

The Role of the African Union in Peacekeeping in Africa

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Abstract: For many years, since many countries obtained independence in Africa, the African Union has demonstrated a great role in the promotion of peace and peacekeeping in conflict zones in Africa. Since its inception as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), one of the body's fundamental roles has been to preach, promote, and restore peace in Africa. The African Union has also collaborated and strengthened the efforts of some regional peacekeeping groups, like the Economic Committee of West African State Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), to ensure peace and order are obtained. Thus, the African Union has been very determined to prevent conflicts across Africa, and resolve conflicts, and restore peace in conflict zones. However, despite the tremendous effort being exerted by the African Union in its peacekeeping roles, there is still much more needed for the creation of a peaceful Africa.

List of Acronyms

AMIB	African Union Mission In Burundi
AMIS	African United Mission in Sudan
AMISEC	African Union Mission for Support to the Elections in Comoros
AMISOM	African Union Mission In Somalia
AU	African Union
APSA	African Union Peace and Security Architecture
PSC	Peace and Security Council
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
ECOMOG	Economic Committee of West African States Monitoring Group
EU	European Union
ECOWAS	Economic Committee of West African States
HCFA	Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
MAES	African Union Electoral and Security Assistance Mission
MIOC	AU Observer Mission in Comoros
OAU	Organization of African Union
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
CEWS	Continental Early Warning Systems
RECs	Regional Economic Committees
SADC	Southern Africa Development Committee

SLM/A	Sudan Liberation Movement/Army
SOMA	Status of Mission Agreement
TFG	Transitional Federal Government
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNAMID	AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Introduction

The African Union (AU) is a body constituting of 55 member states in Africa. As a continental body, it spearheads the general affairs of the continent, more so the aspect of maintaining peace and security across Africa. In Africa's quest to ensure the achievement of peace and the aspirations of Agenda 2063, that among other things aspires for a peaceful and secure Africa. Africa intends to achieve this using constructive mechanisms that will ultimately foster and promote a sustainable market. One effective way to achieve peace and security has been through effective dialogue, which will eventually avert many possible conflicts, or help resolve emerging conflicts in African countries. The African Union also aims at achieving success in creating a peaceful Africa through the promotion of tight sociocultural relationships and genuine tolerance among African states. In so doing, the African Union created the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and the Peace and Security Council (PSC). Therefore, the AU targets the inculcation of peace and peaceful mindsets in the minds of young children and youths through effective peace education. Consequently, the agenda 2063 for Africa is determined to see an Africa free of conflict, and where conflict might inevitably emerge, the AU aims at resolving such conflicts through peaceful negotiation and dialogue to establish lasting peace. A good example of the African Union's determination to ensure lasting peace in Africa is the initiative of Silencing the Guns by 2020 (The African Union Commission, 2020).

It is also important to note that the African Union has also worked with other regional security groups or means to help in ensuring peace and security across Africa. These regional formations include the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The African Union's quest for a peaceful Africa is mostly done through conflict prevention and resolution, mainly through political solutions. Generally, this paper shall discuss the role of the African Union in peacekeeping and its peacekeeping interventions made in Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, and Comoros.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC)

In most cases, the issue or organ for peace and security answers the question of instability, conflict, lack of peace, and the need for resolution in an area of concern. I hold a strong view that the Peace and Security Organ is mainly a problem-solving or conflict-prevention organ. When there is no problem or conflict, or even a possible conflict, we do not think of the Peace and Security Council. Therefore, Sithole (2018) argues that the emergence of numerous intra- state conflicts and problems within the African continent serves as a base for the establishment of the Peace and Security Council.

Prior to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had created a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution in 1993, which was to look at issues of security and maintain peace in the continent. However, like the League of Nations, which failed to prevent the occurrence of the Second World War, the OAU's Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution could not prevent the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 and other brutal conflicts in Somalia State, DRC, Angola, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, etc. Sithole (2018). Hence, the need to replace the OAU was prudent, as a new strategy for considering the welfare, peace, and security of the continent and its people.

