African Land Forces Summit - Cooperation and Interoperability at the Heart of Security

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Rome, March 23, 2026 – The intervention of the Chief of Staff of the Army, General of the Army Corps **Carmine Masiello**, marked one of the most significant moments of the **African Land Forces Summit 2026**, taking place in Rome from **March 22 to 24**. In front of the leaders of the land forces of African, European, and United States countries, **Masiello** centered his message on three key concepts: **cooperation, interoperability, and development of common capabilities**. The summit, organized by the **U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF)**, brings together about **40 countries** and over **300 military, institutional, academic, and defense industry representatives**. In this context, the presence and intervention of the Italian Army Chief of Staff assumed a **particular political and strategic value**, especially since the 2026 edition marks **the first time ALFS is held in Europe**.

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Masiello's Vision on Intelligence, Innovation, and Multilateral Response

The theme chosen for this edition – *"Strengthening Shared Security through Intelligence, Innovation, and Industry"* – offered **Masiello** the opportunity to outline a **broad vision of contemporary challenges**. In his speech, the general emphasized how the international scenario requires **increasingly coordinated responses**, capable of integrating **operational, technological, and informational dimensions**. According to **Masiello**, security can no longer be addressed with isolated tools or fragmented approaches: instead, **stable synergies between allied and partner countries** are needed, based on the **sharing of capabilities** and the construction of a truly **resilient system**. In this perspective, the Army Chief of Staff called for the consolidation of **an effective security architecture**, capable of supporting the **stability of the broader Mediterranean** and, at the same time, accompanying the growth of **an Africa increasingly prominent in global security**. His words placed the role of the Italian Army within a **strategic horizon** that closely links **defense, innovation, and international cooperation**.

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The Partnership with Africa and the Italian Role

Another central point of **Carmine Masiello**'s speech concerned the **partnership with African countries**. The general reiterated the importance of a **“peer-to-peer” collaboration model**, based on **trust, mutual respect**, and the ability to understand local needs to build **shared solutions**. This approach places great emphasis not only on assistance or technical support but above all on the creation of **balanced and lasting relationships**, capable of producing **common stability**. In this sense, **Masiello**'s message gave a **precise political imprint** to the summit, valuing cooperation that is not imposed from above but built together with African partners. The Rome edition of the **ALFS** also confirms the growing importance of **Italy as a platform for dialogue between Africa, Europe, and the United States**, and the intervention of the Army Chief of Staff contributed to strengthening this centrality. From the summit emerges a clear line: **African security is an integral part of Euro-Mediterranean security** and the Italian contribution, in the vision expressed by **Masiello**, passes through **interoperability, innovation, and shared development of capabilities**.

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