APSTA PROFILE

Background

The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) was founded in 2001 as a framework for improving the capacity of peacekeeping training institutions by facilitating the exchange of best practices and capacity development support, and for enhancing the impact of peacekeeping initiatives by the AU and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs). As a non-profit making organization, APSTA was formally established in 2002 as the African Chapter of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC).

Vision: To be an independent Pan-African Association what promotes and harmonizes training for Peace Support Operations (PSO) towards a peaceful and stable Africa.

Mission: To facilitate the development of African capacity for peace and security through coordination, advocacy, harmonization and standardization of training, research and policy implementation amongst member institutions and in support of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Standby Force (ASF).

African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

Core Values

APSTA upholds the following core values as the guiding principles for its operations:

a. **Peace & security**: APSTA undertakes to perform its work with the greater aim of enhancing peaceful coexistence and human security in Africa and the world.

b. **Respect for diversity**: APSTA is committed to all forms of diversity, including color, culture, education, religion, languages and gender.

c. **Pan-Africanism**: APSTA subscribes to African unity and continental goals and recognises that it is African by identity but universal in outlook, thus open to learning from others as well.

d. **Professionalism**: APSTA works with staff that is skilled, well trained and have the right attitude.
e. **Human dignity:** APSTA subscribes to and supports the UN values concerning human rights and human security.

f. **Apolitical:** APSTA strives to keep out of politics and its influence, especially in its day-to-day management of its affairs and work.

**ROLE AND FUNCTIONS**

The role and functions of APSTA are derived from the Association’s Constitution, and the AU-APSTA Memorandum of Understanding (2008) aiming to support the capacity building of the African Standby Force (ASF).

For the above-stated purposes, APSTA, through its Member Institutions, shall have the following mandate:

a. Promote the provision and improvement of PSO training.

b. Coordinate and standardise PSO training in Africa.

c. Facilitate collaborative research and publications on the APSA, PSO and peace missions in Africa, including lessons learned and policy implementation support to the AU Commission and RECs/RMs.

d. Organise public forums to share and exchange information, best practices and discussions on emerging issues and thinking relating to PSO.

**Main Objective**

To facilitate the development of African capacity for peace and security through coordination, advocacy, harmonization and standardization of training, research and policy implementation support among member institutions, towards a peaceful and stable Africa.

**Specific Objectives**

a. To facilitate the ability of Peace Support Training Centres to dialogue with each other.

b. Hold meetings, seminars, conferences and exchange of information and communication between members in training, research and policy implementation support.

c. Organise workshops towards the harmonization and standardization of APSA-related policies, doctrines and Standard Operating Procedures, among others, in order to have a standardised training programme for Peace Support Operations (PSO).

d. Serve as a depository that offers advisory services to the AU (the Commission, the Peace and Security Council and RECs/RMs) on the APSA and other PSO issues.

e. Act as a sounding board for the African Union (the Commission, the Peace and Security Council and RECs/RMs) on the APSA and other PSO issues.

f. Serve as an instrument for the dissemination of research results, policy reviews and harmonised, standardised training materials, particularly within Africa.
• **One-stop Platform for regional and continental engagement** with African peace and security training, research and capacity building centres and institutions in the five (5) African Union designated regions of Africa.

• **Continental Database of Subject Matter Experts and Resource Persons** drawn from Member Institutions and affiliated African peace and security training, research and capacity building centres and institutions in the five (5) African Union designated regions of Africa.

• **State-of-the-art facilities** for conferences, seminars, workshops and training in various countries of Member Institutions and affiliated African peace and security training, research and capacity building centres and institutions in the five (5) African Union designated regions of Africa.

• **Gap analysis to facilitate cost-effective and efficient programmes** for partners that are already supporting or are willing to support various aspects of capacity development for the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

• **Continental network** of African peace and security training, research and capacity building centres and institutions in the five (5) African Union designated regions of Africa.

• **APSTA Website and database** facilitates access and visibility to comprehensive database and links to peace and security issues, capacities and events in Africa for Member Institutions, Partners, etc...

