

African Union Commission

Peace and Security Department

at a glance



Ending Conflicts,
Sustaining Peace



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 our 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](#).
- Implementation of the [Common African Defence and Security Policy](#) (CADSP);
- Promotion of programmes for the structural prevention of conflicts, including through the implementation of the [AU Border Programme](#) (AUBP);
- 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)/[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

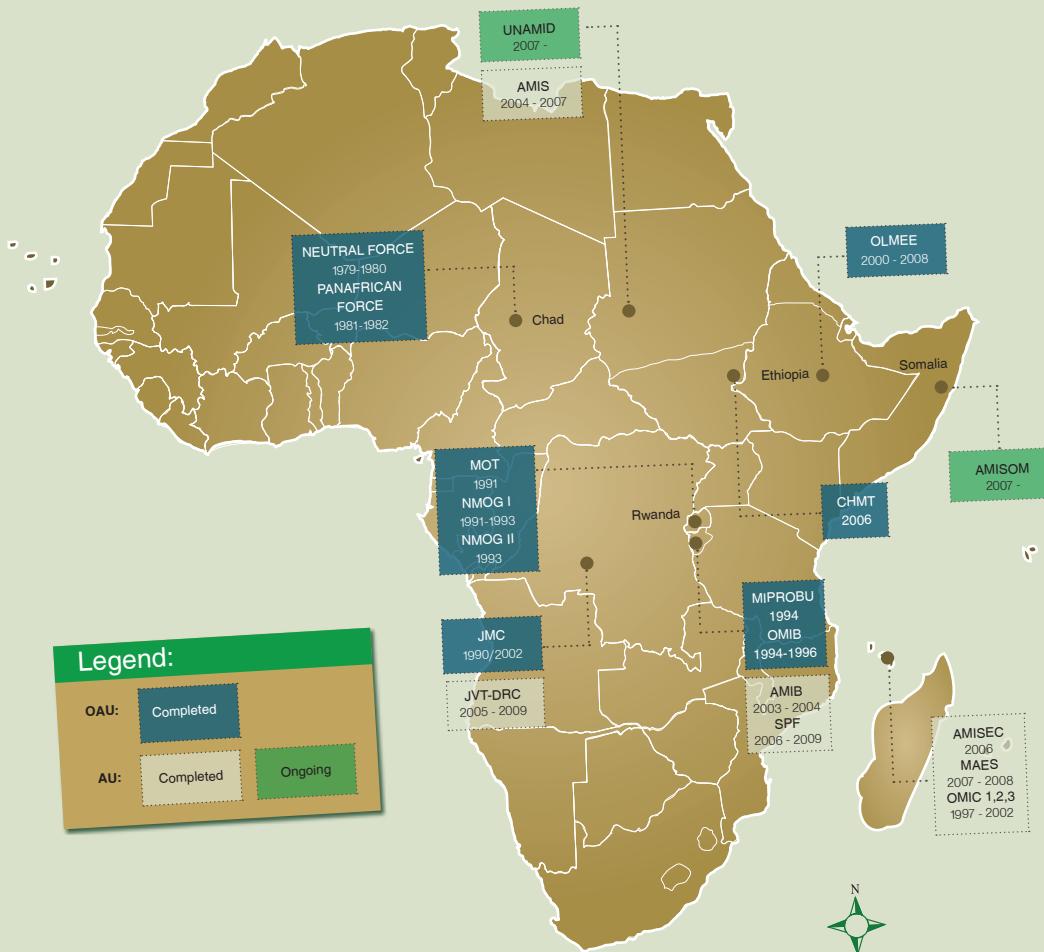
The Division supports and coordinates activities relating to the management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, as well as post-conflict, peace-building reconstruction and development. The Division also supervises and coordinates the work of the AU Liaison Offices wherever they are established on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

Peace Support Operations Divisions (PSOD)/ASF 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 of Peace Support Operations (PSO),
- Coordinating with the Regional Economic Communities - RECs/Regional Mechanisms - RMs and with the African Union Member States - AUMS in the establishment of the ASF,
- Acting as the AUC's primary contact point with the RECs/RMs/AUMS and AU partners on matters related to PSO, and lastly,
- Liaising with the partners in raising support for AU PSO.

OAU/AU Peace Operations 1979-2011



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 Observer 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

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 to 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 Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (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).

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.

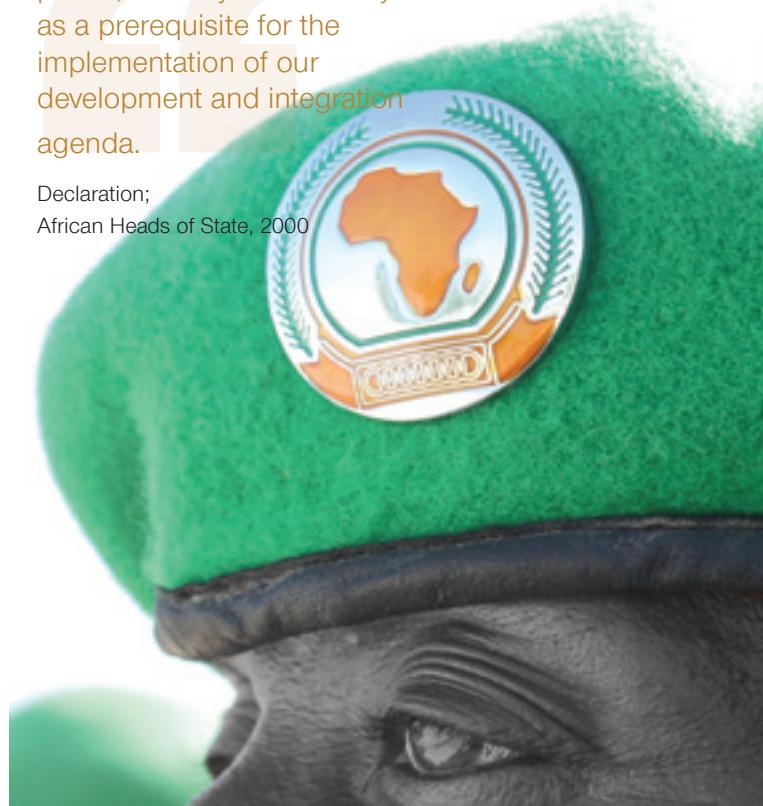
The APSA includes as its fundamental components; the [Peace and Security Council](#), the [Panel of the Wise](#), the [Continental Early Warning System](#), the [African Standby Force](#), the [Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms](#), and the [Peace Fund](#).

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

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



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 for 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 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 Trovoadá 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.

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 Management 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 for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs) 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 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.



Peace And Security Department



African Union Commission
P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22
Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org
Website: www.au.int/psd

