

FOCUS ISSUE 11: PEACE AND SECURITY

I. Overview of Commitments

Africa:

Key **AU Declarations** on peace and security include:

- ◆ The **2001 Constitutive Act of the African Union**, which identifies the realisation of peace, security and stability amongst the aims of the organisation, agreed upon by all Member States.
- ◆ The **2002 Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (PSC)**, which entered into force in December 2003 and encompasses the prevention of breaches of peace and security, the resolution of conflicts and the promotion of peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction on the continent. It foresees a number of organs and instruments through which the PSC can achieve its objectives, including a Panel of the Wise, a Continental Early Warning System, the African Stand-by Force, a Peace Fund, and a Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework.
 - The **Panel of the Wise** is intended to enhance the AU's mediation capacity by engaging in preventive diplomacy before potential conflicts escalate into crisis. The members of the Panel of the Wise were appointed by the January 2007 AU Summit, and the process of finalising the Panel's functional modalities is still underway.
 - The **Continental Early Warning System** aims to harmonise and coordinate early warning systems existing in the frameworks. The AU recently drafted a 'Framework for the Operationalisation of the CEWS', which was approved by the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2007.
 - The **African Stand-by Force** is regionally based and consists of 5 stand-by brigades, military observers and civilian police. This Force is meant to provide the AU with a combined standby capacity of 15,000 to 20,000 peacekeepers. A Military Staff Committee advises the AU Commission on peacekeeping and other related issues.
 - The **Peace Fund** is a funding mechanism to provide the necessary financial resources to support peacemaking efforts and other related operational activities.
 - A **Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework (PCRD)** was endorsed at the AU Summit in Banjul in July 2006. According to its objectives, the AU should provide strategic leadership and oversight of PCRD processes on the continent.
- ◆ AU member states have also committed to a number of actions contained in the **African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance**, which aim, *inter alia*, to promote stability, peace and security on the continent.
- ◆ The **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** encompasses a Peace and Security Initiative, which sets out targeted actions directed at (i) promoting long- term conditions for development and security; (ii) building the capacity of African institutions for early warning, as well as enhancing their capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts; and (iii) institutionalising commitment to the core values of NEPAD through leadership.

- ◆ The **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa** recognizes women's right to peace and provides a detailed roadmap for their protection during armed conflicts.
- ◆ Several initiatives have also taken place in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The **Bamako Declaration on a Common African Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons** was adopted by African states in 2000.

The Bamako Declaration constituted an important step towards legally binding instruments passed at subregional levels. These include:

- The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials signed in August 2001, which entered into force in 2004;
 - The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted by states in East Africa, the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa in 2004;
 - The Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons signed by ECOWAS Heads of State in June 2006.
- ◆ The **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)** – which brings together eleven countries in the Great Lakes region in recognition of that fact that regional conflict requires regional solutions -- has sought to address the role of natural resources in conflict through development of a regional Protocol against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, which will be the first of its kind in Africa.

International Community:

- ◆ The UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) was adopted by the General Assembly in 2001 and it entered into force in July 2005. The Firearms Protocol constitutes, to date, the only global legally-binding instrument addressing the issue of small arms. Under this Protocol States are expected to:
 - enact laws to eradicate the illegal manufacture of firearms, including tracing existing illicit weapons and prosecuting offenders;
 - cooperate to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illegal manufacture and trafficking of firearms;
 - tighten controls on the export and import of firearms; and
 - exchange information about illicit firearms.
- ◆ In July 2001 more than 140 states adopted the **Programme of Action (UNPoA)** to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The UNPoA promotes measures such as stock-pile management, controls on exports and arms brokering activities, weapons collection and disposal, and disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration of ex-combatants.
- ◆ The **Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development** was adopted on 7th June 2006. The Declaration commits countries to promote sustainable security and a culture of peace by taking action to reduce armed violence, and sets 2015 as the deadline for achieving measurable reductions in the global burden of armed violence. The Declaration commits signatories to:

