



PEACE MEDIATOR

ISSUE 1 - VOLUME 1 - SEPTEMBER 2016 - FEBRUARY 2017

Commissioner's Foreword

Foreword by:

His Excellency Ambassador Smail Chergui,
AU Commissioner, Peace and Security



It is my immense pleasure to introduce the first volume of the Peace Mediator, which showcases the efforts undertaken by African institutions and individuals towards contributing to Agenda 2063 and the aim of "Silencing the Guns" by 2020. The collective thinking, reflection and deliberations by individuals and organisations provide us with additional insights on how best to address the various challenges in overcoming violent conflicts in Africa. The first of many volumes to come, the Peace Mediator will ensure that all efforts in mediation and conflict prevention undertaken at Tracks 1, 2 and 3, are highlighted and used as opportunities to draw lessons and nuggets of wisdom with the view of improving our practice in this field, creating synergies, and improving the management of knowledge tools and frameworks that strengthens our collective efforts.

Since 2009, the African Union (AU) has implemented the AU Mediation Support Capacity Project in partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and Crisis Management Initiative (CMI). The project seeks and continues to enhance the institutional capability of mediation stakeholders, specifically the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts. This work has been implemented with the support of other partners like the United Nations Department for Political Affairs (UNDPA), the European Union (EU), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Governments of Finland, Norway, Denmark, Italy, and Japan. Mention should also be made to the technical partners that have been with us since the beginning: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and Folke Bernadotte Academy amongst others. Some of the highlights achieved thus far include the strengthened capacity of AU mediators through trainings, development of tools, such as the AU Standard Operating Procedures in Mediation Support (SOP), the AU Knowledge Management Framework (KMF), and roster of experts that will contribute to the thematic expertise required in the field. Phase II of the Project saw the development and publishing of the AU Mediation Support Handbook which serves as a general reference and field guide for those deployed on AU mediation missions, and as a training tool for the AU mediation support courses. The Project has continuously conducted training in mediation as well as producing knowledge by means of high level discussions. The phases further saw the provision of support to enhance the Economic Community of Central African States' (ECCAS) mediation capacities to strengthen its role in the peace process in the Central African Republic (CAR). The mapping of African non-state actors and their experiences, lessons, and challenges from mediation processes contributed to linking the AU's liaison offices with key non-state actors from their respective sub-regions. These mappings also led to the production of knowledge on the added value of civil society in the field of mediation and conflict prevention.

The current phase of the project, Phase III, is focusing on enhancing the mediation support capacity of the AU and

In this issue:

Commissioner's Foreword

Key Highlights

News

Youth in Conflict Prevention and Mediation

Mediator's Voice

Special Focus

Women and Mediation

RECs/RMs and Mediation

Retro Space: President Martti Ahtisaari

Publications



RECs/RMs to plan, deploy, manage and monitor mediation interventions in a timely and effective manner while documenting best practises and lessons learned from these interventions. It also seeks to strengthen the collaboration of the RECs/RMs and the AU towards enhancing and harmonising mediation efforts in Africa. The AU Mediation Capacity Support Project, now in its eight year of operation, has worked and will continue to work towards strengthening the strategic framework and practical mechanisms to enable the AU to further develop its capacity to undertake and support

mediation interventions. This newsletter targets audiences far and wide in the field of peace and security and aims to keep us all informed and motivated to strengthen our cause to end violent conflicts on the African continent.

The AU's sincere gratitude extends to the aforementioned partners, especially the Government of Finland, as they continuously strive to provide support to the AU's Peace and Security Department to produce knowledge and implement key activities in pursuit of the promotion of peace, security and stability.

Key Highlights



7th Annual High Level Retreat of Special Envoys and Mediators on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability

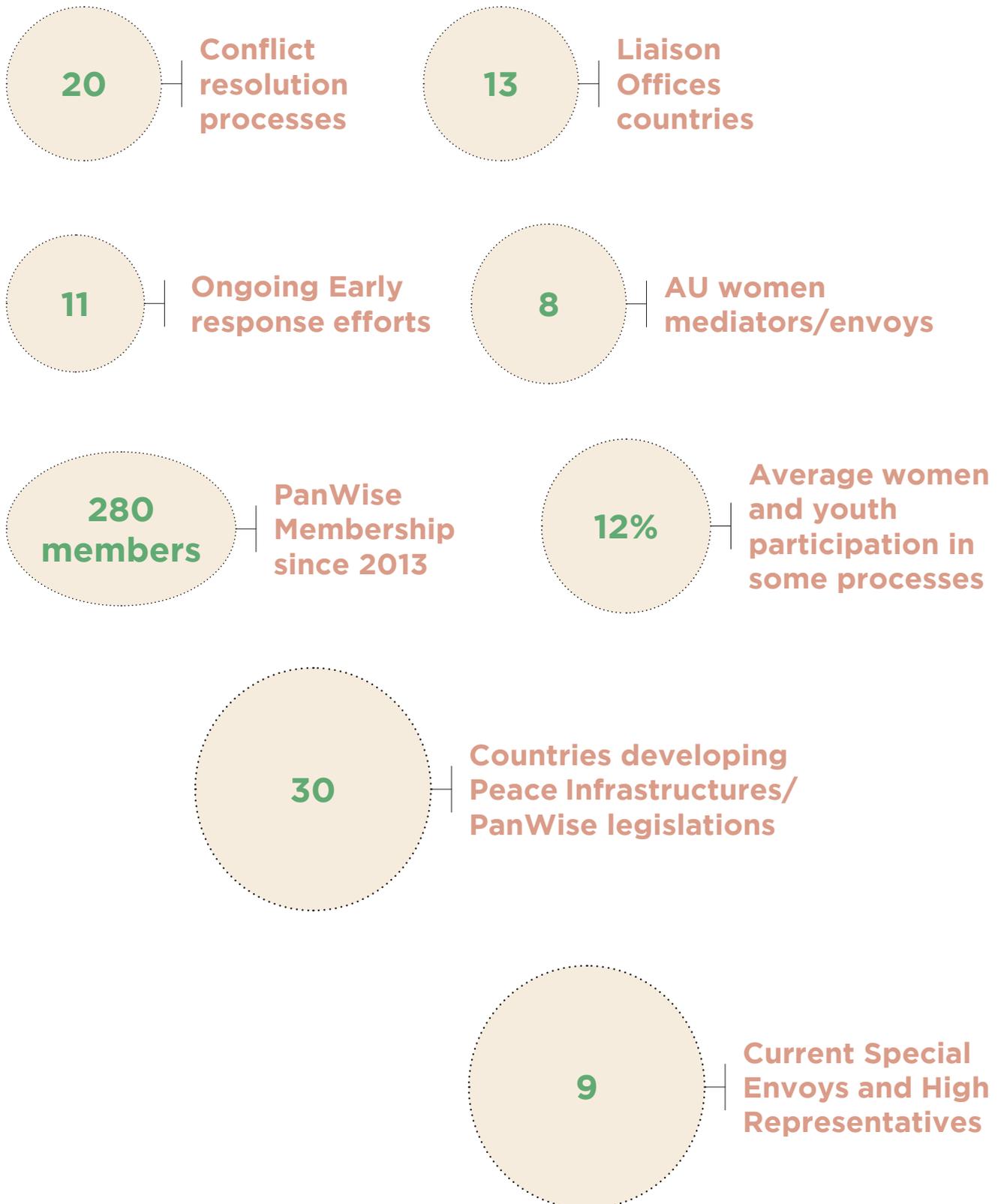
Since 2010, and as part of the *Make Peace Happen Campaign* decided upon by the Assembly of the Union that met in Tripoli, Libya in 2009, the AU convenes a High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability, bringing together African and international mediators working on the Continent with the view of discussing emerging threats to peace and security and their impact on short to long-term mediation efforts and coping mechanisms. The Retreat, which is organised on a principle of rotation, was held in Cairo, Egypt for three consecutive years from 2010 to 2012. In 2013, the Retreat was hosted by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, by Tanzania in 2014, by Namibia in 2015, and went back to Egypt (Sharm El Sheikh) in 2016 for its 7th meeting. The 7th Annual High Level Retreat was convened under the theme: 'Silencing the Guns - Mediation Practices and Contemporary Wars'. In addressing the complexity of the

