## Study on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars in the Sahel and West and Central Africa Subregions

Inception Report Babafemi A. Badejo, PhD November 11, 2020

#### Introduction

This is an inception report of a full report on: "Study on the Interlinkages between the Development, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Pillars in the Sahel and West and Central Africa Subregions.

This first output on the study lays the foundation for the entire study by providing the conceptual framework; the methodology, including data and information collection and analysis, and an annotated outline of the report as well as a work plan.

This research would produce a robust study on the interlinkages among development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian pillars for the Sahel, West and Central Africa subregions as they relate to the search for effective and lasting solutions to conflict in the two subregions. The report will contribute to enhancing awareness harnessing the interlinkages between the four pillars to inform policy and practice in conflict prevention and resolution in the subregions. In addition, it will contribute to informing future work on the development of methodologies and tools for mainstreaming the interlinkages into policies and strategies, including those addressing Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

The study will also look at the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) respectively known as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)<sup>1</sup>, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)<sup>2</sup> and CENSAD<sup>3</sup>, Transboundary initiatives such as the SAHEL initiative and the Green Wall initiative will, as necessary, be considered along with relevant Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs). In attempting to provide a balanced overview of the four pillars, the study would pay special attention to conflict situations and the imperatives of conflict prevention and resolution by harnessing the interlinkages in the identified areas of study.

The outcome of this study is expected to promote collaborative, complementary and joined-up approaches in the implementation of interventions addressing development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian challenges in the subregions. This is part of the search for inclusive, sustainable solutions to conflicts, insecurities and other threats to humanity in the subregions. Responding to the evolving nature of challenges in the subregions, the study would also factor in the situational impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, unhealthy migration patterns, and the gender and youth questions on the four pillar interlinkages as they relate to conflict situations. It will also address transboundary issues related to the study with a view to promoting intraregional cooperation for sustainable and lasting solutions to conflicts as well as key capacities development,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The countries within ECOWAS region for this study include: Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Senegal and Cape Verde.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The ECCAS membership include: Gabon, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Angola and Sao Tome and Principe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> CENSAD, an initiative strongly advocated and supported has been stalled since a decade. It is to be noted that the Head of States summit held in 2019 in Ndjamena (Chad) committed to reinvigorate the organization

as they pertain to mainstreaming the interlinkages into policies and strategies, including those related to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The study proposes a "Four Pillar Interlinkages" framework to adequately capture the concerns of the Terms of Reference (ToR), under an overarching state of governance and institutions as part of the framework, with the overall objective of addressing conflict situations in the two subregions. Preliminary review of the literature shows some conceptual inconsistencies on the application of the more popular concept of 'triple nexus'. It is often applied with different focus. Some triple nexus analysis focus on Human Rights-Development-Peace/security<sup>4</sup>, others emphasis the Humanitarian-Development-Peace/Security as the triple nexus. For example, the study commissioned by the Office of Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) for the Expert Group Meeting on December 9 and 10, 2019, and other similar documents focused on peace, development and humanitarian nexus<sup>5</sup> with the term nexus used in referring to the interlinkages of pillars<sup>6</sup>: development<sup>7</sup>, peace and security<sup>8</sup>, human rights<sup>9</sup> and humanitarian<sup>10</sup>. The increased pressures on limited global resources due to escalating levels of conflict and crises, in concert with the search

Available on ScienceDirect at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2003.06.009

Riva Kantowitz, Advancing the Nexus of Human Rights and Peacebuilding, in development dialogue paper, no.27 February,2020. Riva Kantowitz discusses how human rights, sustaining peace and sustainable development share a number of foundational concepts and values.

Available at: https://www.daghammarskjold.se/publication/advancing-the-nexus-of-human-rights-and-peacebuilding/

See also Executive Summary of the study by Cyril Obi, Study on Strengthening and Mainstreaming the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus into Policies and Strategies in Africa.

Also, the report of Office of Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) Expert Group Meeting (EGM) "The role of advocacy and research in breaking the silos: strengthening the nexus approach in Africa" 10-11 December 2019. New York, UN Secretariat.

Also, High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Report to the Secretary-General: Too important to fail - addressing the humanitarian financing gap. January 2016.

Guterres, A., 2016. Secretary-General-designate António Guterres' remarks to the General Assembly on taking the oath of office Secretary-General. United Nations. Available at: <a href="https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2016-12-12/secretary-generaldesignate-antónio-guterres-oath-office-speech">https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2016-12-12/secretary-generaldesignate-antónio-guterres-oath-office-speech</a> [Accessed September 12, 2020].

The New Way of Working (NWoW) as outlined in the Secretary-General's Report of the WHS Available at <a href="https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/A-71-353%20-%20SG%20Report%20on%20the%20Outcome%20of%20the%20WHS.pdf">https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/A-71-353%20-%20SG%20Report%20on%20the%20Outcome%20of%20the%20WHS.pdf</a>

Agenda for Humanity. Available at

http://www.agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017/Jul/AgendaforHumanity.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Paul J. Nelson and Ellen Dorsey, "At the Nexus of Human Rights and Development: New Methods and Strategies of Global NGOs", in *World Development*, Vol 31, Issue 12, December 2003. Pp 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The "triple nexus" often refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actors. In line with the UN's "New Way of Working (NWoW)," following the findings from the 2016 World Humanitarian Summits and the enunciation of the Agenda 2063.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Documents and frameworks have established the relevance of the nexus. The World Humanitarian Summit 2016, Issue Paper May 2016,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> AU-UN Development Framework

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Preventing and Mediating Conflict and Sustaining Peace; NEPAD, Post Conflict Reconstruction Policy; UN-AU Peace and Security Framework

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, (Adopted 27 June 1981, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982), entered into force 21 October 1986)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See Babafemi Adesina Badejo, "A study on the modalities for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency", submitted to the department of Political Affairs, the African Union Commission, June 1, 2020.

An earlier draft is available at: <a href="https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200520/african-humanitarian-agency-afha-member-states-and-recs-validation-meeting">https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200520/african-humanitarian-agency-afha-member-states-and-recs-validation-meeting</a>

for integrative, holistic and sustainable approaches for managing and responding to crises and the aftermaths made more relevant the application of the triple nexus or interlinkages <sup>11</sup>. Actors in the humanitarian and development sectors since the 1980s have attempted to deploy a nexus approach linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to provide relief to or build resilience in fragile or disaster-affected contexts<sup>12</sup>.

