APSTA News

13th APSTA Conference and AGM

The 13th APSTA Conference and Annual General Meeting took place at the Friendship International Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7-9 September 2015. For more information visit the APSTA website at: http://www.apsta-africa.org/posts/communique-13th-apsta-conference-and-agm

AU confirms APSTA participation in AA II FTX

The AU Commission invited the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) to participate in the AMANI AFRICA (AA) II Field Training Exercise (FTX) at the Army Combat Training Centre (CTC) in Lohatla, South Africa, from 19 October - 7 November 2015. Read more...

APSTA to facilitate FPU training harmonisation workshop

At the invitation of the AU Commission, APSTA will facilitate a workshop to harmonise and standardise Formed Police Unit training for the ASF and other African-led PSOs, in Zimbabwe Harare, from 30 November - 3 December 2015. Read more...

APSTA participates in 21st Annual Conference of IAPTC

The 21st Annual Conference of the International Peacekeeping Training Centres was hosted by Brazil from 28 September - 2 October 2015. The objective of the event was to promote partnerships on training and on the contributions for strengthening the structures of the regional associations. To find out more about the event visit: http://www.ccopab.eb.mil.br/iaptc21brazil/index.php/news

Upcoming Events

- AMANI AFRICA (AA) II Field Training Exercise (FTX)
  Date: 19 Oct - 7 Nov 2015
  Venue: Lohatla, South Africa

- Formed Police Unit (FPU) Training Harmonisation Workshop
  Date: 30 Nov - 3 Dec 2015
  Venue: Harare, Zimbabwe

- Workshop on Strengthening Child Protection in PSO
  Date: 7-12 Dec 2015 (tbc)
  Venue: KAIPTC, Ghana

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## Members News

Click on the heading to see details from source

- **ACCORD** contributes to discussions aiming at shaping peace operations in Africa, 15 September 2015

- **CCCPA** assumes presidency of APSTA, 9 September 2015

- **EIFORCES** scheduled to hold training for effective implementation of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) at GSCP, Addis Ababa, 9 - 13 November 2015

- **IPSS** holds a briefing session with a focus on "Presidential Term Limits", 17 September 2015

- **IPSTC** holds opening ceremony of United Nations Staff Officers' course (UNSOC), 7 September 2015

- **ISS** scheduled to hold seminar, titled "How is terrorism affecting Africa’s conflict trends?", 9 October 2015

- **KAIPTC** calling for applications for Election observation training, 1 - 6 February 2016. Deadline: 30 October 2015

- **NDCN** holds inauguration lecture for NDC Course 24, 22 September 2015

- **RPA** opens peace support logistics course, 1 September 2015

- **SADC RPTC** holds training on ending Sexual Violence Initiative, 12 August 2015

## Members Training Calendar

**October 2015**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Type of Training</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CCCPA</td>
<td>Gender Training on UNSRC 1325 for Arab Women Organisation</td>
<td>27/09 - 01/10</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>EMPABB</td>
<td>Fundamental Knowledge (ConnFond)</td>
<td>28/09 - 02/10</td>
<td>Civilian, Military &amp; Police</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>EMPABB</td>
<td>Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC)</td>
<td>12 - 23</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>EMPABB</td>
<td>Fundamental Knowledge (ConnFond)</td>
<td>26 - 30</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>EIFORCES</td>
<td>Fundamental Knowledge on PSO</td>
<td>28/09 - 02/10</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>EIFORCES</td>
<td>UN Police (UNPOL)</td>
<td>05 - 23</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>EIFORCES</td>
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<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>SSAFE – HPSS</td>
<td>12 - 15</td>
<td>Police &amp; Civilian</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>PSO Logistics- HPSS</td>
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<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>DRM Command Post- HPSS</td>
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<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>SGBV Train the Trainers - PCSS</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>Physical Security and Stockpile Management- HPSS</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>Personnel Safety and Security – HPSS</td>
<td>26 - 30</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>Gender in PSO – PCSS</td>
<td>26 - 30</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>IPSTC</td>
<td>UN Staff Officer Course - HPSS</td>
<td>26/10 - 13/11</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>KAIPTC</td>
<td>Police Pre-deployment Training</td>
<td>03 – 09</td>
<td>Civilian, Military &amp; Police</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>KAIPTC</td>
<td>Special Election Observers Training</td>
<td>05 - 09</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Joint Campaign Planning (JCP)</td>
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<td>KAIPTC</td>
<td>Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>NAPKC</td>
<td>Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration</td>
<td>18/09 - 02/10</td>
<td>Military and Civilian</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>NAPKC</td>
<td>Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC)</td>
<td>16 - 30</td>
<td>Military and Civilian</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AU strongly condemns attack on UNAMID peacekeepers in Darfur...
Source: AUPSC, Tuesday 29 September 2015

