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**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN UNION CENTER FOR
POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
(AUCPCRD)**

(Proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt)

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Introduction/References

- Armed conflicts constitute one of the major obstacles that impede sustainable development in Africa. There is therefore a genuine need to intensify and introduce new initiatives in the field of peace building through proactive approaches. To achieve this it is imperative to operationalize the African Union Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD). This would aim at assisting countries emerging from conflicts from relapsing into violence, by addressing the root causes of conflicts and priorities and needs of these countries.
- Since the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union, the AU is demonstrating pro-activeness to tackle the continent's peace and security challenges. In addition, it contributes to issues relating to the attainment of international peace and security. Article 5(2) of the AU Constitutive Act, on the basis of which the PSC has been established, inter alia, to promote and implement peace-building and post conflict reconstruction [Article 3(c), which includes humanitarian action and disaster management, considered as core activities of the PSC (Article 6(e) and (f)).
- The African Union has established an active Peace and Security Council, assisted by a well structured African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). This structure consists of six mechanisms to deal with prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, namely; (a) the Continental Early Warning System, (b) African Standby Forces, (c) Regional Economic Communities, (d) Panel of the wise, and (e) the Peace Fund. Moreover, important components such as Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, Border Management, Maritime Safety and Security are presently being considered to reinforce the APSA structure.
- The AU Executive Council, at its 7th Session in Sirte 2005, stressed the need to consolidate the significant progress made in conflict resolution in the continent. It also urged the Commission to develop an AU policy on post-conflict reconstruction, based on the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol and the experience gained so far in the continent (EX.CL/Dec.225(VII)).

- The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, at its 7th Session in Banjul 2006, endorsed the AU policy framework for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD). The AU PCRD aims at addressing the root causes of conflicts, and deals with ravages of war and placing affected countries on the path of sustainable social justice, renewal and participatory governance. The AU PCRD is underpinned by five core principles, which constitute the basic minimum values and standards that inform action across all post-conflict activities and programmes. These principles include: African leadership; national and local ownership; inclusiveness, equity and non-discrimination; cooperation and cohesion; and capacity building for sustainability (EX.CL/Dec.302(IX)).
- Through the enabling resolutions, which established the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC); i.e. 60/180 and 1645(2005), the PBC was mandated, inter alia to operate in three principal configurations: marshalling resources at the disposal of the international community, proposing integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building , and assisting the recovery of countries emerging from conflicts. At present, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia are on the agenda of the PBC.
- In spite of the abovementioned endeavours, APSA and the African PCRD policy framework have not yet been fully functional and operational. So far, most of the post-conflict reconstruction initiatives have been national or from a country-based approach, while no sufficient attention has been given to multi spectrum and regional approaches towards PCRD initiatives. The African Union Center for PCRD is meant to address the gap that exists within APSA structure, and to avail a continental mechanism to respond to all needs of countries emerging from conflicts through a combined country-based and wide spectrum approach. Very little resources have been dedicated to PCRD programmes in countries emerging from conflict compared to other interventionist programmes.
- Peace and stability in many parts of Africa has remained fragile, due to the inadequate support for AU-led PCRD programmes and the limited human and financial resources available for the AU PCRD Unit to sustain its' operational structure.

Egypt Proposal for AUC-PCRD

- In this context, Egypt proposed an initiative to establish an African Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD). This proposal was introduced at the 2nd meeting of the Peace and Security Joint Experts Group (JEGs) in April 2009 in the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership. The initiative

was included in the peace and security roadmap aiming at implementing the first Africa-EU action plan 2008-2010.

- In his opening statement at the High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, Cairo 26-28 August 2010, the Egyptian FM, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, reiterated the Egyptian proposal. He also stressed the need to establish an “African Peacebuilders Corps” as a significant step to assist stabilization and recovery in countries emerging from conflict and avoid relapsing into conflict.
- The AUC-PCRD initiative was endorsed in the Second Africa-EU Peace and Security Action Plan (2011-2013), and it is scheduled in the roadmap to be prepared later to implement relevant initiatives in the 3rd Africa-EU Summit, Tripoli, 29 – 30 November 2010.