The study adds up into a collaborative continental assessment of the interlinkages of the four pillars, in Western and Central Africa, Eastern, Southern, as well as North Africa, with the same primary Terms of Reference. The outcome of this study from the Western, Central Africa and the Sahel, will ultimately be relevant at the regional and continental levels. It would highlight the specific realities in the two subregions; and support the larger and longer-term objective of promoting the integrated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the AU-UN cooperation frameworks. It will contribute to the development of capacities of member States, African Union organs and agencies, including Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The report would also be supportive in a coordinated study by the OSAA<sup>13</sup>

## A brief situational analysis including common issues of concern justifying the study in the Sahel and the two subregions;

#### **Peace and Security**

The conceptualization and practical operationalization of Peace and Security by key policy frameworks and documents such as the UN-AU Peace and Security Framework, the AU's Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, and the related Peace and Security Architecture, The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, (ECPF) The ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture, The Central African early-warning system, and The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Peace and Security Architecture, the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, The African Governance Architecture, the APRM and of course the AU Agenda 2063 and the RECs, clearly shows the interlinkages between peace/security and the three other pillars of human rights, development and humanitarianism, and further stresses the need for collaborative efforts on four pillars.

The overarching concern for peace and security and as it relates with the other three pillars of concern in this study is very evident in the AU's Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, and the related Peace and Security Architecture. Article 3 of the AU Peace and Security Protocol has six objectives that promotes joined up approaches<sup>14</sup> as follows:

(a) promote peace, security and stability in Africa, in order to guarantee the protection and preservation of life and property, the well-being of the African people and their environment, as well as the creation of conditions conducive to sustainable development;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Cyril Obi, Study on Strengthening and Mainstreaming the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus into Policies and Strategies in Africa, p.3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See Cyril Obi, Study on Strengthening and Mainstreaming the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus into Policies and Strategies in Africa

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Discussions from pre-inception meeting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

- (b) anticipate and prevent conflicts. In circumstances where conflicts have occurred, the Peace and Security Council shall have the responsibility to undertake peace-making and peace building functions for the resolution of these conflicts;
- (c) promote and implement peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction activities to consolidate peace and prevent the resurgence of violence;
- (d) co-ordinate and harmonize continental efforts in the prevention and combating of international terrorism in all its aspects;
- (e) develop a common defence policy for the Union, in accordance with article 4(d) of the Constitutive Act;
- (f) promote and encourage democratic practices, good governance and the rule of law, protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law, as part of efforts for preventing conflicts.

In a similar vein, the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, (ECPF) clearly outlines programs, objectives, activities and stakeholders for implementing the ECOWAS Protocols on peace and security with focus on conflict prevention, human security and peace building <sup>15</sup>. The ECPF also calls for broader stakeholders' participation in its implementation. In addition, the ECPF has some provisions addressing Women, security and peace, as well as youth empowerment, which the study would benefit from.

The United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel region, through its goals; inclusive and effective governance, national and regional security mechanisms for addressing cross-border threats, humanitarian and development plans and interventions for long-term resilience.

Countries in the Sahel are vulnerable to insecurity resulting from armed conflict, terrorist activities, illicit trafficking and organized crimes, profound humanitarian issues as recurring food and nutritional crises caused by climate change, environmental degradation, drought, floods, poorly functioning markets, low agricultural productivity, poverty and conflict. These and other critical challenges require long-term regional approach especially the inter-linkages of the four pillars in building resilience.

According to the ECOWAS policy framework for security sector reform and governance, security covers both the traditional state-centric notion of the survival of the state and its protection from external and internal aggression by military means, as well as well as the non-military notion of human security based on political, economic, social and environmental imperatives in addition to human rights.

Through these frameworks, the ECOWAS has made some significant contributions to the promotion of peace and security in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) REGULATION MSC/REG.1/01/08

ECOWAS preventive diplomacy initiatives also averted large scale violence in Niger, Guinea and Togo<sup>16</sup>

However, certain threats to peace and security in the region have persisted. In the Lake Chad Basin, attacks by Boko Haram group continue to threaten peace, security and stability in the region. The SRSG of the region, Ibn Chambas has called for an "enhanced support to the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin as well as the Priority Investment Program of the Group of Five of the Sahel, along with a concerted effort to support national development plans" to boost the development of the region"<sup>17</sup>. This clearly shows the interlinkages that peace and security shares with development.

The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic threatens democracy, with the application of drastic, authoritarian, emergency measures which do not only endanger peace and security, but also prospects of human rights, humanitarianism and development in the subregions.

The continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region necessitated sustained regional and international engagement to help the countries in the subregion to address the peace and security challenges like terrorism, maritime piracy, conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, transnationally organized crimes, human trafficking, arms and drug peddling, issues from poorly managed and/or illegal exploitation of natural resources. Fully integrated response, led by the collaboration of governments of countries in the subregion, support of UNWOWAS and the international community, encompassing simultaneous pursuit of progress on security, governance, humanitarian assistance and development is required. Rightfully responding to the question of development, humanitarian, human rights as well as peace and security in the subregion, the Security Council called for a more integrated and multisectoral approach<sup>18</sup>.

"there is no development without peace, but there is also no peace without development" inclusive and sustainable development not only is an end in itself but also happens to be the best defense against the risk of violent conflict" 20

The G5 Sahel, a joint force to tackle security threats, focuses on three missions—counter-terrorism, organized cross-border crimes, climate change and human trafficking, in five Sahel states of Mauritania, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mali. This is a political, military and development IGO framework to addressing critical issues in State fragility in the Sahel. In the area of security, the G5 set up the G5 Sahel Joint Force in 2017<sup>21</sup>. The G5 Sahel have driven initiatives around infrastructural projects (roads, bridges, telephone services), access to resources and electrification, improvement of governance through women inclusion and justice.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Implementing the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework: Prospects and Challenges

 $<sup>^{17}</sup>$  UNOWAS, West Africa and the Sahel, Between Security challenges and the need to consolidate Peace"  $3^{\rm rd}$  December, 2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> United Nations News, 'Peace is at risk and violated in many places, but we will not give up, says UN chief, Guterres.' <a href="https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1020092">https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1020092</a> [Accessed September 24, 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace, Report of the Secretary-General January 18, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> France Diplomacy, G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance.