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union was formed in South Africa in 2002 under the provision of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and it started operation in 2003. This is the primary organ responsible for keeping and maintenance of peace in the continent. It constitutes of representatives from the five different blocks of Africa. The PSC looks into conflicts and conflict-related issues to signal to the main commission what to do to avert the occurrence of conflict, and to resolve conflicts that have already erupted, the PSC serves as the main conflict resolver for the African Union (Moolakkattu, 2010). Fafore, (2016) expressed that despite the AU's strong quest for peace and peace restoration, it has been very concerned with using African solutions (mechanisms) to solve African problems. This warranted the constitution of the Panel of the Wise to look into peace issues and help the Peace and Security Council in its process of peacebuilding in Africa. The willingness of the five regional blocks to constitute an African Standby Force that is to be deployed within thirty days after the start of a conflict, and the Continental Early

Warning System (CEWS), which was established to report on matters related to threats of insecurity and possible conflicts, are good and effective mechanisms put in place by the African Union to ensure peace and security within the continent at all time.

Furthermore, both Moolakkattu (2010) and Fafore, (2016) underscored the function of the Peace and Security Council in collaboration with the various Regional Economic Committees (RECs) as well as the Continental Early Warning Systems (CEWS) for the sole purpose of keeping and maintaining peace within the respective regional blocks in Africa. That is to say, the efforts of the ECOMOG of West Africa, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) of South Africa, the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) of East Africa have been very instrumental in the roles they played in restoring peace in those regions. It is therefore important to note that the different RECs in Africa have great roles to play in the process of keeping peace in the regional blocks, which will ultimately lead to the realization of peace and conflict-free Africa.

Consequently, regardless of all the financial and structural challenges faced by the Peace and Security Council, it has registered numerous endeavors by collaborating with other sub-regional bodies and foreign bodies like the United Nations and the European Union in a bid to proffer solutions to the problems of conflict and instability in the continent of Africa (Fafore, (2016).

The Role of the African Union in Peacekeeping

The African Union has been very instrumental in its role to handle crises on the continent of Africa. In its role, the AU has contributed to the sending of peacekeeping troops, and various other peacekeeping assistance, to conflict zone areas in Africa. However, it is important to note that the AU's peacekeeping interventions have been principally done through dialogues and other peaceful negotiation strategies. According to Ezeibe, (2014), the AU provides enough mediation and other conflict-resolving mechanisms to ameliorate disagreements or disputes that erupt within the continent. This is mainly done to avert the crimes and inhuman treatment that may result from conflicts. Ezeibe (2014) further stressed that despite the challenges and confrontations faced by the AU regarding its efforts to keep peace across Africa, it is very clear that the success of the union in conflict prevention, conflict management, and conflict resolution is huge. Over the years, the AU has embarked on various peacekeeping engagements in the continent, by means of negotiations, mediations, and other forms of dialogue, without or before the use of force or intervention to restore peace. In 2018, for example, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union played a vital role in the mediation of power transition in Zimbabwe, following the military takeover of the country. In this plight, the AU collaborated with Southern African regional leaders to negotiate the situation between the army and the political parties, to ensure a peaceful transition. This yielded the dividend of enhancing a peaceful transition through a transitional government, leading to the conduct of democratic elections (African Union, 2021).

The role of the African Union has also been very instrumental in engaging in peace-building and peace-making by embarking on a series of proactive activities and functionalities intended to resolve conflicts that erupt within the continent. OSSA (2018) argued that the African Union has not only limited its role to drawing policies and mechanisms for peacekeeping, but the union also has a series of diplomacy engagements, electoral support, and observations in an attempt to even prevent conflicts from erupting. The African Union has also been very determined in financing peace talks and peace advocacies as means of inculcating the culture of peace in the minds of Africans. For instance, the AU has carried out a series of peace negotiations and engagements in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Comoros, Mali, Somalia, and Sudan; as some of the most noticeable conflicted areas in the continent of Africa. Over the years, it has proven to be very challenging for the AU to keep peace and uphold peace and security across Africa due to the undeterminable patterns of some conflicts in the continent. Therefore, in its quest to ensure its effectiveness in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and conflict management, the AU has committed itself to work with African Regional Economic Committees (RECs), the European Union (EU), the G-8 states, the United Nations (UN); to ensure effective peacekeeping across the continent.

