



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Final Report

Virtual Inception Meeting for the Subregional Studies on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars

Addis Ababa, 27 October 2020

I Introduction

1. The Virtual Inception Meeting for the Subregional Studies on Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian pillars was held on 27 October 2020. The meeting was organized by the Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the Commission's five Subregional Offices (SROs).

2. The meeting provided a platform for participants to critically examine the draft inception reports produced by the consultants commissioned by ECA to carry out the subregional studies, and to provide comments and inputs, as well as recommendations towards their finalization. The meeting provided an opportunity to present an overview of the regional (continental) study on the same commissioned by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). The Programme of Work is provided as Annex 1.

3. The meeting brought together participants from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), United Nations (UN) Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFP) and ECA. The list of participants is provided as Annex 2.

II Opening session

4. Mr. Stephen Karingi, Director of RITD made the welcoming remarks on behalf of ECA, and Mr. Kava Kavazeua Katjomuise, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of OSAA made some remarks on behalf of his Office. Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief of the NEPAD Section of RITD facilitated the session.

5. Mr. Karingi welcomed all participants on behalf of the Under Secretary General of the United Nations, and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Ms. Vera Songwe. The four inception reports, he said, will guide the work on the subregional studies on the interlinkages between the four pillars covering all five subregions of Africa.

6. He referred to the dual resolutions passed by the General Assembly and the Security Council in April 2016 (Resolutions 70/262 and 2282) which recognize the importance of coherence and complementarity between the UN's peace and security efforts and its development, human rights, and humanitarian work. Additionally, the United Nations Secretary General and the African Union Commission Chairperson have made a commitment to work together towards the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in recognition of the interrelationships between development, peace and security, human rights and development. In that context, the two principals signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security (the Peace and Security Framework) and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the Development Framework). The Joint Human Rights Framework

is expected to be signed soon. Furthermore, there exists an MOU between the United Nations (UN) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on Humanitarian Action.

7. Against the foregoing, the studies aim to explore the interlinkages between the four pillars in the five subregions of Africa in order to promote complementary implementation of interventions in the search for effective and lasting solutions to conflicts in the subregions. Crosscutting issues to be factored in the studies include gender and youth s and COVID-19. Transboundary issues will be addressed to promote intra-regional cooperation in tackling conflict situations. In relation to the latter, he highlighted the recently concluded TANA Forum which focused on peace and security in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The subregional studies will lead to the production of standalone reports, which will contribute to informing the regional study being conducted under the leadership of OSAA.

8. Partnership between ECA and OSAA in the study process is within the framework of Programme 9 of Section 11, which also involves the Department of Global Communications (DGC). The Africa Week organized by DGC has demonstrated the important role played by the Department in bringing the voice of Africa to the global stage. In addition, the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office on the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) are important collaborators in the process. The study reports are primarily targeted at the eight African Union recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Member States of the RECs, the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and APRM will also benefit from the study findings.

9. In concluding, the Director recognized the rich cross section of participants at the meeting, and enjoined them to do justice to the task at hand, guided by the terms of reference for the studies.

10. Mr. Kava Kavazeua Katjomuise, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of OSAA, delivered remarks on behalf of the Director of OSAA, Mr David Mehdi Hammam. Mr. Katjomuise thanked ECA for organizing the meeting and informed participants that OSAA's XB project on the "Nexus" was initiated for similar reasons stated by the RITD Director and is funded by The People's Republic of China.

11. The project includes a baseline study and capacity building workshops. The OSAA consultant was already on board and would be making a presentation during the meeting. He stated that the project should lead to African countries focusing more on the "Nexus" while formulating their national policies. Since 2015, the UN added Human Rights as a fourth pillar, thereby necessitating a balanced approach in addressing the four pillars.

12. Finally, he stated that OSAA aims to leverage on ECA's comparative advantage to implement the project. In the same vein, ECA could leverage OSAA's Africa Dialogue Series to bring to bear regional perspectives on the global stage. It was therefore important that the two organizations develop a common understanding and approach in their support to Africa.

III Session 1 - Presentation of the Inception Reports on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars in Eastern and Southern Africa

13. Mr. Bakari Chafi, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR, chaired the session. Professor Olawale Ismail and Professor Thokozani Kaime, consultants for the Eastern, and Southern Africa subregional studies, respectively, made the presentations.

