

## Foreword



It is my pleasure to introduce this new thematic volume of the International Peace Support Training Centre's (IPSTC's) *Africa Amani Journal (AAJ)*. The journal's ninth volume theme is *Understanding Conflict Dynamics and Peace Support Operations (PSO) in a multi-faceted environment*. This volume pays emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa, a region beset by armed conflict, social and economic turmoil and set against the backdrop of political uncertainty, increased violent extremism and pandemics.

Launched by IPSTC, AAJ aims to provide a cross-disciplinary and international forum for researchers to disseminate innovative research and practices in the field of peace and security. It also illustrates the broader intent that lies at the heart of our journal which seeks to serve as the nexus between applied academic research and policy making. Moreover, this edition is a reflection of research and developments of both conceptual and an empirical nature in the major sub-areas of the field of peace and security, including conflict analysis, as aspects of human security, maritime crime and cybercrime and regional security complexity among other contemporary peace and security issues.

Peace Studies and Research has existed for several decades but only gained relative prominence in the past ten or 15 years. Peace Studies has various focus areas, including alternative world orders, peace education, and disarmament, and emphasizes peace as a means and an end. The field itself is interdisciplinary, meaning it draws upon insights from a variety of traditional academic disciplines for some of its insights, research, and theory.

This volume describes and analyses some of the Complex Emergencies in PSO. How, for example, modern and arising threats to global security are a result of the convergence of maritime crimes and cybercrime creating a dual dimension threat to global peace and security? The role of international actors in the Sahel Region? How the COVID-19 pandemic and gender-based violence is a threat to human security?

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the associate editors, editorial board members, peer reviewers, contributing authors, and many others for making AAJ and this ninth issue possible.