

# **BRIEF ON THE AU-UNDP PROJECT (RAF/02/018)**

## **'SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA OF THE AFRICAN UNION'**

### **a. Introduction and Overview of the first phase of the Project**

1. The UNDP has a long standing relationship with the then OAU now AU, which dates back to July 1997, when it elaborated the first phase of the Capacity Building Project (RAF/07/028). The project had an initial budget of US\$3 million, out of which the Government of Norway contributed US\$1 million, while the UNDP made an initial contribution of US\$ 2 million and later provided an additional US\$1 million, totaling US\$ 4 million for the entire duration of the project, which ended in July 2003.

2. The objective of the project was to address the human resource gap of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, through building the capacity of the Conflict Management Center (CMC) for preventive diplomacy, resource mobilization and human resources development. The project had major achievements, among which were: improved analytical capacity of the CMC through the help of Political Analysts provided by the project; the training of over 200 OAU and African Embassies staff in Addis Ababa in information and communication technology (ICT); the development of a local area network (LAN); the commissioning of dedicated internet connectivity of the entire Organization and the Embassies of AU Member States in Addis Ababa; and the provision of computers and other ICT associated equipment to the Political Affairs Department in particular and the OAU in general. On the whole, the first phase of the project which ended in July 2003, made valuable contributions towards building the capacity of the OAU and the CMC.

### **b. Second Phase of the Project**

3. The second phase of the project, (RAF/02/018) entitled; "Support for the Implementation of the Peace and Security Agenda of the African Union" which was approved in December 2002, seeks to contribute globally to enhancing the capacity of the AU for conflict prevention and peace building in Africa, in accordance with the peace and security agenda of the AU. The project which actually commenced in July 2003 aims at building on the achievements of the earlier phase. It is also in conformity with the UNDP Second Regional Cooperation Framework for Africa, which identifies conflict prevention, management and resolution among its four priorities for Africa.

4. The project now has a total of approximately US\$11.2 million, which is being financed through a co-funding/partnership arrangement, with the UNDP contributing US\$2.5 million. The remaining balance is being covered by the other partners, namely Canada, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The other main contributors are Germany (US\$ 2.3million), Japan (US\$ 2 million for the rehabilitation of ex-child soldiers in the four (4) countries of the Great Lakes Region, namely, Burundi,

Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo) and Spain (over US\$ 1.9 million).

5. The project seeks to provide technical and financial support to the African Union (AU), aimed at enhancing its capacity for Conflict Prevention, Security and Peace Building in Africa. It also seeks to strengthen the operational capacities of the Peace and Security Council and related institutions by developing internal capacities for data gathering, analysis, storage and dissemination, together with its ability to build active and effective partnership with Africa's regional security mechanisms, civil society and the private sector, in conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as in post conflict reconstruction and development.

### **c. Project Achievements**

6. The project has to a large extent fulfilled the objectives of the second phase which are: (i) Capacity Building of the Peace and Security Department; (ii) Ensuring the effective operation of the Peace and Security Council (PSC); (iii) Strengthening institutions and programmes for preventive diplomacy, peace and security; and (iv) Developing and executing the strategy for creating greater awareness of AU's efforts, mobilizing resources for the AU Peace and Security agenda and Training of ex-child soldiers.

7. The project has generally recorded success in many areas, but the following main achievements should be highlighted:

i) The financial, technical and logistical assistance/support provided by the project as highlighted above has assisted the AU Commission to effectively carry out the implementation of its Peace and Security Agenda;

ii) The project continues to assist in Capacity Building and the Experts/Political Analysts have contributed to AU's search for peace in conflict areas such as Darfur, the Great Lakes Region, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Comoros, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea, including its initiatives in combating Terrorism. The Project staff have been contributing effectively to the running of the Peace and Security Department as a whole;

iii) The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) created within the project has, through its various activities, built and sustained the confidence of the contributing partners through its transparent and accountable approach to the implementation of the project. It is now being replaced by a Project Management Team, whose leader has recently been appointed within the AU Commission.

iv) The Local Area Network (LAN) established and monitored by the project has greatly improved ICT within the AU and has enhanced greater electronic interaction within the Commission and also between the AU and the African Embassies in Addis Ababa.

v) The project has made appreciable progress on the issue of installation of Video Conferencing facility in the AUC and AU office in Khartoum. The project will be operational before the end of 2007;

vi) The project has contributed significantly to the running of the Situation Room - the nerve Centre of the Conflict Management Division within Peace and security Division.

vii) The Project, through the Communications Specialist for the PSD it has provided, has been able to project AU's image and publicize its activities to the AU Member States and to the wider international community;

viii) The Project provided considerable financial assistance for the organization of training programmes for Officers in the Peace and Security Department. It also assisted the Situation Room Assistants (six of whom are sponsored by the project) to undertake working training attachments to international and regional organizations.

ix) The Project has successfully implemented the Japanese Programme executed in four (4) countries of the Great Lakes Region. The programme involves the training of ex-child soldiers in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. This programme represents AU's first concrete initiative in post-conflict reconstruction and development.

#### **d. Shortfalls/Constraints**

- i. Some delays in recruiting some of the staff of the project have been experienced. This has been due to the rigid recruitment process in the AU Commission;
- ii. There was a problem of the remuneration for staff at the beginning of the second phase of the project. But this was solved by transferring the human resources component of the Project to the AU;
- iii. Throughout the life of the project, there has been some uncertainty regarding the role, responsibility and channels of reporting and accountability of senior officials and staff of the AU. This situation has however registered some improvement;
- iv. There has been a widening gap between the original and present focus of the Project due to the evolving needs and priorities of the African Union; some difficulties are being faced by the AU in performing the human resource management function after it was transferred to it.

#### **e. Future of the Partnership**

8. The AU/UNDP Project has succeeded in ensuring the operational effectiveness of the Peace and Security Department to implement the programme activities within the framework of the Peace and Security Agenda of the African Union. The UNDP, through this project has done so much for so long, for the PSD in particular and the AU in general that it should continue to be seen as a useful and loyal partner of the AU. This partnership which dates back to 1997 and the fruits that accrue therefrom are known to be very well appreciated by the higher authorities of the AU. It should therefore be maintained and strengthened, especially in light of RCF 3 which, in the main, puts a lot of emphasis on Peace and Security.