

REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE (ASF) TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference Hall
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia
17th to 18th December 2008

BACKGROUND

1. The African Union Peace Support Operations Division (AUPSOD) conducted its first African Standby Force (ASF) Training Implementation Workshop from 29 to 31 October 2007 at Addis Ababa. The workshop among others, finalized the ASF Training Plan (TP) 2007-2010 and sourced funds for the major training activities that would lead to the operationalization of the ASF by 2010. The workshop decided that the ASF TP was a living document that would be reviewed at ASF Annual Training Conferences/Workshops to enable it stand the test of time.
2. The ASF TP and Training Directive 2007–2010 were endorsed during the 5th Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Security, and the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Security on 28 March 2008 alongside ASF Policy Documents on Doctrine, Logistics, C³IS, Training and Evaluation, SOP, and Rapid Deployment Capability, that underpin the ASF TP. Further in their final declaration, the Ministers of Defence and Security recommended that the AU Commission ensures that police/gendarmerie and civilian components of the ASF are appropriately addressed and enhanced, in order to ensure components balance in development. The AU Executive Council (Ministers of Foreign Affairs) endorsed these recommendations at the AU Summit in Sharm - El-Sheikh in June 2008.
3. While considerable amount of progress has been achieved, since the last workshop, in the implementation of the decisions reached, as well as the activities spelt out in the ASF TP, some of the activities could not be accomplished within the period under review, due to unforeseen circumstances. There is the need to roll over these activities into the second year without necessarily disrupting the overall ASF TP. Mostly affected in this regard is the EURORECAMP programme. Additionally, while implementing the ASF TP during the past year, the AUPSOD identified gaps in the area of civilian and police training. In view of ASF continental exercise (Exercise AMANI AFRICA) scheduled for 2010, it is necessary to fast track the civilian and police training in order to ensure that the 2 components are brought in line with the military component as much as possible.
4. It is against this background that the 2nd ASF Annual Training Implementation Workshop was conducted at the Conference Centre of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis-Ababa, from 17th to 18th

December 2008. It was organized by the AUPSOD, with the assistance of the UNDPKO AU Peacekeeping Support Team and funded by the Government of Canada. The workshop was attended by civilian, police and military experts from the AU Commission, African Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the European Union, African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), G8++ representatives and other partners. The list of participants is attached to the Report as Annex A.

AIM OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The aim of the 2nd ASF Annual Training Implementation Workshop was to review the progress made so far in the implementation of the ASF Training Plan 2007-2010, while adjusting it to ensure consistency with the overall plan of operationalizing the ASF by 2010. The Workshop also provided the opportunity to chart the way forward and seek continued partner support.

OPENING AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

6. The Director of Peace and Security, Mr Geoffrey Mugumya, delivered the Keynote Address on behalf of His Excellency Ambassador Lamamra Ramtane, Commissioner of Peace and Security. He welcomed the participants to the workshop and reminded that the AU Commission is determined to unveil the ASF by 2010, as it is mandated to do and he is happy that partners are willing to support the AU in achieving this goal. The Director hinted that the ASF Training Plan 2007-2010 has so far been closely adhered to. He cited the conduct of Level I and Level II Decision Making Exercises by most of the regional brigades and their preparations towards the Level III Decision Making Exercises as evidence of this. He indicated some problems encountered during the training period as:

- a. Inadequate human resources for the Planning Elements.
- b. Lack of clarity of the procedures involved in the mandating of missions.
- c. Very little involvement of the police and civilians, particularly in planning activities of the standby brigades.
- d. Over reliance on partner expertise instead of using those expertise to develop our capacity.

He appealed to all concerned to make conscious efforts to solve the problems enumerated above within the coming year.

7. The Director went on to outline some of the developments within the African Peace and Security Architecture as a whole and the ASF in particular. He was delighted about the rejuvenated efforts of the North African Regional

Capability (NARC) to establish their Regional Brigade. He commended their enthusiasm and urged them on to ensure their brigade becomes operational by the end of 2009.

8. The Director also made reference to the AU/EU Joint Strategic Partnership adopted in Lisbon in 2007 and restated that the operational readiness of the ASF will be ascertained through a series of training evaluation activities, that will culminate into a continental Level II Decision Making Exercise by the first quarter of 2010, using the EURORECAMP system as a tool named Exercise AMANI AFRICA. He hinted that ascertaining the state of readiness of the African Standby Force will involve the entire Peace and Security Architecture and the relevant departments of the AU Commission. While urging everybody involved to gear up for AMANI AFRICA, he requested the Workshop to come out with a Training Plan. This will involve the entire African Peace and Security Architecture, and relevant Departments of the Commission including the Peace and Security Department, where possible, so that we do not have only a standby force ready to be deployed but also a body of people ready to take the right decisions to deploy and administer them when required.