Furthermore, the African Union has registered great success in its attempt to avert conflict eruption within the continent of Africa through the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) (International Peace Institute, 2012). In its functions, the CEWS helps the AU in the identification of threats and great concerns that may result in conflict if not addressed by the union. Thus, the CEWS monitors and provides the AU with information regarding the possibility of conflict eruption. The CEWS also, upon spotting the environment and stakeholders in a possible conflict, gives constructive recommendations to the AU, to establish a peaceful negotiation or dialogue to avert possible conflicts. Notably, the CEWS played an important role in identifying the situation in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia, in 2020. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU was alerted for intervention. Though the conflict was unavertable, as the crisis broke out into a severe war in November 2020, CEWS's signals were clear and prophetic (Institute for Security Studies, 2021).

Mwiraria (2017) further highlights the role of the AU in providing the different regional blocks with the capacity needed to effectively keep and maintain peace within their respective regional blocks. As argued by Fafore, (2016), the primary interest of the AU is to use African means to proffer solutions to African problems. Thus, the training and building of capacity of member states

with relevant skills and technical assistance will help such states to resolve or avert possible conflicts from emerging, through the use of mediation and dialogue. For example, in 2016, when The Gambia experienced a change of government through elections, the then-incumbent president objected to the results of the election after one week, threatening that he will not step down. Then the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) intervened through peaceful means of dialogue and negotiation and finally persuaded the former president to step down. They provided a safe place for asylum for the president and send in some ECOMOG forces to see The Gambia through a peaceful transition.

African Union peacekeeping in some countries in Africa

Among the number of peacekeeping missions carried out by the African Union, a few countries always come to mind as far as AU peacekeeping is concerned. Reflecting or referencing such countries is not in any way meant to be derogatory in nature, but rather remembering the stand and efforts exerted by the AU in order to restore peace in those conflicted areas. It shows how important and instrumental the Peace and Security Council has been as per the mandate and goals of the AU to have a peaceful continent free of conflict. Therefore, AU's role in restoring peace in Comoros, Sudan, Burundi, and Somalia has been outstanding.

African Union peacekeeping in Comoros

Historically, Comoros consisted of three small islands, namely Grand Comore (Njazidja), Moheli (Mwali), Anjouan (Nzwani), and Mayotte. These islands gradually fell into French domination and were considered overseas territories of France. In 1975, Moheli, Grand Comore, and Anjouan gained independence through a referendum, while Mayotte remained under France (Svensson, 2008). Since independence, the islands have been in serious instability with over 20 military takeovers within the last three decades, as the three islands continue their struggle for power. However, what propelled a trigger was the continued centralization of power and decision-making in the Grand Comoros, which agitated the residents of Anjouan and Moheli, and forced them to declare themselves independent. This action was not welcomed by the Comorian government and the international community, leading to the creation of presidents, parliaments, and local governments in each of the islands, with a central presidency that was responsible for the newly formed confederation (Svensson, 2008). Nonetheless, the eruption of conflict within the island became imminent due to the secessionist ideologies who disliked the revenue contributions and revenue sharing by the Union government.

According to the Peace and Security Council (2007), one of the main issues that warranted the intervention of the African Union in Comoros was the refusal of the Anjouan president to step down after his term in office was considered over. In order to avoid the possible conflict from erupting during the elections in Comoros, the AU sent The African Union Electoral and Security Assistance Mission (MAES), tasked to provide security and stability for the conduction of elections, facilitating the reclaiming of the authority of the Union government on Anjouan. However, this mission was not impactful on Bacar and the Anjouanese and required reinforcement.

Despite the suspension of elections by the Union government due to tensions, President Bacar went ahead to conduct elections in Anjouan in 2007 and declared himself the winner of 90% of the votes (Svensson, 2008). The Union government and the international community denied the result and levied some sanctions on Bacar, in a bid to pressurize him. In 2008, the Union government requested more support from the African Union in reinstating the authority of the Union government on Anjouan, and the AU responded positively. An intervention named 'Operation Democracy in Comoros' was constituted, and an interim government was inaugurated by the AU pending elections which were later held in June 2008 and a new president was elected.