The ECCAS region adopted the Protocol of Peace and Security in 1999 to deal with the conflict and political instability in the region. The protocol made way for the establishment of the Security Council, with three instruments, the Commission for Defense and Security, the Central African Early Warning System and the Central African Multinational Force. <sup>22</sup>

Peace and Security remains a key issue of concern in the CENSAD community. A lot of instability is endemic in the region. On jihadist activities, the region by virtue of its geographic location, is also exposed to a great turbulence of migration. The signing of the Security Charter by the CENSAD community in 2000 at N'djamena, Chad, which subsequently led to the Niamey Declaration on Conflict Prevention and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, all show the place of strong political resolution.

Addressing issues as armed conflicts and violent clashes, activities of militias and violent non-state actors, attacks on civilian populations, transboundary or transnational violence and attendant humanitarian consequences that at times fuel new conflicts, are very key in the pursuit of peace and security and the furtherance of human rights and development in the subregions.

#### **Human Rights**

Key fundamental and/or foundational documents as well as operational frameworks prioritize human rights and recognize its import within the four-pillar interlinkages. These include, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Protocol on the Rights of Women, the Draft UN-AU Human Rights Framework. The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, 2013, The African Charter makes provision for key rights which when pursued would promote peace/security and development. Article 2 of the 1981 African Charter on human and Peoples' rights, clearly states that every individual shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the present charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or any status. Article 8, very importantly, makes the case for freedom of conscience and religion. Article 13 stipulates the right to participation in governance, access to public services. Social and economic rights such as right to own property (Art. 14), right to work (Art. 15), right to enjoy physical and mental health (Art. 16), right to education and cultural life of a community (Art. 17) and right to economic, social and cultural development (Art. 22), equality of persons (Art. 19), right to life and integrity (Art. 4), right to liberty and security of persons (Art. 6), right to fair hearing (Art. 7), freedom of association and free assembly (Art.10-11) etc.

The West and Central African subregions are rife with human rights issues revolving around the following

- Intimidation and repression of citizens
- Threats to rights of peaceful assembly
- Threats to housing rights
- Sexual and gender-based rights abuse

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> African Development Bank. ECCAS Regional Integration Assistance Strategy for Central Africa 2011-2015.

- Threats to freedom of religious and political freedom, etc
- Abuses by security forces
- Humanitarian and refugee related human rights issues
- Issues with freedom of civil society and media, as well as education and cultural rights
- Unlawful arbitrary killings, extra judicial killings, forced disappearance
- Unlawful infringement on citizens privacy rights
- Forced or bounded labour etc

The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, has a commitment to human rights and rule of law to ensure equal protection and access to justice and social services for all before the law, and strengthen the institutions of human rights and justice in the region<sup>23</sup>

Despite the existence of and plug into regional and international frameworks for governance, human rights and rule of law, all still suffer challenges from weakened or fragile states and institutions, corruption. Mali presents a clear case in hand. Weak rule of law in the region, feeds transnational threats, such as organized crimes, piracy and trafficking, state legitimacy and international peace and security.

#### **Humanitarian Pillar**

The MOU between the UN and AUC on Humanitarian Action, the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa<sup>24</sup>, Humanitarian Policy Framework, A Study on the Modalities for the Operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, African Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) are some key policy documents on humanitarian line of action. They are meant to strengthen agelong resilience in the subregions. Humanitarian issues in the subregions generally include natural and man-made disasters with the latter being related to armed conflicts, political tensions and intergroup violence, leading to displacements, including irregular migration, dislocations and increased sufferings which, at times, result in fresh conflicts.

In looking at the progress and challenges that Africa faces in today's world and implications for Agenda 2063, the Framework Document<sup>25</sup> noted the high vulnerability of Africa to climate change in spite of its low contribution to the problem given its low level of industrialization. The document points out that the relatively low level of technological development of Africa renders it highly vulnerable to disasters especially "climate related or hydro-meteorological hazards, i.e., drought, flood and windstorms. The document lists less frequent hazards as including: "pest infestation, earthquakes, landslides, wildfire and volcanic eruptions. More prevalent are diseases outbreaks, such as Ebola, that had left a trail of heavy destruction of both life and livelihoods for peoples in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) REGULATION MSC/REG.1/01/08

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Adopted by the Special Summit of the AU held in Kampala, Uganda, on 22 October 2009. Entered into force on 6 December 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want: Framework Document, "A shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable Development & a global strategy to optimize the use of Africa's Resources for the benefit of all Africans," September 2015, pp. 6971.

West and Central Africa". Four broad categories of humanitarian crises have been identified in Africa. These are Geological; Hydro-meteorological; Biological and Conflicts<sup>26</sup>.

The Humanitarian Assistance commitment of the ECPF seeks to [i] Mitigate the impact of humanitarian disasters and emergencies that could result in social and political upheaval; [ii] Serve as a bridge between relief/emergency assistance and medium term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict and disaster settings; [iii] Protect sustainable development, including individual and community livelihoods, through effective crisis prevention and preparedness activities; and [iv] Foster interregional harmony and security through cooperative arrangements to ensure effective humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness programs<sup>27</sup>.

There are webs of interlinkages between humanitarian issues and other pillars of this study, peace/security, human rights and development; for instance, a humanitarian burden may arise alongside human rights abuse, when state agencies embark on certain development projects, for example clearing off traders along the road side, taking off residence around water bodies, could readily stir up IDP crisis and amount to abuse of human rights if not well handled. Also, the interconnection of armed violence and insecurities; pandemics, drought, flood, famine and food insecurity, unemployment, trigger challenges of peace/security, development, human rights and humanitarian crisis. The 1991 UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 46/182 holds that the victims of natural disasters and man-made disasters are key targets of humanitarian assistance. The resolution further underscores the relationships between emergency, rehabilitation and development (paragraph 9), as well as the links between economic growth, sustainable development and the prevention and preparedness against emergencies (paragraph 10)<sup>29</sup>.