The Chairperson of the Commission condemns in the strongest terms and calls on the Government of Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice. She stresses the fact that attacks on peacekeepers constitute war crimes, and further reminds all the parties to the Darfur conflict of their obligation to respect the integrity of UNAMID. Read more...

Statement by H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of AUPSC...
Source: AUPSC, Saturday 26 September 2015

Communique: 547th meeting of AUPSC on situation in Western Sahara...
Source: AUPSC, Saturday 26 September 2015

AUPSC, at its 547th meeting held on 26 September 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted 7 points of decision on the situation in Western Sahara. Read more...

Joint Press Release: AU and partners end joint Security Sector Reform sensitisation in Madagascar...
Source: AUPSC, Friday 25 September 2015

The joint security sector reform (SSR) sensitisation of senior officials by the African Union (AU) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) that started on the 21st of September ended in Antananarivo on 25th September 2015. Read more...

Message of the Chairperson of AUC on the occasion of Peace Day...
Source: AUPSC, Monday 21 September 2015

The AU calls once again on all Africans and people of African descent, united in diversity; young and old, men and women and from all walks of life; to join in solidarity as we observe and celebrate this international day of non-violence and ceasefire. Read more...

AMISOM Troops Support Reconstruction of Bulla Burdo Town...
Source: AMISOM, Sunday 13 September 2015

AMISOM troops in the Hiiran region are renovating Bulla Burdo airport to facilitate commercial and humanitarian access to the town, movement to which has been obstructed by Al Shabaab terror. The AMISOM Djiboutian troops have also constructed Bulla Burdo Maternity Hospital. Read more...

Read the 1st Edition of AMISOM Police Newsletter

Joint Press Release: ECOWAS, AU and UN on situation in Burkina Faso...
Source: ECOWAS, Thursday 17 September 2015

The three organisations strongly condemn the gross violation of the Constitution and the Charter of the Transition and demand that the defense and security forces submit to the political authorities and in this case, the transition government. Read more...

EASF celebrates International Day of Peace...
Source: EASF, Monday 21 September 2015

EASF celebrated the International Day of Peace on 21st September 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The day was conducted alongside an open day branded the EASF Day. Read more...
The negative costs of delaying the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises

Background to the ACRIC

Under this section the Brief discusses the establishment of ACIRC as proposed by African leaders during 21st Ordinary Session of the AU in May 2013, to serve as a rapid response unit that would be available for swift deployments to areas besieged with violent conflict until the African Standby Force became operational.

The Brief also emphasises delays in operationalising the ASF and the unpreparedness of the regional brigades as a challenge, despite large ASF was mooted as the force to provide responses to crises on the continent.

Leaders failing to respond to security challenges

Under this section the Brief deliberates incidents in recent years, early 2013, that have exposed the failure of the AU to deliver an appropriate response to the threats posed as well as the commitment of African leaders to responding to security challenges on the continent. Which includes the immense threat the Malian government came under from Islamist group and the terror which has been caused in the north-eastern parts of Nigeria since 2009 by the terrorist Islamist group Boko Haram.

Next Page...

The African Union (AU) was caught unprepared and highly embarrassed as France, under Operation Serval, managed to stop Jihadi militants from the northern region in their tracks after they launched an offensive bid to take over the running of Mali. France’s response to the conflict was a result of the AU and the Economic Community of West African States’ (ECOWAS) indecisiveness over a clear response to the ongoing conflict in Mali.

Following this embarrassing episode, and the realisation that the proposed African Standby Force (ASF) was still a long way off from being ready, a decision was made to create a rapid reaction force capable of responding swiftly in situations of serious conflicts on the continent.