Rational of AUC-PCRD

I. Justification

- AUC-PCRD should be a conceptual and operational centre of excellence of the AU for the implementation of PCRD.
- AUC-PCRD should be a continental centre to support PCRD processes in countries emerging from conflicts and to contribute in raising sufficient funds to initiate quick/medium term impact programmes and projects to stabilize, sustain, develop and institutionalize the National capabilities. Thus, enabling these countries restore a firm degree of stability as a prerequisite for development.

II. Objectives

The Centre's main objective is to support and enhance the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Unit, with a view to:

1. Consolidate peace, address the root causes of conflicts and prevent relapse into violence.
2. Enhance African Union rapid and effective response to post-conflict situations.
3. Ensure peace and stability essential for the development and integration of the African continent.
4. Develop research and policy analysis.

5. Plan and implement reconstruction activities that are well adapted to African circumstances and realities.
6. Institutionalize Linkage with the Continental Early Warning System, African Conflict Resolution, Training Centres and the ASF.
7. Enhance complementarities and coordination between and among diverse actors engaged in PCRD processes at both public and private sectors.
8. Mobilize sufficient resources using innovative approaches for fund raising at the regional and international levels.
9. Monitor and evaluate progress.
10. Fast track the planning and implementation of quick-impact projects (QIPs).
11. Enhance capacity building.

III. Principles

In accordance with the AU-PCRD Policy and in support of the AU-PCRD Unit, the guiding principles of the Centre shall be:

1. African leadership and ownership.
2. Promotion of broad national and local ownership.
3. Consistency and coherence.
4. Inclusiveness, equity and non-discrimination.
5. Assist the PCRD Unit complementing other initiatives and structures, including the UN PBC.
6. Address each conflict situation according to its specific context.
7. Promote complementarity among regional economic mechanisms and regional mechanisms, Member States, and civil society actors.
8. Exchange of lessons learnt at different levels.

IV. Scope and Areas of Work

- a) The main five priority areas of peacebuilding as defined in the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations on “peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict” issued in June 2009. These priority areas are: basic safety and security, political processes, the provision of basic services, restoring core government functions and economic revitalization.
- b) Activities addressed in the African PCRD Framework Policy such as:
 1. Address root causes of conflict.
 2. Raise awareness of the culture of peace and issues related to women and children.

3. Upholding the rule of law.
4. DDR and rehabilitation programmes.
5. Addressing basic needs.
6. Reconstruction of nation vital infrastructure and physical facilities.
7. Rehabilitation of refugees and internally displaced peoples.
8. Strengthening national capacities and institutions/SSR.
9. Political architecture Governance.
10. Education and training.

c) Non Exhaustive Activities to be carried out:

1. Conceptual and policy papers.
2. Develop databases of African experts on PCRD “the African Peacebuilders Corps”.
3. Develop needs and capacity assessments.
4. Design models and programmes for implementing QIPs.
5. Expert meetings on best practices and lessons learned in post-conflict situations in Africa.
6. Twinning programmes between African and Non-African institutions for effective capacity building.
7. Developing a network for knowledge sharing and information dissemination.
8. Donors Conferences for countries emerging from conflict.
9. Workshops and employment fairs.

V. Structure and Composition

- The AU Commission’s experts, in collaboration with the Egyptian Government, will conduct further studies.
- A gradual and incremental approach will be applied during the institutionalization of the Centre.
- Flexibility in structure, especially the provisional one (5-7 employees) is a must.

VI. Financial and Budgetary Issues

1. Egypt is committed to mobilize resources with partners and stakeholders, and to provide the necessary facilities and logistics for the successful operation of the Centre.

2. AUC-PCRD will be financed, during the first five years, through extra budgetary resources from international stakeholders, donors and international financial institutions.
3. EU fund through the Africa-EU Joint Strategy on Peace and Security (2011-2013).
4. AU Peace Fund.
5. Budget to be estimated according to mandate and post conflict cases assigned.

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