Case Synopsis

1 Somalia

Since the overthrow of President Siad Barre in 1991, Somalia entered a state of civil war. The central government collapsed and warlord rule and inter-clan warfare engulfed the country. In an effort to stabilize the country and to install a central government, the UN deployed a peacekeeping mission for three years. However, the mission failed to bring the desired goals in the country.\(^1\) In the 1990s, the Somalia peace process was dominated by the international and regional organizations like the UN and the Arab League. Unfortunately, the peace process could not bear fruit. In the year 2002, the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) with the support of the international community took over the Somalia peace process. It was able to bring 22 Somali leaders to sign the ‘Declaration on the Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process’ which lead to the adoption of Transitional Federal Charter in the year 2004.\(^2\) This in turn paved the way for the establishment of an internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in the country. Whilst the TFG struggled to expand and create institutions in the country, faced with several challenges from Islam extremists. Considering the fact that the situation in Somalia was a threat to the international peace and security to the region, the UN authorized AU and IGAD in order to establish a protection and training mission in the country.\(^3\)

Against this background, in the year 2007 the PSC endorsed African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to provide support to the TFG. Recently, the AU AMISOM which is strengthened by six African troop contributing countries were able to wipe out Al-Shabab from its strongholds of south central part of the country.\(^4\) The achievements of the AU mission in Somali allude to the fact that, AU’s commitment to peace and security in Somali in particular and in the continent in general. The research project aspires to put on spotlight on the ownership and commitment of the AU and its member states to the progress in Somalia. Moreover, the research project aims to investigate how ownership, commitment and shared values, at the local and regional level, have been incorporated and reflected in the Somalia peace process and the potential of AfSol in Somalia.

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\(^3\) NSC Res 1725 (6 December 2006).

\(^4\) Somalia: Al-Shabaab—It Will Be a Long War, Africa Briefing N°99, 26 June 2014
2  Libya

The uprisings in Libyan eastern city of Benghazi, as a major constituent of the Arab Spring, led to the overthrow of the leadership and death of Col Gaddafi. The international response for the crisis in Libya was demonstrated by the NATO air strike that, sanctioned by the UN Security Council\(^5\), aimed to aid the ‘rebels’\(^6\). The National Transitional Council, after being recognized as the formal government failed to execute the transition plan that should have led to an election. After clashes and several changes in the country, the General National Congress (GNC) took power in August 2012 and elected Mohammed Magarief as interim head of state. After a drama involving the abduction and later sacking of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan and the assassination of the Deputy Industry Minister Hassan al-Droui\(^7\), the GNC elected another prime minister who resigned after four months in office and the country once again descended into chaos.

In 2014, the situation in Libya has worsened because of the increase in militant Islamism especially in Benghazi. In July 2014, the city finally fell under the control of Ansar al-Sharia, one of the Islamist militant groups, and was declared an ‘Islamic Emirate’\(^8\). These developments have led to increased regional concern because of refugee crisis, arms and terrorist group proliferation and more. The involvement of international actors like the US and UN, now leading the peace talks; and Egypt and the United Arab Emirates using Libya as their battleground to work against the Misrata militia, placed in the category of terrorist organizations\(^9\). Apparently, the role of the African Union has been very limited to rejecting military intervention and cooperating with the UN and Arab league. Although the situation in Libya extends to problems like terrorism, which attracts multiple actors because of its global nature, the African approach to this should be studied. IPSS calls to examine the involvement of African institutions and states through the glasses of the three pillars of AfSol, namely, ownership, commitment and shared values.

3  South Sudan

In December 2013, South Sudan, a new country, slide back into internal conflict only after two and half years of independence. It is now one year since the crisis broke; regional intervention from IGAD to mediate in peace talks is without a solution. The UN, is threatening to impose sanctions, and of course under the influence of the Trioka (USA, Norway and Britain). On the

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\(^5\) The UN security council Resolution 1973/2011 was approved with a 10-5 vote where Permanent council members China and Russia both abstained along with Germany, while the US, Britain, Lebanon and France voted in favour of military action

\(^6\) Ibid

\(^7\) http://www.libya-analysis.com/gnc/


other hand, the AU PSC agreed to “[establish] an AU High-Level Ad-hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government, comprising one representative from each of the five regions of the Continent, which will strengthen Africa’s support to IGAD and assist the South Sudanese parties and stakeholders to achieve durable peace in their country.” Although the parties have signed Cessation of Hostilities twice in January 2014 and May 2014, there is lack of commitment from the parties and limited enforcement mechanisms to execute them from the side of regional and international actors. Over 1.4 million displaced from their homes, and additional millions facing starvation and food insecurity, it is crucial to examine the process thus far. Who has owned the process? Who has stayed committed, who has not and why? How have local and shared values been considered in the processes?

4 Burkina Faso

One of the 120 coups and counter coups that took place in Africa over the last 50 years brought to power Burkina Faso’s former president Blaise Compaore; a man known for his active participation in peace making missions. In 2011, Burkina Faso faced public protests in the capital Ouagadougou. Divided, therefore weak, Burkina Faso’s opposition failed to overthrow the government in 2011 unlike its contemporaries in Arab Africa. This desire was brought back to life when President Compaore proposed to amend the constitution to prolong the life of his 27-year government in January 2014. The anger fuelled by the death of a journalist led to a spring that led to a resignation of the Compaore from office.

The actions of the African Union, based on its conviction that it was not a coup, and on its hope, that Burkina’s military will cooperate requested the military to transfer power to a civilian government. The request was backed by ECOWAS, pressuring Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida to hand over to a civilian-led government. The AU PSC and ECOWAS, as African institutions, played a major role; stood beside the people of Burkina Faso. African Union PSC’s response to the situation in Burkina Faso is recognized as an acknowledgment of “the right of people to rise up peacefully against oppressive political systems.” The, so far, effective role the AU PSC makes Burkina Faso a possible best-case scenario, given the one-year transition plan succeeds. The people of Burkina Faso, more than sixty-five per cent under 25, played a critical role in shaping their future. This research project will attempt to analyse the demonstration of ownership and commitment of the AU and its member states in the case of Burkina Faso. It will also explore how Shared

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10 Peace And Security Council 474th Meeting 5 December 2014 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13 ECOWAS. Communiqué Burkina Faso Crisis: Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority. No. 205/2014
Values were reflected in the process and the prospects of AfSol in Burkina Faso; in the transitional period and beyond.

5 Mali

The crisis in Mali started on March 2012 when the military staged a coup, as a result the northern part of the country that is relatively poor and where government institutions are weak heavily affected by the crisis\(^{15}\). Six rebel groups controlled much of the northern part of the country. In response to the Mali’s crises, the AU and ECOWAS reacted strongly to the crisis and clearly articulated their positions on the situation on Mali\(^{16}\). The AU also urged the different rebel groups to engage in dialogue and to search for peaceful solution to the crisis strictly through the principles of the AU\(^{17}\). The AU indicated its commitment and unreserved support to the mediation process initiated by Algeria and the effort exerted by the ECOWAS to find solutions for the crisis in Mali. It is the prime objective of the AfSol project to spark further discussion among the scholars and the public through different platforms. The research project particularly aims to examine the initiatives and process taken by African countries to provide solutions, through the pillars of AfSol, namely, African ownership, commitment and shared values.

\(^{15}\) Mali Last Chance in Algiers, Africa Briefing No 104, 18 November 2014.

\(^{16}\) Peace and Security Council 319th meeting at ministerial level Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 24 April, 2012


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