African Union Commission

Peace and Security Department

at a glance

Ending Conflicts,
Sustaining Peace

MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

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Background

In 2000, African Heads of State and Government agreed on ***"the need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of the Continents development and integration agenda".***

The promotion of peace and security is one of the key objectives of the African Union (AU) as enshrined in its Constitutive Act. The Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the Commission of the AU was established to provide the necessary support to efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability on the Continent.

The main objectives of the Peace and Security Department are:

- Promoting peace, security and stability on the Continent by operationalizing the African Peace and Security Architecture. This is a set of functional tools designed to aid the AU's Peace and Security Council in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts, as well as responding, in a comprehensive and complementary manner, to the full range of complex issues inherent in different crises across the continent;
- Safeguarding Africa's common defence and security interests and goals in the face of common threats to the continent as a whole as set out in Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The AU does this through the implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP);
- The structural prevention of conflicts, by addressing problems posed by poor delimitation and demarcation, as well as forestalling or resolving cross-border disputes and crimes. The AU Border Programme (AUBP) under whose mandate this falls, also promotes greater integration in Africa;
- Ensuring that in the aftermath of fighting, peace agreements are effectively complemented by sustained efforts towards restoration and peace building, with a view to addressing the root causes underlying their outbreak. This is achieved through the implementation of the AU's Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD); and
- Coordination, harmonization and promotion of peace and security programmes in Africa, including with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for conflict prevention, management and resolution, the United Nations and other relevant international organisations and partners.

The Department comprises the following five Divisions: Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division, Conflict Management and Post Conflict Reconstruction Division, Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), Peace and Security Council Secretariat, and Defence and Security Division (DSD).

Divisions:

Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division

The Division focuses on the operationalization of some aspects of the African Peace and Security Architecture including the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), Panel of the Wise and the AU Border Programme.

Conflict Management and Post Conflict Reconstruction Division

The Division supports and coordinates activities relating to the management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, as well as post-conflict, peace-building reconstruction and development. The Division also supervises and coordinates the work of the AU Liaison Offices wherever they are established on the continent.

Peace Support Operations Division's African Standby Force Continental Planning Element

The functions of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) are to plan, launch, sustain and liquidate all peace

support operations authorised by the AU. In addition, it also assists in directing and managing such operations. The Peace Support Operations Division undertakes its functions through;

- Developing policies and procedures relevant to planning, launching, directing, sustaining, managing and liquidating Peace Support Operations;
- Coordinating with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and with the AU Member States in the establishment of the African Standby Force;
- Acting as the AU Commission's primary contact point with the RECs/RMs, the AU Member States and partners on matters related to Peace Support Operations; and
- Liaising with the partners to increase contributions to AU Peace Support Operations.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) Secretariat

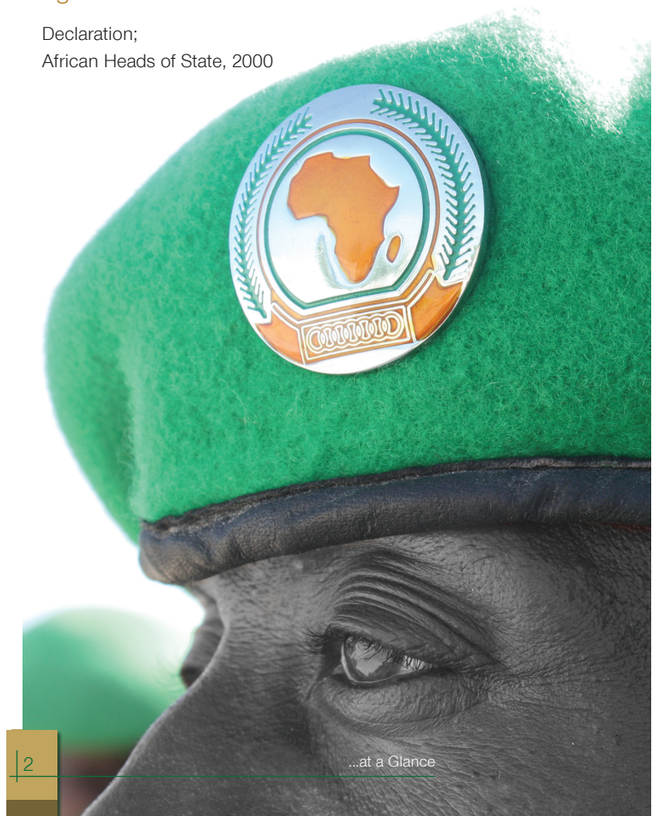
The Peace and Security Council Secretariat provides the operational and administrative support required by the PSC, to enable it and its subsidiary bodies perform their functions effectively. The Secretariat acts as the builder and repository of the institutional memory on the work of the PSC and facilitates its interaction with other organisations/institutions on issues of peace and security.