Consequently, Svensson (2008) and the Peace and Security Council (2006) highlighted the important role played by the African Union in ensuring a peaceful transition during the 2008 elections in Comoros. The presence of 39 military observers of the AU Observer Mission in Comoros (MIOC), as well as the African Union Mission for Support to the Elections in Comoros (AMISEC) comprising 462 military and civilian police personnel, are great evidence of the pivotal role played by the African Union in ensuring a peaceful Comoros through a peaceful transition of government, reconciliation, and security throughout the election period (before, during, and after elections).

African Union peacekeeping in Sudan

The conflict in Sudan (Darfur), like many other conflicts in the continent, owes its genesis to several factors such as political, economic, as well as social factors. However, predominantly the conflicts in most places within the continent of Africa reach their climax due to political reasons, and Sudan is not an exception in this. According to Searcy, (2019) President Al-Bashir of Sudan, who came to power through a military coup in 1989, remained president for 30 years. All this while Al-Bashir had claimed electoral victories that have been widely criticized by Human Rights Watch as unfair and fraudulent in nature. This, coupled with many other factors hampered the stability and progress of Sudan in terms of development, respect for human rights, and democratic governance.

The Darfur war erupted in 2003 when the Darfuri insurgents launched an attack on the government of the day, provoking a brutal response from the government with a campaign to eliminate the non-Arabs from Darfur. According to Searcy, (2019), more than 300,000 Darfuri were killed within five years, and up to date a significant figure of over 300,000 people live in camps in neighboring countries. The signing of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) of the Abeche Agreement on September 3, 2003, between Sudan and Chad resulted from the concerns of the continuous fleeing of refugees from Sudan to Chad, which provided for a 45-day ceasefire, control of irregular groups, peace negotiations, etc. (Flint & de Waal 2005).

Subsequently, the African Union took over the negotiations and established the Darfur Peace Agreement. The Union spearheaded a series of peace talks in Sudan leading to the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (HCFA) which consisted of a team of military observers accompanied by the African United Mission in Sudan (AMIS) as a protection force. This mission was to serve as a watchdog on the agreed ceasefire. The AU also facilitated the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in Abuja between the government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, which was to ensure peace and security in Sudan (Fadul & Tanner, 2007). Moreover, to ensure the effectiveness of peace agreements that were signed between the Sudan government and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, the AU established the Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) with the government of Sudan, in a quest to continue monitoring the status of the war in Sudan and provide assistance to the victims of war. Consequently, the African Union peacekeeping missions in Sudan (Darfur) have made significant impacts in trying to restore peace and order in Sudan and minimizing the brutalities on the civilians by providing numerous peacekeeping engagements, dialogue, and protection for the people.

African Union peacekeeping in Burundi

According to Svensson, (2008), the population of Burundi is made up of 85% Hutus, and 15% Tutsi. Despite the Hutus forming the majority, the Tutsi have dominated and controlled the majority of the leadership positions in Burundi. The Hutu felt marginalized and deprived of certain access to political positions, leading to so many rebellion uprisings in Burundi. In 1972, the conflict had metamorphosed into a genocide leading to the killing of 100,000-200,000 Hutus, while many were forced to leave Burundi to the neighboring countries. It was only natural at this time of the Hutu oppression and their extrication from the country would generate a lot of anger and dissatisfaction in them. Consequently, the different rebel camps stemmed up to form a rebellion movement against the Tutsi government. In the 1990s, the rebel groups launched several attacks on the government. The conflict reached another boiling point in 1992, when Melchior Ndadaye, the first democratically elected Hutu president, was assassinated, witnessing another unstable moment across the country (Svensson, 2008). The intervention of the African Union at this time was much needed and necessary, to resolve the conflict and to prevent the brutality of the war.

The African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) was established in 2003 to verify and control the Ceasefire Agreement between the Burundi government and the different rebel factions. The AMIB was tasked with the responsibility to create a liaison between the parties, providing protection, monitor the ceasefire agreements, to facilitate the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), and provide humanitarian assistance to the people especially the victims of war (Timothy, 2005, and Svensson, 2008).

Therefore, it is important to note that the role played by the African Union through the AMIB, and its collaboration with other partners like the European Union, World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) resulted in significant peacekeeping gains in Burundi. Even when the AMIB deployment term ended in 2003, the African Union had not relented in its efforts to peacekeeping Burundi. Through the support of South Africa and other countries, the AMIB mission got both financial and military support that enabled it to stabilize most parts of the country (Agoage, 2004).