current conflict landscape and the context in which mediation practices require a multiplicity of approaches to adapt to the nature of contemporary conflicts in Africa, the 2016 Retreat brought together, as is the practice, an impressive group of practitioners and academics who specialise in mediation. The meeting specifically discussed the practice of mediation in Africa, and the Middle East (Yemen and Syria). The key outcomes of last year's Retreat included: the need for a long-term commitment on prevention and mediation requiring firm political will, mobilisation of considerable resources, close collaboration and shared analysis among all stakeholders; capacity building for mediation; the need to harness and use the media and information technology in strengthening mediation practices; and that the AU should play a leading role in coordinating and harmonising mediation efforts and approaches especially in contexts where the mandates of mediation actors and international partners are overlapping.

[Read More](#)



Early Response and Mediation Efforts of the Peace and Security Department, AU



Source: African Union Commission (2017)



News

South Sudanese women parliamentarians visit Finland and Sweden to share experiences of their country's transition



Representatives of South Sudan Women's Parliamentary Caucus visited Helsinki and Stockholm in October 2016 to discuss their country's peace efforts as well as women's role in supporting peaceful transitions. CMI works with the Caucus to support the country's fragile peace process. The collaboration with the South Sudan Women's Parliamentary Caucus models inclusive approaches to the ongoing peace process in South Sudan to wider stakeholders, and is geared towards strengthening the role of parliament in conflict resolution, and the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) specifically. The Caucus has led national consultations involving hundreds of citizens across the country. In 2016, the consultations focused on disseminating information on the provisions of the formal peace agreement signed in August 2015 and collecting citizen inputs on its implementation mechanisms.

In Helsinki and Stockholm, the Caucus members were able to share their experiences with relevant stakeholders and the policy community.

[Read More](#)

North Africa: Misratans and Tawarghans identify steps towards reconciliation with CMI's support.

CMI brought together influential figures from Misrata and Tawargha to discuss how they could jointly support reconciliation between the two communities. The participants identified a number of concrete activities they could undertake to reduce tensions and build trust between Misratans and

Tawarghans, as well as agreed on a series of follow-up meetings inside Libya. The workshop was held in Tunis on 9 to 10 December 2016.



[Read More](#)

ACCORD contributes to strengthening IGAD's mediation capacity to address complex peace and security challenges in the region



ACCORD, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), co-hosted the first IGAD High Level Retreat on strengthening mediation capacity to address the complex peace and security challenges in the region. The IGAD efforts to improve security arrangements in the Horn of Africa take place in the context of a broad international consensus that regional organisations should contribute to the management of conflict and the maintenance of international peace. This has led to an increased demand in skilled mediators and subsequently to a need for more tailor-made capacity building initiatives. To this end, ACCORD in collaboration with IGAD and with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized the High Level Retreat: *Strengthening Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking*. The Retreat which was the first of its kind for the IGAD region, focused on strengthening mediation capacities to address the complex peace and security challenges within the region.

[Read More](#)



Mediation Training for Uganda Women Situation Room



In its resolve to ensure that the objectives of UNSCR 1325 are realised, and that initiatives to promote and enhance the role of women in mediation interventions; ACCORD facilitated trainings for the Eminent Women's Group (EWG) of the Uganda Women Situation Room (WSR). A Training on Negotiation

and Mediation for the EWG's WSR took place from 28 to 29 September 2016 in Kampala, Uganda. The WSR is an early warning and rapid response mechanism to address and mitigate conflict or any incidents likely to lead to violence before, during and after the elections. Due to the political climate in the post-Elections period in Uganda, the WSR extended their activities and the Eminent Women are continuously engaged in mediation efforts. This training aimed to strengthen the capacities of the EWG of the WSR to effectively support the peace processes in the country. It further enabled the participants to elaborate and share their experiences on their mediation efforts they undertook. It should be further noted that this was a follow up training to one held in March 2016 in which ACCORD conducted an Advanced Mediation Training for the EWG of the WSR. The training encompassed conflict analysis; mediation and negotiation, with specific reference to election related conflict. The interactive sessions during the training also provided a space in which the group engaged in discussions to draw lessons from the rest of Africa in managing election related conflict as well as share experiences thus far in the Ugandan pre and post-election period.