A) Presentations

(i) Eastern Africa

14. In his presentation, Professor Olawale Ismail indicated that the Eastern Africa study aims to interrogate the interlinkages as they pertain to conflict prevention and resolution in line with the terms of reference. In doing so, the study will explore the transboundary dimensions, and examine COVID 19 and its impact on the pillars and their interlinkages, including socio-economic, health and humanitarian responses to the pandemic. Youth and gender dimension will be analyzed as crosscutting issues in the study.

15. The analysis of the development pillar will be anchored on the AU Agenda 2063, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s 2016-2020 Regional Strategy and the East African Community (EAC)'s Protocol, among others. It will also explore issues ranging from macroeconomic conditions to natural resources. The presentation highlighted the scope of analysis in relation to the peace and security pillar, and noted that the definition of peace and security already embeds interlinkages with development, humanitarian and human rights as the basis for conflict prevention, peace building and resilience. On the human rights pillar, the scope of issues in Eastern Africa pertains to the rule of law, freedom of expression, free and fair elections, political participation and religious-political freedoms. Analysis of the humanitarian pillar will range from displacement to natural disasters, food security to resource scarcity, among others.

16. The conceptual framework will treat all four pillars in a balanced manner, with human security, and conflict prevention and resolution in particular, at the center. Existing normative frameworks at regional (continental) and subregional levels will guide the contextualization.

(ii) Southern Africa

17. Professor Thokozani Kaime's presentation recognized that the Southern Africa subregion enjoys a peace dividend as the number of conflicts have reduced. However, conflict is still present emanating from a number of causes, including underdevelopment, poverty and inequality manifesting in South Africa as Xenophobia. The study interrogates and analyses the interlinkages between the development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian pillars with a view towards promoting synergistic, complementary and joined-up implementation of interventions related to conflict prevention and resolution. Gender and youth, COVID-19 and transboundary issues will be factored in the analysis.

18. The presentation indicated that the triple nexus as a concept was laudable, but lacked impetus in terms of implementation. The four-pillar interlinkages introduce human rights as a fourth dimension and provides the opportunity for a more holistic approach that could spur implementation. Thus, the importance of going beyond the triple nexus with the inclusion of the human rights pillar. The conceptual framework for the study recognizes normative and institutional frameworks as constituting the base for the analysis of the four pillars and their interlinkages towards the goal of the study – conflict prevention and resolution.

19. The research questions posed range from why the interlinkages between the four pillars are important, normative and institutional frameworks to guide their analysis, the role and engagement of different stakeholders, how the different strands could be brought together for effective and lasting solutions to conflicts, and the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues mentioned above. The presentation then described the methodology and concluded by highlighting institutional relationships and the anticipated contents of the report outline.

B) Discussion

20. The ensuing discussion highlighted the need to address the challenge of human rights and corruption, as well as the need to recognize the centrality of governance as there can be no peace and security without it. There was appreciation of the fact that the study will capture the experiences of women. The Amartya Sen definition of development was apt for the purposes of the study as it is all encompassing. In relation to sustainable development, the study needs to recognize the developments that have taken place since the Brundland report of 1987 and refer to frameworks such as Agenda 2030.

21. It was noted that while 12 out of the 14 countries of Eastern Africa are members of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the inception report for that subregion made no mention of the regional body. On the other hand, the inception report for Southern Africa has cited COMESA frameworks. However, the challenge is delivering on the frameworks. Worthy of note is that EAC, IGAD and COMESA are collaborating in the area of human security and governance. There was a need for both inception reports to adequately articulate how they would treat COVID-19 in the studies. The AUC and the RECs have a strong programme which contributes to the Africa strategy and approach to the pandemic. The Trade and Development Bank is supporting member States in tackling the pandemic through a public-private-partnership approach that includes in-kind and cash contributions.

22. The need to treat the four pillars equally in the various studies was underlined. It was pointed out that the manifestation of conflict was not necessarily violence; sometimes conflict can manifest in tensions caused by several factors, including inequality, exclusion and climate change. The Southern Africa inception report needs to include land rights, which is a contentious issue in a number of countries in the subregion.

23. Additionally, the studies need to emphasize the right to education and culture within the human rights interlinkages with peace and development. The traditional, or indigenous

practices of prevention, management and conflict resolution, together with policies related to language preservation are important components of prevention and peacebuilding. UNESCO's programmes in these areas could contribute to informing the studies. The importance of considering disaster risk reduction as a crosscutting issue in analyzing the interlinkages between the four pillars was also underlined.

