



REPORT ON THE 3RD AGM OF THE AFRICAN PEACE SUPPORT TRAINERS ASSOCIATION, AT THE KAIPTC, ACCRA, FROM 21-22 OCTOBER 2004

I. BACKGROUND

1. The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) was established in Pretoria, South Africa, in October 2002, as the African Chapter of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC). The Association is currently composed of regional peacekeeping training institutions and organizations involved in peacekeeping capacity building in Africa.

2. Under the interim chairmanship of Lieutenant General JW Karangi, the Commandant of the Kenya Defence Staff College, and the secretariat of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), the Association held its second AGM in Durban, South Africa, in October 2003, which was partly sponsored by the Norwegian Government through the Training for Peace (TfP) Program.

3. The 3rd AGM of APSTA took place at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), in Accra, Ghana, from 21-22 October 2003. The AGM provided an opportunity for members and partners of APSTA to review the performance of the Association since its establishment in order to determine the way forward for making the Association more relevant to the AU and Regional Economic Communities in the field of peace operations.

4. The list of the 15 participants from 12 participating institutions is attached at Annex A. The program for the AGM is attached at Annex B.

II. OPENING

5. The AGM opened with a note of welcome from Colonel John Kane, Executive Director of the KAIPTC. In his opening remarks, he outlined the agenda for the 3rd APSTA AGM. Colonel Kane outlined the objectives of the Association and drew attention to the challenges that have attended to the effective running of the planned activities of the Association. This was followed by the introduction of participants.

III. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

6. Brigadier General Charles Mankatah, Commandant of KAIPTC, was proposed and unanimously accepted as incoming Chair of APSTA for the period 2004-2005.

7. In his opening remarks, Brigadier General Mankatah expressed appreciation and thanks for his election. He also extended a personal note of welcome to all participants. He was hopeful that the AGM would have fruitful deliberations that would enable APSTA to become more active and relevant to the needs of the Continent. In this respect, he emphasized the need for constructive deliberations on issues that were outstanding from the AGM in 2003.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF SECRETARIAT

8. ACCORD, the existing host for the Secretariat, was represented by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Samuel Dumisani Siyaya, Senior Program Office, who expressed regrets for the inability of Mr. Kwezi Mngqibisa, Director ACCORD-TfP to attend. He informed the meeting that at the end of its current hosting of the APSTA Secretariat, ACCORD would not be able to carry out that function.

9. In light of the above information from ACCORD, the AGM unanimously accepted the offer of ISS to host the APSTA Secretariat. It was explained by the ISS Participant that this was aimed at supporting the KAIPTC's chairmanship of APSTA. However, it was agreed that the hosting of the Secretariat would be subject the following provisions:

- The offer to host the Secretariat would be open for confirmation and/or renewal on an annual basis.
- Consideration should be given to the collocation of the Secretariat with the Chairmanship.
- Consideration would be given to the possibility of establishing a permanent Secretariat.

V. BACKGROUND OF APSTA

10. Given the number of new participants in the APSTA AGM, there was need to provide a background understanding of APSTA, in order to enable them make informed appraisal and contributions. Mark Malan was therefore called upon to provide a synopsis of the evolution of APSTA. The synopsis is attached at Annex C.

VI. MINUTES OF THE 2003 AGM

11. On behalf of the outgoing Secretariat, the Minutes of the 2003 AGM, a copy which is attached at Annex D, were read by Colonel John Kane. By acclamation, it accepted the Minutes of the 2003 AGM as a true record of the proceedings.

VII. DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE OF APSTA

12. The AGM discussed the vision of APSTA vis-à-vis the appointment of a Patron, who would use his good offices to enhance the profile and functions of the Association. Pending agreement on the purpose and objectives of APSTA, the AGM agreed that the APSTA Patron should be a former or serving African statesperson. In this regard, the accepted to

further consider the nomination of: HE. Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the AU Commission; Lieutenant General Abubakar Abdulsalam, former Head of State of Nigeria and Facilitator of ECOWAS peace processes in Liberia and Sierra Leone; and HE. Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana and Special Envoy of the AU Chairperson for the Great Lakes Region (GLR).

13. Furthermore, the AGM noted the need for the participation of the AU Commission, REC Secretariats and Regional Centres of Excellence (RCE), as well as other external initiatives such as ACOTA and RECAMP, in future AGMs of APSTA.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON PSO TRAINING

14. Presentations on peace operations activities were provided on the following participating institutions:

- KAIPTC. See www.kaiptc.org.
- ISS (PMP). See www.iss.org.za and www.trainingforpeace@iss.org.za.
- PSTC.
- RPTC. See director@rptc.org.zw and ktazira@hotmail.com.
- ACCORD. See www.accord.org.za.
- NWCN.
- LECIA.
- ZIF Berlin. www.zif-berlin.org.
- SARPCCO. See www.infopol@africa-online.net.

IX. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UN

15. The AGM discussed the relevance, use and impact of the UN-led Standardised Training Modules (STM) on training within regional centres of excellence. The AGM noted that the existing STMs 1-3 were not available to institutions, except for member states and organisations that were directly involved in the process. In this context, it was informed that very few members were in receipt of slides and notes on the use of STM-1 (Basic Skills). However, it was pointed out that the completed STMs were available on the UN (DPKO) website.

16. In terms of mission leadership, the view was expressed that there was need for the documentation of transition from regional to UN peace operations, in order to be able to determine gaps and weaknesses in the relevant processes.