Youth in Conflict Prevention and Mediation



Laying the Ground for increased participation of Youth in Conflict Prevention and Mediation: In the Words of Fatima Askira

Fatima Askira, 26 years old, is a peacebuilding professional and a strong advocate for youth involvement in Countering Violent Extremism and peacebuilding. She is currently managing 5 youth networks across the Lake-Chad countries (Chad, Cameroon, Mali, Niger and Nigeria) to amplify the voice of young peace workers who are neither seen nor heard, while also active in international advocacy efforts. Fatima shared her insightful thoughts and experiences on youth and the role they play in Conflict Prevention, Mediation and Post Conflict Reconstruction. In her own words:

I am extremely active in community-based peacebuilding creating opportunities for young people to actively participate in community based projects. I am the founder of Borno Women Development Initiative (BOWDI), a civil society organization seeking to support the role of women in development and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts in North East Nigeria. I also work with Search For Common Ground, an international peacebuilding organization as a Youth Coordinator.

My recent projects have focused on supporting the peaceful reintegration of victims of Boko Haram insurgency into the community through

rehabilitation, and by economically empowering them. I started a campaign on December 28, 2016 to raise money and get clothing for internally displaced women and children. Those who gave most were people who did not have much at all, but still gave because they did not want the internally displaced people to sleep in the cold. By January 10, 2017 we received a little over 3,000 USD, where we managed to buy 1000 blankets, reaching out to a 1000 people. This is a campaign I launched on social media that got the attention of many, and made an impact in the community. I feel it is important to recognise the courageous efforts of people on the ground (young women and young men like me) who are changing lives and protecting the communities to the best of their ability.

Young people are not helpless, the frustration and desperation makes them want to make a change. But, opportunities come both 'negative' and 'positive', the choice then is how to engage in either opportunity. Violent extremists are often fast in reaching out to our disconnected youth in our communities, young people who are full of potential are being radicalized in the process of making a living. I am a single individual with a passion of bridging the gaps in communities by providing women and youth with the opportunity to realise their potentials as peacebuilders and peacemakers. We do this by working together to cross the hurdles of promoting resilience and peaceful coexistence in communities.

I can boldly say that today I am a role model to many youth in my community and region. Therefore, I am calling on young people to do more in their communities and bridge the gaps



by supporting each other and promote peace. We have to build a violent free and prosperous Africa for all by contributing to the efforts to silence the guns by 2020.

The youth cannot work alone and without sustainable supporting structures and systems. Member states should ensure youth participation at all levels in governance, security as well as in national and regional leadership; with these being some of the areas that affect their lives and choices. Bridging the communication gap is an essential tool in mediation and conflict resolution, most of the time, access to the right information between young people and policy makers is a challenge in our countries. Further, member states should make peace education compulsory in our curricula at various levels of education sectors. The work of religious bodies should not contradict the legal frameworks and should be coordinated with government entities, this will give government a chance to know what information is passed on to communities. Further, multi-lateral institutions should develop separate frameworks/criteria for funding that suits the positions of youth-led organisations and initiatives. There has been a wide

margin of capacity and resources available in various youth organizations, and thus the need for support and scale-up cannot be over emphasized. Multi-lateral institutions need to consider youth activities at local levels. Young people are involved in mediation and peace building efforts at the local level and in local capacities, with little or no recognition for their contributions towards these processes.

The training of young mediators with consideration of the demographic dividend is a key factor in peace processes, considering the population of young people in the African continent today. We have seen young people being perpetrators and victims of terror activities, using youth as tools to mediate in various conflict situations would contribute to peace and stability in our continent. Our conflict dynamics have some similar elements in each of the member states; these could only be addressed collaboratively and by actively engaging the young people. Institutions such as the AU, UN and government agencies should collaborate to strengthen their capacities and amplify their contributions; this is indeed a way to a safe Africa that we want.

Mediator's Voice



Mme. Catherine Samba-Panza

Catherine Samba-Panza served as the interim president of the Central African Republic from 2014 -2016. In an interview for this newsletter, Mme Samba-Panza shared her experiences and insights in her field and particularly on mediation

How long have you been in the field of mediation? What mediation processes have you been involved in and which are the most and least memorable experiences?

I served as the Interim President of the Central African Republic (CAR) from 2014 – 2016. Before this, I was a member of the National Mediation Council of my country, which is the National Institution responsible for settling disputes between the Administration and citizens and conflicts of all kinds in the country from 2006 to 2012. Prior and further to that, from 2005 to 2007, I was a member of the Group of Wise Men and Women of CAR, a body that was in charge of compliance with the Code of Good Conduct before, during and after the 2005 elections and also responsible for inclusive political dialogue process. In this capacity, I have been involved in various solutions to the crisis and peace-building and also was part of the Mediation teams in charge of negotiating with armed groups to reach agreements of cessation of hostilities and peace agreements. I remember the contexts of extreme tension and insecurity in which the talks were taking place, with radical interlocutors determined to assert their position on the ground. Among

the most positive mediation experiences that I have carried out, I cannot fail to mention the reconciliation achieved in 2004 between the two former Presidents David Dacko and Abel Goumba, who had opposed each other for more than 40 years. The image of their reconciliation scene is now part of the national archives of CAR as one of the landmark moments in the history of the country.

What are the most difficult aspects of mediation?

Finding points of convergence between parties in conflict with interests and values that are totally opposed and often with radical positions. But the patience, the determination of the mediator, his/her knowledge of the issues and his/her moral and professional capacities can enable him/her to bring the protagonists to the negotiating table in order to engage in a constructive dialogue.

In real terms, is preventive diplomacy similar to a mediation process? Do we use the same tools, techniques, and duration? What are the entry points for each?

Some facts may be warning signs and precursors to imminent conflict. When such threats to peace and security arise, the international community, in cooperation with national and regional actors, can and must act before conflicts erupt. It is essential to know how to anticipate the violence and the enormous human, moral and material costs it entails. Unlike mediation aimed at putting an end to an already declared conflict, preventive diplomacy aims to avoid the creation of disputes, to limit the escalation of existing disputes and to



minimize the spread of a conflict. Like mediation, preventive diplomacy uses different forms of dialogue, the most frequent being a combination of diplomatic shuttles, proximity interviews and direct talks. It focuses more on lobbying, encouragement, political support or pressure. A diplomacy adapted to a peace process can positively influence it, while inappropriate intervention can have negative effects.

