

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the African Peace Support Trainers' Association (APSTA), 14-16 October, 2003

ACCORD House, Durban

Appendix A: Articles of Association

Attendance

- Commander P. Harris – Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)
- Ms Nicky Hitchcock – African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
- Maj. General J. Karangi – Kenya Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) (Chair)
- Col J. Kane – KAIPTC
- Lt Col B. Klu – KAIPTC
- Col. M. M. Macharia – South African National War College (SANWC)
- Mr Mark Malan – Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- Brig. General C. Mankatah – KAIPTC
- Mr Kwezi Mngqibisa – ACCORD
- Lt Col E. Muchegetere, SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC)
- Lt Col R. K. Siska – Botswana Defence Force

Introduction

The African Peace Support Trainer's Association (APSTA) was established as the African Chapter of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), at a meeting in Pretoria in October 2002. At this meeting it was decided that there would be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the APSTA, each year, and that Major General Karangi, the Commandant of the Kenya Defence Staff College that houses the Kenya Peace Support Training Centre, would be the interim Chairperson of the APSTA, and that ACCORD would act as the Secretariat. APSTA is currently made up of regional peacekeeping training centres, individuals, and institutions and organisations working in peacekeeping capacity building in Africa. The second AGM of APSTA was held in Durban, South Africa, from the 14th to the 16th of October 2003, and was sponsored by the Norwegian Government through the Training for Peace (TfP) Programme.

Welcome and opening

The Chairperson welcomed the participants and shared the aims, objectives and vision of the APSTA and its brief history, as the African Chapter of the IAPTC. He indicated that at the 2002 inaugural meeting, the full quota of African Peace Support training centres were not represented, and emphasized that those still not represented should be persuaded to become active participants. The Chairperson stressed the need to have all sub-regions in Africa represented, especially as it is envisaged that APSTA will play an advisory role to the African Union (AU) in terms of training for peace and security operations, and that APSTA's main focus is on support to the resolution of conflict in the whole African region.

The minutes of the 2002 AGM were subsequently presented by the Secretariat, and adopted as correct. It was emphasised that the vision of the AU to develop sub-regional 'Centres of Excellence' would best be pursued by the individual and collective efforts of members of APSTA. The objectives of the 2003 AGM were discussed, in conjunction with the measures that needed to be taken to advance the objectives that were developed at the 2002 meeting. The Chairperson then presented a summary of the objectives of APSTA, which were unanimously adopted after a brief discussion of each.

Prospectus of Peacekeeping Training Centres & work plans for 2004

Each organisation represented at the meeting had an opportunity to present their respective aims, objectives, history, course curriculum, funding, resources and schedule for 2004. Various marketing materials from each centre or organisation were also distributed, and a general discussion followed on the various roles of each centre. The SADC RPTC's past and potential role as a regional training centre was also discussed, against the background of the current funding lacunae. The meeting agreed that a SADC decision on future funding for the centre was urgently needed. The RPTC representative confided that there had been some positive indications of funding support from within the SADC member states, and expressed his hope that the centre will again be fully operational by mid-2004. The RPTC and participants agreed that in the interim, the centre should still be used to accommodate seminars and workshops.

Concerns related to initiatives that may undermine the RPTC, especially the perceived SANDF aim to build a peacekeeping training centre in South Africa, were also addressed. The SA NWC representative made it clear that the only intention is to have a dedicated branch within the National War College to run the annual Peace Support Operations module for the senior command and staff duties programme.

Setting the Peacekeeping Agenda in Africa

This discussion aimed to focus on how the sub-regional centres could find working space within the AU and clarify their relationship with sub-regional organisations. A participant noted that donors tend to view the sub-regional centres separately, and that there was little effort or opportunity to examine their respective roles from a continental perspective. It was agreed in the meeting that there should be a cross-fertilisation of skills and attendance among the centres and organisations, and that participants at the APSTA members' various courses could also attend other centres' courses.

It was also noted that the specific needs of the sub-region in which the centres are located need to be taken into account when developing curricula, and that the PSTC's were established to service sub-regions, not individual nations. In this sense then, there is a need for more guidance from the sub-regional organisations, such as ECOWAS and SADC, and stronger links between these organisations, the centres and the AU need to be established.