- Support initiatives to measure the human, social and economic costs of armed violence;
 - Undertake assessments to understand and respond to risks and vulnerabilities;
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes around the world; and
 - Disseminate lessons and best practices.
- ◆ At their second Summit in Lisbon in December 2007, the EU and African Heads of State and Government adopted a **Joint Africa-EU Strategy**. This document provides a comprehensive framework for Africa-EU relations and identifies peace and security among the top priorities for Africa-EU relations.
 - ◆ **G8 Leaders** at successive G8 Summits have recognised that peace is an essential condition for sustainable development in Africa, and pledged to support initiatives in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the continent. In support of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the G8 have focused in particular on supporting Africa's efforts to develop its capacity to undertake peace support operations and peace-building activities.
 - At the **Kananaskis Summit** in 2002, the G8 adopted an Africa Action Plan containing a detailed list of commitments including 'to provide technical and financial assistance so that, by 2010, African countries and regional and sub-regional organisations are able to engage more effectively to prevent and resolve violent conflict on the continent, and undertake peace support operations in accordance with the United Nations Charter'. Other elements of the Action Plan covered small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel mines, and the linkage between conflict and the exploitation of natural resources.
 - The **Evian Summit (2003)** adopted a more specific "Joint Action/G8 Action Plan" aimed at enhancing African capabilities to undertake peace support operations so that by 2010 Africa will be able to engage more effectively in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The Joint Plan provides for the establishment, equipment and training of coherent, multinational, multi-disciplinary stand-by capabilities at the AU and regional level.
 - The **Sea Island Summit (2004)** adopted an Action Plan on 'Expanding Global Capability for Peace Support Operations' with a particular focus on Africa, and consisting of several elements, including training and equipping 75,000 troops worldwide by 2010, developing transportation and logistic support arrangements, increasing efforts to train carabinieri/gendarme-like forces, and establishing G8 expert level meetings to exchange information and coordinate efforts.
 - The **Gleneagles Summit (2005)** called for efforts in the UN to boost peace building action, improve the effectiveness of sanctions regimes, improve international controls on arms transfers, and combat the role of conflict resources. It also committed the G8 to focus more attention on humanitarian emergencies and financing for post-conflict countries.
 - The **Heiligendamm Summit (2007)** agreed to strengthen the civilian component of the ASF, including police capabilities.

II. What has been done to deliver on these commitments?

Africa:

1. **African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA):** In recent years, the number of African-driven efforts to address peace and security issues has increased. The Panel of the Wise has been established and is operating. It held its second meeting at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa in July 2008 to review electoral tensions and crises in Africa. As a follow up, the Panel will review and endorse recommendations that will be submitted to the Assembly of the Union at its ordinary session scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in February 2009, and will also undertake information-gathering missions aimed at evaluating the situation and examining modalities for the Panel to promote peace and security on the continent. However, significant resources will be needed to ensure that the Panel discharges its mandate effectively.
2. The Continental Early Warning System is being established and the AU Commission is pursuing efforts for its full implementation. In order to enhance the data collection and information-gathering capacity of the AU Situation Room, which is a key component of the CEWS, steps are underway to develop software -- the Africa News Brief -- which will facilitate automatic information gathering from a variety of sources in real time and in all AU languages.
3. The Commission has also developed a CEWS Methodology Handbook on Strategic Conflict assessment (SCA), to assist analysts within the Conflict Management Division (CMD) to monitor and analyse potential conflict situations in Africa. The Handbook has been finalised during a meeting with the RECs on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in mid-February 2008 and it is intended to be a common methodology for use by both the AU and the Regional Mechanisms.
4. The AU began to develop the African Standby Force (ASF) in 2003 to be guided by the AUs Peace and Security Council and financed through a Peace Fund as well as other donor contributions. The Peace Fund has been established however, to date, only 6% of the regular budget of the AU has been devoted to it. As a result, most AU peacekeeping operations remain dependant on voluntary contributions from various donors.
5. It is expected that the ASF, composed of battalions and specialised units in their home countries, will be fully operational in 2010. Within the current phase, the AU Commission is focusing on building capacity to manage complex peace support operations, including all military and civilian components. Several peace support operations have been undertaken by the AU or by sub-regional organizations. The African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) was the first peacekeeping operation mandated and led by the AU. A number of missions are currently operational including in Central African Republic, Comoros, Somalia¹, and the border region of DRC and Rwanda.
6. **Regional Brigades:** Africa's five regions are in the process of setting up their regional brigades and agreeing on harmonisation and standardisation issues. Currently the brigade of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is most advanced with this process. ECOWAS has put in place peacekeeping forces in both Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. The ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) will be coordinated from ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria, and already ECOWAS member States have taken part in several multilateral peacekeeping exercises.
7. Three other brigades, the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEACBRIG), the Eastern African Standby Brigade (EASBRIG) and the Southern African Development Community Brigade (SADCBRIG), have secured member state contributions and identified and established some headquarters and planning elements. The fifth brigade is the North African Standby brigade (NASBRIG).