What are the positive outcomes of the mediations you have undertaken?

The socio-political situation of the CAR has been enameled for some twenty years by recurrent deep social, political and military crises. Several attempts and various means of resolving Central African conflicts have been carried out. As a civil society leader and a member of the National Mediation Institutions, I have been involved in most of the agreements signed between the Central African government and armed groups, under African or international mediation to bring peace.

Thus, civil society, opposition parties and part of the armed opposition have called for a different kind of dialogue to find a lasting solution to the crises in the CAR: the Inclusive Political Dialogue.

The organization of this Inclusive Political Dialogue has led to important political disagreements. The mediation of the Group of Wise Persons of which I was a member, that of President El Adj Omar BONGO ONDIMBA and the facilitation of the Swiss Humanitarian Dialogue Center made it possible to bring all the parties back to the preparation table held at Bangui from 08 to 20 December 2008.

What advice would you give to future mediators?

Mediation in an international or internal conflict is a highly political, fluid and complex task. This involves careful engagement and moral obligations in situations marked by human suffering and threatening the lives of thousands of people. In the context of these conflicts, mediators assume personal and professional responsibility to the parties involved in the process and to the populations affected by the conflict. It is important that people involved in peace processes act ethically, effectively, and professionally. In exercising this responsibility, mediators and peace process specialists must operate in accordance with high standards of professional conduct. This requires mastery of qualities such as: acute awareness of the context in which they work; understanding of what the role of a third party implies; and excellent knowledge and skills in some important technical fields.

What advice/recommendations would you give the UN agency, AU, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), EU etc. to integrate civil society mediation efforts into formal processes?

African and international mediation initiatives have been undertaken during the successive crises and conflicts in Africa. African political mediations have often not been decisive in the dynamics of

resolving these conflicts and in consolidating peace. African mediations are often punctual and reactive to a conflict: they sometimes obey disparate motivations. There is sometimes a lack of synergy between African mediation initiatives and the interventions of the international community. The resurgence of crises in Africa is an important factor in the sustainable resolution of conflicts in Africa. Given the mixed results of past experiences, it is important to consider how the various crises can be adequately addressed. Lessons should be drawn from the mitigated impact of previous initiatives. These initiatives must correspond to a deep internal dynamic with the involvement of all the actors wishing to achieve concrete results. It is imperative to involve internal and local mediation institutions in peace processes by making greater use of existing capacities in the administration, civil society, private sector, universities and the emergence of traditional modes of conflict resolution.

Can you share advice on how to integrate young people into mediation processes? What mechanisms? In what phases? Have you ever been able to do this effectively?

In situations of conflict, facilitations are often carried out informally by the civil society, in particular by the associations of women, youth and religious denominations. In order to better integrate young people into mediation processes, it would be wise to set up institutional, strategic and operational frameworks for mediation open to young people and to reinforce their operational capacities in terms of prevention, management and sustainable resolution of crises and conflicts. In the meantime, this process can begin with the involvement of young people in participatory and inclusive global and sectoral consultative frameworks, bringing together a wide range of political, military and social actors in the country on the major problems of their country.

[Read the French version here.](#)





Edem Kodjo

Former Secretary General of the OAU
Former TOGO Prime Minister
President of PAX AFRICANA

Appointed many times as a Mediator or Facilitator by institutions such as the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the OIF, and the UN, I have had the honor of serving the cause of human rights and the respect for individual freedoms, which are values and commitments that have been mine and I continue to promote, through the organisation that I have founded, PAX AFRICANA whose dual objective is to work to reduce conflicts on the continent and to propose solutions for the integral and genuine development of Africa.

The various missions I have undertaken, such as explorative missions (ie preventive diplomacy), good offices, and mediation have lead me to several countries, such as Madagascar, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Cameroon and Burundi (which was recently entrusted to President Yoweri Museveni in line with the rules of subsidiarity) and also recently, to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a member of the AU Panel of the Wise (PoW).

I was the facilitator of La Francophonie during the Malagasy crisis from March 2009, as Special Envoy of the Secretary General of this organization. I thus conducted and led an evaluation mission in April 2012 to La Grande Île, which included experts from la Francophonie, as well as representatives from French-speaking countries such as Canada, Mauritius and Switzerland.

The tools and objectives defined for the mission of March 2009 in Antananarivo were:

- Listening to the different protagonists of the Malagasy crisis;
- Undertaking a diversity of actions in order to reconcile divergent points of views; and
- Facilitating the close collaboration with representatives of the international community (ie. ambassadors accredited to Madagascar, special envoys of international institutions, UN, and AU) in order to work towards a more concerted action to resolve the crisis in La Grande Île.

However, the main objective of this mission, as was often the case in all the others that followed, was to restore peace in the country and create the conditions for organizing within a reasonable time and in accordance with good practice a presidential election. This was to allow the Malagasy to choose a new President of the Republic, and to give back strong and lasting institutions to the country, thus putting an end to a long, rampant and recurrent crisis that paralyzed the political and socio-economic life of this country for several months despite all attempts to promote

national-led resolution efforts. There is much similarity in terms of objectives between the case of Madagascar and the more recent one of the DRC.

With regards to challenges, this mission was difficult despite its nature which included a joint approach (on the ground) together with the presence of representatives from different organisations, namely the UN, AU and the Southern African Developing Community (SADC). Several issues could be noted from this experience, in addition to the frictions that were caused by the desire of each institution to self-promote. Such challenges included:

- The ambivalent role played by the army, sometimes republican (neutral) and sometimes partisan (biased);
- Internal contradictions, suspicions, evident struggles for state power;
- The misunderstandings noted by the protagonists on both sides; and
- The lack of proximity between the populations and the missions undertaken by the international organisations.

Ultimately, in this case, the mediators set foot in a country where the main political actors and majority of citizens had harboured a strong sentiment of injustice, which caused them to wonder about the lack of responsiveness by the international community at a time when the Constitution was being violated and the worst kinds of repetitive humiliations were being inflicted on the people (Malagasy).

Once the mediators came into the scene, they were perceived and initially welcomed by some, as saviors, by others as « justiciers » [justice]. Our role was clearly between the two. We had a mandate to bring back to the discussion table those who were to be saved and those to whom justice was due. The political climate was charged with strong sentiments of hope, passion, but also annoyance.

