

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS (DPA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

Activities undertaken by the Africa II Division

Since peace and security is one of the key areas identified as vital for the successful implementation of NEPAD, Africa II Division continued to contribute to the strengthening of cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in building their capacity in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and the resolution of ongoing conflicts, including support for post-conflict peacebuilding and electoral assistance matters.

To that end, the Division, within the overall framework of DPA's role, has been working closely, in particular, with the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Mano River Union (MRU) Secretariat. In addition, the Division has provided support to Special Envoys of the Secretary-General who have been dispatched to help find solutions to emerging or ongoing tensions in different parts of the regions or to support the implementation of agreed processes such as the ongoing peaceful implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling on the Cameroon/Nigeria border case.

Within the framework of the AU 10-year capacity-building programme, Africa II Division participates in the development of a training programme on dialogue and mediation. The programme will focus on the needs and interests of the AU and sub-regional organizations, and draw on the combined experiences of the AU and UN staff.

Within the overall DPA framework, Africa II Division also oversees the operation of peacebuilding support offices set up by the United Nations to help consolidate peace. In the Central African Republic (CAR), regular visits by AU envoys, support for the sub-regional force, FOMUC, and political and financial support to the ongoing inclusive political dialogue process greatly contribute to the success of our peace-building mission (the UN Peacebuilding Office in the CAR - BONUCA) in the country. Similarly in Guinea-Bissau, the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) has collaborated with ECOWAS in Security Sector Reform, the fight against drug trafficking and joint diplomatic initiatives to defuse political crisis.

Africa II Division has been in partnership with UNDP to support the development of conflict prevention mechanisms in Ghana, through the deployment of a Peace and Development Advisor. The strategic plan for Ghana focused on strengthening the capacity of all levels of Ghanaian society to prevent and manage conflict, as well as encourage good governance through the strengthening of the democratization process. In

particular, Ghana's Peace and Development Advisor has worked with national government and civil society to design, implement and grow Ghana's National Architecture for Peace, a program mandated by NEPAD which was designed with the purpose of creating mechanisms within African countries to enable proactive responses to conflict through the establishment of regional and district peace councils.

With regard to advocacy in support of African development, in October 2007, BONUCA and DPA assisted UNDP in organizing a Donors' Round Table for the CAR in Brussels. On that occasion, the Secretary-General issued a statement inviting donors to be generous in contributing to the CAR's development efforts, and the SRSG attended the Round Table. BONUCA holds regular meetings with the CAR's external partners, among other things, to mobilize support and resources for the CAR's development.