APSTA News

AU invites APSTA to AMANI AFRICA II FTX

In its note verbal of 16 July 2015, the AU Commission has invited the Executive Director (ED) of the APSTA to participate in the AMANI AFRICA II (AA II) FTX Force HQ Training as a Mentor. The training will take place in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 10-15 August 2015. The Commission has also invited two experienced APSTA Mission Planners to participate in the AA II Final Planning Conference (FPC) in South Africa, from 10-15 September 2015.

The events are part of the preparations towards the conduct of the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise (FTX) in the Republic of South Africa in October/November 2015. Read more...

9th APSTA Management Committee (MANCO) meeting

The 9th APSTA Management Committee (MANCO) meeting took place at the APSTA Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya from 21 – 22 July 2015.

Consistent with its mandate, the committee was seized with a wide range of matters revolving around, but not limited to: the Report of the Executive Director, Issues including Meetings of Governance Structures, Annual work plan 2015, Draft Amended APSTA Constitution and other institutional, financial and administrative issues, the upcoming 13th APSTA Conference and AGM as well as the progress made in the implementation of relevant policies and programmes. Read more...

CCOPAB invites APSTA to 21st Annual Conference of IAPTC

The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Centre (CCOPAB) has formally announced invitations to the 21st Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), to be held for the first time in Brasilia, Brazil, from 28 September to 2 October 2015.

You will find further information on the Conference at: http://www.ccopab.eb.mil.br/iaptc21brazil/
ACCORD supports strengthening of the police dimension of peacekeeping in Africa, 8 July 2015

EMPABB concludes second stage Gender Post-Conflict (GPC) training, July 10 2015

EIFORCES scheduled to hold basic training on support to peace operations 28 September - 2 October, 2015

IPSS launches Flagship Journal on African-Centered Solutions, 29 July 2015

IPSTC holds opening ceremony of Plan International Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT), 28 July 2015

ISS scheduled to hold conference on “Building state capacity to implement the Arms Trade Treaty”, 09 - 13 November 2015

KAIPTC calling for applications for Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (PoC15) course Deadline: 13 September 2015

NAPKC scheduled to hold Civil-Military Cooperation Course (CIMIC), 16 - 30 October 2015

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Members Training Calendar
August 2015
Conclusions of 8th meeting International Contact Group on Central African Republic (ICG-CAR)...
Source: AUPSC, Monday 27 July 2015

The International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (ICG-CAR) held its 8th meeting in Addis Ababa, on 27 July 2015, under the co-Chairmanship of Ambassador Smaïl Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU) and Mr. Charles Richard Mondjo, Minister of State in the Office of the President in charge of National Defense of the Republic of the Congo.

Read more...

AMISOM: Update on Operation Jubba Corridor...
Source: AUPSC, Saturday 25 July 2015

On 19 July 2015, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) announced the resumption of active military offensive operations against the Al Shabaab. This offensive, code named Operation Juba Corridor is aimed at further degrading the Al Shabaab by removing them from their strong holds in the Gedo, Bakool and Bay regions of Somalia.

Since the start of Operation Juba Corridor, Duraned and the major town of Bardhere in the Gedo region have been recovered from the Al Shabaab.

Read more...

Communique of 526th PSC meeting at the level of ministers on AUC of Inquiry on South Sudan (AUCISS)...
Source: AUPSC, Friday 24 July 2015

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 526th meeting held at ministerial level, on 24 July 2015, having officially received the Report of AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan (AUCISS) and following an extensive exchange of views thereon, adopted 17 point decisions. Read more...

Beginning of deployment in Burundi of AU human rights observers and military experts...
Source: AUPSC, Wednesday 22 July 2015

The AUC has begun the deployment in Burundi of an advance team of human rights observers and military experts. This process will continue in parallel with the recruitment of civilian personnel and the generation of military experts’ from the AU Member States specifically dedicated to the mission envisaged in Burundi.

Read more...

AU PSC Commissioner meets EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development...
Source: AUPSC, Saturday 18 July 2015

Amb. Small Chergui, met with the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Amb. Neven Mimica on Thursday, 16 July 2015, at the AU Headquarters. The EU Commissioner was in Addis Abeba to attend the Financing for Development Conference. Read more...

AU strongly condemns terrorist attack in Cameroon…
Source: AUPSC, Tuesday 14 July 2015

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, strongly condemns the terrorist attack perpetrated in Fotokol, northern Cameroon, causing the death of more than a dozen people and wounding several others. Read more...
Review of Research Paper

Creating an enabling peacebuilding environment:
How can external actors contribute to resilience?