24. In response, Professor Olawale Ismail pointed out that overall, the analytical framework revolves around human security, with a focus on conflict prevention and resolution. The Eastern Africa study will treat governance as cross-cutting. He cautioned against framing governance narrowly as political governance to the exclusion of other aspects of the concept. He assured the meeting that corruption will be analyzed within the framework of governance. He recognized that COMESA is an important REC to which countries in Eastern Africa are members. As such, the study will include a review of the normative frameworks of COMESA and activities designed to address conflict situations.

25. For his part, Professor Thokozani Kaime said he associated himself with the responses provided by Professor Ismail on the question of corruption. Corruption derails human rights and security and he will consider how institutions are performing in that regard, in the case studies to be conducted as part of the studies. He assured the meeting that land issues will be covered as part of the development pillar.

C) Recommendations:

26. The following recommendations emanated from the discussion.
- a. The inception reports must be clear and precise on the objective and the target audience and on the value addition of the studies including the use/how they will be used.
 - b. The reference to sustainable development in the context of the interlinkages should be informed by recent frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the AU Agenda 2063.
 - c. In analyzing the interlinkages between the pillars and how they could inform solutions to conflict situations, the studies should explore how the existing normative frameworks could be implemented as part of the solutions.
 - d. Given their significance to development in Africa, governance and institutions should be treated as crosscutting issues, and should embody issues such as corruption.
 - e. Transboundary issues related to conflicts and how they could be addressed in the context of the four pillars should be clearly indicated in the reports.
 - f. The reports should be clear on how COVID-19 will be treated given the impact of the pandemic on the health systems, social and economic conditions of the region, with a view to informing actions on building back better in the context of the interlinkages.
 - g. In analyzing gender issues, effort must be made to avoid lumping women into one category, as there are different groups/constituencies, which must be captured and nuanced.

- h. In addition to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees, the studies should address issues of migrants, particularly in relation to the four pillars, which can be both causal factors for migration and secondary migratory movements and resultant effects.
- i. The fact that Southern Africa is rife with conflict around land rights necessitates a thorough analysis of the land issue in the subregion as it relates to growth, development and conflicts. Case studies around land rights should be included in the study.
- j. The analysis of the four pillars in relation to conflict situations should include issues such as prevention of violent extremism through education, the importance of cultural rights and cultural diversity, as well as language. UNESCO should be in a position to contribute resources related to these issues.
- k. Disaster risk reduction for resilience should be considered an important crosscutting issues in the studies.

IV Session 2 - Presentation of the Inception reports on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars in West & Central Africa, and North Africa

27. Mr. Bakary Dosso, Chief, Demographic Dynamics for Development Section, ECA Subregional Office for West Africa, chaired the session. Professor Babafemi A. Badejo and Professor Steve Commins, consultants for the West & Central, and North Africa subregional studies, respectively, made the presentations.

28. In introducing the session, the Chair spoke to the conflict in Libya and how it is related to the Sahel issues. He stated that it is important to use this opportunity to have a common understanding of how to save lives, reduce human suffering and leave no one behind.

A) Presentations

(i) West & Central Africa Africa

29. Professor Babafemi A. Badejo's presentation underlined the need for a balanced mix of development, peace & security, human rights and humanitarianism in support efforts as this would boost integrated operations. The study is especially expedient given the lack of sufficient understanding, and application in theory and practice of the four-pillar interlinkages. This understanding would enhance contribution to the achievement of development goals embodied in Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. He then presented the aims and objectives of the study, and targeted beneficiaries.

30. Analysis of the development pillar will consider broad areas of human development indicators, GDP, per capita income, standard of living, quality of life, life expectancy, human capacity, resource optimization, private sector inclusion, fiscal stability; access to basic social

services and poverty alleviation. The peace and security pillar analysis will be informed by the six objectives of Article 3 of the AU Peace and Security Protocol that promote pillar-interlinkages.

31. In terms of the human rights pillar, analysis will recognize that the inalienable rights of all individuals is the beginning of freedom, justice and peace. Overarching issues of human rights in the West and Central Africa subregions include, intimidation and repression of citizens, threats to rights to peaceful assembly, threats to housing rights, sexual and gender-based rights abuse and threats to freedom of religious and political freedom. In relation to the humanitarian pillar, analysis will include disasters in the two subregions, epidemics/pandemic disease outbreaks, insect infestations, conflict-induced psychological trauma and man-made: conflicts/wars; socio-political instabilities; economic crises and climate and environment factors such as pollution.