¹ Currently, 4,500 AU peacekeepers are engaged in Somalia under the African Mission in Somalia

8. **UNSC support for AU peace-keeping operations:** The Decision of the AU Assembly² adopted by the at its 8th Ordinary Session held in January 2007, recalled that the maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council, and called upon the United Nations to examine, within the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the possibility of funding, through assessed contributions, peace-keeping operations undertaken by the AU or under its authority, with the consent of the United Nations.

9. Under the Presidency of South Africa in 2007, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement requesting the Secretary-General to provide a report, in consultation with the relevant regional organizations, on specific proposals as to how the United Nations can better support arrangements for further cooperation and coordination with regional organizations regarding Chapter VIII arrangements.

10. **European Union:** The EU has also expressed its commitment to work together with the AU towards the establishment of UN arrangements to provide predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for peacekeeping operations undertaken by the AU or under its authority, including within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and with the consent of the UN Security Council. It is against this background that the Commission, in consultation with South Africa, took the initiative to brief the PSC on the follow-up of the Assembly Decision and Security Council presidential statement, and to facilitate an interaction with UN representatives, on the occasion of the 98th meeting of the PSC held on 8 and 23 November 2007. At the same meeting, the PSC adopted a document that outlines the principles that should inform the proposals on the enhancement of the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the AU, and makes specific proposals (on the cooperation between the PSC and the Security Council).

11. As regards funding, the PSC urged the Security Council to support the request made by the Assembly. It further proposed the appointment by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commission, of a high-level panel to look into the issue and make recommendations on how to put it into effect. In the meantime, and building on the experience of the UN light and heavy support package for AMIS, the PSC called for the provision by the UN of similar support to all AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the Security Council.

International community: support for African initiatives in the prevention of conflicts

(i) UN instruments

12. The UN Peace-building Commission was established in 2006, with the aim of marshalling UN resources to improve post-conflict recovery operations. Its scope includes reconstruction, institution building and sustainable development in post-conflict countries. In the first year of its operation, the Commission considered the cases of Burundi and Sierra Leone and set in motion the process of developing integrated peace-building strategies for each country. The Peace-building Commission estimates its annual resource requirements to be US \$250 million. By March 2008, the Commission had received pledges for US \$248 million, US \$226 million of which had been paid in.

13. The United Nations has sent peacekeepers to nearly every conflict-ravaged country on the continent. The largest current UN peacekeeping contingent—at some seventeen thousand troops—patrols the Democratic Republic of Congo. There have been, in addition, other major UN-led peacekeeping missions in Africa, including Sierra Leone and Liberia. In recent years, the international community has pressured Africa to assume more responsibility for its own conflicts, yet the limited capacity of the AU means that the UN will continue to play an important role in African peacekeeping.

² AU/Dec.145 (VIII)

14. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), officially launched in March 2006 by the UN Secretary-General, is designed to jumpstart critical operations and life-saving programmes not yet funded through other sources (DATA, 2008). It includes a loan facility of up to US \$50 million and a newly created grant facility of up to US \$450 million. As of March 2008, the grant component of the CERF had received pledges and contributions of more than US \$1.1 billion from 92 public and private donors since its launch. This includes pledges made in 2008 of US \$424 million from 67 states and three private organisations.

15. The implementation of the policy framework provided by the UNPoA has led to the negotiation of other agreements both at the regional and global level. A significant example is the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), adopted by General Assembly (GA) on 8 December 2005 to enable states to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons. The Programme is, however, not legally-binding, and did not include measures or restrictions in areas such as transfers to non-state actors and the possession and use of small arms by civilians.

