



Report on the APSTA Technical Committee Meeting
Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 April 2009

I. Introduction

The African Peace Support Trainers Association with the support of the European Group on Training through the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in the framework of the EC project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management and Stabilization Missions, organized a Technical Committee Meeting (TCM) of APSTA civilian training institutions that were present in the AU-EU Training Needs and Capabilities Workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 5-6 March 2009. These were the APSTA Secretariat, ACCORD, LECIA, CCCPA and IPSI. The APSTA TCM was a follow up to some of the issues raised with respect to the provision of civilian training to meet the training needs of ASF in general and Exercise AMANI Africa in particular.

The TCM was organized by the APSTA Secretariat based at the Addis Ababa Office of the Institute for Security Studies. It was held on 17 April 2009 at the Jupiter International Hotel. Present at the meeting were the representatives of all the above institutions and Col Charles Debrah, ASF Training Officer at the AU PSOD.

II. Background

On 8 December 2007, a joint African Union (AU) - European Union (EU) strategy was adopted at the Lisbon Summit which effectively served to lay the stage for a new strategic-level initiative between the two (2) regions with a central aim of strengthening political partnership and cooperation. Eight (8) areas for cooperation (underpinned by such values as ownership, joint responsibility and solidarity) were identified including the promotion and strengthening of peace and security. Most specifically, the so called *Partnership on Peace and Security* aims amongst other things to:

- Ensure adequate, coherent and sustainable support for the establishment and functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and for African-led efforts at all stages of the conflict cycle; and
- Promote long-term capacity-building, including military and civilian crisis-management and coherent and coordinated support for the ASF, including through the implementation of the *EU Concept on Strengthening African Peace Support Capabilities*.

Within the framework of the EU Concept on Strengthening African Peace Support Capabilities, a number of activities were outlined in order to set into motion an EU programme of support for African training centres in the area of peace and security. One of these is the joint AU-EU study on African peacekeeping training needs and capabilities. In the first phase of this study, a two-week desk top study was undertaken in February – March 2009 to identify African training capabilities and needs as well as to map out existing support programmes to African training centres.¹

Subsequent to the desktop study, a *Training Needs and Capabilities Workshop* was held from 5 – 6 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of the workshop was to deliberate on the preliminary findings arising from the desktop study.

The workshop took note of the fact that a lot of positive developments have been made vis-à-vis the development of the civilian dimension of the ASF – including for instance the establishment of a policy framework; an implementation plan for the operationalisation of the civilian

¹ The desk top study is to be complemented by a field visit to African centres after which a multi-annual programme of support will be established.

dimension and work towards determining the staffing, training, rostering and recruitment needs of the civilian dimension. Having said this, it was recognised that a lot of work still needs to be done in terms of institutional development and streamlining or standardizing of training for ASF civilians.

Especially as pertaining to training, it was determined that whilst there are good civilian training opportunities available on the continent, these are limited in number particularly in the North and Central regions where there are no or very limited civilian training offers. It was also noted that there are limited specialized training offers and there is lack of standardization and harmonization of civilian training offers in general. The study also revealed that there are presently very few mission specific trainings being conducted by institutions such as the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA).

Workshop participants felt that the findings of the desk top study were inconclusive and as such stressed upon the need for a more in depth needs assessment to be conducted. Plans in this regard are presently underway. As mentioned above, the AU-EU study team will undertake a field mission visit to all regions for the purposes of assessing and evaluating training needs and will match these with offers for support when and where necessary.

It was also noted that the civilian dimension of the ASF is the least developed both in terms of training as well as policy/institutional development. It was generally agreed that various civilian trainings should be conducted by African civilian training providers within the framework of APSTA in order both to ensure that the civilian dimension reaches the level where other components of the ASF have reached and that it becomes adequately integrated in Exercise AMANI Africa. A number of EU training institutions pledged their willingness to support African training institutions should such assistance be requested.

Immediately following the workshop, a small group of APSTA members held a separate meeting to further deliberate on way forward measures. It was reiterated that African training institutions welcomed the offers of support from the EU but emphasised the need for the training support to be African led both in terms of coordination and implementation. After much discussion, the below listed activities were proposed as way forward measures. At the meeting, it was agreed that civilian training institutions will organize through APSTA two meetings to make the necessary

arrangements for identifying civilian training needs and work out modalities of delivering the required civilian trainings.