African Union peacekeeping in Somalia

Historically, the conflict in Somalia, like the root causes of many conflicts on the African continent, erupted due to historical, political, and social factors. What is currently known as Somalia is a product of former British Somaliland and former Italian Somaliland. Since after independence, Somalia has series of political unrest due to the imprints of colonial division among the people, disregard of the Somalis' religious and clan systems of administration, differing views from elites of the British-Somaliland territory and the Italian-Somaliland territory, and the unequal treatment of people from the different Somali clans (Dersso, 2009). Furthermore, Bradbury (1994) argued that before the colonial rule in Somalia, there was no single unit of administration and that political identity was mainly linked to the traditions of the existing clans. The war between Somalia and Ethiopia in 1977, in which Somalia was defeated, served as a great constituent to the political division of Somalia, as the Somali Unity fell and more severe conflicts erupted (Dersso, 2009, and Bradbury, 1994).

The Somalia conflict reached its climax during Siaad Baare's regime. In 1991 the Somalia conflicts rounded up and the outbreak of war was probably unavoidable. Siaad Barre came to power in 1969 through a military coup and established an authoritarian rule, a socialist economic policy, and a highly corrupt government. Consequently, Barre's administration became very

unpopular among the other clans, leading to more serious fragments among the clans and the formation of revolt groups who intend to oust Barre from power. The state became highly militarized, clans split even further without clear political objectives. Despite the adopted a democratic system of government based on parliamentary democracy, the country lacked the human resources, institutional culture, and social basis necessary for a smooth system of governance (Dersso, 2009).

The rise of the Al-Shabaab religious movement that sought to establish an Islamist Somalian state also caused a lot of instability in Somalia, by rejecting the peace process and the new government (Musoma, 2021). This movement gained support from countries within the region and in the middle east and intensified their insurgence in the region to refuse the attempt Ethiopia to oust them (Dersso, 2009). The confrontations between this group and the government gave a new phase to the conflict in Somalia.

The continuous unfolding of crises in Somalia necessitated the intervention of the African Union in the form of peacekeeping missions, which was in no smaller way than has been in other countries where conflict erupted. Dersso, (2009) highlighted that in 2004, the 14th Reconciliation Conference held in Kenya saw the formation of the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia that will look into the affairs of peace and security and smooth transition. This conference was spearheaded by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is one of the regional blocks of the African Union.

Furthermore, in 2007, the AU ordered the withdrawal of Ethiopia from Somalia and instituted support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to see Somalia through a smooth transition. Thus, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) at the capacity of 8000 personnel peacekeeping force was to be sent to Somalia, to keep peace and restore order (Dersso, 2009, and United Nations, 2007). In later years, when the peacekeeping task of the AU proved difficult, the United States and other countries advocated for the intervention of the United Nations, leading to the sending of a UN force by the United Nations Security Council. Moreover, the constituted Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Somalia continued to rely on the support provided to it by the African Union and other external bodies for a smooth transition and maintenance of peace in the country (Dersso, 2009).

Challenges to the African Union peacekeeping role.

Over the years the African Union has been notably recognized for its great role in peacekeeping across the continent of Africa. However, this is not to say that the union has been having a smooth ride in its attempt to restore peace in conflict zones in Africa. The AU faces numerous challenges as far as its peacekeeping quest in Africa is concerned. Lisk (2012) stressed that some of the challenges the AU face in peacekeeping include insufficient human resources and strong institutions that will resolve conflicts emanating in the continent. Looking at the rate and range of conflicts happening in the continent, it has been very challenging for the AU to give the necessary human resource support, to resolve the many conflicts in Africa. Such human resource shortage includes the limited interpreters to help during the peace mediation process in conflict areas (APSC, 2010). For example, in 1994 when the Rwanda genocide was severely on, there was also war in Somalia; and when the Comoros crisis rose to prominence in 2007, the Darfur conflict in Sudan was still instilling a lot of fear. Additionally, in West Africa, there was a brutal civil war in Sierra Leone in 1991, and the Liberian civil war of 1989-1997. Owing to the number of conflicts happening around the continent in a given period, it becomes very challenging for the African Union to send enough human resources for peacebuilding missions.