On the lessons learned, international institutions have, through years of observation, conviction, reflection and obstinacy, succeeded in building a rigorous normative framework in the area of mediation. However, the doctrine of these institutions remains incomplete. Early warning or diplomacy must not remain vain words. Even though pronouncements and warnings to the attention of the leadership of a country cannot be easily addressed publicly, however more subtle ways and use of preventive diplomacy tools should be brought to the fore so as to be able to enjoin national leadership to adhere to core values, such as the scrupulous respect of good governance practices, respect for the rule of law, respect for public freedoms and human rights.

[Read the French version here.](#)



Women and Mediation

In Constantine, Algeria, the AU lays the foundation for the Establishment of a Pan African Women in Mediation Network



March 13, 2017, not only marks the celebration of Women's Month, but it is also recorded as the birth date of the Pan African Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Peace Mediation, officially known as FemWise. The AU's PSC, at its 655th meeting held in March 2017 noted the briefing made by the PoW on its 2016 activities, and adopted the decision to welcome the progress by the PoW and Pan African Network of the Wise (PanWise) in the development of the Modalities for the Establishment of FemWise. The PSC further requested the AU Commission to submit the Modalities to the relevant bodies for its finalization, for adoption, and to accelerate the operationalization of FemWise, as well as adjacent Women in Mediation Policy, as recommended by the PoW, to guide and monitor the operationalization of FemWise.

It should be mentioned that the Modalities of FemWise were drawn from an AU High Level Workshop on African Women Mediation convened in Constantine, Algeria, on 12-13 December 2016. The workshop was convened in furtherance of the Panel's third thematic report on "Eliminating sexual violence against women and children in armed conflicts". The PoW and its counter parts from the RECs/RMs, under the (PanWise), umbrella convened the African Women Mediation Workshop, in collaboration with the Government of Algeria, with the support of the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, UN Women, ACCORD and Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS). The Workshop, titled "Silencing the Guns by 2020: Women's Inclusion in Pre-Conflict Mediation, at the Peace table and in Social Cohesion Mechanisms", took place at the request of the AU PSC and a 2014 Decision of the AU Executive Assembly calling for the Commission to develop a Terms of Reference for an association/network of women in mediation. This was further supported by the ten year action plan of Agenda 2063 on Women's Empowerment adopted during the January 2015 AU Summit of Heads of State and Government. The PoW submitted the outcome of the Constantine

Workshop to the PSC on 13 March 2017, as well as the said modalities, which were welcomed and fully supported by the policy making organ, which has called for the expeditious completion and operationalization of the Network.

The Retreat was not to develop a women mediation network because it's fashionable, nor only from a gender equity and empowerment principle. Rather there was a need to be able to claim with evidence based research through a programme on the African women Mediators Network that Women from Africa make a difference, through mediation, to sustainable conflict resolution efforts.

From inception, it was clear that the idea of the network should be pegged to the relevant AU organs in order to monitor, influence decision-making and undertake independent mediation and social cohesion efforts on the ground. Such a network would in fact ground itself in the experiences of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) initiative to carry forward the aspirations and objectives of the organization's forefathers and foremothers. To this end, a PoW- commissioned study indicated the many challenges facing women inclusion at the peace table and in other decision-making processes. Women continue to make their presence felt through application of their skill in communication, planning and execution of ideas. These efforts are buoyed by a number of normative and legal frameworks at international, continental, regional, sub-regional and national levels, including UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security; the AU African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); and the AU Gender Architecture (AUGA); AU Agenda 2063 and the accompanying implementation frameworks and roadmaps.

It should be mentioned that the Constantine Workshop made every effort to ensure that the different women from various backgrounds (close to 100, including Her Excellency Catherine Samba Panza) and levels have a single vision of the Network that would be unitedly pursued. This will allow the Orchestra to sing from one song sheet and it will give the harmony and rhythm that is envisioned. Key to the success of the network was an accepted common vision. Ultimately, the common vision is the compass that will steer the cause and also ensure we have a single reference point. This is also to avoid any distractions and going off the course. Additional benefit is the regulation of relationships between and among the levels which will allow for ease of the day to day work thereby ensuring that the bulk of the energies are focused on the real matter at hand: Women Mediating.

FemWise, will be located within APSA—as a subsidiary mechanism of the PoW and the PanWise. It will report to the PSC through the Panel of the Wise—to guarantee its legitimacy, increase credibility, gain permanence; and ensure



value-addition to the architecture. Similarly, FemWise will maintain clear links with the various evolving components of the Peace and Security Department (PSD), the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in the Bureau of the Chairperson and the office of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security.

In order to expedite the operationalization of the FemWise, in line with the PSC directives, the AU under the PanWise will focus its attention on: a) finalise the legal process for completing the Modalities of the Network; b) develop an AU Gender and Mediation Policy that will guide the AU on

systemic inclusion of gender issues and women in preventive and mediation efforts; c) develop a National Dialogue Index as a tool to measure the frequency, effectiveness and inclusiveness of national dialogues in seeking to achieve sustainable peace; d) develop an AU Youth in Mediation Policy as a tool to guide the AU, RECs/RMs and member States on how to mainstream the Youth and Youth issues (the space, voice and participation of youth) in all tracks of mediation and conflict prevention efforts, the same way the Gender Policy would seek to achieve.

[Read More](#)

Special Focus

AU Making Strides in Operationalising its Continental-wide Conflict Prevention and Mediation Mechanisms: The Journey of the Pan African Network of the Wise (PanWise).



Former Vice President of Uganda, Madame Speciosa Wandira, a member of the AU Panel of the Wise and chair of the Pan-African Network of the Wise, shares some insightful information on the level of operationalisation of PanWise, the way forward and opportunities.