The importance of the humanitarian pillar is further evident in the empowering mandates of the AU as provided in the AU Constitutive Act and the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council. These foundational documents have influenced the AU Humanitarian Policy Framework and support the operationalization of the African Union Humanitarian Agency (AUHA). The AUHA would operate under core humanitarian principles such as "humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality; including principles of state responsibility, solidarity among Member States as a customary extension of hospitality, egalitarianism and solidarity with peoples in situations of need; and also lays emphasis on participation and ownership by the affected populations and host communities as a cornerstone of humanitarian action"<sup>30</sup>. The AU Humanitarian Policy Framework emphasizes early warning, preparedness and response, protection and assistance to victims and vulnerable groups, protection of civilians in armed conflicts, disaster

validation-meeting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Babafemi Badejo, A study on the modalities for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, submitted to the department of Political Affairs, the African Union Commission, October 21, 2019. Available at: <a href="https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200520/african-humanitarian-agency-afha-member-states-and-recs-">https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200520/african-humanitarian-agency-afha-member-states-and-recs-</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) REGULATION MSC/REG.1/01/08

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> See UNGA Res 46/182 (1991), https://undocs.org/A/RES/46/182

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The inception report by Olawale Ismail for East Africa, pointed attention to this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Babafemi Badejo, A study on the modalities for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, submitted to the department of Political Affairs, the African Union Commission, October 21, 2019. Available at: <a href="https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200520/african-humanitarian-agency-afha-member-states-and-recs-validation-meeting">https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200520/african-humanitarian-agency-afha-member-states-and-recs-validation-meeting</a>

management and risk reduction, inclusive peace process and post-conflict reconstruction and development as core priorities.<sup>31</sup>

In the West African subregion, displacements induced by years of conflicts and crisis, terrorist activities, crisis over poor management of resources, farmers-herders crisis, effects of pandemics, very low level of development, continues to trigger a massive humanitarian crisis and response. In fact, the West and Central Africa has been identified as having one of Africa's largest displaced populations<sup>32</sup>. The Central African Republic alone, is home to the third largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The extremely poor level of infrastructural developments continues to dampen humanitarian support, throwing millions into precarious humanitarian situations, further showing the interlinkages between development and humanitarianism. Insecurity is also a chief factor driving displacement in Central African Republic. About 93% of displaced households have reportedly fled their areas of origin out of fear for their security. In total, one-fifth of the population has had to flee their homes to survive the eruption of violence. Refugees from CAR are estimated at a total of 611,338 with nearly half fleeing to neighbouring Cameroon<sup>33</sup>.

The Great Green Wall for Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) launched in 2008, by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the African Union, seeks to address humanitarian challenges, by reducing land degradation and desertification in the Sahel and Sahara, boost food security and support local communities to adapt to the realities of climate change.

#### **Development**

The concept of development is very broad. The emphasis here aligns with the African Governance Report (AGR) 2019, on the aspects that are focused on by the AU Agenda Aspirations 1, 3, 4 and 6, and the (global) UN 2030 Agenda for SDG 16<sup>34</sup>. The SDGs, Agenda 2063, the AU-UN Development Framework, the UNDP Human Development index, are key documents driving development for Africa especially from an interlinked point of view.

The approach is similar at RECs levels. For instance, in 2007, the ECOWAS adopted a 2020 Vision whose slogan was the transition from ECOWAS of States to ECOWAS of peoples. In order to achieve this, a long-term regional development strategy was defined, one of the major instruments of which was the Community Development Program (PCD). A Regional Strategic Plan (PSR 2011-2015) and a Community Strategic Framework (CSC 2016-2020) have also been implemented in order to integrate the programs of the institutions and agencies of the Region as well from an interlinked lens.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> See 2015 AU Humanitarian Policy Framework, <a href="http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/humanitarian-policy-framewrok-rev-final-version.pdf">http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/humanitarian-policy-framewrok-rev-final-version.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> UNHCR, Across West Africa dual challenge of conflict and coronavirus threatens millions of people, by UNHCR staff. 17 April, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Reliefweb, News and Press Release, Informing the humanitarian response in CAR—A logistical and security feat. 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs: SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and AU Vision 2063. Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; and Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa.

The vision was implemented successively through the PSR (2011-2015) and the CSC (2016-2020). From the evaluation of the implementation of the ESP, an average annual physical execution rate of 36.8% emerges during the period 2011-2015 (CEA-ECOWAS 2020: Evaluation Report of the 2020 vision, Provisional report).

At ECOWAS and ECCAS level, development in this context, is seen from a broader lens, cutting across economic growth indicators, per capita income, GDP, 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; democracy, human rights and civil liberties; reasonable level of security; and good governance virtues (accountability, transparency, etc.).<sup>35</sup> In other words, development (human development and/or human security) that is sustainable is one that seeks to optimize performance of the other pillars.

Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions<sup>36</sup>

The thrust of the work of OSAA in the areas of peace, security and development, further underscores the fact that there is no peace without development, there is no development without peace and there is no peace and development without human rights. The absence or deficiency in the pillars of peace/security, human rights, and development, leads to humanitarian crisis.<sup>37</sup> Humanitarian interventions towards building resilience interlinks with development, averts tensions and conflicts hence ensuring respect for human rights.

The Sahel Alliance was also set up in 2017 by France, Germany and the EU to improve the effectiveness of development assistance in the area, and serve as a contact point for G5 on development issues. It coordinates the activities of major development partners in the region, so as to speed up the implementation of development actions which addresses the needs of the populations, such as economic empowerment and job creation for youth, culture, education and training, agriculture, rural development and food security, energy and climate, governance, support for rolling out basic services and internal security<sup>38</sup>

#### Interlinkages between the four pillars

The interlinkages have relevance towards the promotion of synergistic and integrated implementation of interventions addressing peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development situations in the subregions. The study will explore how they could be harnessed to contribute to effective and lasting solutions to conflict in the subregions, embodying conflict prevention and resolution.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> See Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 13-34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Para 35, United Nations, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> In the study we will link the work of OSAA (Subprogramme 1) with that of ECA (Subprogramme 2) within the framework of Programme 9 (UN Support to the NEPAD Programme of the AU).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> France Diplomacy, G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance.

#### Justification for the study

The study is especially expedient given the lack of sufficient understanding, and application in theory and policy of the four-pillar interlinkages. Highlighting the relevance or rationale for interlinkages is also very important. Proper application of the four pillars would not only foster an integrative operational process, reduce situation of conflict and threats to good life, but also contribute meaningfully to the achievement of development goals embodied in Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. However, it must be noted from the onset that interlinkages analysis should be seen as work in progress. Aside from opportunities, there are many challenges, which the present study will seek to address.

