In the past decade, several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa conducted large-scale demobilizations after the termination of wars and violent conflicts. However, demobilization has shown to be a complex process. It is closely linked to security issues, and the impact of demobilization depends largely on how the ex-combatants are able to reintegrate into civilian life. In this context, the relationship between demobilization and reintegration and de-radicalization is of particular importance.

Kees Kingma, Consultant - Post-war Development and Peacebuilding, University of Groningen, will revisit the support by the international community to post-war demobilization and reintegration over the past few decades, with a particular focus on countries in East and Central Africa. And he will assess the relevance of these 'DDR experiences' in the light of current challenges, such as the need to strengthen fragile states, reform security sectors, support the reintegration of war-affected populations and counter violent extremism.

Kees Kingma is an expert in post-conflict development, peacebuilding, reintegration and demilitarization, with three decades of broad international experience. He is currently an independent consultant providing analysis, evaluation, training and advisory services to international organizations, governments and non-governmental organizations. Most of his experience is in African countries, such as Burundi, Eritrea, Ghana, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. He has published and lectured widely on various development and demilitarization issues, particularly on the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

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