

ENUGU SECURITY SUMMIT



Michael Ekwo Foundation

Hosts

2022 Enugu Security Summit

Theme:

“Security, Society, and the State: The Shrinking Role of Government in National and Personal Security.”

Date:

August 16-18, 2022

Partners: (TBC)

- *School of Communication Arts, Institute of Management & Technology, Enugu*
- *Foundation for Peace and Security Education, Abuja*
- *Khadimiyya for Justice and Development Initiative*

Overview:

As recent security challenges demonstrate, fragile states and conflict-regions of the world are increasingly becoming safe havens for terrorists and transnational organized crimes. In Africa, terrorism is shrinking the continent's investment space, and in some cases, certain African countries are losing ground in their abilities to protect their citizens. In the West, particularly in North America, the U.S. Black population feel over-policed and under-protected. In the Middle East, Europe, and Southeast Asia, growing insecurity concerns have continued to threaten state stability.

Current security issues are thus multi-faceted and dynamic, with government intervention essential to ensure the human security and protection of local communities. In the face of the fading role of the state in security-related issues, the Michael Ekwo Foundation for Peace and Security is hosting its first Enugu Security Summit to discuss the growing insecurity in Africa's most populous country, Nigeria.

The inaugural Enugu Security Summit will take place on August 16 - 18, 2022 with the theme "*Security, Society, and the State: The Shrinking Role of Government in National and Personal Security.*" Led by scholars, policy makers, law enforcement, and security experts, the summit will examine different aspects of human security broadly defined - financial security, food security, health security, information security, and community security reform.

The historic summit is expected to start the necessary conversation that MEF hopes will play a role in reinvigorating policies and priorities around security issues and thereby spur collective action. The Foundation looks forward to the collaboration of institutions of higher education, organizations, and agencies to achieve a successful summit.

Day 1: HUMAN SECURITY VS NATIONAL SECURITY

Traditional approaches to security prioritize the nation state's right to defend itself from external threats. Michael Ekwo Foundation emphasizes human security that is focused on the protection and empowerment of individuals. Human security also expands the scope of what constitutes a security threat to address economic, food, health, and environmental insecurity. In this session, participants dive into a conversation on different aspects of human security broadly defined - financial security, food security, health security, and community security reform.

Key issues to be addressed at the session:

- Considering Nigeria's deteriorating security conditions and the current inability of state security forces to counter the increase in kidnappings for ransom, how can the Nigerian government enforce the implementation of laws, such as the newly introduced bill that seeks to prohibit the payment of ransom for the release of persons kidnapped, that are generally viewed by the public as harmful to their own personal security?
- Countering violent extremism consists of various prevention and

intervention approaches to increase the resilience of communities and individuals to radicalization against violent extremism. What challenges do fragile states face in providing security? In the Nigerian context, what evolving threats must state security forces and state leaders address in their efforts to decrease the ability of violent extremist groups to recruit and mobilize foot soldiers?

A: *Financial Literacy, financial security, and family stability*

Led by prominent economists and bankers, the panel delves into the disproportionate gender gap in gaining access to financial services in Nigeria – a trend that leaves many women on the fringes of the financial sector—unable to save, borrow, or build capital. Invited banks will set up kiosks to provide opportunities for new customers to open savings account and others could sign up to become bank agents and earn money in course of working for the bank.

B: *Food Security, Food Safety, and Farming*

Food security is the measure of an individual's ability to access food that is nutritious and sufficient in quantity. Across cultures, food is a way to bring togetherness to the table and celebrate shared humanity. Food impacts all parts of daily life. It isn't only about feeling full and satisfied, it's also about feeling connected to community and belonging. Food security means all people having access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. Food security empowers women, families, and future generations. What is the level of women's participation in agricultural production and provision of food amid threats of violence from unruly herdsmen in farmlands across the state? Clashes between farmers and pastoralists over land have encouraged the formation of ethnic and communal militias and the extrajudicial killings of vulnerable populations. How does the politicization of the clashes by media, state leaders, and even international policy practitioners, influence the implementation of appropriate responses from a climate change context?

Day 2: ENGAGING WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY PROCESSES

Women have potential to influence mainstream policy decisions on peace and security. Often, the society does not represent the views of women in the formal conflict prevention process, reconstruction, and peacebuilding efforts. Despite women playing important roles in grass-roots peacebuilding, communities and countries drown the voices of women among those who participate in formal peace negotiations. Women's involvement in community peace process requires the contribution and commitment to more gender inclusive participation. Any approach towards participation of women must recognize a fairer distribution of human responsibilities with the goal of transforming men's roles as well as those of women. Participants will discuss historical roles of women in peacebuilding as well as future potential for success in conflict prevention, management, and resolution.

B. Health Security

Health security encompasses activities and measures across sovereign boundaries that reduce public health incidents to ensure the health of populations. The activities required, both proactive and reactive, to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger people's health across geographical regions. Participants will learn evidence-based approach to sound global healthcare practices including prevention and cure of common diseases.

C: Environmental Security

In this segment, participants examine threats posed by environmental events and trends to individuals, communities, or nations. Environmental Security is an attempt to understand modern society's relationship to the environment, and to the threats and insecurities emerging from the complex interaction of man and nature. The forum seeks to increase public attention to environmental security to help safeguard essential conditions for peace and sustainable development. Additionally, participants will discuss erosion control, waste disposal, and basic hygiene protocol.

Day 3: INFORMATION SECURITY

Information is a fundamental instrument of national and communal power. As the revolution in technology continues, information has become both a source and an instrument of power in democratic and undemocratic societies. The concept of information security and privacy relates to the practice of preventing unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, inspection, recording or destruction of information. The session on Information Security will focus on the protecting of information, sharing of information, and curating information for individual success and communal safety. How to guard personal privacy, digital footprints in the information age from your cell phones, email, social media to protecting bank transfers has become too important. Participants will learn about security violations related to the Internet of Things (IOT) in addition to proactive rather than reactive measures in Cybersecurity issues.

Key issues to be addressed at the session:

- With the increase of #FakeNews and the limited coverage of attacks carried out by violent extremist groups in Africa, is it possible to control how the media covers the international actions of these groups? Or is it out of our control what the media portrays because violent extremist organizations could potentially have control over what the media broadcasts? How can state security outfits better coordinate in sharing information between bodies, agencies, and local community leaders? How would a knowledge warehouse work in a Nigerian context?
- What factors determine/define the legitimacy bestowed on decentralized

regional security outfits? For example, Amotekun Corps being supported by southwestern state governors vs IPOB's security outfit, the Eastern Security Network, labeled as a "terrorist group" by the media and southeastern state governors.

To wrap up the Enugu Security Summit, MEF will conduct the following activities:

- Certificate of Participation - Participants will receive duly signed certificates of participation. To merit the certificate, each candidate will participate 80% or more throughout the summit.
- Merit Award - MEF will host an awards ceremony to honor achievements of individuals in different fields. The purpose of the MEF awards ceremony is primarily to make people feel that the Foundation values their work in areas consistent with its mission and vision. It is a demonstration of approval and gratitude for each person's contribution to society in addition to creating public awareness that a grateful society will always reward excellent work.