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EDITORIAL

In this special review edition, the editorial looks back at some of the salient articles that were contributed by contributors. It is the sixth edition of the Journal, that sets the stage for advance towards the tenth edition, a target that is foreseen in the next 2 years. These articles received wide commentary and discussion.

One of the earliest contributions to the Journal was the work by Dr. Kimani on protection of civilians and protection of civilians in the context of the 'Standby Force'. The force was a remarkable idea and was seen as a critical element in the disarmament, demobilization and re-integration as key to lasting peace in Africa region.

The works on terrorism and counter-terrorism by Mumo Nzau within the context human rights set an early stage for continued writing on the subject. Later works in this footsteps followed as the challenge of terrorism, extreme violence and counter violence initiatives ensued.

In addition to contributing to academic content to peace and security, the work done by Nyanchoga reminded readers early enough that the area of peace and security is a highly strategic endeavour that required thought and explanations that befit the academic rigour. Hence his contribution on social conflict theory and its applications to peace and security.

The above notion of academic rigour in the journal was re-enforced by the contribution of Gatara, who set the standard for the journal by producing a postivistic paper on 'predicting state fragility' in Africa. It integrated theory, methodology and statistics to demonstrate the level that the journal should attain in the future. It may not be there yet but the standard is set.

Gender and peace also broke ground in the journal through the contributions by Njambi, Gatimu, Momanyi and Gatara. Other than sensitizing readers on the importance of gender integration in all issues peace and security the works strengthened policy and practice evolution in peace support operations.

A future area that is increasingly becoming attention is the threat of bioterrorism. The stage for this area is set by the work of Philip Emase. In attempting to answer the question whether pandemics such as Ebola can be weaponised, he leads the journal into a new field. More articles on this subject are welcome.

The Journal welcomes to the readership of this special edition as the editorial focuses on the future.

Professor Timothy Gatara, Editor.

Retracing landmarks of the Amani Journal.

The journey to found a peace journal at IPSTC started in earnest in 2014. With humble beginnings and belief that it is an undertaking that the Research Department could sustain, the effort has taken us to the 6th edition.

As the future beckons, challenges to peace and security in the region remain daunting. Electoral violence threatens peace on the continent; sexual and gender based violence are as pervasive as ever, especially in the conflict zones of South Sudan and the Great Lakes Region; terrorism and its mutating nature accompanied by virulent radicalisation have reached alarming proportions; not least among these are the threats of piracy, human and weapons trafficking, cyber crimes and environmentally triggered conflicts rotating around access to vital life sustaining and development resources such as water, food and oil.

In retrospect, the publication appreciates all the partners who have believed in IPSTC as a centre of excellence in peace and security. Special mention goes to the Government of Japan and UNDP for their unwavering support for the journal. The many contributors who made time to write and to spur the journal on its growth path to becoming a centre of peace in the promotion of peace and security in Africa.

The current issue of the journal is a watershed moment, as the centre enhances its academic growth and promotes serious research and its publication in peace and security. It is hoped that the journey will become a critical tool in the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge in the search for solutions to lasting peace in both Africa and the world.

I take the opportunity to appreciate the editorial board and the editor of the journal and encourage advance to higher ground in advancing the journal.

Director.

IPSTC.