



Together in the same objective: The engagement between the AU PSC and the UNSC

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Summary

The engagement between the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council has been very important for the crisis management in the African continent. Both Councils work with the same objective. However this interaction have challenges and demand commitment.

This presentation aims to address the characteristics of the work done by the 30 member states that compose these Councils towards peace and security in Africa.

The Councils

United Nations Security Council

- **Creation: 1945 (operating from 1946)**
- **Composition: 15 members; 5 permanent seats; 10 non-permanent seats**
- **UNSC is the main agency of the UN and is responsible for the maintenance of the international peace and security [UN Charter, Chapter I, Article 1]**

The Councils

United Nations Security Council

- Responsibilities inside the UN:
Identification of crises; military actions;
peaceful settlements; sanctions;
recommendations; reports; resolutions
(binding decisions)

The Councils

African Union Peace and Security Council

- Creation: 2003 (Operating from 2004)
- Composition: 15 members; 5 three-years term seats; 10 two-year term seats
- AU PSC is an arrangement to facilitate response to conflict and crisis situation in Africa [P. R. to the Establishment of the PSC, Article 1]

The Councils

African Union Peace and Security Council

- Responsibilities inside the AU: Promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa; preventive diplomacy; peace-making; peace support; peace-building; humanitarian action; disaster management; etc.

The Councils

- Both Councils work in very different dimensions
- UNSC meets every day while the AU PSC meets at least twice a month
- UNSC represents 194 member states; the AU PSC represents 54 member states
- Although they work differently, the objectives are the same

The Interaction

- Main topic of interaction between Councils: PKO
- AU and UN Councils meet at least twice a year, in New York and in Addis Ababa
- AU PSC members send letters to the UNSG to bring to the UNSC's attention any peace and security matter in Africa

The Interaction

- AU member states also have informal meetings with UNSC members
- AU members acting as non-permanent members of the UNSC are important actors; as well as the AU representation in NY
- UNOAU: Important mediation between what happens in NY and in Addis Ababa

The Challenges

- **Difference of dimensions: Both Councils address crisis in Africa differently**
- **UN-AU relation in the UN Charter:
[Chapter VII – Regional Arrangements]
The AU cannot act independently; the UNSC must be consulted**

The Challenges

- African challenges:
 - Capacity
 - Colonial background
 - Economy;
 - Governance
 - Regional Integration
 - Culture
 - Common Sense

The Work in Progress

2004:

- Creation of the APSA (AU);
- Presentation of the “10 years Capacity Building Programme” (UN);
- EU African Peace Facility and G8++ Global Peace Operation (UNSC Members)

2007:

- Establishment of periodic meetings (UNSC/AU PSC)

The Work in Progress

2010:

- Offer of training packages for the PSC secretariat (UNSC);
- Creation of the UNOAU (UN);
- Establishment of collaborative field missions (UN);
- Establishment of the Joint Task Force (UN)

Current Engagement

- The present interaction between both Councils shows a clear evolution of the relations
- Both organizations understand the importance of a productive exchange
- Despite the efforts to overcome challenges, some issues still demand more commitment

Thank you