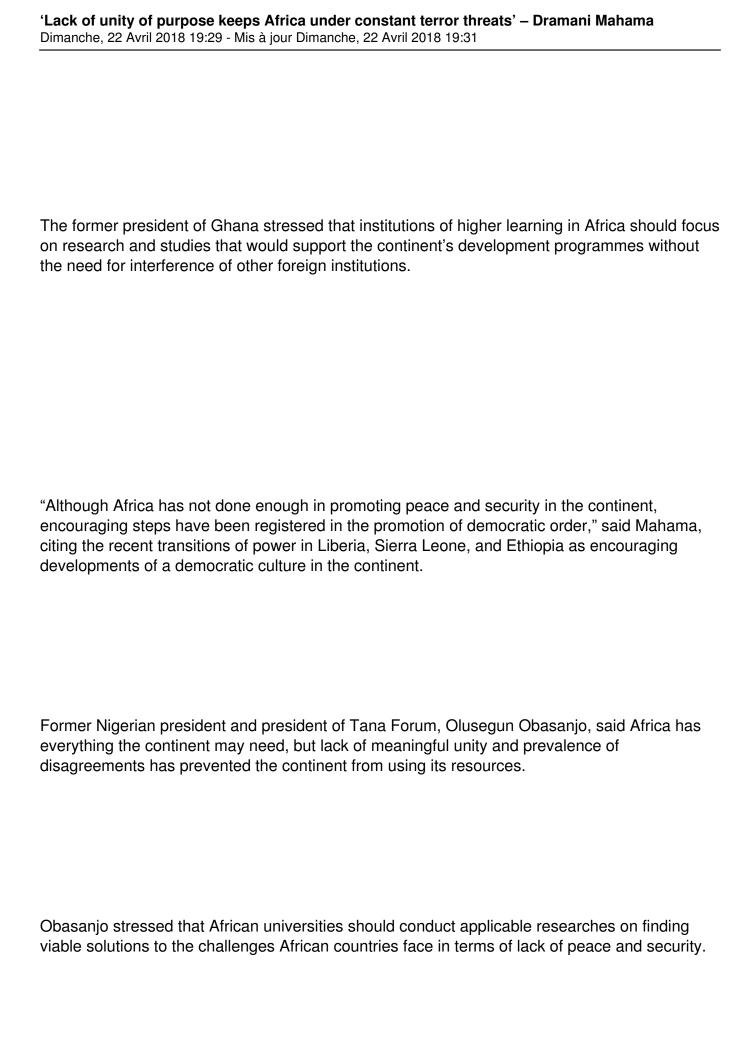
Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, April 22 (Infosplusgabon) - African countries need integrated efforts to tackle their challenges on issues of peace and security, former president of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama has said at a panel discussion organized under the 7th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa.
According to Mahama, little has been done in safeguarding peace and security of the continent though one of the major objectives for the establishment of the African Union (AU) was to effectively ensure peace and security of the continent.
"Terrorist organizations like Al-Shabab, Boko Haram and ISIS are vivid manifestations of this," he pointed out, explaining that such insurgent groups were a result of failure on the part of AU member countries to forge unity of purpose at the desired level.
Mahama said that lack of unity of purpose and concrete coordination among the 55 member states of the AU showed that, although the union could have even been a guarantee for peace and security of other regions of the world, the continent has remained under constant threat from terrorist forces.
He urged African countries to utilize their potential and develop their economies and rid themselves of dependency on the western countries.



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