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**GOVERNANCE**

The APSTA Constitution established the following organs for the purpose of carrying out the business of the organization

- a. The General Meeting
- b. The Board of Directors
- c. The Chairperson
- d. The Secretariat headed by the Executive Secretary
- e. Treasurer.
- f. The Honorary Member (Patron/Matron).
- g. Individual Members. And
- h. Such other bodies as established by the General Meeting

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**Structure of the Secretariat**

The structure of the APSTA Secretariat consists of the following six (6) positions:

- a. The Executive Secretary (ES).
- b. The Deputy Executive Secretary (DES)/ Programs Coordinator.
- c. The Finance/Administration/Human Resources Officer and the Information and Communication Technology/Knowledge Manager.
- d. Support Staff, namely Customer Service/Front Desk/PA, and Office Assistant.
Prior to 1995 - Regional and sub-regional institutions for training and capacity building in Africa recognized and acknowledged the concept of regional Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Peace Support Operations (PSO) training and education.

1995 - The International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) was founded in Canada. It is an open and voluntary association of centres, institutions, agencies and programmes dealing with peacekeeping and peace operations research, education, and training.

1998 - A number of African military officers participated in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) in Malta.

2001 - As a natural development, the African delegates to the 2001 AGM of the IAPTC proposed to create an African Chapter of the IAPTC in order to sharpen the debate on peacekeeping training on the continent.

2002 - The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) took up this initiative in 2002, and jointly organized an African Chapter of IAPTC meeting on 12 October 2002. The inaugural meeting targeted delegates from several peacekeeping training centres and was attended by: ACCORD, Kenya Peace Support Training Centre, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre, South Africa National College, Southern African Development Community Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre and, Zambakro School of Peacekeeping.

- The meeting offered a forum where the different delegates shared and discussed issues pertaining to their work for purposes of exploring potential areas of co-operation. The forum also sought to develop strategies on how to contribute to the capacity building needs of the African Union (AU) and its subsidiary sub-regional organizations, which are the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs).

2006 – His Excellency General A. A. Abubakar, former Head of State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, accepted to serve as the first APSTA Honorary Patron. His Acceptance speech was delivered at the 5th AGM held on 28th August, 2006 at the Koffi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana.

2010-2011 – Management Committee instituted for effective decision making and supervision of the Work of the Secretariat and the Association.

2010-2011 – APSTA delinks from ISS and establishes an independent Secretariat domiciled in Nairobi Kenya; drafts its Constitution and Strategic Plan 2010-2013.

2013 – Institution of Annual Conference and General Meeting; witness of membership expansion, both geographically as well as multi-dimensionally; refocusing on research and improving knowledge management; enhancing networking among Member Institutions and stakeholders.

2013: APSTA adopted a standing policy to seek diplomatic status at the 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9th September 2013. The objective was to strengthen the independent Secretariat whose NGO status did not fully reflect the scope nor support the fulfilment of the Association’s potentials.
2014: APSTA’s initial membership included members of the African Chapter of the International Association of Peace Keeping Training Centres (IAPTC), but membership gradually grew, numbering institutions drawn from peace support operation (PSO) training-related institutions in key peace and security countries of Africa. As at 2014-2015, Member Institutions were:

1. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa.
3. Cairo Regional Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), Egypt.
4. Environmental Aid Nigeria (EAN), Nigeria.
5. Ethiopian International peace Support Operations Training Centre (EIPSOTC), Ethiopia.
8. Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa.
10. Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Ethiopia.
11. Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Ghana.
12. Legion Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), Ghana.
13. Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin BEYE (EMPABB), Mali.
16. Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership & Peacekeeping Centre (MLAILPKC), Nigeria; formerly the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre (NAPKC).
17. Peace Mission Training Centre (PMTC), South Africa.
18. SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC-RPTC), Zimbabwe.
19. Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), South Africa.
20. L’Ecole International des Forces de Securite (EIFORCES), Cameroon.
22. Rwanda Peace Academy (RPA, Rwanda).
23. SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC), Zimbabwe.

2017: Commencement of APSTA Transition period which ushered in the relocation of its permanent Secretariat from Nairobi Kenya to Yaounde Cameroon, where it was offered diplomatic status by the Government of Cameroon; Also, it rekindled engagement with the African Union based on the APSTA-AUC MOU; the Association initiated fresh engagement with the Government of Norway and a host of other partners.

2017 – 2019: As part of the Organization’s reform that was supported by the African Union Commission in 2017-2018, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon offered to permanently host the Secretariat in Yaounde and grant it the diplomatic privileges and immunities of an International Organization, along with significant financial and institutional support in intergovernmental matters.
2019 – APSTA accepted the Government of Cameroon’s offer and established its independent executive Secretariat in Yaounde Cameroon in 2019.