However, two years after the 20th AU Summit of 2013 in Ethiopia, where the idea for the African Capacity for Immediate Responses to Conflict (ACIRC) was proposed, there is still no sign of the force being operational. This despite the fact that the African continent continues to witness ruthless violence against its people in places such as the northern parts of Nigeria, where the militant group Boko Haram continues to wreak havoc on a daily basis.

This AISA’s policy brief, No 117, seeks to examine the factors behind the delay of launching the ACIRC, a force which could contribute positively to addressing some of the conflicts that are occurring on the continent. Due to this delay, African lives continue to be lost daily. The brief will conclude by suggesting that African leaders must intensify their pursuit of having a continental force that could be deployed in conflict areas and would go some way to addressing security challenges on the continent.
Review...

The Brief also argues:

“Although the ECOWAS countries have a plan to fight Boko Haram, the situation could have been addressed earlier if African leaders had supported and contributed towards the establishment of the ACIRC when it was first proposed”

A divided vision

The Brief underscores the lack of a political will demonstrated by some of Africa’s leaders in supporting the idea of the ACIRC when it was initially proposed. In addition, it emphasises the reality that there are numerous Africans who live in violent environments on a daily basis, despite a sizeable number of African heads of states pledged their support to the initiative and work is being done to ensure that the ASF becomes operational soon. Furthermore African leaders cannot sit and do nothing while Africans’ lives are threatened and lost through the actions of militant groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab.

The brief also points out the fact that initiatives under the leadership of the AU can achieve some level of success if they are coordinated and managed in an efficient manner. More over experience of successful initiatives, such as South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania took in DRC and able to provide DRC government troops the necessary support to drive out the M23 rebel group, can be of great assistance as African leaders try to carve out a proper response to the numerous security challenges affecting the African continent.

The consequences

Under this section the brief explores incidents that have occurred since President Zuma brought forward the motion to create the ACIRC in May of 2013, which reinforced the argument that it is vital to have a rapid response unit which can serve as a temporary force to address conflict situations that continue to affect millions of Africans, Which includes:

- Central African Republic (CAR), continues to struggle under the violence and instability caused by armed militants such as the Seleka rebel group
- Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency, mostly in the northern parts of the country, has affected many civilians
- The brief also underlines that the support of the ACIRC by countries such as Nigeria could have gone a long way to making the force a reality. Furthermore, the force could have played a significant role in reducing the impact of Boko Haram’s violence, had it been given the necessary support to operationalise it back in 2013.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Brief emphasises the importance of having a continental rapid response force, that can be promptly deployed to conflict areas, to achieve peace and security in Africa. Likewise, it provides recommendations that can act as a starting point to establishing an effective ACIRC, which includes:

- Nigeria should reconsider its position and support the ACIRC initiative
- Nigeria and its neighbors can urge other countries in ECOWAS which were also reluctant to support the ACIRC initiative
- A consultative summit should be convened to discuss issues such as funding and how best to operationalise the force
- The African continent needs the external support of non-African actors in fighting militant groups

To download and read this AISA’s briefing paper click : https://www.africaportal.org/dspace/articles/negative-costs-delaying-african-capacity-immediate-response-crises
The APSTA “Peacekeeping This Month” is an Online Journal for interested institutions and individuals to express informed opinion or share perspectives on all matters peacekeeping, peace operations or peace support operations (PSOs). The secretariat like to take this opportunity to invite all interested.

During September our Journal delivered to you:

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>A regional approach to the Horn of Africa: The expanded mandate of the AUHIP</td>
<td>World Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Mulugeta Gebrehiwot, PhD.</td>
<td>23 September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Going around in circles: Peacekeeping and stabilisation in Congo</td>
<td>The Netherlands Institute for International Relations</td>
<td>Hugo de Vries</td>
<td>26 September 2015</td>
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<td>Diversion of Arms and Ammunition in Peace Operations</td>
<td>Small Arms Survey</td>
<td>Eric G. Berman and Mihaela Racovita</td>
<td>28 September 2015</td>
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Click on the heading to view details of each post from the APSTA website.
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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FOLLOW US

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

We thank you!
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”

Main Objective

“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 member institutions, towards a peaceful and stable Africa”

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