III. Training Needs and Capabilities Technical Committee Meeting (TCM)

Following from the above deliberations, the APSTA established a TCM whose overall objective was to lay the ground work for a broader consultative process amongst partners and stakeholders. The TCM held a planning meeting on 17 April 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, hosted by the APSTA Secretariat, which is the Institute for Security studies (ISS).² The meeting was funded by of the European Group on Training through the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in the framework of the EC project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management and Stabilization Missions.

The meeting group worked from the premise that a lot of good effort was currently underway vis-à-vis training for African civilians and any additional offers for support in this regard should be complementary and directed towards ensuring that the support is given and utilised as against real needs and gaps on the continent. It was also reflected upon that in the African context, capacity-building for civilians is not exclusively towards the end of developing capacity for peace support operations (and hence deployment) but is also directed at building capacity for civilians who work in normal, "peacetime" conditions or in preventative and/or peacebuilding type contexts.

IV. The aim of the APSTA TCM

The APSTA TCM had two major objectives. The first of this is to fully consider the civilian training needs for Exercise AMANI Africa presented and deliberated on during the March workshop and identify civilian training areas for which there is need to arrange the delivery of targeted trainings. The Second aim of the meeting was to make the necessary planning for the wider consultative meeting that will discuss all the training needs for ASF and Exercise AMANI

² Represented at the TCM was the Mr. Solomon Dersso (APSTA Secretariat); Ms. Yvonne Kasumba (APSTA President); Dr. Linda Darkwa (Legon Centre for International Affairs, LECIA); Dr. Alaa Aziz (Cairo Regional Center for Training on conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa, CCCPA); and Mr. Cosmas Bahali (Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, IPCS).

Africa and the arrangements for delivering the agreed upon training areas including collaboration with European training institutions.

V. Deliberations of the TCM

The TCM fully considered and deliberated on the planning of the consultative meeting. It discussed and identified the issues to be addressed during the consultative meeting. The meeting identified the following as key areas for deliberation at the broader consultative process:

- The need to channel support towards the enhancement of the capacity of African training institutions;
- The need to identify short and long term areas of implementation between African training institutions and EGT member institutions;
- The need to identify and/or distinguish between training requirements that directly pertain to the needs of the ASF and those that pertain to broader peace and security needs on the continent;
- Establishing partnerships for training implementation between/amongst African training institutions;
- The need to address issues of training streamlining and standardisation (in areas inter alia of content, methodology, deliver);
- The possibility of channelling the EGT support to African civilian capacity-building towards preparing and ensuring the adequate integration of the civilian dimension in the 2010 continental Field Training Exercise (FTX), dubbed Exercise Amani Africa³. This suggestion was based on the fact that present day peace support operations are composed of an increased array of civilian actors undertaking a number of substantive and administrative functions and Exercise Amani needs to reflect this reality as close as possible; and
- The need to develop proposals as to the nature and level of civilian participation in Exercise Amani and aspects pertaining to the coordination of civilian engagement in the

³ This based on the fact that the civilian dimension of Exercise Amani Africa is presently underdeveloped at both the conceptual and practical levels, as compared to the military and police components

Exercise and to present these as recommendations for consideration to the AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD).

Col Charles Debrah of the AU PSOD participated in the opening session of the meeting and provided the planning team with a brief outline of the Exercise Amani Africa scenario; details as to some of the planning conferences that are scheduled to be held leading up to the FTX in 2010; and also intimated upon some of the challenges associated with the lack of a civilian planning officer on the AU side overseeing the civilian dimension of the FTX. The PSOD deems it critical for the AU to identify a civilian planner in the FTX planning team (which itself still needs to be consolidated) so as to ensure the adequate integration of the civilian dimension in the exercise.

The planning team made the recommendation that in the interim, (i.e. prior to the appointment of a civilian planner at the PSOD), APSTA develop a proposal as to how the association can contribute to the planning processes (even at this early stage) for the civilian dimension of Exercise Amani Africa. The recommendations would then be shared for consideration by the PSOD and others responsible/involved in overall the planning for the Exercise.

It was also agreed that APSTA would draft a letter to the AU reminding of previous agreements and resultant obligations between the AU and APSTA (particularly as contained in the Memorandum of Understanding⁴). Such a letter could serve as a further basis for the intended support by APSTA to the FTX initiative.