Defence and Security Division (DSD)

The Defence and Security Division (DSD), addresses long-term, cross-cutting defence and security issues. The DSD is in charge of issues relating to arms control and disarmament (small arms and light weapons, land mines and chemical weapons), counter-terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, maritime safety and security and other strategic security issues, including security sector reform and DDR processes.

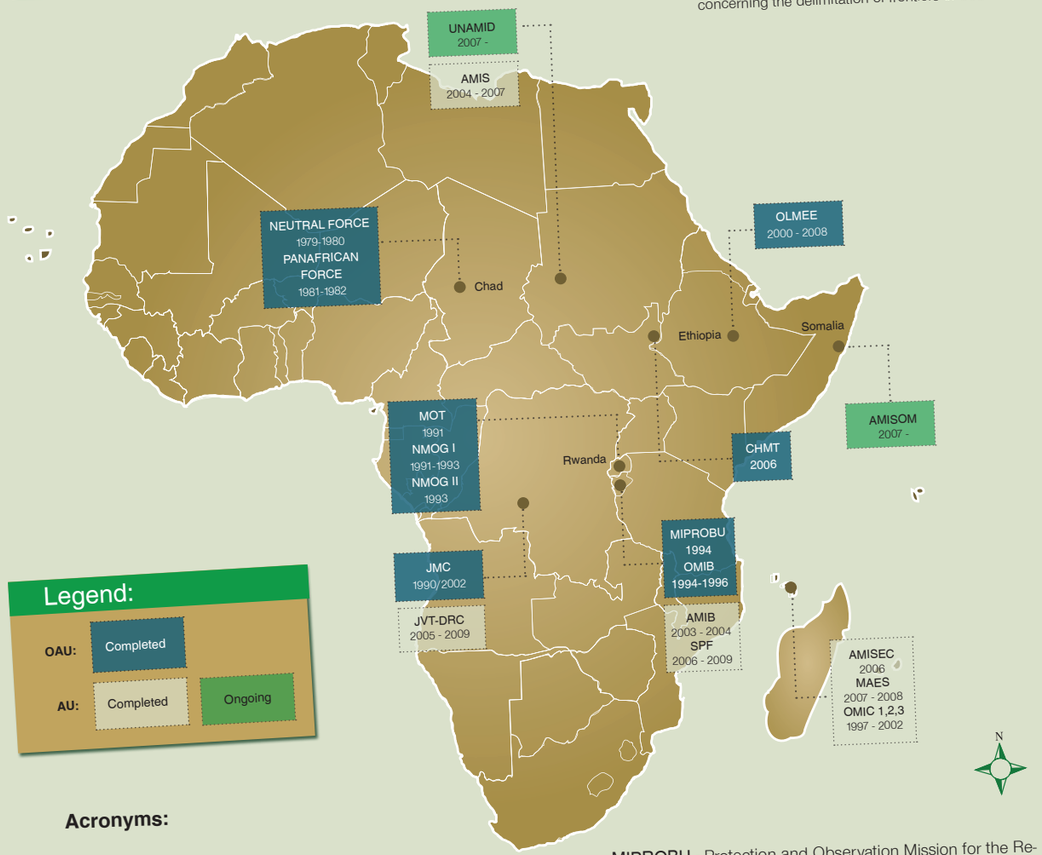
The DSD conducts research, and produces policy documents and other publications and implements related projects in consultation with Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the International Community, Partners, Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders. The Division also plays a key role in the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

> There is need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of our development and integration agenda.
>
> Declaration;
> African Heads of State, 2000



OAU/AU Peace Operations 1979-2011

*This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the AU concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.



