



# **Beyond Capacity Building: The interaction between Africa and the UNSC**

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# Summary

This presentation is the final result of a 10 months' research, part of the project *Africa Zuno-Junkan (JSPS)*. During this period a number of experts, diplomats and members of secretariats were interviewed, together with a deep analysis of academic material and official documents.

Achieving its objective, this analysis brought together a great amount of knowledge about the current interaction between the African continent and the UNSC.

# United Nations

- **Creation: 1945, after the World War II**
- **Purpose: Maintain international peace and security**
- **UN Security Council 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]**

# Africa and the UN

- Independency came for African countries after the end of the war
- African original members of the UN: Liberia, Ethiopia and South Africa
- In the 60s, Africa assumed the position of largest regional group inside the UN; today Africa has 54 recognized states (30% of the UNGA)
- Africa was always active inside the UN but not well organized as a regional group

# Regional Organization in Africa

- 1963: Creation of the OAU
- 2001: Substitution of the OAU for the AU
- AU replaced a dysfunctional organization and started working together with the RECs as a central arena of debates on regional issues
- The AU assumed the international representation of the continent's common goals – Morocco is not a member officially but works together with the AU

# Evolution of conflict

- The concept of conflict changed after the end of the Cold War
- Conflict assumed a multidimensional perspective and the regional instability increased in Africa
- Rwanda marked the transformation of conflict for Africa – “Conflict had permeated society”
- Main consequences of this evolution: Intensification of UNSC actions; regional concern towards conflict resolution

# UNSC Actions on African Issues

- With the evolution of conflict, Africa saw the necessity of action and also of support from the UN; the UN also saw the need of support from regional agencies
- Number of UNSC Resolutions on African issues (2004-2014): 362 (out of 678)
- PKO: 9 operations (out of 16)

# AU Peace and Security Council

- AU also assumed the resolution of conflicts in the region with the AU Peace and Security Council
- Creation: 2003 (Operating from 2004)
- 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]





# Interaction

- Main topic of interaction between Africa and the UNSC became the PKO
- After the creation of the AU PSC, the Councils decided to meet at least twice an year, in New York and in Addis Ababa

# Interaction

- AU PSC members also send letters to the UNSG to bring to the UNSC's attention any peace and security matter in Africa
- 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

# Challenges

**CAPACITY**

**REGIONAL  
INTEGRATION**

**UNSC-AU PSC  
POLITICAL  
RELATIONS**

# Challenges

- **Capacity**
  - Colonial background
  - Economy;
  - Governance
- **Regional Integration**
  - Culture
  - Lack of common Sense

# Challenges

- **Difference of dimensions: Both Councils address crisis in Africa differently**
- **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**

# Challenges

- UN-AU relation in the UN Charter:  
[Chapter VIII – Regional Arrangements]  
The AU cannot act independently; the UNSC must be consulted
- Although they work in differently, the objectives are the same

# 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)

# 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)



# AU Importance

- The AU has a major role on conflict management in Africa
- During the last years there was an impressive advance on the way that the AU interacts with other organizations - UN and RECs
- The AU Peace and Security Commission keeps constant activity and addresses all African crises every day

# Current Engagement

- The present interaction between both Councils shows a clear evolution of the relations
- Both organizations understand the importance of a productive exchange

# Conclusions/Recommendations

- The cooperation UN-AU is vital;
- The issue of capacity demands biggest regional effort, beyond external support; but it must not be the base of an interaction between the continent and the UN;
- Despite the efforts to overcome challenges, some issues still demand more commitment – Mainly finding common ground regionally;

# Conclusions/Recommendations

- **The work to improve UNSC-AU PSC political relations must go on and guarantee the development of Africa's participation in the decision making process on African issues**