The African Peace Facility

Capacity building for the operationalisation of the APSA

**OBJECTIVES**

- Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to prevent, manage or resolve crises and conflicts in Africa by operationalising the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

**POLITICAL CONTEXT**

- The 2016-2020 APSA Roadmap¹
  → 5 strategic priorities, 32 specific objectives, 116 expected outputs
- The EU-funded APSA Support Programme contributes to:
  - conflict prevention (early warning systems)
  - conflict management (mediation and African Standby Force)
  - post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding
  - strategic security issues (terrorism, piracy, Small Arms and Light Weapons, etc.)
  - coordination and partnerships.

**At the continental level**

- The **AU Peace and Security Council** (AU PSC) is the AU standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It is supported by the AUJ, the PoW, the CEWS, the ASF and the Peace Fund.
- the **African Union Commission** (AUC) provides operational support to the AU PSC.
- the **Panel of the Wise** (PoW) is composed of five eminent personalities, and is vested with both peace-making and advisory functions on all issues pertaining to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability.
- the **Continental Early Warning System** (CEWS) provides timely advice on potential conflicts and threats in order to develop an appropriate and timely response.
- the **Peace Fund** is meant to provide the necessary financial resources for peace support operations and other operational activities related to peace and security.
- the **African Standby Force** (ASF) is organised in five regional standby forces raised and maintained by the RECs / RMs. Its functions include: observation and monitoring missions, other types of peace support missions, post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation, etc.

At the regional level, 8 RECs/ 2 RMs constitute the building blocks of the overall security architecture, collaborating closely with the AUC to ensure a common and tailored African response to crises.

**BENEFICIARIES**

- **African Union Commission (AUC)**
- **Regional Economic Communities (RECs):**
  - Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA)
  - East African Community (EAC)
  - Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
  - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
  - Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
  - South African Development Community (SADC)
- **Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMs):**
  - Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
  - North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2016, 78% of interventions by APSA actors were successful or partially successful in either de-escalating or preventing conflict.

- **67 violent conflicts** across Africa in 2016 were eligible for intervention by APSA actors:
  - AU and REC interventions in 28 conflicts (42%) through diplomacy, mediation, peace support operations, or a combination of all three instruments.
  - 86% of these interventions were deemed to be of high or medium quality regarding their appropriateness and conduct.
  - 78% of these interventions were successful or partially successful in either de-escalating or preventing conflict.

- **500 decisions** taken by the AU PSC since its establishment in 2004, on a growing number of peace, security and governance issues, ranging from protracted violence to political unrest related to unconstitutional transfers of power.

- **From 2007 to 2014:** The EU Joint Research Center developed a range of analytical tools and information monitoring systems which have contributed to set up the CEWS and, in turn, reinforced the AU’s ability to anticipate and prevent conflicts in Africa.

- **Main challenges to APSA’s full operationalisation:**
  - New forms of security threats such as cross-border terrorism.
  - Development of ad hoc, regional security initiatives, e.g. Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram or G5 Sahel Joint Force.
  - Unity of action: Misunderstandings persist around the application of the principle of subsidiarity in the maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa.

**APF FUNDING**

Used for:
- **14 AU Liaison Offices**, enabling the AU to maintain its presence in conflict and post-conflict countries, thus facilitating crisis follow-up and monitoring.
- **Salaries for 169 staff** from the AUC Peace and Security Department (PSD).
- A **Command, Control, Communication and Information System (C3IS)** to facilitate situation awareness, tracking and reporting between the AU in Addis Ababa, the regional level and the mission in the field, in order to better manage African-led peace support operations.
- The operationalisation of the **AU Continental Early Warning System (CEWS).**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** [www.africa-eu-partnership.org](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org) #AfricanPeaceFacility