Legend:

OAU:	Completed	
AU:	Completed	Ongoing

Acronyms:

AMIB - African Mission in Burundi
AMIS - African Union Mission in Sudan (Darfur)
AMISEC - African Union Mission for Support to the Elections in the Comoros
AMISOM - African Union Mission in Somalia
CHMT - Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team
JMC - Joint Military Commission
JVT-DRC - Joint Verification Team-DRC
MAES - African Union Electoral and Security Assistance Mission to the Comoros
MIPROBU - Protection and Observation Mission for the Re-establishment of Confidence in Burundi
MOT - Military Observer Team
NMOG - Neutral Military Oberver Group
OLMEE - OAU Liaison Mission in Ethiopia-Eritrea
OMIB - Observer Mission in Burundi
OMIC - OAU Observer Mission in the Comoros
SPF - Special Protection Force
UNAMID - African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur

African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

It is no secret that the scourge of conflict hinders Africa's economic and social progress. It is for this reason that issues of peace and security have always been at the core of the concerns of African leaders.

The Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), entrusts the PSC with extensive powers for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It is against this background that the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was conceived, as a set of functional tools around the PSC, to respond, in a comprehensive and entirely complementary manner, to the full range of complex issues inherent in conflicts and crises on the African continent.

The APSA includes as its fundamental components; the Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force, and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC)

The Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, signed by African leaders at AU inaugural meeting in Durban, which came into force on 26 December 2003, defines the PSC as "a standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. The PSC shall be a collective security and early-warning arrangement to facilitate timely and efficient response to conflict and crisis situations in Africa".

It has 15 members, elected by the AU Executive Council on regional basis: 3 from Central Africa; 3 from East Africa; 2 from North Africa; 3 from Southern Africa; and 4 from West Africa. Members are elected for 3-year (5 members) or 2-year (10 members) terms and can be re-elected immediately for another term. There are no permanent members and no veto. PSC chairmanship rotates on a monthly basis, in alphabetical order of the English-language names of member states. Its main objectives are to:

- promote peace, security and stability in Africa;
- anticipate and prevent conflicts and where conflicts have occurred;
- undertake peace-making and peace-building functions for the resolution of these conflicts;
- promote and implement peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction activities to consolidate peace and prevent the resurgence of violence;
- co-ordinate and harmonise continental efforts in the prevention and combating of international terrorism in all its aspects;
- develop a common defence policy for the Union; and
- promote and encourage democratic practices, good governance and the rule of law, protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law, as part of efforts at preventing conflicts.

Panel of the Wise

Article 11 of the Protocol establishing the PSC sets up a five person panel of "highly respected African personalities from various segments of society who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of peace, security and development on the continent" with a task "to support the efforts of the Peace and Security Council and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention,"

The five members of the Panel appointed during the 23rd Ordinary Summit of the AU Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 26 and 27 June 2014, are: Dr Lakhdar Brahimi from Algeria (representing North Africa), Mr Edem Kodjo from Togo (representing West Africa), Dr Albina Faria de Assis Pereira Africano from Angola (representing Central Africa), Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe from Uganda (representing East Africa) and Madame Luisa Diogo from Mozambique (representing Southern Africa).

The first Panel was appointed in December 2007 and composed of Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, who served as chair, Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, Elisabeth K. Pognon of Benin, Miguel Trovoada of Sao Tome and Principe, and Brigalia Bam of South Africa. At the July 2010 Summit in Kampala, Ben Bella and Ahmed Salim were reappointed for another term ending in December 2013 and three new members were appointed: Mary Chinery Hesse of Ghana; Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia; and Marie Madeleine Kalala-Ngoy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In order to strengthen the capacity and efficiency of the Panel of the Wise, the AU Assembly of Heads of States decided to establish a group of Friends of the Panel of the Wise (in 2010) made up of outgoing members of the Panel of the Wise; as well as a Pan African Network of the Wise (in May 2013), as a Pan-african umbrella network that brings together mediation mechanisms and actors across the continent to build synergies across Regional (through the RECs), National and Local Response Levels (through the peace infrastructures).

The Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

Article 12 of the PSC Protocol provides for the establishment of a Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), in order to facilitate the anticipation and prevention of conflicts in Africa. As stipulated in article 12 (2) of the Protocol, the CEWS consists of;

(i) An observation and monitoring centre, known as "the Situation Room'', which is located at the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division of the African Union and is responsible for data collection and analysis; and

(ii) The observation and monitoring units of the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, which are linked directly through appropriate means of communication to the Situation Room and which collect and process data at their level and transmit it to the Situation Room.