2020 – APSTA’s executive independent Secretariat is currently permanently domiciled in Bastos Yaounde Cameroon with diplomatic status and is composed of staff from Member Institution country’s, viz: Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF APSTA

The Secretariat has been implementing planned activities within the frameworks of the AU-APSTA MoU (2008), the AU-APSTA Funding Agreement (2012) and the APSTA Strategic Plan (2014-2019). The activities cut across seven (7) Strategic Issues/Goals enshrined in the APSTA Strategic Plan (2014-2019), including: needs-based training standardisation and harmonisation; publications of standardised and harmonised training materials; qualitative research into conflicts within the continent; and collaborative policy implementation support.

These activities, among others, contributed towards the achievement of the objectives of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)/ASF by the end of 2015 when the ASF was declared operational. In turn, the achievements thus helped to fulfill the purposes of the AU-APSTA MoU (2008) as well as the AU-APSTA Funding Agreement (2012).

The achievements of the Association underscore the optimism that APSTA possesses tremendous potential to contribute towards the efforts of the AU in maintaining and restoring peace and stability within the continent through capacity building training, education and related research, as well as through policy implementation support to the AU, Regional Economic Communities/Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) and member states.

More so, the recent engagements with the AUC present opportunities for African capacity-building institutions, especially in the areas of peace support operations training, education, research and policy implementation support, to play a key role in assisting in the operationalisation and capacity-building of the ASF towards the attainment of the objectives of APSA. Thus, the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is being articulated to encompass, in particular, the 4th Aspiration of AU Agenda 2063, of a peaceful and secure Africa.
The main activities outlined in the proposed **Work Plan 2020** revolve around the following, in addition to other governance and management activities:

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<th>Srl</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Atelier de travail</strong>: Renforcement des capacites pour cooperation civilo-militaire et protection du patrimoine educative et culturel en Afrique Centrale; heberger par l’EIFORCES Yaounde Cameroon en collaboration avec Communauté Economique des États de l’ Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), UNESCO, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), etc.</td>
<td>Q1 – Q2 (tbc)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Publication</strong> and launch of the Comprehensive Review of African Conflicts and Regional Interventions (CRACRI) Vol.2; to be anchored by a MI.</td>
<td>Q1-Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Policy Roundtable (Research Colloquium)</strong>: Addressing Capacity Deficits for enhancing regional capacity for 4th Aspiration of Agenda 2063; to be hosted by a MI.</td>
<td>Q3 – Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Field Survey</strong>: Examining the pertinence of training for effectiveness of Missions including AMISOM, MINUSMA, MNJTF, MONUSCO, etc; in collaboration with UNITAR?; and to be hosted by EMP, Mali.</td>
<td>Q3 – Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>Regional Research</strong>: Call for Proposals &amp; Research on Emerging Peace and Security Challenges in Africa (from scholars and researchers); to be hosted by a MI.</td>
<td>Q2 – Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td><strong>Regional Capacity Building</strong>: Weapons and ammunitions management in Non-UN Peace Missions; in collaboration with Making Peace Operations More Effective (MPOME); to be hosted by EIFORCES, by a MI.</td>
<td>Q2 – Q3(tbc)</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>Regional Capacity Building</strong>: Exit Strategies for UN/AU Missions in Africa; to be hosted by a MI.</td>
<td>Q2 –Q3 (tbc)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td><strong>Workshop</strong>: Comprehensive review of regional capacity for the 4th Aspiration of AU Agenda 2063; to be hosted by a MI.</td>
<td>Q2 – Q3 (tbc)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td><strong>Regional Capacity Building</strong>: Enhancing Criminal Justice System for COIN,CT &amp; CVE in collaboration with IIJ and CIJA; to be hosted by a MI.</td>
<td>Q3 – Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td><strong>Data Depository</strong>: Establishment and Operationalization of database/depository for data mining and analysis on PSO capacity building in Africa; in collaboration with UNITAR ???, UNESCO ???; etc. Domiciled in APSTA Secretariat Cameroon.</td>
<td>Q3 – Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td><strong>Harmonization &amp; Standardization Workshop</strong>: Review of Mechanisms for Evaluation and Certification of Trainers, Resource Persons, Mentors, etc.; to be hosted by a MI.</td>
<td>Q3 – Q4 (tbc)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>17th APSTA Conference, Board of Directors and AGM, to be hosted by EIFORCES, Yaounde, Cameroon.</td>
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MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

The Association was reformed during the transition period (2017-2019) including the relocation of the permanent executive secretariat from Nairobi Kenya to Yaounde Cameroon. During the transition period, the Association acquired a diplomatic status congruent with its functions as a continental organization. The number of active Member Institutions of the Association reduced during the transition period mainly due to financial constraints and other challenges experienced by most of these Members during the period. Thus, as at end of 2019, Active Members Institutions are:

1. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa.
2. Cairo Regional Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), Egypt.
3. Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin BEYE (EMPABB), Mali.
4. Ecole International des Forces de Securite (EIFORCES), Cameroon.
5. International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), Kenya.
7. Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Ghana.
8. Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership & Peacekeeping Centre (MLAILPKC), Nigeria; formerly the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre (NAPKC).
10. Rwanda Peace Academy (RPA, Rwanda).