32. The study will also benefit from the analysis of governance issues such as leadership deficits, rule of law/corruption, resource/financing from bilateral and multilateral donors and combatting terror are also current challenges. Taking into account the objectives of the study, Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon and the Central African Republic are considered good case study countries. Following an explanation of the study methodology, Professor Babafemi concluded by indicating that the focus on the four-pillar interlinkages will provide a systemic approach to deal with the root causes of the lack of development in many of the Central and West African countries, as well as human insecurities and the failure to respect human rights.

(ii) North Africa

33. In his presentation, Professor Steve Commins informed the participants that the study aimed at exploring the interlinkages of the four pillars, with a particular reference to the sub-regional context and with a wider set of linkages to the other subregions of the continent and related studies. In terms of overall aim, the study seeks to address the knowledge gaps by contributing better understanding issues related to the four pillars as spelt out in the terms of reference for the present study, and to effectively link the pillars with Agenda 2030 and the 2063 Agenda. This includes identifying effective frameworks, mechanisms and analytical tools, e.g. for operational guidance, related to the complementary and synergistic implementation of interventions related to the four pillars for sustainable and lasting solutions to conflict at national and subregional levels, involving all relevant actors.

34. The presentation described approaches to analysing the interlinkages between the four pillars for the purposes of the study. The conceptual framework recognizes the need for a balanced treatment of the four pillars with conflict placed at the centre in order to respond to the objectives of the study. The research questions including the interrogation of the interlinkages and their significance, normative and institutional frameworks and roles of different stakeholders will be placed at the core of the conceptual framework. How could the interlinkages approach work in preventing conflict, solving conflict, avoiding a protracted conflict situation and in solving a protracted conflict situation was highlighted as a central research question.

35. He presented criteria that would guide the selection of case study countries to explore the empirical realities in North Africa within countries and across boundaries. Following a description of the research approach and the subregional case studies, he presented methodological questions, then the research approach, from the inception report to the final study report.

B) Discussion

36. The discussions that followed the presentations included the need to factor the G-5 Sahel countries in the analysis to inform policy and practice. The selection of case study countries need to factor transboundary issues such as the link between insurgency in Sahel countries and the conflict in Libya. Conflict exists in every society. Thus, there is a need for governments to mediate conflicts so that they do not become violent. Without leadership or governance, it is difficult to avoid violent conflicts.

37. There is a need to interrogate at the outset what will be done with the study reports in relation to who will use them and for what. For example, the reports could serve as important sources of information for development planning and risk assessment. The studies constitute the first phase of a series of studies, the development of tools and capacity building on issues related to the interlinkages. There is a need to pay due regard to the study's context and objectives, including the centrality of conflicts at the conceptualization stage, as well as the intended and ultimate outcome and target beneficiaries.

C) Recommendations

38. The following recommendations emerged from the discussion.

- a. The centrality of conflict should come out clearly in the conceptualization of the study as well cross cutting issues such as governance, leadership deficits, combatting corruption and addressing climate and environmental matters.
- b. It should be borne in mind that UN reports are meant for decision makers and not the academia; as such, the language must consider the sensitivity of the audience that are mainly member States and intergovernmental bodies. Notwithstanding, it is understood that important issues could be raised to inform policy makers while cognizant of sensibilities.
- c. Governance and institutions should be treated as overarching/ horizontal policy issues that relevant to the studies.
- d. The reports should address conflict in all its forms.
- e. The reports should embody a dynamic perspective (short, medium and long term) to better capture the development pillar and people's aspirations.
- f. The three subregions need to move from business as usual and should benefit from the analysis of transboundary issues in the reports.

- g. The reports should be reviewed to make sure that recommendations are implementable, can inform policy and practice and overall direction to policy makers. The contents should be politically correct.
- h. The close interaction between the consultants should be consolidated to foster cross-fertilization and information exchange that will benefit all the reports.

V Session 3 – Overview of the regional (continental) study

39. Mr. Kava Kavazeua Katjomuise, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of OSAA, chaired the session, while Professor Alain Tshudin, the consultant for the regional study made the presentation.

40. By way of background, Mr. Katjomuise reminded the participants that the regional study is being conducted within the framework of an XB project funded by the People’s Republic of China with an overall aim of strengthening the capacity of African countries to implement the four pillars. The intent is to raise awareness and support member States to formulate policies. By the end of the project, there will be three deliverables, namely; a regional baseline study, two regional workshops and two training manuals which are expected to be launched during the next ECA Conference of Ministers (CoM).

A) Presentation

41. Professor Alain Tshudin stated that often times the search for solutions to conflict is at the center of the four pillars. He stated that the OSAA study may also suggest governance intersects all four of the pillars. Citizens well-being and their ability to thrive will be another overarching theme. The regional process will be a fresh approach to real world issues. The aim is to accelerate the SDGs through the implementation of the four pillars.