#### **Current Position**

To achieve the AU Agenda 2063, the peace and security-development interlinkages includes governance and human rights. This is an indication that the ECOWAS and ECCAS buys into the idea of the interlinkages at the AU level. At the UN's inaugural African Dialogue Series (ADS) focused on the interlinkages among peace, security, human rights, humanitarian assistance and development in Africa, participants highlighted synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063, and recognized the importance of collaborative efforts between the UN and the AU to strengthen multilateralism<sup>39</sup> The four AU-UN Cooperation frameworks: the AU-UN Peace and Security Framework, the AU-UN Development Framework, the draft AU-UN Human Rights Framework, and the MOU between the UN and AUC on Humanitarian Action all aimed at enhanced partnership in peace and security, touches on matters of governance, human rights, humanitarian assistance and of course, development. Antonio Guterres observed that the approaches and policies of the UN and the AU "are more closely aligned than ever before" and both call for a prosperous, peaceful and secure continent based on good governance, human rights and the rule of law and aim to leave no one behind<sup>40</sup>.

Progress on the interlinkages would address five core responsibilities that could influence collective efforts for meeting humanitarian needs, while simultaneously reducing risk of situations of conflicts and vulnerabilities across varying lines. These key responsibilities include: "political leadership to prevent and end conflicts; uphold the norms that safeguard humanity; leave no one behind; change people's lives and invest in humanity." Seeking to achieve these goals requires not only greater collaboration, cohesion and engagement between various actors, but also underscores the role of governance and institutions.

The Four-Pillar Interlinkages offers a coordinated/interrelated set of practical steps or actions aimed at reducing people's vulnerability resulting from conflicts, natural and man-made disasters and poverty. Clearly, the very ambitious AU Agenda 2063, subregional frameworks and the SDGs as embodied by 2030 Agenda, cannot be achieved when pursued exclusively, but requires

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> African Dialogue Series Address Peace, Security, Development, Human Rights. SDG Knowledge Hub. 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

<sup>40</sup> Ihid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Cyril Obi, Study on Strengthening and Mainstreaming the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus into Policies and Strategies in Africa, p.3

additional thinking on unpacking its diverse ramifications, bringing in concepts of peace and humanitarianism and human rights to further consolidate its gain<sup>42</sup>.

#### Aim and Objectives of the study

The primary aim of the study is to produce a robust report that explore critically the interlinkages of the four pillars of peace/security, development, human rights and humanitarianism in the Sahel and the West and Central Africa subregions. The aim is to promote synergistic and integrated implementation of interventions addressing peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development situations in the subregions, to contribute to effective and lasting solutions to conflict in the two subregions.

### Specific objectives of the study include

- Present a clear picture of the subregional realities/situation, with regards to the challenges in achieving peace/security, development, human rights and humanitarianism as they relate to conflict situations in the two subregions, and the expedient need for tinkering on new ways of doing things
- General analysis of the interlinkages on the basis of the above on West and Central Africa, so as to show the extent of key-in and awareness or operational inclinations towards the importance of the interlinkages of the four pillars for policy-making and operational efforts in the search for solutions to conflict prevention and resolution at the doctrinal/practice and literature levels.
- Present the results and analysis at the country focused/case study level, subregional and AU level.
- Assess how the four-pillar interlinkages framework could be used to foster synergistic
  implementation of interventions pertaining to the four pillars for sustainable and lasting
  solutions to conflicts, in the Sahel and in the West and Central Africa regions. This will
  include key issues, challenges and opportunities that exist on benefiting from synergies on
  the interlinkages of development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian
  pillars with respect to achieving concrete results taking into account dimensions such as
  governance and institutions.
- The research will provide cross-sectoral analysis to form a basis for policy and operational decisions that are relevant to local communities and governments, as well as national governments and their partners such as RECs.
- Show the import of situational factors: governance and institutions to optimal operational efforts by aid agencies and other do-gooders.
- Demonstrate the effects of pandemics like the COVID-19 on the interlinkages. The COVID-19 is also used to show the connections in problems and opportunities amongst the four pillars.
- Transboundary issues to inform intraregional cooperation in finding sustainable and lasting solutions to conflicts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Executive Summary of the study by Cyril Obi, Study on Strengthening and Mainstreaming the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus into Policies and Strategies in Africa, p.2

- Mainstream gender and youth dimensions
- On the basis of the study's findings, advance appropriate and robust action-oriented recommendations on all elements of the study objectives

#### **Targeted Beneficiaries/Audience**

The beneficiaries of the findings and recommendations of the report cuts across actors in the national governmental and intergovernmental circles, and development focused agencies including, but not limited to the UN ECA Members States in Western Africa, i.e. Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Senegal, Cape Verde, and those of the Central African region, i.e. Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe, ECOWAS and ECCAS Commission, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, APRM, UNOWAS, the ECA Subregional Offices for West and Central Africa, and country offices of UN agencies, and OSAA.

The study will avail a robust report on the situation of peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian action and their interlinkages, and the state of play at both theoretical/literature and doctrinal/practice levels in terms of how their interlinkages are harnessed to tackle conflict situations for sustainable and lasting solutions. This will include case studies carefully selected countries of Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon and Central African Republic would be considered closely on the basis of prevalence of issues on the four pillars, impact and capacity to be researched.

Mali is both in West Africa and the Sahel. It has been in a situation of tension, active conflicts, military rule with spasmodic periods of civil governance. It is also affected by transboundary issues of terrorism and organized crime. Nigeria is a clear case of failure on all four pillars in spite of abundance of human and material resources. It would be interesting to explore the challenges of the interlinkages of the pillars. Cameroon faces a problem of national integration that has resulted in problems of all the pillars. The CAR has also been in and out of coups, one conflict or the other facing challenges with respect to all the pillars.

#### **Conceptual framework**

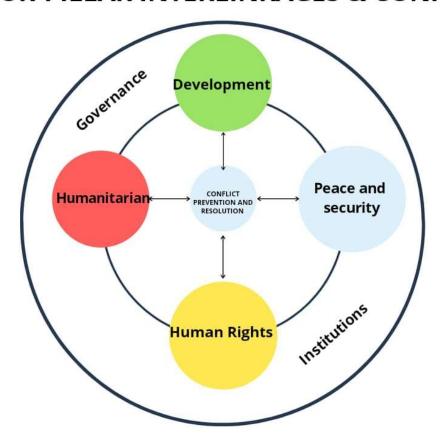
The study is set out to find lasting and effective solutions to conflicts in the subregions. This is also reflected in the framework to be used for analysis.

