commissioned to report to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture on a social dialogue strategy for the agricultural sector of the Western Cape.

**Highlights for 2016**

Anticipated highlights in 2016 include the following:

* In the first quarter CMA will host a seminar on the crisis in Burundi. One of the speakers will be Amb Welile Nhlapo, who recently completed two *Practitioner Notes* papers on Burundi.
* In January Professor Nathan will participate in the annual advisory board meeting of the Centre for the Resolution of International Conflict (CRIC), University of Copenhagen. This will include participation, together with Prof Zartman, in a public seminar organised by CRIC on lessons from international mediation.
* In March Prof Nathan will present three papers at the annual convention of the International Studies Association in Atlanta.
* In April Prof Nathan will present a paper on the ethics of mediation and negotiations with coup perpetrators in Africa at the Conference on the Ethics of Negotiation in Armed Conflict, Centre for Ethics and the Rule of Law, University of Pennsylvania.
* In May Prof Nathan will lead the UN High Level Mediation Course in Montreaux, Switzerland.
* In June CMA, swisspeace and the Global South Unit for Mediation will host the second annual international conference on mediation in Berne.