The CEWS is responsible for data collection and analysis and is mandated to collaborate with "the UN, its agencies, other relevant international organizations, research centres, academic institutions and NGOs" with its information to be used by the Chairperson of the Commission" to advise the Peace and Security Council on potential conflicts and threats to peace and security in Africa and recommend the best course of action."

The African Standby Force

The Constitutive Act gives the AU the right to intervene in a Member State in grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. As per Article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the ASF is based on standby arrangements with Africa's five (5) sub-regions. It is composed of multidimensional capabilities, including military, police and civilian, on standby in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment. Thus the initial concept of the ASF was that of a quick reaction capacity that would enable Africans to respond swiftly to a crisis unhampered by any heavy political and instrumental burdens. The range of functions assigned to the ASF includes:

- Observation and monitoring missions
- Other types of peace support operations
- Intervention in a member state in respect of grave circumstances or at the request of a member state to restore peace and security, in accordance with Article 4(h) and 4(J) of the AU Constitutive act
- Preventive deployment to prevent a dispute or a conflict from escalating, an ongoing violent conflict from spreading to neighboring areas or states and the resurgence of violence after parties to conflict have reached an agreement

- Peace building, including post conflict disarmament and demobilization
- Humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of civilian population in conflict areas and support efforts to address major natural disasters
- Any further functions as may be mandated by the PSC or the Assembly of Heads of State.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs)

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution are also a key component of the overall peace and security architecture of the AU. To strengthen relations with RECs and RMs, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security was signed between the AU and the RECs/RMs in January 2008 in Addis Ababa. It is important to stress that the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in Article 16 (1) , requires the PSC and the Chairperson of the Commission to harmonize and coordinate the activities of Regional Mechanisms in the field of peace, security and stability, and to ensure that these activities are consistent with the objectives and principles of the Union.

Peace Fund

The Peace Fund was established in June 1993 as one of the operational tools to finance peace and security activities of the African Union. The Peace fund supports five peace and security programs; African Stand by force (ASF), Panel of the Wise (PoW), Continental Early Warning Systems (CEWS), Capacity Building and Conflict Prevention. It was borne out of the realization that contributions by Member States alone were not sufficient for the OAU to undertake its various responsibilities. The Peace Fund is made up of financial appropriations from the regular AU budget, including arrears of contributions, voluntary contributions from member states and from other sources within Africa, including the private sector, civil society and individuals as well as through appropriate fundraising activities.

During the Special Summit held in Tripoli in August 2009, AU Member States agreed to increase contribution to the Peace Fund from 6% to 12% of the AU regular budget. However, during the 16th ordinary session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2010, it was agreed that the contribution would be increased from 6% to 12% over a period of three (3) years starting from 2011.

Other PSD Programmes, Initiatives and Activities

The Make Peace Happen Campaign

The Make Peace Happen Campaign was launched in 2010 in the context of the 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa, with the aim of:

- Giving greater visibility to efforts by the AU to promote peace and security;
- Speeding up the implementation of commitments made by Member States in various AU instruments relating to peace and security;
- Linking official efforts to promote peace and security with those being undertaken on the ground by grassroot communities;
- Launching new initiatives on peace and security in Africa; and
- Mobilizing resources to support peace and security efforts on the continent.

On recognizing that the challenge of achieving peace, security and stability across the entire African continent is clearly an undertaking of many years, the Assembly of the Union, at its 16th Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, on 30 and 31 January 2011, decided that, in order to sustain the efforts to “Make Peace Happen”, the steps taken and initiatives launched as part of the Year of Peace and Security should be pursued and intensified. In this respect, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations made by the Chairperson of the Commission for the implementation of a long-term sustainability strategy, building on the achievements made and the lessons learnt from the Make Peace Happen Campaign and revolving around the following elements:

- The institutionalization of the celebration of Peace Day;
- Communication and outreach to publicize Africa’s peace efforts and to sensitize all stakeholders;
- Partnerships with stakeholders, in particular the private sector and civil society;
- Peace education;
- Support to African academic and research institutions, to enhance their capacity to explore the nature of African conflicts to investigate what succeeds and fails in conflict resolution and to arrive at African-centered solutions;
- Support to peace building activities; and
- Resource mobilization, in particular within the continent, in order to enhance Africa’s ownership and of leadership in, the quest for peace in the continent

The Make Peace Happen campaign is gaining momentum across Africa. Already, many events have been held, effectively increasing awareness about the campaign and its objectives and generating optimism among Africans about the possibility of fulfilling our common aspirations of a conflict-free Africa. The campaign signifies an opportunity to review current efforts to build peace on the continent, with a view to strengthening them and, where appropriate, launching new initiatives for peace and security.