The meeting also discussed the fact that the AU knows little, if anything, about APSTA, and some ideas were offered on how to market the APSTA to ensure that

the AU utilises the individual and collective services of its members. It was therefore proposed that representatives of the AU should be present at future APSTA meetings. In terms of ensuring that the AU take note of APSTA's recommendations and views, the APSTA needs to be a fairly tight association with concrete and co-ordinated activities, unlike the loose association of the IAPTC. This requires tangible outcomes and a united vision.

APSTA relations with the AU

The meeting discussed the means and ways of marketing APSTA, especially the capacities and potential of the APSTA's members. It was decided that a briefing package would be developed. A suggestion was to take into consideration the Protocol on the PSC and the African Union's indicative work programme on peace and security matters, and see how APSTA could link with and pursue the objectives outlined therein. Another suggestion was to keep track of the AU in terms of peace and security issues, as APSTA, and to take these into account in our planning, through sharing of information between the APSTA members. The APSTA should be promoted at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and it was suggested that individual ASPTA members should take the initiative to do so, but that such activities be co-ordinated through informing the Chairperson and the Secretariat.

APSTA web site

The meeting agreed that the most effective way of compiling an up-to-date marketing package, and of sharing information both among APSTA members and a much broader regional and international constituency, would be to develop and maintain a dedicated APSTA web site.

It was discussed and agreed by the participants, that an APSTA web site be developed and maintained by ISS, but as an independent site, with its own domain name (www.apsta.org). It was proposed that in order to market APSTA that the mandate of the association and joint activities should be decided upon, and these should be clearly articulated on the site. It was also proposed that the site must go beyond disseminating information, to actually being a vehicle that would make APSTA members more responsive to sub-regional needs. A further proposal for a time line for drafting this marketing package, including the web site, was put forward and adopted, and it was agreed that it would be developed in six (6) weeks, to keep in line with the AU timelines, as presented in its indicative work programme on peace and security matters.

The recently developed TFP web site was displayed for participants to view, as an example of what could be developed in a fairly short time span. Budgets, funding, organisation and the development of a 'test APSTA site' were discussed. The following was agreed upon:

- The APSTA site will have its own Domain name, but be established by ISS;
- ACCORD commits to propose funding for the site in its 2004 plans and budgets for TFP and inform APSTA members of the outcome;

- All APSTA members commit to contributing to the look and development of the site (including an APSTA logo) and;
- The APSTA members will contribute a background of their organisation/ centre etc. and all other marketing materials, and ACCORD will gather the materials and send them to ISS for placement on the site.

Co-ordination and co-operation

The APSTA web site will be used to highlight and showcase where the relevant competencies of each member lie, and each member's curriculum and training schedules will be placed on the site for easy reference. The KAIPTC delegates used this opportunity to state that the Centre's courses will accommodate and cater for civilian peace support training in the future. The Kenya PSTC also highlighted the civilian training aspects of their courses, such as media training, humanitarian law training and gender issues. It was stated that it was also important that each member's courses be advertised to avoid duplication, and that the expertise of each member should be taken into account and utilised when designing annual plans. It was further suggested that besides appropriate participation in and support to each other's courses, that each member share information on their activities and curriculum with other members.

2004 Meeting of the IAPTC

The Chairperson suggested that the Secretariat develop the APSTA message for the IAPTC 2003 AGM, and that the IAPTC and APSTA 2004 AGM be discussed

The members of APSTA expressed their support for the KAIPTC bid to host the 2004 IAPTC AGM in Ghana. A delegate from the KAIPTC proposed the theme for the AGM as "Building Peacekeeping Capacity" and stated that at the 2003 AGM they would be given an opportunity to present their theme and bid for presidency next year. Concern was expressed that the proposed theme was too close to the theme of the 2003 IAPTC meeting, which focuses on training and education for peacekeeping. It was suggested that the KAIPTC intention is to move beyond issues of education and training, and to look at what other essential elements constitute "capacity building" for peace support operations. Therefore it was suggested that the theme for IAPTC 2004 be formulated along the following lines: "Beyond education and training: Unpacking the concept of capacity building for Peace Operations." The Chairperson added that although the KAIPTC would spearhead the preparations for the IAPTC 2004 AGM, the event should be an African affair and therefore it will have the full support of APSTA.

