



CONFERENCE

# GOVERNANCE WITHOUT GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA'S PROTRACTED CRISES

organized by

The Conflict Research Group – CRG (Ghent University) &  
EGMONT – Royal Institute for International Relations

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Considerable discussion has emerged lately about the failure of the African state in the face of armed conflict and globalisation. Africa's statehood is said to be increasingly challenged from above – by economic liberalisation, global commercial and financial flows– and from below –notably by conflict and armed violence. A fierce illustration of this evolution are Africa's so-called protracted crisis situations (in Somalia and the DR Congo, for example), which are commonly identified with various levels of violent armed conflict, “criminal” economic violence, and state collapse. In such situations, non-state actors are believed to take over important tasks from the state, such as economic redistribution and security provision. These practices of ‘governance without government’ arguably lead to important reconfigurations of political power in African crisis zones, exemplified amongst others in changing practices of governance and regulation, or the inclusion of non-state actors into decision-making processes.

The outcomes of these processes bear an increasingly determining impact on projects of peace and state building on the continent, in particular in the context of institutional (re)construction. This conference therefore wants to offer a better understanding of these current dynamics in Africa's protracted crises and to provide recommendations to policy makers, development agencies and non-governmental organisations. The invited experts will deal with the following key-issues: How can such “emerging” forms of non- or para-state governance in Africa's conflict areas be detected, and what could be appropriate instruments of analysis? What types of security arrangements have emerged in the non-

state sphere in such crisis situations, and how do they modify the state's theoretical monopoly on violence? To what extent can we say that African governance has been relocated to different spatial levels, and how does this process affect local and regional political orders? How do these reconfigurations and relocalisations potentially impact on projects of state and society (re)construction in Africa, and what does this tell us about the future of statehood in general? What can be the role of the international community (specifically the EU and UN) in (re)directing and influencing these processes, and what are the lessons learned?

This conference, which has the format of an academic policy workshop, is based on the results of an international research project conducted by the Conflict Research Group on ‘governance without government’ processes in Africa's conflict zones. The results of this project will be discussed with specialists on and from Africa's conflict areas. These specialists will test the presented arguments against the actual policy frameworks of transition and peace building with the aim of formulating some direct policy recommendations. In a last session, the outcomes of this discussion will be evaluated by policy makers and experts.

17 December 2008

Location: Fondation Universitaire,  
Rue d'Egmont 11, Brussels



## Programme

8.30 *Welcome and registration*

9.15 **Official Opening**

9.30 **Introduction:**

*Governance without Government in Africa's Protracted Crises*  
Timothy Raeymaekers/Koen Vlassenroot (UGent)

9.45 **Panel 1: 'Governing Security'**

- *Who's the bull in the kraal? : privatisation of security and strengthening of the state in Teso, Eastern Uganda*  
Sandrine Perrot (CERI, Paris)
- *Governing through militias: Chadian armed forces*  
Marielle Debos (Science Po, Paris)
- *Côte d'Ivoire: rebelles dans le nord, milices dans l'ouest - leurs motivations et leur avenir*  
Daniel Balint-Kurti (associate fellow Chattam House, London)
- *Discussion: William Reno* (Northwestern University, Chicago)

11.15 *Coffee*

11.45 **Panel 2: 'The New Governance Frontier'**

- *Flux des biens, des personnes et des pouvoirs à l'Est de la RDC: entre intangibilité des frontières et réalités locales*  
Onesphore Sematumba (Pole Institute, Goma)
- *Post-war politico-economic transformation processes in Mahagi and Aru (Ituri)*  
Joost Van Puijjenbroeck (IKVPax Christi, Netherlands)
- *Seeing Like a Social Network: Reflections on informal economic governance and conflict in the Niger Delta*  
Kate Meagher (Destin-LSE, London)
- *Discussion: Janet Roitman* (New School for Social Research, New York)

13.15 *Lunch*

14.30 **Panel 3: 'Governance and the State'**

- *Patterns of change in Burundi: government in search of governance?*  
Marta Martinelli (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- *Post-conflict reconstruction, leadership and state building in DRC*  
Michel Kassa (Initiative pour un Leadership Cohésif en RDC, Kinshasa)
- *Cattle raiding as a case in conflict transformation in Somali Ethiopia*  
Alemmaya Mulugeta (University of Basel)
- *Discussion: Martin Doornbos* (Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)

16.00 *Coffee*

16.30 **Debate: 'From Analysis to Policy'**

with Luc Van de Goor (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Guy Trouveroy (head Afrika, Foreign Affairs, Belgium), Ken Menkhaus (Davidson College, Charlotte) and Andrew Mwenda (The Independent, Uganda)

Moderator: Theodore Trefon (Museum of Tervuren)

18.00 *Closure and Reception*