The principle of expansion of the AU's PoW emanated from a high level workshop organized in Algiers in December 2010 with recommendations for the establishment of a continent-wide network of mediators that would be linked to the PoW. This would leverage National, Regional and Continental Mediation Experiences and "Strengthen Effective Conflict Prevention and Early Response approaches". The celebrations of the OAU-AU Golden Jubilee, in May 2013, saw the Assembly of the Union establish PanWise, to bring together under one umbrella mediation actors and mechanisms, such as the AUPoW, COMESA Committee of Elders, ECOWAS Panel of the Elders, SADC Panel of the Wise, future RECs/RMs mechanisms, Insiders' Mediators, former Heads of States, African and international mediators working in Africa, with complementary responsibilities to strengthen, coordinate and harmonise prevention, early response and peacemaking efforts carried out by various actors in Africa under a single umbrella. The guiding Principles of PanWise are: a) Adherence to the principles of subsidiarity, complementarity, comparative advantage, bottom-up and constructive interaction; b) Engagement in preventive diplomacy, mediation and related activities with parties engaged in a dispute or conflict, and observance of discretion, respect for confidentiality and careful consultation with members on deliberations; c) Awareness raising and guardianship of institutional norms in light of conflict prevention and peacemaking activities on the ground.

The PanWise therefore seeks to promote the functional inclusion of "bottom-up approaches" to prevention and mediation in continental and regional mediation efforts. It provides a platform for actors to collaborate closely on joint activities, cement partnerships, and expand the ownership of the APSA to the African people, local communities, governments, civil societies and individuals. The plan of action for PanWise, which was adopted by its members, outlines four key clusters of cooperation: (I) collaboration on conflict prevention, mediation and related peace-making activities; (II) knowledge management, best practices and lessons learned; (III) training and capacity-building; and (IV) co-development of an outreach and communications strategy. It should be further noted that the second Panel of the Wise (2010-2014) which was composed by Excellencies Salim A. Salim; President Kenneth Kaunda, Mme Mary Chinery-Hesse; Mme Marie Madeleine Kalala-Ngoy and Elisabeth Pognon provided significant continuity which saw an expansion of activities with consensus generated on the role and position of the Panel in the Union's wider efforts at conflict prevention. This phase is also marked by the Panel's diffusion through the creation of the PanWise as well as its expansion with the creation of the "Friends of the Panel". It is important to note that the landmark activities and impact under this common umbrella have been: a) the conduct of joint pre-election assessment missions in Egypt, DRC, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Ghana, and twice in Tunisia; b) collaboration on thematic research and 'horizon scanning' reports from four studies—on Election-related disputes, Women and Children in Armed conflicts, the impact of the Arab Spring on the Governance, and Democratization Processes in Africa; c) the Development of an African Transitional Justice Framework and Model; and d) experience-sharing, best practices and lessons learned, joint training and capacity-building initiatives.

In the future, the PanWise membership intends to fulfil other aspects of its mandate, which include: a) increased involvement in conciliation, confidence-building, and mediation processes; b) fostering policies aimed at promoting democratic principles and practices, good governance, the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the



sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law; c) join forces to pronounce on key and often controversial issues for a stronger level of authority, legitimacy and therefore influence; d) support RECs/RMs and Member States in establishing formal Panels of the Wise, Peace/Mediation committees; and e) address some of the more strategic and normative policy harmonization dimensions of conflict prevention and peacemaking within the context of the APSA.

FemWise, the Pan African network of women in conflict prevention and mediation, is designed as a sub-organ of PanWise. FemWise is a result of the Panel's concern with the glaring limited presence of women in continental and regional conflict-prevention, mediation, and peacemaking processes.

[Read More](#)

The nexus between natural resources and mediation

Natural resource management has become a vital issue on the continent. Natural resources such as water, land mining, oil, gas, and timber, to name a few, are important sources

of livelihoods and income to communities and countries respectively. However, much conflict and tension has arisen in the use and accessibility of these resources. Africa is a continent with an abundance of natural resources. Recent patterns in the climate conditions indicate that there will be a greater demand for depleting water and other resources. There will be a competition for the use of land for agriculture, industrialisation and habitation. In light of this, it can be foreseen that natural resources will continue to be a driver for conflicts that will arise in the future. In response to this concern, and recognising the need for a mediation intervention, the UN undertook a collaborative effort with 40 international mediation experts to consolidate decades of hands-on experience mediating conflicts over extractive resources, land and water at both national and international levels. The AU and UN have thus commenced with engagements on embedding natural resources into AU's mediation process. This draws on the Sharm el Sheikh Retreat's concrete recommendation, and AU's ongoing negotiations with UNEP to address the serious concerns on natural resource management and conflict prevention.

RECs/RMs and Mediation

Strengthening REC/RMs mediation structures and actions

The RECs/RMs are seen as one of the key entities for strengthening, consolidating and sustaining regional and continental conflict management in Africa. The AU Mediation Support Capacity Project thus prioritises the needs of the RECs/RMs in enhancing their capacities towards conflict prevention and mediation by providing operational support and training. Throughout the duration of the project, many engagements and initiatives have taken place with the RECs/RMs. For instance, the Project has engaged extensively with ECCAS since 2014 throughout the three principal phases of the CAR peace process: from the July 2014 Brazzaville talks to in-country popular consultations and the National Bangui Forum of May 2015. ACCORD and CMI were called upon to provide support to the peace process and contribute to the preparation of the Ministry of Communication and National Reconciliation and ECCAS, respectively, towards the Forum. In this context, an ACCORD staff member was deployed to the CAR from 22 November to 6 December 2014, in order to assist the CAR Ministry of Communication and National Reconciliation on the preparation of the Forum as well as consolidate the support to ECCAS in the country. Similarly, a CMI Senior Adviser was seconded to the ECCAS Office in Bangui from January-April 2015 to serve on the preparatory commission and the organizational technical committee for the Bangui Forum. CMI's Senior Adviser thereafter acted as a facilitator of the Forum's

peace and security commission. An ACCORD staff member is presently deployed to provide technical expertise to ECCAS' Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy Unit in Libreville, Gabon, following a request by ECCAS.

At the request of the AU, CMI provided operational support to ECCAS to build its mediation capacities and strengthen its role in resolving the CAR crisis. In June 2014, the AU requested CMI to support ECCAS in establishing a mediation support team for the ECCAS-led mediation efforts in CAR. This request followed CMI and ACCORD's earlier support to ECCAS' high-level solidarity platform for women leaders in CAR. The rapid deployment of a team of experts and technicians to establish a mediation support team led to an ongoing CMI-ECCAS collaboration within the three-phase international mediation process.

Besides the support to ECCAS, CMI and ACCORD have provided targeted support under the joint project to other RECs, including ECOWAS, IGAD, COMESA, and EAC.