The KAIPTC further proposed to have a different style and approach to addressing the theme of next year's IAPTC meeting. KAIPTC intends to focus on a variety of activities and initiatives during the course of the year, involving (particularly African) IAPTC members, in preparation for a substantive agenda and productive discussions during the AGM.

It was then proposed and accepted that the APSTA 2004 AGM would be held in Ghana, prior to the IAPTC AGM, and the tentative dates will be the 21-22 October

2004. It was decided that these dates would be most cost effective, as the IAPTC AGM will be held from the 23-29 October 2004.

Articles of Association

The final issue discussed on the agenda, prior to the development of the message to take to the IAPTC 2003 AGM, was the APSTA Articles of Association. The following amendments were proposed:

- The name and function of the 'patron' should be changed to president or chairperson. The meeting decided on 'chairperson' and the various roles and responsibilities of this appointment would be outlined in the Articles;
- The time frame for the chairperson appointment was also agreed that it should be a maximum of three (3) years;
- The 'patron' section of the Articles would remain and nominations for this position were put forward, (the primary candidate being Amb. Said Djinnat, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security);
- It was decided that the chairperson would extend a letter of invitation (to be drafted by the Secretariat) to the nominee within six (6) weeks.

The membership of the APSTA was also discussed, and it was decided that it would be extended. Efforts would be made to get the former Zambakro School and the Cairo Centre on board, as a matter of priority in this regard. The wording in the Articles would also be amended to define the type of organisations and individuals who could join.

The current articles of association, as agreed and adopted, are presented in Appendix A.

Election of Chairperson and confirmation of Secretariat for 2003/2004

Maj. General Julius Karangi was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson for the next year, and meeting welcomed ACCORD's willingness to continue to provide the Secretariat for this term.

The Chairperson closed the meeting, with a sincere vote of thanks to all delegates for their active participation, and especially to ACCORD for hosting the meeting and providing secretariat support.

(Nicky Hitchcock)

ACCORD House, 16 October 2003

APPENDIX A

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF THE

AFRICAN PEACE SUPPORT TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION (APSTA)

Name

The name of the association will be the AFRICAN PEACE SUPPORT TRAINER'S ASSOCIATION (APSTA).

The association will serve as the African Chapter of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC).

Membership

The African Peace Support Trainer's Association is a voluntary association of individuals, centres, and institutions working in Africa in peacekeeping capacity building, whose principal core activity or function delivers practical training.

Objectives

- ❑ To facilitate the ability of peace support training centres to dialogue with each other as a matter of routine;
- ❑ To facilitate meetings and the exchange of information and best practices;
- ❑ To facilitate efforts to harmonise the doctrine, training, etc of the various members;
- ❑ To serve as a depository that offers advisory services to the African Union (The Commission and the Peace and Security Council) on peace support operations issues;
- ❑ To act as a sounding board for the AU commission on peace support operations concerning donor relations.

Patron

An individual will be nominated and invited to hold the appointment of the patron of the association. The patron shall serve as the figurehead of the association with responsibility of representing its aims and objectives. Other duties include the formal opening of the association's meetings, and representing the association at various functions.

The patron will be an individual of good standing who is committed to the promotion of peace and security in Africa.

Chairperson

The Chairperson of the association shall be elected, from the association's active members, each year and may serve not more than three (3) consecutive years in that appointment. The roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson are as follows:

- ❑ Calling for and chairing meetings;
- ❑ Spearheading the activities of the association and;
- ❑ Organising, with assistance from the Secretariat, the Annual General Meeting.

General Meetings

The association will hold a general meeting in each year as its Annual General Meeting.

The venue, date, agenda and theme of the meeting will be decided after consultation between members and the secretariat.

Procedures of General Meetings

The meetings of the association will be chaired by the Chairperson of the association.

All decisions will be discussed and adopted through consensus.

Agenda of the General Meetings

Over and above any other items to be decided by the Annual General Meeting, the following shall be on the standard agenda:

- ❑ Thematic discussion for the year;
- ❑ Progress reports on annual activities;
- ❑ Prospectus for planned courses;
- ❑ Message for the IAPTC Annual General Meeting and;
- ❑ Agreement on the date and venue of the next meeting.

Secretariat

The association will, at every Annual General Meeting, entrust its day-to-day operations to a member organisation.

Adopted by the APSTA members at the APSTA Annual General Meeting
Durban, South Africa
16 October 2003