

**16th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa  
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**Peace and Security Cluster Report**

The engagement of the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security is long-standing. Over the years, this engagement has evolved in response to the needs and requirements of the African Union, through the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) in 2010 and the creation of new subclusters and the restructuring of existing ones. Thus, the Cluster has developed four subclusters – African Peace and Security Architecture, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Transitional Justice – to engage AUC, African Union organs, and the RECs/RMS.

The Peace and Security Cluster, its subclusters and members have been active throughout the year 2014 and have continued to contribute significantly to the effectiveness of African Union programming in peace and security in both the development of capacities to strengthen the strategic partnership, and in the enhancement and coordination of short-term operations.

In 2013, as cluster coordinator, UNOAU engaged with the AUC (specifically, the peace and security and political affairs departments) to develop a comprehensive, holistic and practical framework for partnership in peace and security. This approach was endorsed by the three headquarters departments concerned with peace and security – the department of political affairs, the department of peacekeeping operations and the department of peace and security – through a 2013 strategic review of UNOAU and by a subsequent meeting of the Secretary-General's policy committee. The framework brings together all key areas of the peace and security cycle, by building a common understanding between the United Nations, the African Union, the RECs/RMs on what constitutes the root causes of conflict; developing a joint analysis of conflict and agreeing on common approaches to its prevention; and peacekeeping, conflict management and peacebuilding. The Framework was signed by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the SRSG-UNOAU in April 2014. The RCM and the cluster system is the overall framework and delivery tool to coordinate and implement the new Joint Framework for a Strengthened United Nations–African Union Strategic Partnership in Peace and Security.

The following is a brief overview of the achievements of the Peace and Security Cluster in 2014:

**APSA Sub-cluster**

Under the lead of the Peace and Security Cluster, the APSA-Sub Cluster supported the implementation of the annual workplan of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in the Area of Peace and Security which enhances the cooperation and coordination between the two organizations on all aspects of conflict prevention, management, resolution, and peacebuilding. As such it reflects the UN engagement in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in its totality, and incorporates enhanced mechanisms for cooperation and coordination. At the practical level, it involves the development of common understanding of the root causes of conflict, joint analysis and assessments as appropriate, and joint approaches to addressing the conflict cycle. At the implementation level, the two organizations established a working group on Conflict Prevention to

collaborate from the earliest point on situations of political and peace and security concern in Africa. This group is comprised of eight teams made up representatives of the AU Commission, RECs/RMs, and UN system. The teams are dynamic and evolving and can be reduced or expanded depending on the AU priorities. The spirit of collaboration is based on regular and continuous engagement at the working level to build relationships of trust and openness, and strengthen “jointness” in response to conflict situations. This established mechanism provides for regular exchange of information, shared analysis on current situations of mutual interest, joint horizon scanning and analysis of opportunities for coordinated preventive diplomacy or early response to emerging political conflicts.

UNOAU continued to support the African Union (AU) and the RECs/RMs in the development and operationalization the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), especially the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Military Staff Committee (MSC). In particular, UNOAU continued to provide technical expertise and advice based on United Nations best practices and standards in the areas of planning, management and conduct of AU mandated Peace Support Operations (PSOs) based on the ASF framework. The office also continued to support the AU Commission Peace Support Operations Division in the planning for the conduct of Exercise AMANI FARICA II, which is one of the major milestone towards the full operationalization of the ASF. So far, the planning and preparation for the exercise has reached an advanced stage with the conduct of the political strategic seminar in September 2014, the conduct of relevant pre-exercise training courses and development of relevant exercise documents. With the designation of Republic of South Africa (RSA) as the new Host Nation for the Exercise, efforts are ongoing to deploy a reconnaissance mission to RSA to ascertain the suitability of the location and also agree on the modalities with RSA. Other activities undertaken as part of the preparation for the exercise includes, media training, logistics conference, evaluation conference, Main Events List and Main Incidence Lists (MEL/MIL) work session, consultative meeting with the RECS/RMs and the final planning conference among others. Also, there are ongoing efforts to harmonize both the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) and the African Capacity for immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) concepts.