The depiction of conflict in the centre is deliberate to raise both negative and positive questions on the interlinkages. It is negative, as it shows the reality of prevalent of conflicts, including violent and non-violent, with the challenges posed by bad governance/leadership and ineffective institutions as affecting each of the pillars in the subregions. Conflict is also applied in a positive light, through prevention and resolution of conflicts, exploring good governance and effective institutions with the leverage of the linkages of the four pillars.

Effective and lasting solutions to conflicts, would promote human security and make for utmost freedom, described as larger freedom in the preamble of the aim of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>43</sup>

The nature of interactions between each pillar and conflict, and the joined-up relations between the four pillars and conflict would also be analyzed as indicated by the arrows in the diagram below.

## FOUR-PILLAR INTERLINKAGES & CONFLICT



The study considers terrorism and state fragility/failure very important yardsticks in ascertaining the depth of challenges posed by the four pillars in states within the subregions in the search for lasting solutions to conflicts. The Global Terrorism Ranking<sup>44</sup>, is a useful aggregate of total

 $<sup>^{43}</sup>$  United Nations, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Cumulative annual Global Terrorism Index. <a href="http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/11/GTI-2019web.pdf">http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/11/GTI-2019web.pdf</a>. For another source on a quick view on security trends in West Africa and sahel, see <a href="https://undocs.org/s/2020/585">https://undocs.org/s/2020/585</a>.

number of terrorists incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damaged from terrorist incidents in a given year.

Data on terrorism

V.H-Very High, H-High, M-Medium, L-Low, V.L-Very law, N.I- No impact

S/n	ECOWAS	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	ECCAS	2020	2019	2018
	STATES	rank	rank	rank	STATES	rank	rank	Rank
1	Mali	13	22	25	Angola	52	43	117
		Н				M		
2	Nigeria	3	3	3	Burundi	33	32	28
		V.H				Н		
3	Burkina Faso	27	37	43	Cameroon	15	16	15
		M				Н		
4	Ghana	86	122	110	CAR	14	15	19
		V.L				Н		
5	Togo	138	138	130	Chad	33	38	34
		N.I				M		
6	Benin	138	138	130	Congo	70	61	48
		N.I				L		
7	Cote D'Iviore	72	63	54	DR Congo	10	11	13
		L				Н		
8	Liberia	126	119	121	Equatorial	138	138	130
		V.L			Guinea	N.I		
9	Sierra Leone	108	95	101	Gabon	105	93	130
		V.L				V.L		
10	Guinea	100	112	101	Rwanda	66	76	81
		V.L				L		
11	Guinea Bissau	138	138	130	Sao Tome and	-		
		N.I			Principe			
12	The Gambia	138	138	130				
		N.I						
13	Senegal	93	96					
		V.L						
14	Cape Verde	-						
15	Niger	23	23	20				
		Н						

The failed/fragile state rankings evaluate social and cross-cutting issues, economic, political, military, cohesion, sovereignty and relations with the international community as indicators. Very Sustainable, Sustainable, Very stable, more stable, warning, elevated warning, high warning, Alert, High alert, very high alert

S/n	ECOWAS	2019/20	2018/19	ECCAS	2020	2019
	STATES	rank	Rank	STATES	Rank	rank
1	Mali	16	21	Angola	34	37
		Alert	Alert		H.W	H.W
2	Nigeria	14	14	Burundi	12	15
		Alert	Alert		Alert	Alert
3	Burkina Faso	37	47	Cameroon	11	16
		H.W	H.W		Alert	Alert
4	Ghana	108	110	CAR	6	6
		W	W		H. A	H.Alert
5	Togo	38	38	Chad	7	7
		H.W	H.W		H.Alert	H.A
6	Benin	77	75	Congo	25	27
		E.W	E.W	_	Alert	Alert
7	Cote D'Iviore	32	29	DR Congo	5	5
		H.W	Alert	_	H.A	V.H.A
8	Liberia	31	30	Equatorial	45	53
		Alert	Alert	Guinea	H.W	H.W
9	Sierra Leon	42	39	Gabon	90	92
		H.W	H.W		W	E.W
10	Guinea	15	11	Rwanda	35	37
		Alert	Alert		H.W	H.W
11	Guinea Bissau	23	19	Sao Tome and	83	88
		Alert	Alert	Principe	E.W	E.W
12	The Gambia	51	47			
		H.W	H.W			
13	Senegal	71	66			
		E.W	E.W			
14	Cape Verde	106	106			
	_	W	W			
15	Niger	19	18			
		Alert	Alert			

Source: Cumulative Fragile State Index Rankings

Analysis of foundation-laying documents and frameworks, such as: The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, key Statements of the UN Secretary General and AU leadership, African Union Agenda 2063 and, the AU-UN Peace and Security Framework, the AU-UN Development Framework, the draft AU-UN Human Rights Framework, and the MOU between the UN and AUC on Humanitarian Action, The Protocol Relating to the establishment of the AU

Peace and Security Council and the related Peace and Security Architecture, The 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Protocol on the Rights of Women, the modalities for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, etc as latitudes for expanding on knowledge and understanding of effective operationalization, including frameworks, mechanisms, challenges, opportunities and recommendations for theoretical and practical application of the humanitarian, development, peace/security and human rights interlinkages as they relate to conflict prevention and resolution.

#### Tentative Proposed specific issues to be covered in the study are:

The specific issues to be covered in the study are to be guided by the situational analysis in the subregions and the AU-UN cooperation frameworks within the framework of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. These are aggregated and indicated below.

Nature of interlinkages between the various pillars, and why they are important for the Sahel and West and Central African subregions and specifically selected case study countries.

