

## **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS (DPA)**

### **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009**

#### **Peace and Security Cluster of the RCM**

The Peace and Security Cluster led by DPA within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of UN agencies working in Africa, deals with all aspects of peace and security, comprising the peace and security architecture of the African Union (AU); prevention and control of conflicts; post conflict reconstruction and development; and human rights, justice and reconciliation. The full membership of the Peace and Security Cluster includes: DPA, ECA, UNHCR, WFP, OHCHR, UNEP, FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, IOM, WHO, OCHA, AU/PST (DPKO) and OSAA. In 2008, the PBSO confirmed its participation in the meetings of the cluster with a view to improving coordination for peacebuilding within the UN system as well as with the AU Peace and Security Council and ECA and to support the two African regional institutions in their post conflict peacebuilding efforts in the region.

Three sub-clusters were created immediately after the formation of the Cluster: Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union (Convener: Department of Peacekeeping Operations - DPKO), Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (Convener: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), and Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation (Convener: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights).

#### **Sub-Cluster on the African Union Peace and Security Architecture**

Under the Sub-Cluster on the African Union Peace and Security Architecture, DPKO has continued to support the AU within the framework of the Peace and Security Cluster of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Plan and the AU Commission's Strategic Plan 2009-2012. The focus of its work has been to support the operational development of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in particular the African Standby Force (ASF) through the DPKO AU Peacekeeping Support Team. The Department has also contributed to the development of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) through cooperation between its Situation Centre and the AU Situation Room. Priorities for support remain the development of capacity for planning and mission management, and financial and logistics management. At the request of the AU Commission support has been provided to the development of the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC), police capacity and the logistic support concept, as well as facilitating specific training requirements such as Senior Mission Leadership training. DPKO continues to work closely with capacity building partners in support of "Road Map 2" for ASF development, a main feature of which is a major assessment of progress in 2010 (AMANI Africa), which forms a major component of European Union support.

In close cooperation with the AU, the AU-PST, on behalf of the sub-cluster, has planned and initiated a number of specific projects focusing on the three AU priority areas: planning, mission management, and logistic and resource management. DPKO also facilitated a senior level retreat for AU and its regional capabilities, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18-19 May 2009.

“Prodi report”: In accordance with the PRST 2009/3 of 18 March 2009 the Secretariat has been engaged in interdepartmental consultations to ensure its implementation. From 5 to 8 May 2009, DPKO, DPA and DFS officials held consultations in Addis Ababa with AU officials, UN and other stakeholders, on the way forward in strengthening strategic relations between the Secretariat and AU Commission and between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. They also exchanged views on the implementation of the recommendations relating to logistic and financial support to AU peacekeeping missions authorized by the Security Council. The outcome of this process will be the subject of a report of the Secretary-General by 18 September 2009.

#### Sub-Cluster on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development

The Sub-Cluster on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development is engaged in strengthening collaboration and cooperation between the UN Peacebuilding Commission, UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the AU Peace and Security Council to achieve the AU’s post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) related goals.

The sub-cluster is collaborating with the PBSO on the development of a UN Practical Guidance Note on Peacebuilding to take into consideration the AU Continental PCRD policy and its work in Burundi, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Guinea Bissau. UNHCR also contributed to the first annual meeting of the Peacebuilding Community of Practice – the fourth virtual pillar of the PBC – through presentations on peacebuilding in Africa and the human dimension of peacebuilding. The sub-cluster also actively facilitated the utilization of the 12 post conflict country assessment reports prepared by the sub-cluster through a wide dissemination to all stakeholders involved in rebuilding and sustaining peace.

The sub-cluster also focused on the AU leadership and ownership of PCRD and its increased participation in all capacity building endeavours. The sub-cluster is facilitating and supporting the AU in the development of an AU humanitarian policy framework on the participation of conflict affected and displaced civilian populations in conflict resolution processes and implementation of peace agreements. The sub-cluster is engaged in strengthening interaction with the AU Peace and Security Department on hotspots on the continent to advocate for the Department to take up a more proactive role in addressing humanitarian issues related to these conflicts.

Members of the sub-cluster and UNHCR are currently assisting the AU in convening a Special Summit in October 2009 devoted to comprehensively tackling the root causes and preventing the forced displacement of civilian populations in Africa as recommended by the 2<sup>nd</sup> AU Ministerial Conference on refugees, returnees and IDPs held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June 2006 and the AU Executive Council during its 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Banjul, Gambia in July 2006. Assistance was also provided by UNHCR in the development of a draft AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa expected to be adopted at the AU Special Summit to be held in Kampala, Uganda.

On behalf of the sub-cluster, UNHCR also participated in meetings related to the AU Continental Early Warning System organised to discuss methodologies used to collect and analyse information. UNHCR also participated in the first AU meeting of Ministers in charge of Social

Affairs, who adopted the AU Social Development Policy, which makes important provisions in the areas of education, health care, employment and livelihoods, HIV/AIDS and gender and their relevance to mitigating the challenges faced by displaced populations in Africa.

#### Sub-Cluster on Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation

The Sub-Cluster on Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation (HRJR) promoted further harmonization of plans between AU and UN in the field of human rights, justice and reconciliation and also addressed health, gender, culture and regional integration issues during its activities. The sub-cluster strengthened the alignment of cluster plans and activities with the Ten Year capacity building program for the AU, the UNGA Resolution 61/296, the strategic plans of the AU and the NEPAD Secretariat and relevant decisions of the AU and RECs. Within this framework, the HRJR sub-cluster will support the adoption of a comprehensive strategy on human rights by the AU.

#### Support provided by the Department of Political Affairs

##### Cooperation with the African Union

DPA continued to provide support to regional and sub-regional organizations in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution of ongoing conflict, peacebuilding, electoral assistance and support to the AU Policy Organs (Peace and Security Council). The level of support provided by DPA to the AU, in particular within the framework of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, has substantially increased in recent years.

The Department, through its Mediation Support Unit, is finalizing a 2009 work program on strengthening AU mediation capacities. The program will focus on the AU Mediation Strategy, Lessons Learned, Exercises/Case Studies, Training, Rosters, and Joint AU-UN operation initiatives. A two-day workshop on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) and on the need to mainstream gender issues within the work of the AU on peace and security matters should take place by the end of 2009.

The DPA is also providing support to the newly established Electoral Assistance Unit in the AU Department of Political Affairs through the deployment of a consultant to assist in getting the Unit up and running and in the establishment of an AU roster of experts similar to the one maintained at the United Nations, as well as establishing an Electoral Trust Fund in terms of fund raising, management and reporting. In April 2009, the Security Council Affairs Division dispatched a mission to Addis Ababa to support the establishment of sanctions mechanism for the AU.

In his report on cooperation with regional organizations (S/2008/186), the Secretary-General recommended that the existing desk-to-desk dialogue between the UN and regional organizations such as the European Union be extended to the AU. Following a series of consultations, DPA and the AU decided in May 2008 to hold regular consultations aimed at strengthening cooperation in the areas of prevention and management of conflict.

Two such meetings took place in Bahar Dar (Ethiopia) and in Green Tree (USA) in July 2008 and February 2009, respectively. The meetings brought together DPA (HQ and field staff), the

AU Commission and representatives of RECs. Discussions at the level of the secretariats in these gatherings helped enhance understanding on the operational and organizational structure, working methods and procedures of each organization. These meetings also discussed country-specific situations and made recommendations on joint action to enhance the AU capacity in crucial areas of cooperation such as mediation support, elections, gender mainstreaming, early warning and conflict prevention.

#### Cooperation with sub-regional organizations

DPA continued working with sub-regional organizations on issues that affect peace and security, including conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and electoral assistance. This has been done through collaborative efforts with the AU and sub-regional bodies, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), as well as non-governmental organizations, civil society and the business sector.

Through its regional offices, such as the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), DPA works closely with the AU and ECOWAS in the areas of peace and security, deploying Special Envoys and Representatives of the Secretary-General, sometimes jointly with the AU and ECOWAS, to mediate conflict or defuse tensions. Recent initiatives that have been carried out in collaboration with the UN regional and sub-regional partners include efforts to resolve the political crisis in Guinea, under the aegis of the International Contact Group on Guinea, supporting regional initiatives aimed at restoring constitutional order in Mauritania and working with national stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau towards the holding of peaceful elections following the assassination of President Vieira.

In Mauritania, a Facilitation Team made up of Senegal, AU and UN helped secure the signing of the Dakar Agreement in June 2009, paving the way for the holding of presidential elections on 18 July 2009. Another success in preventive diplomacy was the signing of an agreement by the Governments of Ghana and Gambia, in the margins of the AU Summit in Libya in July 2009, to resolve a long-standing dispute regarding the circumstances surrounding the deaths and disappearances of some Ghanaians and, possibly, other West African nationals in Gambia in July 2005. The agreement was based on the findings of a joint UN/ECOWAS Ghana/Gambia Fact-Finding Mission established at the request of the two countries.

DPA addresses cross-cutting and cross-border issues through its regional offices such as the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa in Dakar. Some of the critical areas it has been tackling include the fight against organized crime and international terrorism. The collaboration between UN and ECOWAS resulted in the adoption of a Regional Action Plan and Political Declaration to fight drug trafficking, in December 2008.

The UN has also been supporting the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in building its conflict prevention capacity through the future deployment of a Conflict Prevention Adviser and the establishment of a conflict prevention desk within the SADC working structure. Among other things, the UN would support SADC in the establishment of a Mediation Reference Group, a Mediation Support Unit and a Panel of Elders. It will also provide support to SADC initiatives in gender mainstreaming in policy analysis and peacebuilding.