– **The Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Subcluster to be added.**

– **The Emergency Preparedness and Response Subcluster**

The Emergency Preparedness and Responses Sub-Cluster (EPR), co-chaired by the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (HARDP) of Department of Political Affairs, held 7 seven meetings between February 2014 and February 2015 to address humanitarian issues in the African continent:

Briefing on the World Humanitarian Summit: The Sub-Cluster met 14 March 2014 at the African Union Commission (AUC). Natasha Kindergabn, (WHS Secretariat) briefed the sub-cluster members on the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and how they can be part of the processes. Member of the Sub-cluster enquired about the structure and implementation of the regional consultations in Africa emphasizing that Africans from all parts of the continent, especially affected communities, must be part of the consultation process. Participants suggested further consultations on a Steering Committee in Addis Ababa for WHS to be made up of different departments of the of the AUC Commission, humanitarian partners and Sub-cluster members to work towards a common African position. The African Union Commission Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons (HARDP Division) Co-chair of the Sub-cluster shared the roadmap of the Commission in creating a common African position on the Summit. The meeting also discussed HARDP’s Work Plan, humanitarian inputs to Agenda 2063 and plans to convene an Open Session of the AUPSC on the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

EPR Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons: Sub-Cluster met with UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Professor Chaloka Beyani on 20 March 2014 to present the "Collective Action in Support of the Implementation for the Kampala Convention", which is an initial draft plan to ensure the ratification and implementation of the Convention for the next five years (2013-2018). The meeting facilitated by AUC and UNHCR highlighted the need for universal ratification and implementation of the convention in Africa with special focus on countries that have the highest numbers of IDP's. The Sub-Cluster recommended the dissemination and sharing of success stories of durable solutions. Moreover, Professor Beyani emphasized that the African Union should use the opportunity to present the convention as the first regional/continental treaty on IDP's and Africa's contribution to international law at the United Nations General Assembly.

Report Launch of Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow The Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with AULO and the EPR Sub-Cluster launched OCHA's 2014 Flagship Report "Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow" on 12 June 2014 at the AUC in Addis Ababa. The panel discussion that followed the launch of the report, highlighted the gaps of the existing humanitarian system, stressing the need to create mechanisms that deal with multi-dimensional crises. Speakers and participants included Representatives from the African Union Member states, UN, AUC, humanitarian partners and members of diplomatic corps in Addis Ababa, who highlighted possible new initiatives on disaster risk reduction in Africa by the African Union partners and proposed concrete steps for a way forward in addressing the new challenges and called for collective responsibility and action.

Call for Early Action: the African Union Commission (AUC), the Intergovernmental Organization for Development (IGAD) and the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons convened a meeting on Early Action for the Horn of Africa on 14 June 2014 at the African Union. The meeting brought together Member States, humanitarian partners, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and amplify early warning alerts for a drought in the Horn of Africa and other food-insecure areas within Africa. In light of the early warning alerts issued by climate prediction centers and early warning systems and past experiences with the drought in 2011, the Commissioner, the IGAD Executive Secretary and Member States called for urgent early action and preparedness measures in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and the Sahel Region. The Kenya Red Cross, IFRC and Oxfam highlighted practical strategies for preparedness and risk management. The Department for Political Affairs, AUC also gave an overview of the outcomes and use of funds from the 2011 Pledging Conference in the Horn of Africa and declared its commitment in continuing to drive the agenda of turning early warning into early action in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis on the continent as seen in 2011, calling for a collective responsibility and ownership of Member States and humanitarian partners

African Humanitarian Week (18-22 August 2014): The AUC in collaboration and the humanitarian Community in Ethiopia marked the 2014 World Humanitarian Day with a week-long activities focusing on humanitarian situation in Africa. On 18 August 2014, OCHA, WHO and AUC hosted an Information Sharing and Working Session on Ebola Outbreak for African Ambassadors and Development Partners. Major outcome of this session led to an urgent meeting of PRC Sub-Committee and PSC closed Session on the next day that created the African Union Task Force on Ebola. On 19 August 2014 the Chair of PSC for the month of August, Republic of Burundi, organized an open Session on humanitarian Situation in Central Africa Republic, South Sudan and the Sahel Region. The PSC called for regular briefing on the humanitarian situation in the continent.

Exhibition booths during the African Humanitarian Week: World Humanitarian Day is celebrated on 19 August every year. In 2014, with the request of the chair of Peace and Security Council for the month of August (Burundi) OCHA and AUC celebrated a week long African Humanitarian Week at the African Union Head quarter in Addis Ababa. One of the activities of the week includes an exhibition by Emergency preparedness and Response sub-cluster on the theme of the World Humanitarian Day “Celebrating Humanitarian hero’s & heroes”. The Exhibition was able to show African Humanitarian hero’s & heroes to participants of other events that took place during the African Humanitarian Week.

