## Early Response Mechanism (ERM)

### OVERVIEW

- **When?** 04/11/2009 to 31/07/2019  
- **How many actions:** 37  
- **How much?** EUR 30 million  
- **With whom?** The African Union and the Regional Economic Communities  
- **Why?** To endow the AU and RECs with a source of immediately available funds in urgent situations for the first stages of mediation activities, fact finding missions and ad-hoc reinforcement of peace support operations’ planning cells.  
- **How?** Via the signature of a Contribution Agreement for ERM I and a Delegation Agreement with mitigating measures for ERM II.

### OBJECTIVES

- Increasing the role and decision-making capacity of the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on mediation and preventive diplomacy.  
- Strengthening their capacity to set up conflict prevention operations through mediation, political negotiation or shuttle diplomacy.  
- Improving strategic planning processes of African-led peace support operations.
HIGHLIGHTS

3 ongoing actions
- ECOWAS-led support to the Liberian elections.
- ECOWAS-led support to the Sierra Leone elections.
- SADC-led conflict prevention mission to Lesotho (SAPMIL).

Main achievements
- Flexibility: adapted to African partners’ needs.
- Leadership: increased role for the Regional Economic Communities in mediation and preventive diplomacy.
- Decision-making: analysis of situations on the ground and better planning documents enable RECs to make informed decisions.

Main challenges
- Intractable nature and unforeseen evolution of many African conflicts.
- Broad scope vs limited budget.
- Implementation period too short to address mediation activities.

EARLY RESPONSE MECHANISM SINCE 2009
A source of immediate funding for the first stages of actions aimed at the prevention, management or resolution of crises

Duration of actions
- Urgent mediation and political negotiation activities: maximum 12 months.
- Urgent unforeseeable actions: maximum 6 months, extendable to 9 months.

The approval process of the ERM takes up to 10 working days.

BENEFICIARIES

The African Union Commission

The 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)
- Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)
- South African Development Community (SADC)

The Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMs)
- Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
- North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)