FACTSHEET
The African Peace Facility

Capacity building for the operationalisation of the APSA

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to prevent, manage or resolve crises and conflicts in Africa by operationalising the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

POLITICAL CONTEXT

116 expected outputs

- The 2016-2020 APSA Roadmap ¹
  - 116 expected outputs, 32 specific objectives, 5 strategic priorities
  - conflict prevention (early warning system)
  - conflict management (mediation and African Standby Force)
  - post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding
  - strategic security issues (terrorism, piracy, Small Arms and Light Weapons, etc.)
  - coordination and partnerships
- For the period 2020-2023 the EU-funded APSA Support Programme contributes to:
  - improving the conflict cycle management under the APSA, with a focus on an effective Early Warning Systems and the African Standby Force;
  - enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation within and around the APSA framework (including with SCOs);
  - making the APSA more inclusive of youth and children


At the continental level

- The AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) is the AU standing decision-making organ for the prevention management and resolution of conflicts. It is supported by the AUC, the PoW, the CEWS, the ASF and the Peace Fund.
- The African Union Commission (AUC) provides operational support to the AU PSC.
- the Panel of the Wise (PoW) is composed of five eminent personalities, and is vested with both peace-making and advisory functions on all issues pertaining to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability.
- the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) provides timely advice on potential conflicts and threats in order to develop an appropriate and timely response.
- the Peace Fund is meant to provide the necessary financial resources for peace support operations and other operational activities related to peace and security.
- the African Standby Force (ASF) is organised in five regional standby forces raised and maintained by the RECs / RMs. Its functions include: observation and monitoring missions, other types of peace support missions, post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation, etc.
At the regional level, 8 RECs/2 RMs constitute the building blocks of the overall security architecture, collaborating closely with the AUC to ensure a common and tailored African response to crises.

8 Regional Economic Communities (RECs):
- Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
- Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- East African Community (EAC)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)

2 Regional Mechanisms (RMs):
- Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
- North African Regional Capability (NARC)

BENEFICIARIES

- African Union Commission (AUC)
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs):
  - Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
  - Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA)
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  - Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)
  - South African Development Community (SADC)
- Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMs):
  - Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
  - North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, 63% of interventions by APSA actors were successful or partially successful in either de-escalating or preventing conflict.

- 52 violent conflicts across Africa in 2017 were eligible for intervention by APSA actors:
  - AU and REC interventions in 27 conflicts (52%) through diplomacy, mediation, peace support operations, or a combination of all three instruments.
  - 78% of these interventions were deemed to be of high or medium quality regarding their appropriateness and conduct.
  - 63% of these interventions were successful or partially successful in either de-escalating or preventing conflict.

- Well over 500 decisions taken by the AU PSC since its establishment in 2004, on a growing number of peace, security and governance issues, ranging from protracted violence to political unrest related to unconstitutional transfers of power.
- From 2007 to 2019: The EU Joint Research Center developed a range of analytical tools and information monitoring systems which have contributed to set up the CEWS and, in turn, reinforced the AU’s ability to anticipate and prevent conflicts in Africa.
- Main challenges to APSA’s full operationalisation:
  - New forms of security threats such as cross-border terrorism.
  - Development of ad hoc, regional security initiatives, e.g. Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram or G5 Sahel Joint Force.
  - Unity of action: Misunderstandings persist around the application of the principle of subsidiarity in the maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa.

APF FUNDING

Over EUR 212 M so far

In addition to financing the APSA Support Programme, it is also used for:

- 14 AU Liaison Offices, enabling the AU to maintain its presence in conflict and post-conflict countries, thus facilitating crisis follow-up and monitoring.
- Salaries for 169 staff from the AUC Peace and Security Department (PSD).
- The operationalisation of the AU Continental Early Warning System (CEWS).

FURTHER INFORMATION: www.africa-eu-partnership.org #AfricanPeaceFacility