#### **Human Rights realities**

- Intimidation and repression of citizens
- Threats to rights of peaceful assembly
- Threats to housing rights
- Sexual and gender-based rights abuse
- Threats to freedom of religious and political freedom, etc

#### **Peace and Security**

- Politics and electoral systems
- Terrorism
- Resource exploration related issues
- Economic issues, sources of livelihoods (cattle herding, a major issue permeating Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger),
- Exploitation of ethnic differences, etc

#### **Humanitarian realities**

- Corruption
- Governance/Political interests
- Gender and youth issues such as inequality and violence increasingly growing complicated by the pandemic
- Food security
- Internally displaced Persons

Fostering resilience

Natural and man-made disasters, including climate and environmental factors, etc

### **Development realities**

- Comprehensive measures of Human Development Index
- (a) Longevity (long lasting healthy lives)

- (b) Knowledge
- (c) Access to resources for a qualitative level of living
- (d) Role of the private sector and investment in development, through inclusive and innovative economic growth.

# • Critical factors that affects the interlinkages of the pillars. And how do they reflect opportunities and challenges for the interlinkages?

Governance: The exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs is very important in any progress towards the interlinkages of the pillars. The AUC, through its African Governance Architecture as well as the APRM arrangement have emphasized the importance of governance. The ECOWAS policy framework for security sector reform and governance, touches on the pillars. Also,, the broad definition of OSAA's work as part of the UN's partnership with the AU on the peace-security-development relationship, underscores the interconnections between peace, security, development, governance and human rights as crucial for the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development in Africa. Governance at the member state level determines the outcome of the AU Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. The following are strong points in governance to be looked at.

1.Visionary Leadership and/or deficit thereof to collaborate in addressing challenges emanating from the pillars within member states. Weak governance and its impact on State institutions, including insufficient border management, have dramatically diminished the capacity of the Sahelian States to effectively deliver basic services, promote broad based political participation and protect human rights. Widespread corruption, coupled with the inability of States to deliver basic services such as effective policing, justice, access to water, affordable health care and education, has resulted in a widening gap in state-society relations. At the same time, chronic political instability, evident in recurrent unconstitutional changes of government, absence of, or weak democratic/public participatory governance, violent electoral processes and social conflicts, is a direct result of lack of institutionalized political dialogue, weak parliaments and contested judicial systems<sup>45</sup>.

2.Corruption in its multifaceted forms hampering best strategies for pillar deliverables, nature of corporate governance, including capacity for transparency and accountability, to promote the efficient use of natural, financial and human resources. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, provides key documents that buttress the effect of corruption as an issue in governance in our discuss. The ECA has also undertaken a number of studies on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, a major anti-graft challenge affecting development. In this regard, we shall be reviewing ECA documents on Illicit Flows, similar academic debates and reports on the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the UN Convention Against Corruption and Illicit flows as well.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> United Nations Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel region. 14 June, 2013

3. Manipulation of primordial and religious associations across governance, leading to deficiencies in socio-political cohesion. This has accounted for tensions and conflicts resulting from tribalism, ethnicity and religious differences amongst groups in the West African subregion especially. As a major offshoot of bad governance, operated on nepotic and clannish interest, this directly affects progress on the four pillars.

#### Critical Resources and financing as a force in governance

- 1. Internal availability/unavailability of marketable material resources as affecting policy choices
- 2. Internal availability/unavailability of human resources as affecting policy choices
- 3. Internal and external financing possibilities

#### --External Dynamics as a strong influence on governance

- 1. International terror franchises and impact on pillars. Boko Haram fully operational in Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and in Burkina Faso, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), ISWAP, Al-Qa'ida with affiliates such as Al-qa'ida in the Maghreb (AQIM). These external influence from terrorist groups pose great economic and security challenges that ultimately affects development.
- 2. Collective impact of strategic foreign influence and control, vestiges of colonial powers relationships, dependency and interdependency in the context of international economic relations. There is the need to look at the realities of states in the West and Central Africa from the lens of obvious strategic economic and political interests and how they affect the four-pillar interlinkages.

#### --Institutions

- 1. Presence/absence of viable institutions for ownership and collaboration with stakeholders
- a. Public institutions
- b. Private institutions: The link between good corporate governance and development is premised on the need to balance economic, social and environmental factors. Adherence to these principles also boosts investor and private sector confidence.
- c. Social institutions, religious and CSOs: Social institutions along the lines of religious organizations and CSOs working in different areas of focus are very important in the West and Central Africa. Religious organizations holds so much influence. CSOs play a great role in building accountability and responsive governance. Article 3 of the Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) defines the CSOs.

#### Methodology

The study will adopt an analytic approach using the literature review of several UN, AU, RECs documents as well as academic studies. The analysis will be guided by the four pillar interlinkages framework. Additional efforts in the analysis will be buoyed by four case studies from the two subregions. Mali, a country with modest resources and development, that has been in out of conflicts and coup d'etats and in the Sahel provides a great representative choice when coupled with Nigeria with a lot more resources but equally in conflicts of different types. Cameroon and CAR would be looked at closely in Central Africa. In the former, a long serving leadership has not prevented conflicts, including cross-border spill-over of the Boko-Haram terror that has allegiance with an international terror franchise. Similarly, the CAR has been very turbulent for a while and provides a great opportunity for a study on interlinkages. All the four cases have problems on human rights and are dealing with humanitarian problems arising from conflicts within and from without their territories. In effect, the four case studies provide rich data for the analysis of the four-pillar interlinkages as they relate to the conflict situation in the two subregions.

The research process will also include statistical analysis using survey method and qualitative online interviews where possible. For the survey, the study will adopt cross-sectional research design which is descriptive in Nature. The assumption is that it is the most appropriate design for this study. In terms of data collection, the study will employ a mix/complementary method of data collection, using quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Using the two enriches the quality of data collected and further enhances the quality of the final report.

#### Designing and drafting of instruments of data collection

The quantitative data will be collected using questionnaire to be designed for different stakeholders at RECs and national and collated as necessary at subregional levels.

