African Peace Support Trainers Association  
Working together to improve capacity for peace support operations in Africa

CALL FOR PAPERS

JOURNAL OF AFRICAN CONFLICTS AND INTERVENTIONS (JACI)

Preamble

The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), supported by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and in collaboration with African Union Commission (AUC), introduces the *Journal of African Conflicts and Interventions* (JACI) and calls for the submission of well researched articles for consideration and subsequent publication. The JACI is a peer-review non-paywalled, diamond open access e-journal, which will publish two (2) issues a year (June and December). Its main objective is illuminating grey areas and recommending better approaches to conflict prevention or capacity building for more effective interventions, towards the attainment of sustainable peace and security, in accordance with the 4th Aspiration of AU Agenda 2063. The need for JACI is informed by APSTA’s pre-existing publication: *Comprehensive Review of African Conflicts and Regional Interventions* (CRACRI), which is accessible only to a limited target audience.

The JACI in contrast, provides a wider platform for scholars and experts on conflict studies as well as practitioners to share research findings and experiences and in-depth analysis of conflicts and interventions in Africa. Consequently, it aspires to animate policy-oriented conversations driven by applied research and scholarly case studies that interrogates conflict dynamics and interventions in Africa. A journal of this nature, has hitherto being absent in the African peace and security landscape for far too long. Thus, authors are encouraged to contribute critically and substantively to an increased understanding of the interactions between the contending variables of conflict, capacity and intervention in the continent. Accordingly, the Editorial Board comprises seasoned and leading experts drawn from the Academia, Training Centres of Excellence as well as peace and security institutions across the five designated regions of the African Standby Force (ASF).

The Problematique

Africa in the 21st Century, still disproportionately accounts for a high number of violent conflicts at a substantial cost to lives and development. The continent has been the battleground for one-third

1 AU Agenda 2063
of all armed inter- and intra-state conflicts since 1946. The post-Cold War Africa has experienced 75 per cent of conflicts afflicting the world since 1989. Genocide in Rwanda caused the death of about one million people in just 100 days. The second Congo war (“African World War”) killed an estimated 5.4 million people between 1998 and 2008, making it the most lethal conflict since World War II. In economic terms, the Global Peace Index (2016) estimated $13.6 trillion, representing 13.3 per cent of world GDP, as economic cost of violence to global economy in 2015, equivalent to $1,876 for every person on the planet. Similarly, Oxfam in 2007 had estimated £150 billion as cost of conflicts in Africa since the end of the Cold War, equivalent to all the foreign aid the continent had received over the same period. Today, at the threshold of a new decade in which Africa aspires to silence the guns in 2020, violent conflicts remain the continent’s biggest challenge as almost 50 of its 54 countries are embroiled in some level of conflict(s), and these are being exacerbated by the prevailing global COVID-19 pandemic since first quarter of 2020.

In the past couple of decades, the imperative of African solutions to Africa’s problem became obvious, especially in the 1990s when the global community grew fatigued with sending troops to Africa against the backdrop of the debacles notably in Somalia (1993) and Rwanda (1994). These occasioned the transformative contexts that engendered the emergence of the African Union which replaced the defunct Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2002 as the continent wide international organization for peace and security in Africa while also fostering the pursuit of integration and development on the continent. While some extracontinental powers and western nations pledged and significantly supported Africa with funding, training and logistics, the AU equipped itself with a robust African Peace and Security Architecture, including an African Standby Force (ASF) mechanism. Over time, the mechanism evolved models of interventions, which now includes “Coalitions of the Willing” besides formations of interventions by sub-regional organisations. However, Western funds, training and logistics support have begun to wane significantly and will continue the downward trend as long as the impact of COVID-19 lasts. Thus, Africa finds herself again at the crossroads, with urgent need for innovative, efficient and cost-effective solutions to her plethora of problems. It is against this background that this Journal is conceived.

Furthermore, over the last decade up till first quarter of 2020, conflicts and regional interventions have demonstrated a drastic evolution with the emergence and audacity of terrorist groups and networks across the continent. These have ignited new conflicts while fueling old ones. Earlier in the last decade, the resurgence of violent conflicts across the continent informed the 2013 Solemn Declaration by the AU’s Assembly of Heads of State and Governments which gave rise to the initiative of Silencing the Guns by 2020, a flagship project of the first ten-year implementation plan of the 4th Aspiration of AU Agenda 2063. However, at the threshold of the new decade 2020 – 2030, gun silencing remains elusive, while the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic has increased the complexity and volatility of peace across the African continent.

Consequent upon the foregoing, the JACI aims to underscore capacity deficits for addressing local and regionalized conflicts in Africa as well as strengthening the continent’s capacities for post-
conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, which are considered the weakest in AU’s partnerships for intervention.³

Call for Papers

Consequently, APSTA invites well-researched articles and book reviews from researchers, scholars, experts and think-tanks for the maiden edition of the *Journal of African Conflicts and Interventions*. The JACI prioritizes articles that bridge the nexus between capacity and effective interventions through in-depth analysis of respective conflicts with tools, models and frameworks including systems thinking, complemented with in-depth knowledge of interventions, and grounded on change theory or other apt theoretical frameworks. Thus, due to the multi-disciplinary nature of expected contributions, multiple-authorship is highly encouraged.

Sub-Themes

The sub-themes include but are not limited to the following:

1. Ontological, Epistemological, Methodological and Theoretical Issues
2. Conflict Analysis frameworks, models and Systems Thinking
3. Peace, Security and Development nexus in Africa
4. Women, Gender Peace and Security in Africa
5. Conflict Case Studies across communities, nations, sub-regions and regions of Africa
6. Community, national, civil-society, sub-regional, regional and external interventions
7. Peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstructions including transitional justice
8. Humanitarian interventions and development assistance
9. Interagency cooperation in interventions
10. Livelihoods, vulnerabilities and community resilience
11. Media propaganda and Strategic Communications
12. Early Warning and response systems and Conflict prevention
13. Peace Education and Peace Journalism
14. Traditional African Approaches to Conflict Management and Resolution
15. Political Ecology and Environment - Conflicts nexus
16. Global Best Practices on conflict analysis and resolution

Authors are to submit a 250-word abstract to apsta@apstaafrica.org no later than 31 May 2020. Submissions will be shortlisted by the APSTA Editorial Board, on the basis of a competitive selection process. The Editor-in-Chief will notify authors of shortlisted papers not later than 15 June 2020. Full papers of about 5000 words, and in conformance with the American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style, are to be submitted via apsta@apstaafrica.org on or before 31 July 2020. In addition, electronically generated footnotes may be used but sparingly. Shortlisted Authors may be required to make additional fact-checking or editing based on observations from the Editorial Board before publication. Final paper submission should be accompanied with a 200 word bio of authors, including a headshot. A moderate honourarium will be paid to authors for each accepted and successfully submitted article. Submissions will be accepted in all African Union languages. The maiden edition is expected out by December 2020.

Cecile Oyono THOM (PhD)
Executive Secretary
Editor-in-Chief

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