

# Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

**Theme:** *Strengthening Democratic Oversight and Intelligence Cooperation for Africa's Security*

**Location:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Opening Reception:** July 9, 2026

**Location:** TBD

**Forum:** July 10-11, 2026

**Location:** Ethiopian Parliament in Addis Ababa

## Day 1: Strategic Threat Landscape & Governance

### 08:30 – 09:30 | Registration & Networking Breakfast

### 09:30 – 10:15 | Opening Ceremony

- Introductory remarks by Congressman Robert Pittenger
- Welcome remarks by Hon. Ervin Massinga, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia
- Keynote remarks by Ethiopian Speaker Tadesse Chaffo
- Keynote: *The Evolving Security Landscape in Africa*

### 10:15 – 11:30 | Session 1: Africa's Priority Security Threats

#### Focus:

- Terrorism and violent extremism (Sahel, Horn of Africa)
- Trans-national organized crime (trafficking, piracy)
- Cyber threats and digital espionage

#### Discussion Points:

- Intelligence gaps across regions
- Role of parliamentary oversight in threat prioritization

### 11:30 – 11:45 | Coffee Break

### 11:45 – 13:00 | Session 2: Counterterrorism & Regional Cooperation

#### Focus:

- Intelligence-sharing mechanisms across borders
- Role of regional bodies (ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC)
- Lessons from joint task forces
- Harmonization of counterterrorism laws

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**13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:30 | Session 3: Cybersecurity & Digital Sovereignty**

**Focus:**

- National cyber defense strategies
- Protection of critical infrastructure
- Data governance and sovereignty

**Emerging Issues:**

- AI in intelligence
- Disinformation and election interference

**15:30 – 15:45 | Break**

**15:45 – 17:00 | Session 4: Energy Security, Critical Minerals & Strategic Competition**

**Focus:**

Africa holds significant reserves of critical minerals (cobalt, lithium, rare earths) and vast energy resources. This session explores how parliaments can address risks to resource governance, foreign influence, and infrastructure vulnerability.

**Emerging Issues:**

- Role of Africa in global energy transition supply chains
- Strategic competition involving external powers (e.g. China, US, EU)
- Resource nationalism v. foreign investment

**17:00 – 17:30 | Keynote Remarks on Religious Freedom**

- U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), Chairman, Africa Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives

**18:00 | Evening Networking Reception**

**Day 2: Emerging Risks, Policy Tools & Future Cooperation**

**08:30 – 09:30 | Registration & Networking Breakfast**

**09:30 – 10:00 | Keynote Remarks**

**Topic: Defending Democracy in Africa**

- Former or sitting African Head of State known for democratic reforms

**10:00 – 11:30 | Session 5: Election Integrity: Are African elections becoming the next frontier of geopolitical competition?**

**Speaker Profiles**

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- Ministers of Interior / Security / Justice
- Representative aligned with the African Union governance architecture
- Chairs of parliamentary committees on intelligence or electoral affairs
- Heads of national electoral commissions
- Experts on election security and hybrid threats
- Anti-corruption and transparency advocates

## 11:30 – 11:45 | Coffee Break

## 11:45 – 13:00 | Session 6: Illicit Financial Flows & Security

### Focus:

- Links between corruption, illicit finance, and insecurity
- Tracking financial intelligence
- Parliamentary role in financial oversight

## 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch

## 14:00 – 15:15 | Session 7: Protecting Public Health in Crisis

Armed conflict across parts of Africa continues to severely undermine public health systems, reversing decades of progress in health outcomes and human development. Fragile and conflict-affected settings face the collapse of essential services, including primary healthcare, maternal care, and disease surveillance systems. Deliberate and incidental attacks on healthcare infrastructure, combined with workforce shortages and disrupted supply chains, have left millions without access to basic health services. At the same time, displacement, food insecurity, and climate-related pressures are exacerbating disease outbreaks and deepening vulnerability.

This panel will convene parliamentarians, policymakers, and public health leaders to advance coordinated, policy-driven responses to public health crises in conflict zones. Parliaments play a critical role in addressing these challenges through:

- Legislative action
- Budgetary oversight
- Accountability for international commitments
- Parliamentary diplomacy
- Providing healthcare facilities

## 15:15 – 16:00 | Closing Session: Parliamentary Action Plan

### Outputs:

- Addis Ababa Declaration (draft)
- Agreed priorities for AU member parliaments
- Framework for ongoing inter-parliamentary cooperation

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## Key Outcomes Expected

- Strengthened parliamentary oversight frameworks
- Improved intelligence-sharing cooperation
- Policy alignment with AU security architecture
- Roadmap for addressing emerging threats (cyber, AI, hybrid warfare)