16. A number of further resolutions were adopted by the GA in December 2006: a resolution emphasising the importance of implementing the UNPoA; a resolution on assistance to states for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting these weapons; and a resolution calling on the Secretary General to seek views of member states and to establish a group of governmental experts to report in 2008 on the 'feasibility, scope, and draft parameters for a comprehensive and legally binding instrument' on the trade of conventional arms.

17. The implementation of the UNPoA has been patchy, and countries have attached varying degrees of importance to it. Some have lacked implementation capacity. Although many have established contact points and co-ordination mechanisms and have submitted reports on implementation, it appears that less progress has been made in reviewing, and where appropriate, amending regulations. A significant number of states still do not have laws or procedures controlling the production and export of small arms, or establishing standards for the management and security of small arms stock-piles.

18. The implementation of the UN instrument on Tracing Small Arms has been similarly uneven. In 2006, less than one-third of UN members have required that all small arms be marked as an integral part of their production process, and very few have provided contact points on the national marketing procedures specified under the Instrument.

19. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is currently involved in the development of two other useful instruments aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. The first, Guidelines for the Implementation of the Firearms Protocol, is intended to help Member States establish and strengthen the institutions and mechanisms needed to effectively implement the Protocol. The guidelines will provide technical assistance to states on implementing the operational measures in the Protocol and will address such issues as marking of firearms, implementation of security measures and how to establish effective export, import and transit licensing systems.

20. The second instrument is Model Legislation, key features of which will include provisions on the criminalization of illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, record-keeping, marking, controlling exports, and the import and transit of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition.

21. At the first ministerial summit on armed violence held in Geneva in June 2006, 42 states became signatories to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. Two years later, this figure has nearly doubled to 94 countries.

22. The Geneva Declaration Process (GD), led by a Core Group of 13 States, has formulated a “*Framework for Implementation*” centered around 3 pillars: 1) Advocacy, Dissemination and Coordination 2) Measurability and Monitoring and 3) Programming Progress on the implementation of the GD was reviewed at a ministerial review summit on armed violence and development, in Geneva in September 2008. At the Review Summit support was rendered for a UN General Assembly Resolution on ‘Promoting Development through Armed Violence Prevention and Reduction’ which is to be presented in December 2008 to the UN General Assembly.

(ii) The European Commission

23. The EU is the main financial partner of the AU in both military – through the EU African Peace Facility (APF) – and non-military terms. The EU Africa Peace Facility (APF), established for a period of three years following the request of the AU Assembly in Maputo in 2003, with a total financial envelop of € 250 million drawn from the 9th European Development Fund (EDF), is meant to fund peace support operations conducted under the authority of the AU. The EU Peace Facility was approved in December 2003. New funds have been committed for a replenishment of an additional € 50 million, bringing the total funds available to € 300 million to the facility for the period 2008-2010.

24. A number of African-led peace support operations have been supported under the APF, notably AMIS and AMISOM. In addition, an ambitious capacity building programme for the AU and the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution is underway as part of the capacity building component of the APF. This includes the establishment of Liaison Offices to the AU, in pursuance of the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol, as well as support for the operationalisation of the CEWS and the ASF.

25. In 2008, political and technical discussions have addressed major political crises in Africa, such as Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Mauritania, peace support dialogues and measures for Somalia, the crisis in Darfur, the AU-led PSO in the Central African Republic, and the EU’s military ESDP mission in Chad. However, as more conflicts are addressed by African actors, the EUs involvement is likely to become more focused on financing and technical support rather than direct intervention. Nevertheless, EU member states are involved bilaterally in several areas of APSA, most notably training, and bilateral cooperation is increasing.

(iii) The G8

26. The G8 have strongly supported efforts by several African countries to toughen their laws with regard to the illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and by March 2008, G8 members accounted for up to 42% of the \$226 million that has been received by the UN Peace-building Commission.

