

About Africa Up Close

Thank you for your interest in submitting a blog to Africa Up Close, a forum for the exchange of ideas on Africa issues hosted by the Wilson Center's Africa Program. Launched in 2013, Africa Up Close aims to raise awareness and understanding about Africa, analyze key issues in US-Africa relations, and generate ideas and options for addressing challenges and opportunities in Africa. We publish thought pieces by experts, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners writing about diverse topics of relevance and resonance in Africa today. We welcome submissions from writers on the continent and international stakeholders who focus on African issues. We appreciate your ongoing participation in the African Up Close community, where ideas are shared, key issues are shaped, collaboration is fostered, and innovative solutions are brought forward.

Please note: The Wilson Center is mandated by the US Congress to support non-partisan, non-advocacy independent research and open dialogue. While a blog piece acts as an extension of an author's ideas, Africa Up Close is charged with presenting content that adheres to the Wilson Center's non-partisan perspective. Therefore, we cannot publish any subject matter that can be assumed as advocacy.

The Process

- **Pre-Approval:** The author will provide a title and a brief description/summary of their topic prior to submission of their full blog post. While we can accept pieces on topics you have previously covered, we do not re-publish pieces that have already been published to other platforms and require that the piece is modified to fit our criteria, listed below. The Africa Program reserves the right to respectfully decline any proposed subject matter or discontinue the review process at any time if material does not properly adhere to the guiding principles of the Africa Program and the Wilson Center to support non-partisan, non-advocacy, independent research and open dialogue
- **Draft and Review:** Once the topic has been approved by Africa Program staff, the author will submit a draft of their article in accordance with Africa Up Close criteria (see below) which will then be reviewed and returned with tracked edits in 7-10 business days. This stage may include multiple rounds of revisions and takes approximately 3-4 weeks. We reserve the right to edit and adjust the language of submissions if necessary. Both the author and staff must approve the final draft prior to publication.
- **Post-Approval:** Once both the author and Africa Program staff have approved the text, the staff will format and publish the blog on the Africa Up Close website within 7 business days and provide the author with the link to the website. Staff will also promote the featured blog on social media. Publication on other platforms: The author can publish their blog post elsewhere as long as they link any re-publishes to the original Africa Up Close blog.

Criteria

- **Topic:** Any subject related to Africa that is relevant and current, and on which you are knowledgeable.
- **Format:** Try to follow a five-point essay format to increase readability and understanding.
- **Length:** 700 word min, 1,000 word max.
- **Tone:** Direct, highly-readable and accessible, while remaining accurate and professional.
- **Non-advocacy:** Authors may present a trend or idea, and a range of possible policy options, but should not advocate for or recommend or represent a particular opinion, agenda or direction.
- **Citations:** Please [hyperlink](#) any direct quotations or data to online sources and include any other links you believe are relevant to the text. If there is no link, include the full Chicago style citation as an endnote; however, hyperlinks are highly preferred.
- **Images:** The Wilson Center selects royalty-free images to publish with your post.
- **Bio:** Please include one biographical sentence and a link to your full biography or organization. You may also submit a headshot.

Questions and More Information

For submissions and all questions, please contact Nathaniel Oakes, Africa Program Program Coordinator, at Nathaniel.Oakes@wilsoncenter.org.