
Windhoek, Namibia, 23 – 25 October 2019
A. INTRODUCTION

1. The 11th African Standby Force (ASF) Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) was held at the Safari Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia, from 23 – 25 October 2019. The workshop was hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Government of the Republic of Namibia in partnership with the UK Government through the British Peace Support Team – Africa (BPST-A) and the Royal Norwegian Government through the Training for Peace (TfP) Programme.

2. The TIW brought together over 70 participants drawn from AU Members States, AUC, Planning Elements (PLANELMs) of the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the Africa Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), Training Centers of Excellence/Institutions (TCEs/TIs), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and strategic partners.

B. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

3. The main purpose of the 11th ASF TIW was to take stock of the implementation of the ASF Training Directives (2018 – 2020) while also projecting training priorities for 2021-2023. The workshop also offered an opportunity for participants to exchange views on coordination, harmonization, and lessons learnt and inter-regional cooperation related to ASF training. The TIW further provided a platform for engagement with partner institutions on the harmonization of technical support for continental and regional ASF-related training activities.

C. OPENING REMARKS

4. In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Wilhelmina Shivute, the Deputy Executive Director of the Ministry of Defense of Namibia, emphasized the importance of training for effective implementation of mandates of African Union Peace Support Operations and stressed the need for ASF training to respond to emerging threats.
5. On his part, Mr. Sivuyile Bam, the Head of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) of the African Union Commission, expressed AUC’s gratitude to the Government of Namibia for hosting the Workshop. He reiterated the objectives of the meeting which included the review of the current ASF Training Directives, and the identification of ASF training priorities for 2021-2023. He concluded that the recommendations and decisions from the workshop will be submitted to the upcoming 12th meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS).

D. AGENDA AND METHODOLOGY

6. The workshop was conducted in plenary as outlined in the agenda attached as Annex A

E. OBSERVATIONS

7. After deliberations the meeting observed the following:

   a. Commendable progress has been made in the implementation and attainment of the strategic objectives of the 2018–2020 ASF Training Directives.

   b. Development and piloting of multidimensional PDT standards and the use of simulation systems for Exercises requires special attention.

   c. There are no AU guidelines on responsibilities for the RECs/RMs on standby.

   d. ASF Training Policy standards and guidelines are not adequately responsive to current and emerging challenges.

   e. The formation of ad hoc coalitions namely RCI LRA, G5-Sahel Joint and the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram has introduced new and complex dimension(s) to the PSO concept where own forces are deployed in own territory under the authority of an external mandating organization.

   f. There is still a heavy dependence on partner funding for ASF-related capacity building and activities.
g. Some training offered by TCEs/TIs for ASF are not aligned to existing ASF policies and standards.

h. Nominees for ASF courses by Member States are not always drawn from the pledged civilian, military and police capabilities.

i. There is minimal use of the ASC as the primary source of recruitment for recruitment to missions and operations by the AU and RECs/RMs. Its use for training and deployment purposes has been hindered by the slow population of the roster.

j. There are capacity gaps in populating the ASC roster at the level of the RECs/RMs.

k. There is weak coordination, collaboration and information sharing amongst the RECs/RMs and TCEs/TIs, in the design and conduct of ASF training activities.

l. There is limited engagement between the Policy Organs of the AU and RECs/RMs on peace and security in respect of the employment of ASF.

m. The ASF Exercise Planning Guidelines were approved by the meeting following the presentation of its key highlights.

n. The cost of conducting exercises is increasingly becoming prohibitive thus limiting the frequent conduct of these exercises.

o. The meeting noted the ongoing reorganization of APSTA.

p. There is need for sectorial/component training and exercises.

q. TCEs/TIs are involved in the planning and conduct of exercises.

F. RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Based on deliberations and observations, the following recommendations were made:

   a. AU, RECs/RMs, Member States and TCEs/TIs should continue implementing the existing ASF Training Directives (2018 – 2020).

   b. The architecture for ASF training should be reviewed to make it more responsive to emerging threats and realities.
c. An annual coordination and planning meeting between the continental and regional planning elements should be conducted on a rotational basis in the regions.

d. TCEs/TIs should create a platform for improved collaboration and cooperation.

e. AU, RECs/RMs, Member States should continue to support the development of police and civilian components, including the design and conduct of component-specific exercises.

f. AU, RECs/RMs and TCEs/TIs should ensure that training offered for the ASF meets the training needs of the ASF.

g. AU should provide verification guidelines to RECs/RMs and Member States for pledged capabilities.

h. AU should expedite the provision of clear guidelines to the RECs/RMs on standby.

i. Member States are encouraged to nominate suitable candidates already on the ASC Roster and pledged capabilities for training and deployment.

j. AU should continue to provide guidance on in-mission training.

k. The AU should continue to explore a lessons-learned approach to gain and share insights into the rationale and formation of ad hoc coalitions.

l. The AU should continue to train, mentor and coach rostering focal points to address capacity gaps at the regional levels.

m. AU, RECs/RMs, Member States, TCEs/TIs and partners should enhance the mechanisms for coordination and information sharing amongst themselves.

n. AU, RECs/RMs and Member States are encouraged to share reports on the exercises they conduct.

o. The planning and conduct of exercises should be reviewed to explore the use of technology.

p. There is need to consider the concept of required capabilities vis-à-vis pledged capabilities in the review of the ASF concept.

q. TCEs/TIs should continue to be involved in the planning and conduct of exercises.
G. CONCLUSION

9. While considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the 2018-2020 ASF Training Directives, there is still the need for realignment of the ASF training architecture, among others, to current and emerging security threats and realities on the continent.

10. The AUC expressed gratitude to the Governments of the UK and Norway for providing technical support for the conduct of the workshop.

11. Participants also expressed profound appreciation to the Government of Namibia for successfully hosting the workshop.