



Pre-briefing Workshop on the APSA, ASF and Exercise AMANI Organized in collaboration between APSTA/AU PSOD and EURORECAMP

Background

On 30 August 2009, APSTA in collaboration with AU PSOD and EURORECAMP organized a one-day workshop on the APSA, ASF and Exercise AMANI.

The need for this workshop arose from the understanding that there is not enough knowledge regarding the ASF in general and the role of the civilian dimension as well as the continental CPX, dubbed as EXERCISE AMANI AFRICA. As part of its support for the operationalization of the ASF, APSTA discussed with AU PSOD staff and the civilian advisor for EURORECAMP on the possibility of convening a workshop that would provide the forum for participants of Exercise AMANI to discuss key issues on the APSA, the ASF and Exercise AMANI. A consensus was reached that such a workshop would indeed be valuable, and it was agreed that it coincides with the Exercise AMANI MAPEX.

Aim of the Workshop

The overall objective of the workshop was to offer those who will play various roles in the continental exercise AMANI Africa with the relevant understanding regarding the APSA, ASF and Exercise AMANI itself. Its specific aims include

- a) To discuss key issues pertaining to the APSA, ASF and Exercise AMANI ;
and
- b) To provide participants of AMANI MAPEX foundational information in these areas to enable their effective understanding and participation in the MAPEX.

Summary of the proceedings of the workshop

The workshop was divided into eight sessions. (See annex I) Following the welcome and opening remark by Dr Solomon A. Dersso who thanked the participants and acknowledged the support of DFID and the Government of

Denmark, Col Mbow of the AU PSOD delivered presentation on the APSA and the AU PSO Doctrine. This presentation identified the founding instruments of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the key actors and the respective roles of the APSA and highlighted the essence of the AU PSO Doctrine.

Some important issues were raised during this session. The first such issue was the AU-UN relations in the areas of PSOs. It was highlighted that although the AU recognizes the primary responsibility of the UNSC for the maintenance of international peace and security and there is a great deal of collaboration and consultation between the two, there are gray areas particularly on whether or not the AU is legally required to seek UNSC authorization, the relationship of Art 4 (2) of the AU Constitutive Act with the UN Charter. Other issues include the possibility of the incorporation of civilian experts into the Military Staff Committee and the place and role of the civilian dimension. It was emphasized that the civilian dimension has its unique characters and the need through time to mainstream its role and participation.

The following presentation by Drik of the EU focused on the AU-EU partnership and Exercise AMANI Cycle. This presentation highlighted the AU-EU partnership in general and with respect to peace and security in particular. With respect to Exercise AMANI Cycle, Drik spoke about the objectives of the exercise and what the exercise involves.

The next session was on the AU decision making cycle with respect to the ASF. Col Charles Debrah of the AU PSOD delivered the presentation on this theme. In his presentation Col Debrah identified the various actors involved in the ASF decision-making processes and offered brief analysis of the decision-making process and the stages involved. In the ensuing discussion, various issues were raised and discussed. One query was on whether or not it is feasible to follow the elaborate decision-making process in all cases or for all the six mission scenarios. It was admitted that the process was elaborate and may take quite some time and it may not be possible to employ it in all cases. Another issues raised relates to the lack of clarity not only among the general public but also within AU PSOD as to which institutions exactly form part of the APSA. In this regard, one suggestion made was to use Article 2 of the PSC Protocol as a point of departure. The discussion also revealed that there is discrepancy between some RECs and the AU regarding the point at which mandate is issued.

The civilian dimension of the ASF was the theme covered in the next session. This presentation by Lammi on behalf of APSAT discussed the role and place of the civilian dimension, the various policy frameworks regarding the civilian dimension including civilian rostering. One issue from the presentation that attracted some debate was the reference made to one of the assumptions on which the ASF is premised. This is the assumption that the ASF will operate as a stabilization force with a mission duration of 12-24 months after which it will

handover responsibilities to the UN. Many questioned the validity of this assumption and highlighted that the development of ASF capabilities and its operationalization should not be premised on such faulty and unrealistic premises. The assumption would not work due to the nature of African conflicts and the UN's policy that there has to be 'peace to keep'. A good example cited by participants was Somalia.

The following two presentations dealt with working in a PSO as civilian and civil-military coordination. The first session presented by Head of UNDPKO- AU SPST Dr Abdel-Kader Haireche raised very interesting issues. This noted the peculiarity of the PSO environment, the perceptions of other components to civilians and the challenges surrounding internal and external relations. Among the points emphasized in his presentation include understanding of the mandate, coordination and cultural awareness including the diverse cultures of members of the PSO, the local community, as well as gender and institutional culture of the military and the police particularly chain of command. Finally, Sunday Babatunda of OCHA made a presentation on civil-military coordination. Issues raised include the separate professional and institutional culture of civilians and other components including in terms of training, organizational structure etc. One question raised during the discussion was regarding the argument that coordination does not entail cooperation and that much focus should be on cooperation. It was indicated that cooperation may not always be possible for different reasons, although it is the best thing to achieve.

The workshop ended with a closing remark by Gen Ilya Director of Exercise AMANI. The workshop was attended by about 30 participants representing APSTA member institutions, AU, RECs, EURORECAMP and others.