

## Aide Memoire

### The Africa Union (AU) and the Challenge of Peace and Security in Africa

Joint research project between

The Nordic Africa Institute and

Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)

This short brief is an outcome of a brainstorming session between NAI Research Director Fantu Cheru and Dr. Kwesi Aning, head of conflict prevention, management and resolution department of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra. The idea is for both institutions to come to an agreement to undertake research jointly on the peace and security challenges in Africa, particularly in generating research-based analysis and knowledge to inform critical policy-making institutions within the African Union, and Nordic engagement with the Africa Union. In order to kick start the research project, we propose to undertake a number of background/scoping studies first, to be followed with a series of structured dialogues with various partners, experts and policy makers and in close consultation with the African Union. Results of the study shall be disseminated through policy dialogues, and joint publications: policy notes, discussion papers and monographs. We have agreed to proceed accordingly:

1. Overview of the global discourse on peace and security, and the place of Africa in the unfolding debate and literature. To kick start the discussion, we need a background/scoping paper written from a global and an African perspective dealing with the emerging trends and challenges in the area of peace and security.
2. This paper will be prepared by a three person research team and shall focus on three issues:
  - *Supply side*: the role of African states and regional organizations in the peace and security discourse, and how the AU, African states and non-state actors in conflict relate to the RECs, and external actors: donor institutions, such as the EU, the UN and bilateral actors and transnational actors/networks.
  - *Demand side*: exploring how local civil society actors engage in peace and security issues. How do CSOs relate to the state or regional institutions such as the AU, and Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) like SADC, IGAD, ECCAS, and ECOWAS? What is the state of play here?
  - *The changing dynamics of security in Africa*: We need to pay special attention to defining the changing dynamics of security—i.e., (a) beyond the state; (b)

exploring collective efforts to map, and address trans-border transnational risks;  
and

3. A second background/scoping paper shall focus on

- Climate change in relation to population movement and demographic change(s) and emerging insecurities in Africa.

The project is projected to cover a period of twenty four months. The first four months will be spent on the scoping exercise, which will be followed by an experts meeting which will discuss the results, and further define research themes, and policy priorities. By focusing on the African Union the project broadly deals with the following important questions. Does the AU have the human capacity to efficiently implement its highly sophisticated Peace and Security Architecture? Can the AU fully utilize high-level manpower when it affords to hire them? What is the nature of the emerging relationship between the AU professional staff and the political bureaucrats? How does it affect the overall workings and effectiveness of the peace and security organ of the organization? What kinds of analysis and training do decision-makers within the AU Security and Peace Council need to enable them make well-informed choices and decisions relating to achieving the high standards of free and fair elections, post-electoral peace, and incontrovertible orderly political succession? How can the AU effectively engage other multilateral organizations, such as the UN, the G-8 and the G-20 and to ensure democratic consolidation in ways that reinforce and deepen peace and security on the continent?

It is expected that the collaboration between the Nordic Africa Institute and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre will be of mutual benefit to both organizations. Based on its proven track record as a centre for research on Africa, its availability as an autonomous space for facilitating convening high level meetings, NAI working together with the KAIPTC, a centre of excellence for research and training in peacekeeping, peace building and conflict management can build on each other's strengths to deliver high quality knowledge and training for improved decision making. NAI can also offer capacity building and dissemination opportunities that also complement KAIPTC's grounded studies and deep knowledge of the African RECs and the African Union.

After the planning meeting in Uppsala on September 7, we have both agreed to the broad terms of the joint collaboration, the tasks to be undertaken, and the time frame of twenty four months for the joint research project.