African Union Member states briefing on Floods & Cyclones on the Southern Africa: On 5 February 2015, the Co-chairs of the EPR Sub-cluster organized a member state briefing on the floods and cyclones in Southern Africa. The meeting highlighted on the need to establish a predictable fund and risk insurance for natural hazards in view of the climate change and high levels of vulnerability. They have also recognized the need to increased inter-state cooperation and collaboration on response guided by regional and continental bodies. AUC to strengthen the ADMAP (African Disaster Management Platform) and the HANDS (Humanitarian and Natural Disaster Support) programs, still in their infancy and look for expanding ARC (African Risk Capacity) to include risk insurance against all forms of hazards, threats and disasters. The AU will deploy a humanitarian assessment team in the coming weeks as is the emerging practice.

Minutes of each meeting reflected not only the issues discussed and the agreements reached, they also reflected the action points to be taken, by whom and when. These action points were followed up during the subsequent meeting to ensure that members are accountable and also helped to institutionalize participation.

On Communication/Outreach/Advocacy, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Sub-Cluster has issued 3 Newsletter Ubuntu in 2014, which keeps partners and other interested parties updated on the activities of the Sub-Cluster and those of the African Union. Sub- cluster in Social Media - Facebook and Twitter. The ER&P Sub-Cluster a set up a Facebook page (515 likes/Followers) and Twitter Account. Both outlets serve as a platform for information sharing on humanitarian issues in Africa. It is also share information on Sub-cluster member’s joint activity with African Union Commission. Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/African-Humanitarian-Hub/396278090481567?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/African-Humanitarian-Hub/396278090481567?ref=br_tf), Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AfricaHumanHub>; Website : <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/topics/africa-humanitarian-hub>

The **Transitional Justice Sub-cluster** co-chaired by OHCHR is under the Peace and Security Cluster, while the Human Rights Sub-Cluster is located under the Governance Cluster. In 2014, the Sub-cluster continued its successful cooperation, and a series of achievements that have been realized by OHCHR-EARO and the AU/DPA and PSD on Human Rights in the context of Peace and Security Operations in two areas. The first success was the holding of a joint consultative meeting in early October 2014 to create synergies on various methodologies and planning processes in the context of Peace Support Operations, including the deployment of human rights observers in peace missions and the implementation of the UN SG Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, among others. The secondly project focused on the support of OHCHR to AUC is in the area of technical advice and expertise in the drafting process of its legal frameworks, such as the drafting of the AU Transitional Justice Policy Framework.

To enhance the OHCHR/AU collaboration in Peace and security, a technical level joint consultative meeting between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was convened from 1 to 3 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main aim of the

consultative meeting was to gain an understanding through sharing of experiences about the structure and functions of human rights components of the UN and AU Peace Support Operations established in the same context and their interactions with each other with a view to developing concrete proposals on how the OHCHR and AUC can cooperate on human rights issues in peace operations. During this meeting both entities agreed on the need to work together and make a collective contribution to protecting and promoting human rights and humanitarian law standards in peace operations. The meeting acknowledged that a strong legal and policy basis for strengthened collaboration between the OHCHR and the AUC exists which includes, the UN-AU Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Joint UN-AU Framework for an enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. UNOHCHR will continue to support AU aspirations with regard to institutionalizing human rights and the meaningful involvement of AU organs with a human rights mandate. As the deployment of human rights observers/officers in AU peace operations is relatively new phenomenon for the AU, there is OHCHR will support the AU to enhance its institutional framework for deploying AU human rights observers/officers in AU-led Peace Support Operations, including increased clarity in terms of mandate definition, functions, standard terms of reference, structures and standardized working methods specifically in human rights monitoring, reporting and investigations.

The implementation of the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) provides a platform for the AUC and OHCHR to cooperate in ensuring that international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law standards are adhered to by security forces of the AU as well those of the host Government. In Peace Support Operations, there is the HRDDP for which the core principle is that entities to non-UN security forces must be consistent with the Organization's Purposes and Principles in the Charter and its obligations under international law to respect, promote and encourage respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. UNOAU and OHCHR are jointly planning to organize training on the implementation of the UN HRDDP for AU civilian staff and military planners, tentatively in April 2015.

AU Transitional Policy Framework (ATJF) is an outcome of the Report of the Panel of the Wise entitled "Peace, justice and reconciliation in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Fight against Impunity". The Sub-cluster members have been supporting the AU in the development of this Framework, through support to the drafting process, providing technical expertise, and participation in the AU validation workshop which was organized in August 2014. The next step forward is the endorsement of the ATJF by the African Commission of Peoples and Human Rights (ACHPR), the African Ministers of Justice prior to its final adoption by the General Assembly of Heads of States.

Following the agreed guidelines for RCM processes, cluster members are continuing to make efforts to mainstream gender issues throughout cluster activities.