Following the end of the transition period, with support from the Government of Cameroon, there has been a barrage of peace and security training, research, and capacity building institutions across Africa, requesting admission into the Association as members. However, this would be subject to Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting decisions in the last Quarter of 2020, in accordance with the Constitution as well as Policies and Procedures of the Association.

FINANCING THE ASSOCIATION

- **2012 – 2015**: European Union/African Union support to African Training Institutions based on AU-APSTA funding agreement;
- **2017**: Save the Children
- **2017 – Till Date**: Member Institutions’ subscription fees.
- **2018 – 2019**: Government of Norway/African Union support to APSTA yet to be accessed.
- **2018 – till Date**: Government of Cameroon support.
Resource Mobilization Strategy

The APSTA resource mobilization/fundraising strategy describes how the Association finances its mission and objectives as outlined in the strategic plans. The objectives of the strategy are:

- To ensure APSTA funds both its own organizational development and its programme as set out in the Strategic Plans.
- To ensure APSTA’s growth is sustainable and tailored to external financial environment and attendant risks.
- To secure multi-year grants to increase financial security, enable longer-term financial planning and reduce the burden of proposal writing and reporting.
- To diversify APSTA’s fundraising base to prevent over-reliance on particular donors.
- To establish organizational reserves to a minimum of 3 months to 6 months operating costs over the course of the plan.
- To avoid sources of funds that would bring APSTA into disrepute or damage actual or perceived independence.

Notably in the strategy, different types of income are classified according to levels of restriction as well as the continuity and security of funds as follows:

- Core financing (unrestricted, longer term)
- Programme funding (restricted, longer term)
- Project funding (restricted, shorter term)
- General fundraising (unrestricted, shorter term)

The Strategy seeks to support three broad aspects of the Association’s work, namely to:

a. Enhance the capacity of APSTA to undertake work that contributes to the achievement of the APSA Roadmap (2016-2020)/ASF, AU Agenda 2063 as well as provide support to AUC structures within the framework of the AU-APSTA MoU (2008)—and subject to the new provisions in the revised MoU, as well as the implementation of APSTA Strategic Plans.

b. Diversify the sources of funding for the maintenance of the capacity of the Secretariat, to carry out its coordination and liaison functions, and its ability to network, which are considered crucial for the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Association.

c. Enable the governance structures of the Association to dialogue and undertake their crucial constitutional management functions.

Stakeholders of APSTA

a. The African Union and its affiliated RECs/RMs.
c. International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC).
d. Development Partners.
e. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
f. Member institutions and other training, research and rostering institutions within the continent.
The Association fundamentally relies on partners and partnership to sustain its programmes and activities in support of the African Union capacity development for African Standby Force (ASF) and the entire spectrum of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

The Association remains African Union’s strategic-level coordinating one-stop hub for engagement with partners on capacity building, research and policy implementation in matters of peace and security for the ASF and APSA. This is based on the AU-APSTA MOU and the strength of the Association’s membership which covers the five (5) ASF designated brigades, encompassing the civilian, police and military dimensions. The brigades are spread across the Southern (SADCBRIG), Eastern (EASBRIG), Central (ECCASBRIG), Western (ECOBRIG) and northern (NASBRIG) parts of Africa, and so is the membership of APSTA.

Invitation to Partnership
APSTA remains imperative to continuing efforts towards building African capacity for peace and security through coordination, advocacy, harmonisation, and Standardisation of training, research, and policy implementation support, among member institutions, as well as with key external partners. No other single institution or organization in the entire continent is capable of holistically fulfilling these critical roles for the African Union and Africa.

Therefore, today, the Secretariat welcomes partnership with your organization in accordance with our Mission and Objectives. Programmes and activities articulated in the Work Plan 2020 could form the basis for initiating a much anticipated long-term partnership with your esteemed institution or organization.

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