New study on the principle of subsidiarity drawing from the CAR mediation experience

A new study looking at the application of the principle of subsidiarity in resolving the crisis in CAR has been published. According to the study, the successful implementation of the principle of subsidiarity will increase the likelihood of a sustainable peace process. The case study was developed by ECCAS and CMI and builds



on the fruitful collaboration between these two organisations in seeking to resolve the CAR crisis. The intention of the study is to share best practices and lessons with policy makers, peace practitioners, and international organisations.

The principle of subsidiarity is founded on the idea that sustainable peace is possible if conflict resolution is led by actors who are culturally, geopolitically and/or strategically close to the crisis in question. The idea of subsidiarity can be illustrated with a metaphor of fire. "If a house in a village is on fire, it's of great interest to the neighbors to ensure that the fire is extinguished expediently and doesn't spread", explains Itonde Kakoma, co-author of the study and the Head of Sub-Saharan Africa at CMI.

In the African context, the principle of subsidiarity means the mediation of crisis should be supported and, where appropriate, led by the RECs/RMs. According to Kakoma, the engagement

of regional organisations is at the core of the efforts to provide "African solutions to African problems" in conflict prevention and resolution. "The principle of subsidiarity highlights the African ownership. But it also points to the fact that African states are the ones that will have to live with the outcome if the crisis is not properly solved."

A key observation in the study highlights the need for sufficient independence of REC/RMs secretariats whilst balancing regional member state interests. For this, the provision of financial resources alone is not enough. Substantial technical support in mediation and political backstopping by all relevant actors would allow RECs/RMs to fulfil their function more strongly within APSA.

The case study is available in both French and English through this link: <http://cmi.fi/latest/publications/>

Retro Space



Reflections on a past peace process: Interview with President Martti Ahtisaari

"Namibia's example is still relevant for today's peacemaking"

President Martti Ahtisaari is a former UN diplomat, a Finnish statesman, and a renowned peace mediator in international conflicts. Upon leaving the office of President of Finland in 2000, he founded the CMI. In 2008, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leading role in bringing independence to Namibia, Serbia's withdrawal from Kosovo, and autonomy for Aceh in Indonesia. President Ahtisaari remains an active member of The Elders, chaired by Kofi Annan and founded by President Nelson Mandela. In this interview, President Ahtisaari reflects on the Namibian peace process and its relevance for today's peacemaking.

What made the Namibian peace process successful?

One of the most important elements leading to Namibian independence was certainly the unity of purpose with which the international community approached the issue. It took a long time to implement the UNSC Resolution 435 of 1978, but the mere fact that the international community was united behind the resolution left South Africa with no choice but to pave the way for Namibian independence. The unity of the African states, and especially neighboring states, was also important. So was the help the UN mission in Namibia, the UN Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG), received from military, civilian police and

professionals who participated in the process leading up to elections and thereafter supervised the elections.

What role did the region play during the Namibian peace process?

Without the support of the OAU and the member states of the UN, it would not have been possible for the UN Secretary General to launch the UNTAG operation in the way that it was done. Support from the OAU was vital as South Africa was using delaying tactics to hinder implementation. Thankfully, the international community was so united that the African countries even accepted, albeit grudgingly, the withdrawal of Cuban forces from neighboring countries to Namibia, particularly Angola, in 1988. Everyone knew that otherwise South Africa would have used it as an excuse to delay the independence process.

It is important for us to understand that had we failed the independence process in Namibia, the democratization process in South Africa would also have been delayed. When South Africa realised that it was possible to achieve what had been achieved in Namibia, it realised it was attainable for them as well. This set in motion various events, including the release of Mandela from Robben Island. At the Namibian independence celebrations at Windhoek's sports stadium, Mandela received a well-deserved reception with standing ovations. This was a clear sign of how important the Namibian independence process had been, which then continued with the process of democratisation in South Africa.

It is important to harness knowledge and learn from previous experiences to avoid unnecessary mistakes going forward.



I am thankful that I still have people around me who were active in Namibia and can provide their knowledge and experience to CMI.

What lessons from the Namibian peace process are relevant for today's peace efforts?

I believe that similar operations could be launched in other countries moving towards open democracy. For example, at one stage in the future, elections will be needed in Syria, which the UN could administer. However, we need to learn from previous experiences and allow sufficient time, a few years, for all elements of society to organise themselves before elections are held. Otherwise, we find ourselves in a situation like the one in Egypt, where elections took place too soon and there were only few organized parties that could properly campaign in the elections. Also, immediate efforts are needed to reconstruct a society after a war for people to start feeling more comfortable in their country and to allow for those who fled the war to return home.

Namibia has performed comparatively well on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance. Why has Namibia been successful?

The leadership in Namibia recognised from the start the importance of building a fair and just society. I sincerely hope that we have contributed to this considering the very good relationship the Nordic countries have developed with Namibia over the years. Many Namibians studied in the Nordic countries prior to their country's independence and have seen what a free and fair society is like at its best. They have seen how both boys and girls get a chance in society with equal and decent education and affordable health care.

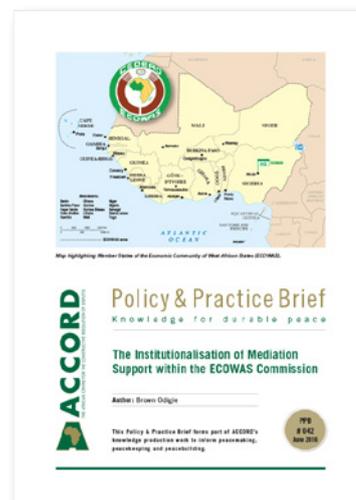
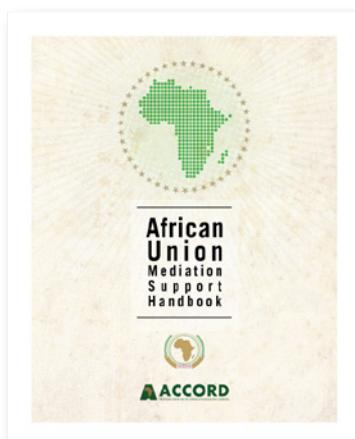
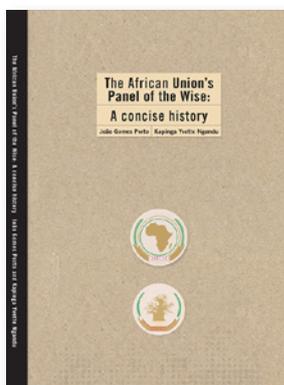
The current Vice-President H.E. Nickey Iyambo studied political science at the University of Helsinki and later became a medical doctor in Finland. He then moved on to hold various Ministerial posts in the Namibian government until his current one as Vice President. I am very proud of him. H.E. Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba received the Mo Ibrahim Prize of 5 Million US dollars as a recognition of his excellent work as the second president of Namibia post-independence.