Furthermore, Williams (2011) argues that the long bureaucratic nature of the AU's response to conflicts or possible conflicts serves as a great challenge to the union's effectiveness in peacekeeping. For instance, despite the early signs of the crisis eruption of Somalia, the Africa Union took an effective peacekeeping role and mediation between 2004 to 2007 when the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) formed the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004, and the support given to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) by the African Union (Dersso, 2009, and United Nations, 2007). Thus, the intervals between the rise of conflicts in some parts of Africa and the AU's intervention to resolve such conflicts have constituted a great challenge to the union's peacekeeping missions.

Additionally, another great challenge to the African Union peacekeeping mission in Africa is the absence of a strong memorandum of understanding between the African Union and the existing Regional Economic Blocks in the continent. This impedes the reluctance of the Regional Brigades to give full participation and support at the time of conflict. This lack of collaboration between the Regional Standby Forces and the African Union Standby Force makes certain regions, like North Africa, not involved in practically taking part or immediately responding to the call of the African Union Standby Force for peacekeeping (Fafare, 2016).

Consequently, the African Union also faces serious financial challenges in its quest for peacekeeping in the continent of Africa. While Fafare (2016) argues that the African Union Peace and Security Council relies heavily on funding for the effective execution of its functions, the union has suffered a serious lack of funding to send adequate peace missions to conflict zones in Africa. For example, when the African Union Mission in Somalia envisaged the deployment of 8000 strong force, the financial means were not available for the deployment to be done at once, instead, the contingent only reached 3400 when Burundi gave in

its support in 2007 (Dersso, 2009). Fafore (2016) further highlighted that the role of Nigeria in the ECOMOG forces in Sierra Leone and Liberia in 1990, and the support given to AMIB by South Africa in 2003, were the only two cases where the AU had full funding for their peacekeeping missions. The African Union relies on funding donations done by voluntary members, which greatly influence its decision-making process and proactiveness in some cases. According to Amani Africa (2019), the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) were both withdrawn from the conflict zones due to financial challenges.

Coordination among stakeholders for the implementation of peace missions remains a big challenge to the efforts of the African Union peacekeeping efforts. Countries that contribute to the funding of peace missions seem to have a greater say than the countries that send troops (Amani Africa, 2019). These two parties in most cases have disjointed interests towards the implementation of peacekeeping missions by the African Union, as there is no smooth relationship between the mission leaders (fund providers) and the contingents on the ground.

Finally, the African Union peacekeeping missions have been seriously confronted in a mismatch between the peacekeeping mandate and the available resources to cover the expenses of the missions. While it remains the primary mandate of the African Union to mobilize peacekeeping missions for conflict resolutions in Africa, it lacks the financial strength to fulfill this mandate without the support of other organizations or partners like the United Nations (Amani Africa, 2019). The union lacks sufficient resources to commensurate the demands of its peacekeeping mandate.

Conclusion

The African Union peacekeeping missions in Africa have registered some significant success as well as challenges over the years. As reflected in one of its primary goals in Agenda 2063, the AU makes it fervently clear that it is determined to push toward achieving sustainable peace across Africa, and in places where conflicts emerged, the AU is committed to resolving such conflicts.

The African Union has successfully carried out peacekeeping in Africa through its creation of conflict management instruments. Some ways include sanctions regimes, mediation initiatives, minimizing conflicts via peace-making, peacekeeping operations, peaceful negotiations, consensual interventions, and maintenance of peace (Williams, 2011). Consequentially, the organization has managed to deploy AU missions to conflict-prone zones such as Sudan, Darfur in 2004-2007, Comoros, Burundi in 2003-2004, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, and Somalia to name but a few. Moreover, the African Union has managed to send observers to a vast number of African countries during elections to maintain peace in the aftermath of those elections (Kabau, 2012).

The African Union has been very instrumental in the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former conflict perpetrators into society. Moreover, the AU ensure that all countries that experience forceful military coup d'états are returned to democratic civilian rule as a mean of avoiding coercive rule that will result in many conflicts. However, the AU has been confronted by many challenges leading to the slow process of achieving or maintaining peace in places where conflicts erupted.

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