



**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE AFRICAN PEACE SUPPORT TRAINERS ASSOCIATION,
HELD AT THE MORNINGTON HOTEL, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, 26 SEPTEMBER 2007**

I. BACKGROUND

1. A meeting of the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) was held at the Conference Room of the Mornington Hotel, in Stockholm, Sweden, on 26 September 2007. The meeting was held on the margins of the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), to discuss issues following the AU ASF Training Support and Coordination Workshop, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24-26 April 2007.

2. The ASF Training Support and Coordination Workshop was convened at the request of the AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), at the 5th AGM of the APSTA at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), in Africa, on 28 August 2006. The request by the AU PSOD sought to partner with the Association as a pan-African institution with the potential to impact capacity-building efforts within the continent, particularly in respect of the operationalisation of the ASF.

3. The meeting in Stockholm was attended by 22 individuals from member institutions of the APSTA. Other non-APSTA members also attended the meeting. They included Ambassador D. Mwakawago and Nick Seymour (UN DPKO). The list of participants will be provided later.

II. OPENING REMARKS

4. The meeting was chaired by Admiral A Isah, Commandant of the National Defence College of Nigeria (NDCN), in his capacity as the President of the Association. In his opening remarks, Admiral Isah acknowledged the presence of Ambassador Mwakawago and Nick Seymour. He welcomed all the participants to the meeting.

III. AGENDA

5. The Agenda for the meeting included the following items:

- a. Welcome note.
- b. Adoption of the agenda.
- c. Update on the ASF Training Support and Coordination Workshop.
- d. Functions/responsibilities of the Presidency and Secretariat.
- e. Plans for 2008.
- f. Hosting of IAPTC Conference, Nigeria, 2008.
- g. Any other business.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

V. UPDATE ON THE ASF TRAINING SUPPORT AND COORDINATION WORKSHOP

7. Colonel Charles Debrah of the AU PSOD informed the meeting that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on collaboration between the AU and APSTA has been appraised by the Legal Department of the AU Commission, with minor changes to the text and not the substance. The document is being processed for signature.

8. The APSTA Secretary added that even before the signature of the MoU, the AU has introduced APSTA to Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs/Regions, through a number of Notes Verbales. Copies of the Notes have been uploaded on the APSTA website.

9. The meeting noted that it was necessary for the MoU to be signed in order to provide the basis for the APSTA to decide on the next steps towards its implementation. They called on the AU to expedite the signature of the document.

VI. FUNCTIONS RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARIAT

10. The President informed the meeting that it had established a committee internally at the NDCN to carry out its functions. The Committee was an internal arrangement and not a substitute to the Secretariat.

11. In response to observations that the Secretariat needed more capacity, Festus Aboagye reminded the meeting that the functions of APSTA structures were assigned to institutions, and not individuals. The Association should expect that such institutions utilise their international infrastructure to execute the functions assigned to them. Nevertheless, the ISS (Secretariat) was making proposals for enhancing the capacity of the Secretariat to undertake the expanded responsibilities under the MoU. In addition, he informed the meeting that with support from the French Embassy in Pretoria, a French version of the

APSTA website will be established in the coming year. He reminded members of their responsibility to contribute to populating the website as a resource for peacekeeping research, training and education.

VII. PLANS FOR 2008

12. The meeting was informed that in 2006 the IAPTC Secretariat invited the APSTA to host the 14th Conference. The NDCN accepted to play host to the IAPTC conference on behalf of APSTA. The President indicated that the NDCN has informed the Government of Nigeria about the event and has been participating in the meetings of the IAPTC Executive Committee.

13. The meeting agreed that the Presidency should inform APSTA members of the outcomes of the Executive Committee Meeting and indicate to them what roles and function they may be required to play towards the conduct of the 14th IAPTC Conference, after the meeting of the Executive Committee in March 2008. The President presented Ms. Julie Sanda as the point person for the arrangements for the Conference. Meanwhile, it was suggested that the Conference should be held in late October 2008 and that the NDCN should seek clarification from the Federal Department of State Protocol that the dates do not clash with other important national events.

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Joint UN-AU Training Implementation Plan

14. The AU Representative, Colonel Debrah, informed the meeting about the AU Training Implementation Workshop to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29-31 October 2007. The meeting will be preceded by a G8++ meeting. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to harmonise the training plans of the RECs/Regions, to ensure a good build up of activities leading to the operationalisation of the ASF by 2010. A Training Directive will be issued after the workshop.

15. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the AU PSOD has invited five members of APSTA to the Workshop. The members are: the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training centre (KAIPTC, Accra, Ghana; the NDCN, Abuja, Nigeria; the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC), Harare, Zimbabwe; and the Kenyan Peace Support Training Centre (RPTC), Nairobi. The invited members were reminded to communicate the details of the nominees to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the AU PSOD.

Suggested Theme for the 14th Conference of the IAPTC

16. Nick Seymour proposed the following theme for 14th IAPTC Conference: AU partnership and support to AU capacity-building. The meeting took note of the proposed theme, to await any other proposal by the meeting of the IAPTC Executive Meeting in 2008.

Next APSTA AGM

17. The meeting agreed in principle that the next APSTA AGM should be held in Abuja, Nigeria, between March-June 2008, after the IAPTC Executive Committee Meeting. The Secretariat suggested that the AGM could be held over two days, to include a thematic workshop on any substantive issue(s) of peacekeeping and peacekeeping related training.

EU Support to African Institutions

18. The meeting was informed that the EU has proposed to provide support to selected African centres of excellence and APSTA.

IX. CONCLUSION

19. The President expressed his gratitude to the participants, particularly Ambassador Mwakawago, for their time.

20. He expressed the hope that all the members will contribute to make the Association useful and relevant. He was hopeful that the NDCN and the Association will also be able to pull off a successful IAPTC conference in 2008.