



Terms of Reference for the Peace and Security Cluster

I. Introduction

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union signed on 16 November 2006, the AU/UN Declaration on a Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union. The Declaration opens additional space for new programmes and projects aiming at the overall strengthening of the African Union as the primary continental institution in Africa. The Framework, which is designed to attract and facilitate United Nations (UN) support to the African Union (AU) is comprehensive and focuses on the following broad areas:

- Institution building, human resources and financial management;
- Peace and security;
- Human rights;
- Political, legal and electoral matters;
- Social, economic, cultural and human development;
- Food security and environmental protection.

The 7th Regional Consultations meeting of the United Nations Agencies working in Africa held on 14-15 November, 2006 in Addis Ababa recommended the creation of a separate Peace and Security Cluster. In the earlier structure of the cluster system, Governance, Peace and Security were under the same cluster.

II. Functions and Tasks

The attainment of durable peace and security in Africa has long been recognised, and reiterated in the above-mentioned Declaration, as one of the critical issues that should be addressed in order to pave the way for the continent's progress in other important sectors. It is in this context that special attention and support should be given to the Peace and Security agenda of the African Union. Such support should focus on activities of the Peace and Security Council and its Secretariat, information dissemination strategies, African Standby Force, Panel of the Wise, role of civil society organisations, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction, prevention of recruitment of child soldiers and their rehabilitation, landmines, small arms and light weapons. To this end, the Cluster on Peace and Security will have the following terms of reference:

1. Provide coordinated support to the Peace and Security Agenda of the AU including monitoring and assessing progress in the activities of the Cluster as well as transmitting reports to the UN and the AU;

2. Provide technical support to the Peace and Security Council of the AU in its efforts, within the framework of Article 8 of the PSC Protocol, to establish specialised expert working groups that would bring forward the required expertise to the PSC in its consideration of situations that require recourse to expertise;
3. Provide assistance towards the establishment of an automated information gathering and sharing mechanism focusing on the development of an AU website specially designed and dedicated to the activities and outputs of the Peace and Security Council;
4. Support the AU in sourcing and providing expertise needed in the establishment of the African Standby Force and, the planning and deployment of peace support missions;
5. Mobilise political/diplomatic and financial support for the effective functioning of the Panel of the Wise, as established under Article 11 of the PSC Protocol to support the efforts of the PSC in promoting peace, security and stability in the continent. Such support will also include assisting the AU develop the capacity for further resource mobilization;
6. Mobilise technical, financial and material support, within the framework of Article 20 of the PSC Protocol, towards establishing a mechanism for regular interaction between the PSC, other organs of the AU such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and African civil society organisations, including women's organisations, in the area of peace and security;
7. Provide technical support to the Peace and Security Council of the AU, within the framework of Article 13 (13), on training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents in international humanitarian law and international human rights law at both operational and tactical levels;
8. Support the AU's effort to coordinate and conduct humanitarian action aimed at restoring life to normalcy in the event of conflicts or natural disasters. This would include fostering close collaboration between AU's peace support operations, humanitarian and post-conflict recovery activities and cooperation in addressing the problems of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons;
9. Support the African Union in the dissemination and implementation of its Comprehensive Policy on Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development for countries emerging from conflict;
10. Provide support to the AU in achieving its agenda for making Africa a landmine free zone;

11. Assist the AU in its bid to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers and to effectively rehabilitate former child soldiers;
12. Support AU's efforts aimed at curtailing the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons including by convening awareness-raising and sensitization seminars;

III. Internal structure and working arrangements of the Cluster

1. Establishment of Sub-Clusters

Three Sub-Clusters will be created in order to enable the Cluster achieve the tasks outlined above.

- i) Peace and Security Architecture of the AU
- ii) Post Conflict-Reconstruction and Development
- iii) Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation

In addition to the functions signified by their titles, these sub-clusters will also undertake cross-cutting issues, including namely, support to AU Policy Organs.

2. The sub-clusters would focus on the following sub-themes:

a) Peace and Security Architecture of the AU

- Peacekeeping Operations
- Early Warning System (s)
- Conflict Prevention – Panel of the Wise
- ASF

b) Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development

Support for the Implementation of the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development including dissemination of the Policy, organization of sensitization seminars and workshops, development of operational guidelines and resource packages, fostering close coordination between AU, RECs and Civil Society on PCRD issues will constitute the basis for the work of this sub-cluster. Activities of the Sub-Cluster will include, inter-alia: -

- Security (human security)
- Political Governance and Transition
- Humanitarian/Emergency Assistance
- Reconstruction and Socio-Economic Development
- Gender
- Post-conflict food security assessment and agricultural reconstruction
- Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment and Reconstruction

c) Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation

Taking into consideration the magnitude of post conflict reconstruction and development challenges facing the Continent in regard to human rights, justice and reconciliation, this Sub-Cluster will focus on coordinating UN System support to AU's PCRD agenda in these areas. The Sub-Cluster will also coordinate inter-cluster and intra-cluster activities and communication on the nexus between peace and security, human rights, legal, electoral and governance issues.

3. Conveners of sub-clusters

- a) Peace and Security Architecture of the AU – AU/Peace Support Team
- b) Post-Conflict-Reconstruction and Development – UNHCR
- c) Political, Legal, and Electoral Matters – OHCHR