SOURCE: The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
ACCORD | BRIEFING PAPER | February 2014
AUTHORS: Gustavo de Carvalho, Cedric de Coning and Lesley Connolly
SUBJECT: Peace-building, Peace, Violence

Background

Peacebuilding theory and practice has evolved over 20 years in response to highly complex and fluid factors and contexts. Over this period, peacebuilding has developed several salient features, including its reliance on implementation in the long term, the interdependence of various actors and the multidimensional nature of processes. Current post-conflict situations indicate that in practice, peacebuilding needs to become even more innovative, flexible and responsive to the requirements of local actors and contexts, while remaining sensitive to the potential for unintended consequences and doing harm. This Policy & Practice Brief (PPB) departs from the premise that the creation of an enabling peacebuilding environment cannot be achieved through application of standardised prescriptions. An enabling environment is achieved as a result of actors’ ability to stimulate the development of social institutions that are sufficiently resilient.

The PPB points out the following important questions that emerge out of 20 years of peacebuilding practice:

- What are the critical elements that enable a society to avoid relapsing into violent conflict and to build sustainable peace?
- Linked to the above question, what can external agencies do – and what should they not do – to assist a society or country to develop an enabling peacebuilding environment?
- How can external actors provide such a society with the space it needs to allow its own resilience to emerge and for the country to achieve sustainable peace?

In addition the brief reveals on the above questions by providing an overview of some conditions necessary for the creation of an enabling peacebuilding terrain. It discusses the concepts of resilience and fragility and examines the importance of understanding these in the context of achieving viable peace. Finally, the PPB reflects on key peacebuilding conceptual and practical issues as a precursor to sharing recommendations aimed at ensuring that external actors can better support local activities and projects to ensure successful peacebuilding processes.

Fragility and peacebuilding:
From deficiencies to opportunities

Under this section the brief discusses the concept of fragile states and critically examines it from a perspective that links peacebuilding and state building with resilience. The brief advocates for an approach to addressing fragility that is focused on achieving stability, development and change.

Based on the New Deal, which is an agreement between fragile states and partners, and g7+ (2013) Fragility Spectrum Note the brief pinpoints an important departure point that views states affected by conflict as particularly threatened by fragility.

Furthermore, The PPB underscores:

“If a society is fragile, it means that some or all of the social institutions that govern its politics, security, justice and economy lack resilience. In that sense, an understanding of fragility is intrinsically linked to the concept of resilience”

In addition the brief underlines the fact that if the resilience of a particular society determines the extent to which it can resist pressures and shocks that carry the potential for relapse into violent conflict, the creation of an enabling peacebuilding environment should concern itself with safeguarding, stimulating, facilitating and creating sufficient space for societies to develop resilient capacities. The PPB also Highlights the direct effect of external dynamics and factors on fragility. Thus, efforts to improve resilience at local and national levels must incorporate multidimensional analyses of both the relationship between citizens and the state, as well as critical cross-cutting peacebuilding issues.

Next Page...
The role of external actors

The Brief identifies key aspects important for the role of external actors in peacebuilding, which includes:

- Peacebuilding should be understood as a complex and interdependent conflict management system which has, as one of its defining characteristics, a large number of diverse international and national actors.

- The benefits of improving coherence and coordination within peacebuilding must be clear to all involved, to ensure the diverse range of peacebuilding initiatives underway at any given time are as interdependent, coherent and coordinated as possible.

- External actors should understand the importance of local ownership for the success of peacebuilding processes and support it through enhancing institutional capacities to respond to challenges and stimulating the development of local laws, institutions and initiatives to support the management of social ills such as corruption and crime.

Recommendations

Among others, the brief provides the following Important recommendations to external peacebuilding actors:

- Focus on stimulating the development of local social institutions so that resident stakeholders and actors develop the resilience necessary to address and manage context specific tensions in a sustainable way.

- Shift focus to the implementation of effective capacity building initiatives by running longer-term processes that include mentoring and coaching of local and national actors, as opposed to activities such as training workshops and meetings.

- The creation of a common strategic framework, which will enable to harmonise multiple frameworks and enhance coordination between external actors.

- Support initiatives that adopt a long-term approach to peacebuilding.

A shift in thinking among external and internal actors is necessary if impact is to be increased. Whilst ‘ownership’ discussions are prevalent in peacebuilding, the rhetoric advocating for support of local ownership of processes is often challenged by the reality of the practices and methods used by external actors.

In order to create a stronger enabling environment for peacebuilding, international development actors need to identify more effective ways of meeting the peacebuilding needs of particular stakeholders.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the brief argues the existence of several different conditions that support the creation of an enabling environment for peacebuilding. Further it underlines that investing in peacebuilding needs to be based on a long-term approach, where planning recognises the complexity and non-linearity of crises and dynamics. The brief also underlines the fact that peacebuilding operates within contexts of varying degrees of vulnerability and fragility and countries need to self-identify the key impediments that challenge development and operationalisation of their social institutions.