27. Independent sources suggest that the G8 are on track to meeting the Sea Island commitment of training 75, 000 peacekeepers and are currently providing operation and tactical support. The G8 have supported the creation of the African Standby Force (ASF) and have focused on defining strategies and guidelines for the ASF in areas such as logistics, communication and the civilian components of peace support operations. Much of the G8 support for the ASF is in the form of peacekeeper training. A number of G8 countries are also providing support to ASF efforts through their support for regional peacekeeping efforts.

28. According to the AU Protocol, the ASF is supposed to have the capacity, by 2010, to carry out complex peacekeeping missions, undertake post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation exercises and provide humanitarian assistance. In practice, however, progress in developing the ASF has been slow and is still far from achieving these objectives. Sufficient, predictable funding remains the largest constraint on peacekeeping by the AU. While Africa has provided troops and substantial political leadership in the management and resolution of conflicts, the financial costs of AU-led peace support operations have been largely funded by the international community.

(iv) International Instruments dealing with Conflict Resources in Africa

29. The international community has a number of instruments available to tackle the trade in conflict resources, including certification schemes, targeted sanctions against persons, products or regimes, plus voluntary guidelines to multinational enterprises:

30. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) has been set up to prevent the trade in conflict diamonds. The Scheme requires governments to certify the origin of shipments of rough diamonds to ensure that they are not from conflict zones. Countries that participate must pass legislation to enforce the Kimberley Process, and set up control systems for the import and export of rough diamonds. A review of the scheme in 2006 found that although the Scheme was working, there were still a number of issues to be resolved to ensure that it is fully effective – including the introduction of strong internal controls to ensure traceability of diamonds from mine to export, and of systems to check industry compliance, plus the development of a suspension mechanism for participants who are not complying with this Scheme. Given the challenges faced in particular by countries emerging from conflict, international support will be required for building the capacity to implement the scheme. Furthermore, not all resources are amenable to such certification schemes, as tracing of origin is not always possible.

31. There are, in addition, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which provide companies with a set of recommendations on good corporate behavior. The National Contact Points established under these Guidelines provide an avenue for referral for findings from UN expert panels. The OECD has now also produced a ‘*Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones*’ in order to raise awareness of the risks in operating in weak governance zones and to offer companies some guidelines. This OECD initiative was given backing by the G8 in its 2005 Summit, and the OECD Council has also recommended the widest possible dissemination and use of this tool.

III. What results have been achieved?

32. **The number of state-based conflicts has decreased significantly.** However, the number of low intensity conflicts and political troubles is increasing. State-based conflicts are those in which a government is one of the warring parties. As seen from the graph below, the number of state-based armed conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa has decreased significantly from 16 in 1999 to 7 in 2006 – a drop of 56 per cent (Human Security Brief, 2007). Between 1999 and 2006, most of the major conflicts in West Africa and Central Africa either came to an end or the violence sharply de-escalated. However, the continent still accounts for up to 40% of global conflicts, and Africa continues to have the greatest number of armed conflicts compared to any continent.

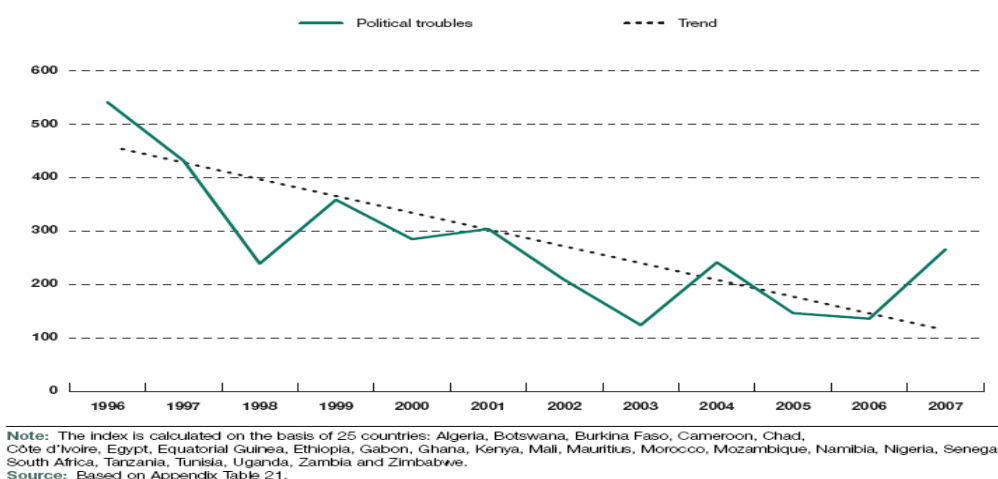
Table 1. State-Based Armed Conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, 1996-2006