The African Solidarity Initiative (ASI)

The APSA is continuously being enhanced to address tools for structural prevention of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction and peace building. The work being done on PCRD is based on the AU Policy Framework on Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) adopted in Banjul in 2006. Assessment missions have been sent to several Member States emerging from conflicts to ascertain their needs and make recommendations on how best the AU and its Member States can contribute to their efforts. In this context, the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) in 2012. The ASI seeks to mobilize, from within the continent, both financial and in-kind support for the concerned countries. The recent recurrence of violence in post-conflict countries calls for sustained engagement so as to ensure that countries that have emerged from conflict do not relapse back into another cycle of violence.

AU Border Program (AUBP)

As part of its structural conflict prevention activities, the AU is implementing its Border Programme (AUBP), adopted in 2007, through the provision of support to delimitation and demarcation exercises on the continent, and the promotion of cross-border cooperation and capacity building. An AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation has been elaborated in this regard.

With the numerous border related tensions and disputes, even outright wars, on the African continent since the 1950s-1960s, the creation of the AUBP constitutes a direct response to the need to preserve the principles of state sovereignty and territorial integrity for peace and security on the African continent. At the same time, the AUBP places an emphasis on its pro-active strategy of conflict prevention in order to forestall the necessity of conflict resolution.

Counter-terrorism

Regarding strategic issues and other related security matters, steps have been taken towards the implementation of AU instruments on counter-terrorism, in particular the elaboration of a model law to assist Member States to strengthen their counter-terrorism legislation.

Regarding the Pelindaba Treaty on an African Nuclear

Weapons Free Zone, current efforts are being made towards the full operationalization of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, which is hosted by South Africa.

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

The AU and its Member States have made significant progress over the years in addressing the scourge of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) on the continent. The African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALW, also known as the Bamako Declaration, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the OAU in December 2000, remains the main policy document for the Commission. In this Declaration, Member States undertook to identify, seize and destroy illicit weapons. The Declaration also provides for the establishment of measures to control the circulation, transfer and use of small arms and light weapons.

To this end, the Commission continues to assist AU Member States in the fight against the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of SALW. The Commission has developed the draft "AU Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALW" in fulfillment of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.369(XVII). The Documents were considered and adopted by Member States' experts who met from 26-29 September 2011 in Lome, Togo.

The documents are now ready for use by AU Member States for reference in the fight against the illicit proliferation, trafficking and circulation of SALW. The Commission will continue to work through the ad hoc "AU-Regions Steering Committee on SALW and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR)" and work with Partners to assist Member States.

The AU, with the support of the European Union (EU), embarked on a 3-year project on the "Fight Against Illicit Firearms in Africa". The Project is implemented by the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA). The Project seeks to strengthen relevant institutional and civil society actors in Member States, including the African Regional Police Chiefs Organizations (RPCOs) and law enforcement agencies through enhanced cooperation, information exchange and implementing capacity within and among countries. The Project began in March 2010.

Security Sector Reform (SSR)

In January 2009, the Defense and Security Division (DSD) started a Security Sector Reform (SSR), program in fulfillment of a 2008 Assembly decision. The aim of the AU SSR program is to assist Member States to formulate and re-orient the policies, structures, and capacities of institutions and groups engaged in the security sector, in order to make them more effective, efficient, and responsive to democratic control, and to the security and justice needs of the people. The AU SSR program comprises 8 main activities as follows:

(a) Development of the AU Policy Framework on SSR and other supporting documents and their publication and dissemination,
(b) Assisting Member States in their national SSR activities,
(c) Training of relevant AUC and RECs staff in SSR issues,
(d) Capacity building of SSR staff at AU Headquarters (HQs), RECs and AU Missions,
(e) Setting up of a viable SSR structure at AU HQs,
(f) Visits to potential SSR countries for SSR needs assessment,
(g) Development of tools for the implementation of the AU SSR policy, and
(h) Consultations and collaboration with all stakeholders (other AU departments, Member States, RECs, the UN, the EU, civil society, other international partners and donors).

2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063

Peace and Security Department

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