42. The reason that we are working on this study is because the old ways of working in silos has not been effective. The subregional studies will contribute to informing the regional study. Challenges and opportunities include the pandemic, which has pushed many people into poverty and delayed the development agendas of many member States. There is a need to make the process as smooth and as practical as possible by identifying gaps. Participant selection for the sub-regional studies will also be very important. OSAA will need to look at the subregional nuances. This will inform actions that will be required for change. Methodology should include qualitative and quantitative aspects. Survey design should ensure equal emphasis on all four pillars. It is important to avoid leading questions that may point to certain responses, rather than open answers.

B) Discussion

43. There is a need to understand the evolution of the pillar interlinkages to inform their conceptualization. However, context is important. In relation to the subregional studies, the aim is to contribute to effective and lasting solutions to conflicts by analyzing and harnessing the interlinkages between the four pillars. Governance and institutions are considered important overarching policy issues.

C) Recommendations

44. The recommendations are as follows

- a. Analysis of the interlinkages could point to several combinations of policy objectives. In this regard, it should be ensured that the objective is clearly stated at the outset in order to harness the interlinkages to address the intended policy question.
- b. In the context of Africa, governance and institutions are relevant to almost all policy matters, and are considered important prerequisites for sustainable development. Given the issues being addressed in the context of the present studies on the interlinkages, these should be central to the analysis.

VI Next steps and closing

45. Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief of NEPAD Section, RITD, ECA, enumerated the next steps as follows: finalization of the inception reports on the basis of comments and inputs provided at the meeting; review and finalization of the questionnaires; selection of case study countries based on agreed criteria; administration of the questionnaire surveys; interviews; desk review; drafting of reports, presentation of the draft reports at the expert group meeting; finalization of the reports, and publication. She emphasized the need to prepare and share the meeting report with the consultants to inform the finalization of the inception reports, as well as with the meeting participants.

46. In her closing remarks, Ms. Gaye reiterated the need to stay true to the objectives and intent of the subregional studies. Views that will enrich the reports are welcome but these should be cognizant of the sensitivities of clients and target beneficiaries. She thanked all the consultants for the robust inception reports and their clear presentations, which were well received. She then thanked all the partners and collaborators in the study process, namely; OSAA, UNOAU, OHCHR, UNOCHA, AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD and APRM. She lauded the effort of ECA colleagues, in particular, RITD and SRO focal points in the organization and servicing of the meeting. She recognized the invaluable support provided by collaborators as instrumental to the success of the meeting despite the short notice.

47. Mr. Kava Kavazeua Katjomuise, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of OSAA, thanked ECA for inviting the office to the meeting. He recognized the solid reports produced and presented by the consultants. He reiterated the need to treat the four pillars in a balanced manner. The realities on the ground need to be represented well and analysed in the studies, the land question in Southern Africa being a case in point. The issue of impact, which the OSAA Under-Secretary General (USG) has underlined constantly, is very important. Also crucial is governance, including illicit financial flows. OSAA and ECA will continue to coordinate seamlessly. Finally, there will be a need to review the questionnaires in order to avoid “leading questions”.

48. The meeting rose at 18:15 hrs Addis Ababa time.

Annex 1: Programme of Work

Virtual Inception Meeting

Subregional Studies on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars

27 October 2020 on Microsoft Teams

14:00 to 18:00 hrs, Addis Ababa Time

Programme of Work

Tuesday, 27 October, 2020	
Time	Programme item
Facilitation- NEPAD Section	
14:00 – 14:30	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitator, Isatou Gaye, Chief of NEPAD Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD), ECA• Welcoming remarks, Stephen Karingi, Director, RITD, ECA• Remarks, David Mehdi Hamam, Director, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) Adoption of the programme of work
Chair- OHCHR	
14:30 – 16:00	Presentation of the Inception reports on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eastern Africa - Prof. Olawale Ismail• Southern Africa Consultant – Prof. Thokoza Kaime Discussion (30 minutes)
Chair-ECA	
16:00 – 17:30	Presentation of the Inception reports on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars...

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central and West Africa – Prof. Babafemi A. Badejo • North Africa – Prof. Steve Commins <p>Discussion (30 minutes)</p>
Chair- OSAA	
17:30 – 17:45	<p>Overview of the regional (continental) study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Alain Tschudin <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Next steps and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECA • OSAA

Annex 2: List of participants

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