Source: Human Security Brief 2007

33. These welcome trends have sometimes been undermined by a new generation of low-intensity conflicts within a number of African states. “Political troubles” refers to the occurrence low-intensity conflicts, which consists of strikes, demonstrations, violence, and coups d’etat (AfDB/OECD, 2008). According to the 2007 OECD African Economic Outlook index for political troubles, there was some reversal of these gains in 2007. Political troubles recent reversals have tended to increase around election time and are mainly due to a worsening of long-term conflicts or to a resurgence of troubles in certain countries that previously enjoyed a good level of stability.

Table 2. Political troubles in Africa 1996-2007



Source: AfDB/OECD African Economic Outlook 2008

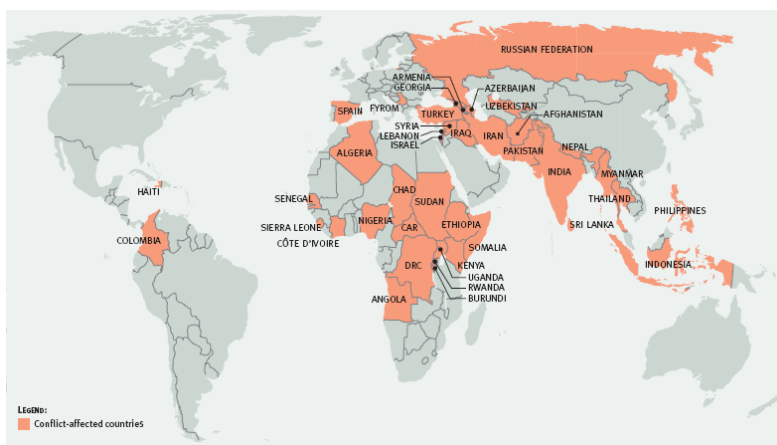
34. Notwithstanding the recent increase in low-intensity conflicts and political troubles, the changes in the security environment since 1999 have been, on balance, highly positive. Overall, most countries are enjoying growing stability -- including many post-conflict countries – and the number of armed conflicts and campaigns of one-sided violence are sharply down and fatality tolls have declined steeply.

35. Due to the significant reduction of state-based conflicts, there may be a sense that Africa is dramatically more secure than it was 10 years ago. However, even though conflicts may be decreasing in intensity, the effects of war from have been devastating and have generated negative consequences and challenges in terms of food security, HIV/AIDS, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Moreover, the widespread availability of Small Arm and Light Weapons (SALW), coming from war zones or ex-conflict zones is at the origin of increasing violence and crime in major towns cities in several countries.

36. Arms transfers remain one of Africa’s major security problems. According to the 2007 Global Burden of Armed Violence Report, the direct number of conflict deaths decreased in 2005 and 2006, but increased in 2007. The illicit spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) has a major impact on conflict in Africa, exacerbating violence, civil unrest, and criminal activities. . These weapons are available easily and cheaply available in conflict zones, and are also closely linked with terrorism, organised crime and domestic violence across the world.

37. Although armed conflicts have declined dramatically in Africa, small arms proliferation continues to threaten fragile regions and security still remains volatile in most post-conflict regions with a risk of renewed hostility. According to the AU, out of the estimated 500 million SALW in circulation world-wide, 100 million are found in Africa.

Table 3. Globally conflict affected countries



Source: Global Burden of Armed Violence Report (2007)

38. The availability and use of small arms impacts on development and poverty, both directly and indirectly (OECD DAC, 2005). Small arms are responsible for the majority of direct conflict deaths and also play a central role in the many thousands of additional indirect conflict deaths due to loss of health access, forced displacement and other causes. Dangers posed by illegal arms in the hands of criminals is also on the increase – particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa (UNIDR, 2006). Some of the most dramatic changes are occurring in traditional pastoral communities where SALW have become the weapons of choice during inter-clan feuds over dwindling resources.