X. CIVILIAN PEACEKEEPING CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES AND THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS ON MEETING THE TRAINING NEED FOR PEACE OPERATIONS

17. The AGM recognized the imbalance between military and civilian training institutions and programmes, particularly in Africa. Unlike military training which involves institutions, civilian training appeared to involve individuals, whose availability for employment could not be guaranteed. The AGM was therefore of the view that there was need for partnerships between training institutions and user organizations, including civilian NGOs, in order to optimize the training, availability and employment of civilians. Another view was that civilian training for peace operations should include the participation of officers from relevant ministries, departments and agencies within member states. For this mechanism to work

effectively, the meeting was of the view that member states should establish and/or appoint focal points for effective coordination between member states, regional organizations and regional training institutions. The meeting was informed that the Forum proposed that the process should be applied within regional frameworks.

18. The APSTA was of the view that trained civilians, ideally, should be deployed within a reasonable time after training. The general view was that training should aim at creating a pool of trained personnel as it would be difficult to target all training against planned deployments.

19. The AGM was briefed on the Civilian-Military Training Development Forum, which was held at the KAIPTC from 6-9 September 2004. The Forum aimed at providing an opportunity to develop a common understanding among recruiting, employment and training organizations in the region. A copy of the outcomes of the Forum is attached at Annex E.

20. The meeting endorsed the outcome of the Civilian-Military Training Development Forum. It recognized the fact that there was greater need to meet training needs for peace operations within the realm of civilian peace operations training. To this end, it proposed that other RECs should conduct a training needs assessment to determine and match the provision of training to user needs. The Kenya PSTC was to lead on this effort in Eastern Africa, while the ISS, ACCORD and RPTC would jointly lead on this in Southern Africa.

XI. WAY FORWARD FOR APSTA

21. The APSTA AGM decided to establish a network of email contacts of all participating members.

22. It also decided to establish an APSTA website, hosted by the ISS, and with links to the websites of organizations with website addresses. Member organizations without organic websites would forward details of their activities and course plots to the Chair. After appropriate authorization by the Chair, the APSTA Secretariat would post such details on the APSTA website. However, in the long-term, the APSTA would establish its own independent website.

23. The meeting agreed to continue with the mechanism of tagging APSTA meetings to the IAPTC. In this respect, the meeting was informed that the next IAPTC would take place in New Delhi, India, from 28-30 October 2005. It was also agreed that preference be given to holding the 2005 meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The alternative plan was to hold it in Nairobi, where the Kenya PSTC would play host to the meeting. The Chair and Secretariat were to examine the financial and logistic implications of the two proposals in order to select an option.

XII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

24. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman noted that there had been considerable progress in the participation of the 2004 meeting. He however admitted that there was room for further improvement on the participation of subsequent APSTA meeting. In particular, he emphasized the need for closer collaboration with the AU and RECs.

25. In terms of the nomination of an APSTA Patron, the Chairman promised to pursue efforts to sound the three nominations. The meeting was informed that subject to any notification, the venue of the next meeting of APSTA would be Addis Ababa. He reminded participants representing other RECs to undertake efforts to conduct a regional training needs assessment to inform a pan-African matrix on training needs.

26. The outcome of the main issues discussed was to be presented by to the IAPTC by the Chairman.

27. In conclusion, he expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to all participants, especially those from outside the continent.

Annexes:

- A. List of Participating Organizations and Institutions in 2004 AGM.
- B. Programme for 2004 AGM.

ANNEX A TO
APSTA AGM 2004

LIST OF PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

SRL	NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION/ EMAIL ADDRESS
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Brig Gen C Mankatah	Commandant	KAIPTC: charles.mankatah@kaiptc.org
2	Colonel John Kane	Executive Director	KAIPTC: john.kane@kaiptc.org
3	Mark Malan	Director Research	KAIPTC: mark.malan@kaiptc.org
4	Colonel Kasirai Tazira	Director	RPTC: www.director@rptc.org.zw
5	Lt Col (Rtd) SD Siyaya	Senior Political Officer	ACCORD: sdsiyaya@accord.com
6	Pike G. Mphaka	Dep. Senior Training Officer	SARPCCO: infopol@africa-online.net
7	Lt Col Bakary Kanoute	Instructor	Mali Peacekeeping School: kanoutebt@yahoo.fr
8	Brig Gen Alfred Ilogho	Directing Staff	Nigeria National War College
9	Ms. Julie Sanda	Directing Staff	CPRCR, NWC: julie@yahoo.com
10	Lt Col Paul R Corden	Directing Staff	BPST: so1dspstc@bpst-ea.com
11	Ms. Nina Y Danquah	Administrative Analyst	LECIA: training@ibr.ug.edu.gh
12	Ms. Chiara Cuchel	Intern	LECIA: training@ibr.ug.edu.gh ; chiaracuchel@yahoo.it
13	Arno Truger	Director	ASPR: aspr@aspr.ec.et
14	Brig Gen D Frimpong	DA	Ghana Permanent Mission, NY: dkfrimpong@yahoo.com
15	Festus B. Aboagye	Program Head	ISS: festus@iss.org.za

PROGRAM FOR 2004 AGM

DAY ONE

Morning Session (1000 – 1230 hours)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Election of Chairperson
- Background to APSTA
- Minutes of 2003 AGM
- Discussion on future of APSTA

Lunch – Restaurant “Next Door”

Afternoon Session (1400 – 1700 hours)

- Presentations on peace support training activities
- Relationships with regional economic communities
- Relationships with troop contributing countries/end users

Evening – Dinner: Dynasty Restaurant

DAY TWO

Morning Session (1000 – 1230 hours)

- Working relationship with the United Nations/STMs
- Civilian peacekeeping capacity building initiatives
- Thematic Discussion: Training for Peace Operations: Are we meeting the need?

Lunch – Restaurant “Next Door”

Afternoon Session (1400 – 1700 hours)

- Thematic Discussion: (Continued)
- Message for the IAPTC AGM
- Way forward for APSTA
- Confirmation of Secretariat