9. In conclusion, the Director expressed his gratitude to all the development partners who have remained steadfast in supporting AUPSOD in diverse ways to operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture and thanked everybody for responding to the invitation.

10. After the Keynote Address, the Head of the PSOD and Chairman for the Workshop, set the scene for proceedings by also welcoming the participants. He explained that the Policy Framework Establishing the ASF is pinned on Multi - Dimensionality based on the military, police and civilian components and urged the house to emphasise this concept in the 2nd Training Implementation Workshop deliberations. A copy of the adopted Agenda is attached as Annex B to this Report.

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

DAY 1

11. The Workshop started in plenary session with the following presentations:
 - a. Setting the Scene.
 - b. Brief by UNDPKO.
 - c. Update on ASF developments and Training.
 - d. SADC Brigade Training Update.
 - e. EASBRIG Training Update.

- e. ECOWAS Brigade Training Update.
 - f. ECCAS Brigade Training Update.
 - g. NARC Training Update.
 - i. An introduction to the workgroup discussions.
12. Two workgroup discussions were held to propose an ASF Training Plan, for 2009 to 2010. One group concentrated on Military training while the other concentrated on Civilian and Police training. The workgroups took into consideration, the need to bridge the existing gap between military training on one hand and civilian and police training on the other. The conclusions of the syndicates are attached as Annex C.
13. Key points considered during the discussions:
- a. The Civilian and Police Component training must be integrated into the ASF TP.
 - b. The TP should go beyond just training the components of the ASF, to include decision makers both at the AU Commission and their equivalents in the RECs/RMs.
 - c. Training conducted at the RECs/RMs level should be within the overall framework established by the AU.
 - d. Training responsibility and activities at each level should be clearly defined and mutually supporting.
 - e. RECs/RMs should ensure maximum compatibility of programmes in accordance with ASF Training Directives and common approach.
 - f. Recommendations should be based on the conclusions of relevant AU workshops and Doctrine and must be realistic in terms of resources / capability to implement.
15. The products of the two groups were then discussed in plenary and harmonized into an ASF Training Plan 2009-2010.

DAY 2

16 **The** ASF Training Plan was consolidated and adopted. The copy of the document is attached as Annex D.

17. Development Partners of the AU were given the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the TP. Their submissions are attached as Partner Support at Annex E.

CONCLUSIONS

18. The 2nd ASF Training Implementation Workshop took place at the ECA Addis Ababa from 17- 18 December 2008. After the initial plenary discussions, the workshop reviewed the 2007 and 2010 TP and came out with the 2009-2010 TP. AU partners who attended the workshop made commitments to support AUPSOD and RECs/RMs in the training endeavours to accomplish the operationalisation of the ASF by 2010.

19. On the whole the workshop ended successfully with appreciation extended to all participants for the hard work and invaluable contributions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. The workshop recommended that:

- a. The issue of validation and certification of the ASF and the brigades should be urgently addressed.
- b. RECs/RMs in consultation with APSTA should ensure that training courses meet the guidance provided in ASF Policy Documents taking into account the recommendations from Police and civilian workshops.
- c. A new training directive be issued to reflect the conclusions of the Second Annual ASF Training Implementation Workshop
- d. A joint AU-EU study of African Training Centres be conducted as adopted in Addis Ababa in November 2008 taking into account the need to identify existing training capabilities, offers and needs.
- e. APSTA together with the AU facilitates the harmonisation of existing training courses in the interest of standardisation and coordination.
- f. The ASF Training Implementation Workshop should be an annual event
- g. All the RECs/RMs should ensure that AU core courses that are required as common ASF Training programme requirements are administered. These include:
 1. Foundation course

2. Middle level management course
 3. Regional Senior Mission Leadership course
 4. Collective Training Exercise (pre-deployment courses)
 5. Training of the trainers' workshop.
- h. The AU, RECs/RMs make use of the available resources and capabilities of APSTA member institutions.
 - i. The RECs/RMs and the AU welcome the offer made by the Cairo Regional Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) to train ASF civilian components.
 - j. Police and Civilian elements of the PLANELMS need to be re-enforced as a matter of urgency. This requires special focus at the AU and REC/RMs levels.
 - k. The RECs/RMs were reminded to submit their Quarterly Training Reports regularly and timely.
 - l. AU capacity building partners were encouraged

Annexes:

- A. - List of participants.
- B. - Workshop Agenda.
- C. -
- D. - ASF Training Plan 2009 to 2010.
- E. - Partner Support.