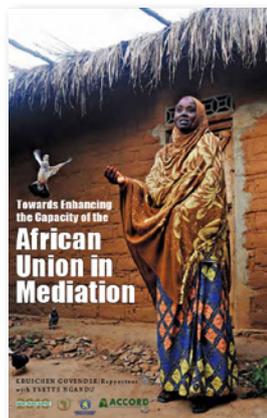
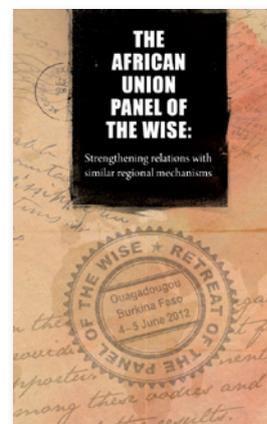
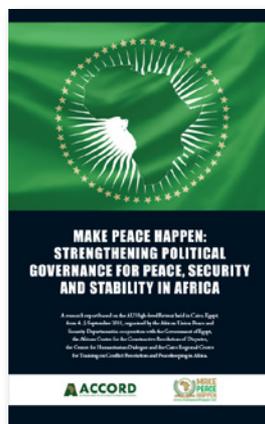
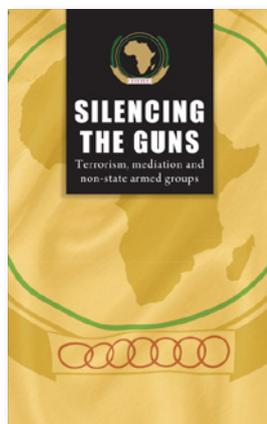
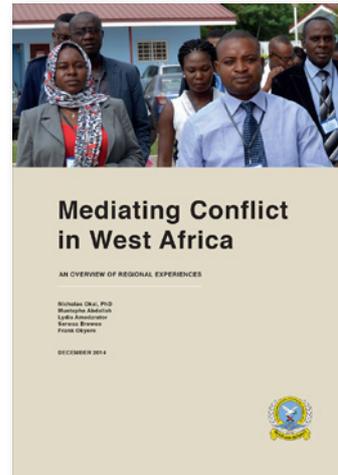
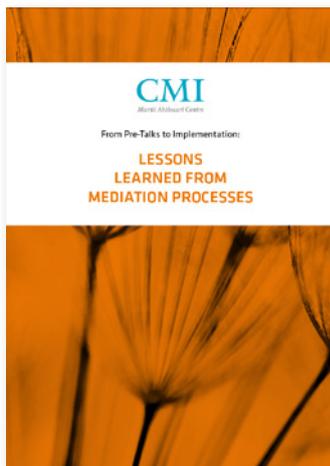
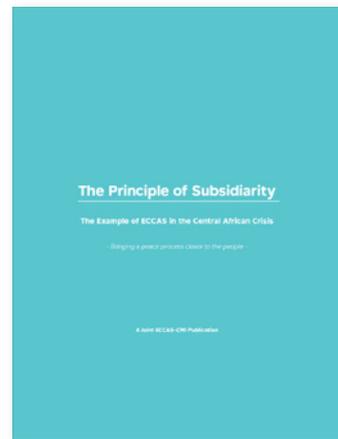
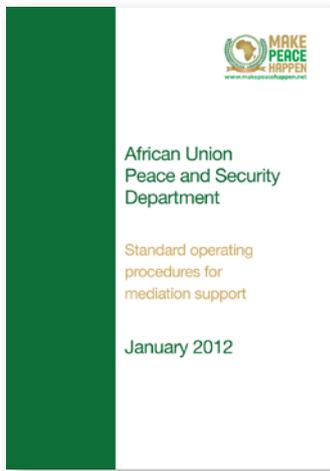
How do you see the historical and current role of the OAU and the AU in the field of peace and security? Do you have any message or piece of advice to the AU?

The OAU and the AU should definitively be proud of what they have achieved as the decolonization process in Africa has led to the independence of many African countries. The OAU/AU member states have also been very active in the UN. In my involvement with the UN over the years, I have been fortunate to meet with many African leaders and representatives. We have talked about common problems that we together can find solutions to, and I am confident that current problems on the continent can be solved. We need to show the same unity as we did during the Namibian independence process, which was a long struggle. I believe that if we could do it in Namibia, we can do it in all other conflicts that currently exist or that might erupt in the future. A good reminder for all of us is that the best way to prevent conflicts is to build fair, uncorrupt, and democratic societies and give a chance to all members of society. Egalitarian principles are the best counter preventive measure the government can invest in. This is something we learned through our history in the Nordic countries.

Publications

Publications of the African Union Mediation Support Capacity Project





The African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Department (PSD), the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) have been implementing a joint project titled the **African Union Mediation Support Capacity Project** since August 2009, aimed at strengthening the mediation support capacity of the AU.

The objectives of the Project are to:

Enhance the AU and RECs mediation support capacity to plan, deploy, manage and monitor mediation interventions in a timely and effective manner;

Enhance the AU and RECs capacity to review, evaluate, identify lessons and best practises on conflict prevention and peace mediation efforts; and

Strengthen internal systems and procedures in support of AU and RECs mediation interventions.

These objectives are implemented by means of training, research and high level engagements.



AUC – Yvette Ngandu: ✉ NganduK@africa-union.org

ACCORD – Irene Limo: ✉ irene@accord.org.za

ACCORD – Marisha Ramdeen: ✉ marisha@accord.org.za

CMI – Eemeli Isoaho: ✉ Eemeli.isoaho@cmi.fi

The African Union Mediation Support Capacity Project is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

African Union Commission

Peace and Security Department

2016-09

Peace Mediator

Peace and Security Department

Peace and Security Department

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/5012>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository