PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

SHARING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE ON MANAGING THE TRANSITION FROM STABILIZATION TO LONG-TERM PEACEBUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT WITH AFRICAN CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

Africa’s medium- to long-term trajectory is characterised by high economic growth, improved development performance and a sustained increase in the number of democratic systems. A number of conflict to peace transitions on the continent have recently been consolidated, as reflected in several successful election cycles, and this has enabled the drawdown of, for instance, the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia. Africa’s peace and security architecture has also gained significant capacity over the past decade. Since the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have deployed more than a dozen peace operations and special political missions. Many of these missions were subsequently transitioned into UN peacekeeping operations. In addition to contributing solely to the AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Economic Community in West Africa (ECOWAS) mission in the Gambia, the Multi-National Joint Force (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad Basin battling Boko Haram, and the new G5 force in the Sahel, Africa also contributes 50 percent of all UN peacekeepers. The continent has thus developed significant peace operations capacity over the last decade and a half. Notwithstanding this progress and capacities, Africa still has a number of conflicts to contend with, especially in the Horn of Africa, Great Lakes, Lake Chad and the Sahel regions.

The October 2016 Workshop on the Ten Years of the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy Implementation identified the prevention and recurrence of violent conflict as the main priority for Africa’s peace, security and development agenda. Prevention is also at the top of the agenda of the AU-UN partnership. The focus on prevention is also reflected in several key AU frameworks, agendas and initiatives, such as the APSA and its current Roadmap 2016-2020, the “Silencing the Guns by 2020” initiative, Africa’s Agenda 2063 framework, and Africa’s common position on the UN High-level Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO). The HIPPO panel, as well as the 10-year review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council 1325, all three of which were conducted in 2015, all emphasized the importance of prevention and the need to establish and maintain a strong strategic partnership between the AU and the UN.

The AU and the UN are working closely together on prevention and reducing needs, risks, and vulnerability due not only to political conflicts, but also preventing crises in general which could be caused for instance by violent extremism, economic shocks, intolerance, environmental risks and conflicts, social tensions, droughts and famines.

Cognizant of these frameworks, with the need to build resilience and to sustain peace, African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres need to continuously update and renew their training curriculum, to reflect new emerging peace operations and peacebuilding challenges and priorities. Recent developments include the need to:

- Build resilience and crisis prevention;
- Reduce the multi-dimensional risks of crisis and help prevent violent conflict;
- Coordinate support to address protracted crises including forced displacement;
- Undertake security sector reform in the context of counter-insurgency and counter-terror threats;
- Enhance strategic and operational analytical and planning capabilities;
- Engage local and national stakeholders to ensure more people-centred peace operations and more inclusive, nationally-owned, post-conflict reconstruction initiatives;
- Strengthen state administration, especially in the areas of rule of law and security;
- Support national dialogue and reconciliation processes, including amidst ongoing conflict;
- Promote inclusion and social cohesion in societies characterised by high inequality and ethnic diversity;
- Prepare civilian experts for the specific roles they perform in peace operations and special political missions, especially in consolidating stabilisation and in the transition to long-term peacebuilding;
- Leverage the pivotal role that the private sector and multilateral cooperation should play in stabilisation, post-conflict reconstruction and development by creating jobs, providing services and serving as stake-holder and actor in supporting the enabling environment for social cohesion and provision of services and goods;
- Reconsider the free movement and access to basic services, including in particular the development of infrastructure development as prerequisite for peace and stability in most Africa countries;
- Introduce new technologies and related tools in peace operations;
- Introduce results-based monitoring and evaluation to enhance the effectiveness of missions and programmes, and
- Explore the role women and youth can play in the ability of peacekeeping and special political missions to achieve their mandates.

In order to assist African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres to update and refresh their knowledge base, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa (OSAA), in collaboration with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), the African Union Commission (AUC) and its NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), will convene an Expert Group Meeting (EGM). The EGM will explore the state of research and its uptake, platforms and delivery modalities, and how this impacts on innovation and decision-making in respect to African peace operations and special political missions. It will also focus on what this research tells us about good practices and lessons identified from the African peace operation and post-conflict reconstruction and development experience over the last decade.

**RATIONALE**

The rationale for consolidating the knowledge base of African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres is underpinned by two priorities: first to close the gap between the research and practitioner communities, and second to achieve greater coherence and improve delivery by leveraging through partnerships, best practices frameworks, agendas and initiatives to address Africa’s peace operations, and its post-conflict reconstruction and development challenges and priorities.

I. **Close the Gaps between the Research and Practitioner Communities**

Generally, the main gaps in peace operations, post-conflict reconstruction and development relate to how best to integrate lessons identified by the research community into the operational work of peace operations and special political missions. One of the ways this can be done is through the implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and revision of doctrine, policies and guidelines. Another is through ensuring that the training curriculum of the centres, which prepare and educate Africa’s peacekeepers and peacebuilders, is updated and reflect the latest knowledge and insights generated by the research community.