The TCM also discussed the issue of civilian training need on the continent. The following training areas were accordingly identified as being training areas that are important in the particular context of Africa but are areas for which there is little or no training provision on the continent:

- Civil and Military Coordination
- Protection of Civilians
- Mission support
- Conflict management
- Training of Trainers

⁴ Which was concluded at the 2008 APSTA Annual General Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria

VI. APSTA – EGT Consultative Workshop

The APSTA will hold an APSTA – EGT Consultative Workshop from 18 - 20 May 2009, hosted by the Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA) in Accra, Ghana and funded by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR). At this meeting, the discussions and proposals made in the Addis Ababa meetings held in March and April will be tabled with the view of deliberating upon and reaching agreement on issues as outlined in V above.

Participants at this meeting will include all APSTA member institutions involved in the conduct of civilian training; representatives of the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs); representative(s) from Exercise Amani Africa and EGT member institutions.

Annexes

Annex I

African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) – European Group on Training (EGT) Consultative Workshop - Agenda

16 May 2009

- ❖ Arrival of Technical Committee

17 May 2009

- ❖ Technical Committee Meeting (TCM) No. 2
- ❖ Arrival of workshop participants

18 May 2009

- 08:00-08:30 Registration
- 08:30-08:50 Welcome, *LECIA and APSTA President*
- 08:50-09:00 Participant introductions
- 09:00-09:20 Opening remarks, *AU and EU*
- 09:20-09:45 Workshop aims and objectives, *APSTA Secretariat*
- 09:45-10:45 Overview on the role and functions of the African Standby Force
- 10:45-11:15 *Health Break*
- 11:15-12:00 Brief status on the status of the development of the civilian dimension at the AU and RECs/RMs (All RECs/RMs to give a 5 minute brief)
- 12:00-12:45 Presentation by the EGT – mandate in context of *AU-EU Partnership on Peace and Security*; support to African civilian capacity building
- 12:45-13:30 APSTA response to EGT proposals and facilitated discussion, *CCCPA to facilitate*
- 13:30-14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30-15:45 Civilian capacity-building on the continent: verification and validation of training matrix
- 15:45-16:00 *Health Break*
- 16:00-17:00 Group work - Identification of gaps in African civilian training (with focus on specialised training areas)
- 17:00-17:15 Wrap-up for the day

19 May 2009

- 08:30-08:45 Recap of Day 1
- 08:45-10:00 Group work feedback session and discussion
- 10:00-10:30 Health Break
- 10:30-12:00 Matching supply and demand – identification of implementation partners, curriculum design, timeframes
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch Break
- 13:00-14:00 Matching supply and demand – identification of implementation partners, curriculum design, timeframes etc.
- 14:00-15:00 Brief on Exercise AMANI Africa: Focus on key scenario areas and current planning and provisioning for civilian component, *AMANI Africa Representative*
- 15:00-15:15 Health Break
- 15:15-16:45 AU Expectations for APSTA support to Civilian Dimension of Exercise Amani (including discussion), *AU Representative*
- 16:45-17:00 Wrap-up of the day

20 May 2009

- 08:30-08:45 Recap of Day 2
- 08:45-09:15 The civilian dimension of Exercise Blue Crane: Lessons Learned
- 09:15-10:30 Recommendations on APSTA support to integration of civilian dimension into Exercise Amani Africa – (implementation partners, identification of possible civilian role players, training needs etc.)
- 10:30-11:00 Health Break

11:00-11:30 Wrap-up and way forward

11:30-11:45 Closing

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00- Departures (All)

Annex II

APSTA – EGT Consultative Workshop

Participants to be invited

APSTA Members

- AU
- ACCORD
- AFDEM
- CCCPA
- KAIPTC
- IPCS
- IPSTC
- ISS
- LECIA
- NDC

RECs/RMs

- EASBRICOM (Col Peter Marwa)
- ECCAS (TBC)
- ECOWAS (Col Mohammed Toure)

- SADC (Lt Col Tanki Mothae)
- NARC (TBC)

Humanitarians

- OCHA Accra
- ICRC Accra

Annex 3 Participant's List

APSTA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17th 2009 at Jupiter International Hotel- Addis Ababa

Name of Participant	Organization	E-mail	Signature
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