39. The vast majority of people dying during periods of acute armed violence is not due to fighting, but rather the residual effects of war. The impact of acute armed violence on development is pervasive and can yield destructive effects long after wars and criminality are brought under control. Conflict has especially harmful effects on the macro and micro-economic environment: it can take decades for a country to recover from a rapid contraction of its GDP or loss of investor confidence. It is estimated that the costs of conflicts across Africa between 1990 and 2005 reportedly exceeded US\$ 300 billion – roughly equal to all overseas development assistance received during the same period (Oxfam-GB, 2007). On average, civil wars and insurgencies fought principally with small arms can reduce an African economy by 15%.

40. Africa accounts for the most acute concentrations of human displacement in the world and armed conflict is often a key contributing factor. The vast majority of the world's estimated 9.5 million refugees and 23 million internally-displaced people (IDPs) reside in Africa. In total there are an estimated 2.7 million refugees and 12.1 IDPs in Africa (UNDP, 2007), and at least three quarters of all African countries have been affected profoundly by forced migration – either as sites of origin or as destinations (ibid). More positively, a number of recent peace processes and ceasefire arrangements across the continent has allowed for the return of more than 3 million African IDPs.

41. **Natural resources have been shown to play a key role in the conflicts that have plagued a several African countries over the last decade.** In many African countries, extractive industries have destabilized economies, increased poverty and fuelled conflicts. Many conflicts in Africa have been resource-based -- primarily caused by political and economic grievances sustained by armed groups controlling access to natural resources. Such conflict has the potential to impact natural resource supply globally, with both local and wide-reaching consequences.

42. Trade in conflict resources has played an increasingly important role in providing the finance needed to maintain and to prolong armed conflicts. Four of Africa's worst wars of recent years took place in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), resulting in

around 5 million deaths and the almost complete destruction of infrastructure (APF, 2007). In each case, the conflicts were financed by the exploitation of natural resources – diamonds and timber in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and a wide range of mineral resources in DRC.

43. An array of actors ranging from governments to multinational companies to groups linked with organized crime, exported billions of dollars worth of natural resources across the world, directly funding armed factions. Their ability to do this depended on access to international markets. The cost, apart from the immense human suffering, was four of the most expensive UN peacekeeping operations of all time: the costs in Sierra Leone totaled US\$ 2.8 billion; the costs in 2007 in Liberia totaled US\$ 745 million; the budget for UN peacekeeping operations in DRC in 2005/6 came to US\$1.13 billion.

44. Africa is home to some of the best known resource related conflicts in the world today, however, natural resources can play a destabilising role even before the outbreak of armed conflict by providing incentives for large-scale corruption, and destabilise economies by creating a boom and bust environment. Conflict trends are heading in the right direction, but they can all too easily be reversed by high resource prices – especially for oil – and the resulting incentives to exploit those resources at any cost.

IV. What are the key priorities?

Action by Africa:

- AU member states should translate all relevant international commitments into domestic legislation or policies;
- AU member states should enforce their international obligations, in particular those related to human rights, democracy, and governance;
- AU member states should increase their financial contributions to AU peacekeeping operations, especially the Peace Fund.

International Community:

- Governments that have not yet done so should review their national controls and their implementation in light of their commitments under the UNPoA and the Instrument for Tracing Illicit Small Arms;
- International support is key to the success of the APSA -- and development partners should remain engaged and continue to provide long-term financial and technical assistance to the AU, the RECs and African countries.
- More flexible and coordinated funding arrangements for the AU, the RECs and regional peacekeeping operations are needed.
- The G8 must make a more concerted effort to provide the necessary financial and technical resources to strengthen the institutional capacity of the AU and the RECs, , including early warning systems and conflict management;
- There is a need to agree on a definition of conflict resources at the UN and strengthen institutions to fight impunity, where appropriate, including referral of cases to the International Criminal Court.
- Take action to ensure that the OECD Guidelines for Companies Operating in Weak Governance Zones is effectively implemented.