II. **Greater Coherence on, and Operationalization of, Peace Frameworks**

On the question of peace and security partnerships, UN Security Council Resolution 2320 of November 2016 calls on both the AU and the UN to further enhance their strategic partnership. The latter is underpinned by APSA and the “Silencing the Guns” initiative to end all violent conflicts in Africa by 2020. The AUC has established an inter-departmental Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Task Force, including among others the Department of Social Affairs, and this Task Force has been instrumental thus far in coordinating internal AUC efforts to ensure the coherent realization of the AU’s Agenda 2063
and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in countries in transition. Additionally, the Joint UN-AU Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, co-signed by the UN Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission in April 2017, and the Framework for a Renewed UN-AU Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027 (PAIDA) provide together a charter to enhance the contributions of African Peacekeeping Training Centres in peace operations and peacebuilding in Africa.

In addition, there are numerous peacekeeping and peacebuilding actors (including local, national, non-state, sub-regional, regional and international organisations) involved in sustaining peace on the continent. Practical recommendations on how they can add value, and be engaged in the training programmes conducted by African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres are important to increase the relevance and effectiveness of their training courses.

**OBJECTIVES**

The EGM will to bring together the research, policy and practitioner communities. The overall objective is for these participating stakeholders to develop and refine recommendations to update the knowledge base of African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres, building from recent peace operations and post-conflict reconstruction and development experiences in Africa.

Experts from a variety of fields, including academia, government, civil society, the AU and the UN will participate in the meeting, including experts with current or recent AU peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction and development experience.

The objective is cognizant of the context of the AU-UN partnership and the following priority instruments that should guide the delivery model and curriculum of the African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres:

1. **Operationalization of the African Peace and Security and Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda**
   This will entail coordination between the AU, the UN Regional offices (e.g. UNOWAS, UNOCA, etc.), as well as the Regional Economic Communities ("RECs" – ECOWAS, ECCAS, etc.). The RECs are an important tool in helping to defuse tensions and in supporting national actors in reaching peaceful political settlements. The EGM should assist the African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres to identify which aspects of the partnerships and the inter-relationships of the peace, security and development agendas should be reflected in their training curricula.

2. **Incorporate Conflict Prevention into Development Policies and Programme**
   This will require establishing a partnership between the African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres and policy development institutions such as the Department of Social Affairs of the AUC, the Economic Commission for Africa, the NEPAD Agency and other relevant think-tanks, to help the training centres to integrate conflict-sensitive and preventive development practices into their peace operations and peacebuilding training curricula.

3. **Establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism to Track Compliance on Matters Related to Social Responsibilities**
   Peace support operations and special political missions need to be able to track progress and monitor the effects their actions are having on the people and communities they serve. They need to evaluate their effectiveness and efficiency, so that they can adapt and stay relevant despite the highly dynamic and fluid political and security contexts they operate in. The EGM should assist the training centres with identifying the basic elements of a monitoring and evaluation module that is appropriate for AU peace operations and special political missions that can be added to their training curricula.
4. **Facilitate Knowledge and Experience-sharing through Networked and Innovative Processes, and Deliver Innovative Training**

An emphasis on knowledge sharing, focusing on a combination of information sharing, collaboration and peer-to-peer interactions among the peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres is highly recommended. Knowledge sharing will help promote the exchange of innovative approaches to peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction and development, by leveraging successful experiences across regions and at the global level. The EGM should consider how existing knowledge sharing modalities between the UN, AU, RECs and training centres can be further enhanced.

5. **Enhancing Effectiveness by Leveraging Partnerships**

African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres should leverage partnerships with the AU, the NEPAD Agency, the RECs and the UN System in order to take full advantage of existing synergetic approaches and complementary resources (financial, human and institutional).

6. **Advocacy**

As a result of leveraging partnerships, the UN and AUC should support the African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres to design more effective advocacy strategies and modalities, and better monitor the implementation of their work programmes. Establishing mutual accountability will be essential in building a true, balanced and mature partnership.

In the context of the implementation of the renewed AU-UN Partnership (PAIDA), the AUC and UN will continue to engage with the African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres, and the numerous peacebuilding actors (including national, regional, sub-regional and international organisations) involved in sustaining peace on the continent, to foster harmonized advocacy for Africa’s peace and development. OSAA will ensure that the African training centres feature prominently in its work of preparing and reviewing Africa-related reports and inputs for the United Nations Secretary-General. Furthermore, OSAA will, in close consultation with the AUC observer office in New York, organize the Africa Week annual forum as a dedicated knowledge-sharing platform to engage in a dialogue with African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres and share ideas on innovation, collective action and solutions to Africa’s peace and development agenda.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

1. **Outcomes**

   Enhanced capacity of African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres to prepare African personnel for peace operations and special political missions that manage transitions from stabilisation to long-term peacebuilding. The overall impact is expected to be more effective African peace operations and special political missions.

2. **Outputs**

   A meeting report will be produced that will capture the core tenants of the knowledge and information shared, and the lessons identified, so that the African peacekeeping and peacebuilding training centres are better able to integrate it into their future training programmes. The report will also enable the training centres and others such as the AUC, UNOAU and OSAA to track the effects of this initiative over time.

---

ACCORD is one of the leading peacekeeping and peacebuilding training institutes, with well-established links with the African Union, United Nations and its peers. ACCORD served as the first African President of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC) in 2000, which led to it also becoming a founding member (2001) of the African Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (APSTA). Is this necessary if APSTA will be represented in the meeting? What is the role of APSTA then?