



The Ukraine Peace Formula: Regional Security, Nuclear Safety, and Human Rights Perspectives

Seminar Programme

Date: **27 January 2026** (Tuesday)

Time: **09:00–13:00**

Venue: **Sheraton Addis, a Luxury Collection Hotel**, Addis Ababa
Taitu Street, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

9.00 - 9.30	Welcome Coffee
9.30 – 10.00	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Dr Paul-Simon Handy, Regional Director, East Africa and Representative to the African Union</p> <p>H.E. Ms Liubov Abravitova, Director, Department of Africa and Regional African Organisations, MFA of Ukraine, Former Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of South Africa</p>
10.00 – 10.50	<p>Section 1: The Implications of the War against Ukraine for Peace and Security in Africa and the Global Order</p> <p>Prof Olexiy Haran, Research Director at the Democratic Initiatives Foundation; Professor of Comparative Politics at the National University of ‘Kyiv Mohyla Academy’</p> <p>Prof Tim Murithi, Senior Advisor at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation</p> <p>Q&A</p>
10.50 – 11.30	<p>Section 2: Enhancing Nuclear Safety: Protecting Nuclear Power Plants Against Military Threats</p> <p>Prof Gracien Bakambo Ekok, AFCONE Commissioner, a full professor in the Department of Chemistry and Industry at the University of Kinshasa</p> <p>Dzvinka Kachur, Fellow Researcher at the Centre for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University; Honorary President of the Ukrainian Association of South Africa</p> <p>Isabel Bosman, Researcher at the South African Institute of International Relations (SAIIA), <i>online</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
11.30 – 11.40	Coffee Break

11.40 – 12.30	Section 3: Forceful Deportation and Militarisation of Children Prof Elvis Fokala , Specialist in Child and Family Law, University of Pretoria Dr Kateryna Rashevskya , Legal expert at the Regional Center for Human Rights Q&A
12.30-12.50	Discussion
12.50 - 13.00	Concluding remarks - Dr Paul-Simon Handy , Regional Director, East Africa and Representative to the African Union
13.00 - 13.30	Light Lunch

This event aims to bring together **African and Ukrainian experts** to discuss three critical challenges that the war against Ukraine poses for **international governance, peace, and safety**, with direct implications for the African continent.

The discussion will focus on **policy-relevant insights** and African perspectives on how global governance systems must adapt to address emerging security risks.

Key Thematic Sessions

1. Regional Security Architecture and Just Peace

This session explores how the international governance system must transform to ensure that **peace and justice become a reality for both Africa and Ukraine**, and how African actors can shape a just peace framework. The sessions looks into the issues of territorial integrity, sovereignty, accountability and restitution.

2. Nuclear Safety and International Governance

Ukraine, like South Africa, voluntarily relinquished nuclear weapons and acceded to the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**. At the same time, many African countries are developing or planning **peaceful nuclear energy programmes** to meet the growing energy demands of their populations.

The occupation of Europe’s largest nuclear power plant by **Russian military forces** constitutes a grave violation of **IAEA nuclear safety and security principles**. However, existing international legal frameworks do not adequately address how to ensure nuclear safety in armed conflict.



This session presents policy recommendations on strengthening nuclear safety governance in ways that **protect the interests of African NPT states** pursuing peaceful nuclear energy development.

3. Forcible Deportation of Children and International Protection Mechanisms

This session addresses the **militarisation and forcible deportation of children**, focusing on international legal mechanisms to prevent such crimes and on safeguarding children's **identity, rights, and protection during armed conflict**.

The discussion highlights accountability pathways and lessons relevant to Africa's own child-protection and human-rights frameworks.