The brief also highlights the fact that external actors should develop their approaches based on the assumption that peacebuilding is in desperate need of more realistic planning, greater frankness about the uncertainties and risks involved and greater awareness of the incremental progress, and occasional setbacks, societies are likely to experience in transitioning from fragility to resilience. Since such an approach would contribute to external actors being better capable of identifying needs and opportunities for contributing to the development of peacebuilding approaches.

To learn more about this Policy & Practice Brief visit ACCORD website at: http://www.accord.org.za/publications/policy-practice-briefs/1188-creating-an-enabling-peacebuilding-environment
The specific roles of African Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) are often ignored in the discourse on United Nations (UN) and regional peace operations. In this highly readable book, Colonel (Dr) Emmanuel Kotia attempts to fill this gap by providing a comparative analysis of the tasks, experiences and challenges of the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) to global peace operations in two different contexts: Lebanon and Liberia. The most fascinating aspect of the book is that the author was an active participant at crucial stages in both missions. Hence, apart from engaging the literature, the author also brings to bear his own experiences and knowledge in Liberia and Lebanon to enrich the analysis. The comparative approach taken by the author will no doubt be received as a welcome addition to the literature on peace operations and more significantly, beguile military personnel of other TCCs especially in Africa to record for posterity the rich experiences of their countries in UN and regional peace operations.

The book is well written and presented in eight different but interrelated chapters. Chapter one which is the introduction to the book is presented in three parts. The first part gives a background of the contribution of African states to peace operations since the deployment of formed troops to the UN Operations in the Congo (now DRC) in the 1960. The writer emphasized on the consistency and commitment shown by African states for contributing troops to UN and regional-led peace operations. The second part highlights the rich experiences of Ghana in UN peace operations since the 1960s, while the third part provides the theoretical, conceptual framework and methodological considerations of the book. The focus on King’s structural obstacles and intervention strategies; Alagppa’s framework analysis of regional institutions in conflict management; and conflict resolution theory in this chapter is particularly illuminating in understanding the dilemmas of third parties intervention in internal conflict. The broad range of methodological and theoretical insights which are discussed in this section is very remarkable because it is an aspect that most books of this nature lack.
**Call For Membership**

APSTA is convinced of the need to foster closer collaboration with the AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) and other stakeholders, for the realisation of “the future we want for Africa” that is conflict-free by 2063, especially in the face of emerging security threats to the continent.

In pursuit of its vision of a peaceful and stable Africa, APSTA welcomes all like-minded institutions and organisations to join and partner with the Association, to achieve a common worthy cause: “an Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.”

**Benefits of Membership**

- With a current active membership of 16 leading Policy Research Institutions and Training Centres of Excellence, the Association is a potential platform for collaboration in a wide range of issues relating to African peace and security, and for networking and exchange of programmes in that regard.

- The AU-APSTA Memorandum of Understanding established since 2008 makes the Association one of the key implementing partners of the AU Commission in the areas of capacity building, policy research and policy implementation support to the AU in relevant areas of the policies and programmes of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

- Membership of the Association provides tremendous opportunities for collaborative engagement with the AU Commission and other structures of the AU. Membership may also come with the possibility of funding support from the AU, through the EU Capacity Building Support to African Training Centre.

Find out more from the APSTA Website
http://www.apsta-africa.org/call-for-membership

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Please give us your comments and suggestions about the July edition of the APSTA E-Newsletter.

**Follow us:**
**Vision**

“To be the Premier independent Pan-African Association promoting a peaceful and stable Africa”

**Mission**

“APSTA exists to facilitate the development of African capacity for peace and security through coordination, advocacy, harmonisation and standardisation of training, research and policy implementation support among its member institutions”

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**Main Objectives**

- Facilitate the ability of peace support training centres to dialogue with each other
- Facilitate meetings, exchange of information and best practices
- Facilitate efforts to harmonise doctrine/SOPs of trainings for Member institutions (MIs)
- Serve as depository offering advisory services to African Union on peace support operation issues
- Act as a sounding board for Africa Union on Peace and Security
- Serve as an instrument for dissemination of research & expert oriented training, particularly in Africa

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**Core Values**

- **Peace & security**: APSTA undertakes to perform its work with the greater aim of enhancing peaceful coexistence and human security in Africa and the world
- **Respect for diversity**: APSTA is committed to all forms of diversity, including colour, culture, education, religion, languages and gender
- **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
- **Professionalism**: APSTA will work with staffs that is skilled, well trained and have the right attitude
- **Human dignity**: APSTA Subscribes to and supports the UN values concerning human rights and human security
- **Apolitical**: APSTA will strive to keep out of politics and its influence, especially in its day-to-day management of its affairs and work