- A. **Questionnaire:** The questionnaire will comprise of six (6) sessions:
- 1. <u>Demographics:</u> Country, age, gender, level of educational attainment.
- 2. Conflict situation in countries- covering tensions and violent conflicts
- 3. Peace and security: In this section, the study participants will be asked how they perceive peace and security in their state and country, they will be required to rate the level of peace and security in a scale that will be drafted by the statistician. This section will also ask the participants to outline the peculiar threats to peace, security and development in their state, country and region, are these threats been addressed, what are the challenges in addressing these threats to peace and security. Forms of violent crimes and insecurity peculiar to participants state, country and region will be ascertained. Factors underlying threats to peace and insecurity will also be examined. Effects of lack of peace and security on human rights, development and on humanitarian will ascertained from this section. Peculiar and particular threats to participants livelihoods and survivals will be ascertained
- 4. <u>Human rights:</u> In this section, participants will be asked questions relating to human rights in their state, country and region, if they think that their rights are been abused in their state, country and region. Are there legal framework in your state, country or region protecting human rights abuses, how effective are the legal framework(s) in protecting people against human right abuses. Effects of human rights on peace and security, humanitarian and development in general will be ascertained in this section etc.
- <u>5. Humanitarian:</u> This section will focus on humanitarians in participant's states, countries and regions. Participants will be requested to outline various humanitarians available in

their state, country and region, types of humanitarian support deliverers, are they local or international, donor agencies. Correlation between humanitarian gestures and development, do they perceive any hidden agenda from funders and donors? Effects of lack of humanitarians to their state, country, region and Africa at large. How can humanitarian support be effectively utilized for growth and development of Africa etc.

- <u>6.</u> <u>Development:</u> In this section, participants will be asked to outline factors hindering the development of their state, country, region and Africa at large. What is the role of violent crimes and insecurity on the development of their country, region and Africa at large? How has human right abuses stalled and hindered development in their country and region etc.
- <u>7.</u> <u>Interlinkages between the four pillars:</u> This section will focus on the interlinkages between peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development pillars.
- <u>8.</u> Role of the interlinkages (how could they be harnessed) in the search for solutions to avert conflict situations
- 9. Questions related to COVID-19, gender and youth and transboundary issues related to the interlinkages and conflict prevention and resolution.
- B. **Key Informant interview guide (KII):** Just like the questionnaire, the KII guide will contain six (6) sections. However, the KII guide will be open-ended questions which will allow the respondents to freely give their opinion, perception and perspective of peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development as they relate to addressing conflict situations in their country, subregion, institution, and Africa in general.

### Data collection and distribution of questionnaires, conducting interviews

The assistance of the ECA/SRO West/Central Africa will be needed in distributing the questionnaire online. ECA/SRO West/Central Africa will provide support with the contacts of relevant stakeholders that will be interviewed for the qualitative data.

#### **Data analysis**

The quantitative data will be analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS, Version 24). The data will be analyzed using frequency and percentages, pie charts, histogram, and bar charts to represent the data across countries and regions. Mean, standard deviation, chi-square will be used to compare and contrast data amongst countries. The qualitative data will be transcribed and analyzed using ethnographic summaries and content analysis. The qualitative data will be used to complement and enrich the quantitative data. The data analyzed, would be used in producing the final report and recommendations.

## Work Plan<sup>46</sup>

This work plan was adjusted to reflect the new reality, from the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, when the final inception report was received. The new date for the submission of final deliverable marking the end of project is now set for December 21, 2020.

<u>Date</u>	Output/Activity	Follow up		
29 September	Submission of draft inception report	Review of draft		
6 October	Consulation with UNECA staff and other	Feedback from UNECA		
	consultants	staff and other consultants		
4 November	Submission of final inception report based	Submission of report and		
	on the comments and inputs provided by	sharing of the report with		
	UNECA, partners and collaborators	other consultants for		
		discussion of synergies and distinctions		
6 November	Submission of questionnaire and further	Use of questionnaire through		
0 November	discussions with UNECA staff and other	SRO for West and Central		
	consultants on translation into French and	Africa; identify select		
	distribution through ECA SRO channels	interviews;		
		Begin detailed writing of		
		report		
16 November	Administration of questionnaire survey	Collation of survey		
		responses		
30 November	Submission of first draft report for review	Continue to incorporate		
	and acceptance by 4 December	surveys, review drafts from		
		other consultants and		
		feedback for alignment and		
11 D 1		synergies		
11 December	Presentation of first draft for discussion	Incorporate comments,		
		criticisms, identification of		
		strengths and weaknesses into final report		
21 December	Submission/presentation of final report	Complete agreed tasks		
21 2000111001	2 3 2 1111 2 1 0 11 properties for a 111 and report	complete agreed tables		

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 $<sup>^{46}</sup>$  This work plan was designed in line with the time frame set out in the ToR, benefiting thankfully from the ideas of the work by Prof Stephen Commins.

#### Study outline<sup>47</sup>

The study would be organised in sections.

Section 1. Executive summary

Section 2. Introduction, including the analytical framework; With attention to the two regions, this section would lay out the study objectives, justification of study, and the organisation of the report and the analytical framework.

Section 3. Specificities of the subregion as they relate to the four pillars and their interlinkages in WA and CA Africa; From the background of establishing the situational realities in the West and Central Africa subregions, this section progresses into regional specificities of the four Pillars: describing how the four pillars inter-link in West and Central Africa and how the interlinkages could be harnessed to address conflict situations using statistical evidence from surveys, as well as case studies illustrations and literature reviews. We shall also analyse the inter-linkages and gender issues and vulnerable groups such as youth and women and transboundary issues and implications for regional responses.

Section 4. Key issues affecting the synergistic and complementary implementation of interventions aimed at addressing peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development situations in the sub regions; We shall be examining all issues as governance, resources, financing, external dynamics and resources affecting the synergistic and complementary implementation of interventions addressing issues of the four pillars with the aim of promoting synergistic and integrated implementation of interventions addressing peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development situations in the subregion, to contribute to effective and lasting solutions to conflict in the two subregions.

Section 5. Challenges, and opportunities for harnessing the interlinkages between the development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian pillars, taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic; Regional Specific challenges and opportunities for harnessing the interlinkages amongst the four pillars, with a special attention to the COVID-19 pandemic. This would support thinking on what strategies and approaches are needed in the next section

Section 6. Strategies and approaches for promoting the interlinkages and complementary implementation and approaches, as well as methodologies and tools for harnessing the interlinkages and promoting integrated implementation and associated capacity building needs; from the above issues raised, this section would tease out region specific strategies, ideas and approaches for promoting the interlinkages, approaches, and capacity building needs.

Section 7. Conclusions, key messages and concrete action-oriented recommendations based on the findings of the study.

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 $<sup>^{</sup>m 47}$  In preparing this outline, the first draft of inception report by Stephen Commins, was very helpful

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