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The European Union and Security in Africa: Examination of Financial and Technical Support

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Abstract: The European Union's approach to security in Africa is faced with several challenges that hinder its effectiveness in addressing the continent's complex security issues. The EU's efforts to enhance security in Africa often suffer from a lack of comprehensive capacity-building initiatives. While the EU provides financial and technical support to African countries, there is often insufficient focus on building sustainable security institutions, training security forces, and developing effective governance structures. As a result, African nations struggle to address security threats independently, leading to ongoing instability. The study, therefore, assessed the strategies adopted by the EU to solve the security challenges in Africa; the impact of EU interventions and strategy in promoting security in Africa. It also examined the challenges handicapping the efforts of the EU to enhance security in Africa and as well proffered solutions to the challenges handicapping the efforts of the EU to enhance security in Africa. As a qualitative research, the study adopted the descriptive design wherein data were sourced from secondary sources like books, journals, articles, and historical documents which were analyzed using the content analysis method. Based on the assumptions of the theory of Liberal institutionalism, the study emphasizes the role of international institutions, cooperation, and norms in shaping state behaviour. Finally, the study recommends among others, that African states should endeavor to promote good governance, ensure the reduction of poverty, and encourage in order to tackle the root causes of insecurity in Africa.

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1. Introduction

The European Union (EU) has been involved in various efforts to enhance security in Africa, recognizing the importance of stability and peace on the African continent for its own interests. The EU's engagement in Africa's security has evolved over time, driven by several factors such as geopolitical considerations, humanitarian concerns, and the recognition that instability in Africa can have ripple effects beyond the continent's borders. One of the key drivers for the EU's engagement in Africa's security is the desire to address the root causes of conflict, instability, and migration. The EU views security in Africa as interconnected with other global challenges, including terrorism, organized crime, climate change, and migration flows. Instability in Africa can lead to increased migration towards

Europe, which poses challenges to the EU in terms of managing borders, humanitarian crises, and social integration [1].

According to Carborne, the EU's approach to security in Africa combines both military and civilian instruments [2]. The EU has launched various security and defense initiatives to support African states in addressing security threats, such as the African Peace Facility and the European Peace Facility [3]. These initiatives provide funding and resources for peacekeeping operations, capacity-building efforts, and conflict prevention activities in collaboration with African regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In addition to military engagement, Adelle and Lightfoot averred that the EU emphasizes a comprehensive approach to security in Africa, which includes promoting good governance, respect for human rights, and socioeconomic development [4]. The EU provides significant development assistance to African countries through its European Development Fund and other financial instruments. This assistance aims to address the underlying causes of conflict and promote sustainable development, thereby contributing to long-term stability. The EU has also been involved in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts and support peace processes in Africa. It has played a role in mediating conflicts, such as the Sudanese peace process, and supporting peace agreements, including the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for South Sudan. Brown added that the EU has also deployed civilian missions in Africa to assist with security sector reform, rule of law, and governance [5]. Overall, the EU's engagement in Africa's security is driven by a mix of strategic, humanitarian, and developmental considerations. By addressing security challenges in Africa, the EU aims to foster stability, promote its values, protect its own interests, and contribute to global peace and security. The study, therefore seeks to assess the strategy adopted by the EU to solve the security challenges in Africa; assess the impact of EU interventions and strategy in promoting security in Africa; examine the challenges handicapping the efforts of the EU to enhance security in Africa and as well proffer solutions to the challenges handicapping the efforts of the EU to enhance security in Africa [6], [1].

Theoretical Framework

In examining the European Union's approach to security in Africa, it is important to consider a theoretical framework that can provide insights into its actions and policies. Several theoretical perspectives can help analyze the EU's engagement in African security but the study adopted the theory of Liberal Institutionalism as its theoretical framework [7], [8]. The intellectual founders of liberalism were the English philosopher John Locke (1632-1704), who developed a theory of political authority based on natural individual rights and the consent of the governed, and the Scottish economist and philosopher Adam Smith (1723-90), who argued that societies prosper when individuals are free to pursue their self-interest within an economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and competitive markets, controlled neither by the state nor by private monopolies. Liberal institutionalism emphasizes the role of international institutions, cooperation, and norms in shaping state behavior. In the context of the EU's engagement in African security, Tieku averred that liberal institutionalism suggests the following:

- a. Norm diffusion: The EU promotes and supports the diffusion of liberal norms such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Africa. It seeks to strengthen governance structures, promote good governance, and address root causes of insecurity through capacity-building programs and development aid.
- b. Cooperative security: The EU advocates for cooperative security arrangements, emphasizing multilateralism and regional integration in Africa. It supports regional organizations like the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West

African States (ECOWAS), providing financial assistance, expertise, and training to enhance their capacity to manage conflicts and promote stability.

- c. Economic interests: The EU's engagement in African security is also influenced by its economic interests. Africa represents a significant market for EU member states, and stability is seen as essential for fostering trade, investment, and development. The EU's security initiatives often intertwine with economic cooperation, such as the EU's focus on migration management, counter-terrorism efforts, and resource security [9].

Conceptual Review

The concept of security.

The meaning of security is ambiguous and its scope continues to expand every day. The elastic nature of the concept of security attracts different meanings and different views. Security is an important concept that every human person desires and it has one or two meanings though it defies precise definition. This account for the position of Bodunde, et.al who describes security as an ambiguous and multidimensional concept in which military factors have attracted misappropriate attention. Security has to do with the process connected with assuaging any kind of threat to people and their precious values [10]. This is why Buzan asserts that security is about freedom from threat and ability of states to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile while its bottom line is survival. From the foregoing, security is generally agreed to be about feeling of being safe from harm, fear, anxiety, oppression, danger, poverty, defence, protection and preservation of core values and threat to those values. William equally submits that security is most commonly associated with the alleviation of threats to cherish values, especially those threats which threaten the survival of a particular reference object [11]. In line with the above, Imobighe states that Security has to do with freedom from danger or threats to a nation's ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Thus internal security could be seen as the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion, and the corporate existence of a country and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people [12]. It could therefore be inferred that security, be it classical, state-centric and traditionalist or non-traditionalist, is all about protection of assets including living and non-living resources against loss or damage.

2. Materials and Methods

Through qualitative research the study analyzes how the European Union helps secure Africa by giving financial resources and training support. Through describing research the analysis depends on book chapters reports and historical papers. Our research uses content analysis to review EU security work in Africa to find common security needs and problems. The research connects to Liberal Institutionalism to analyze how the EU builds security cooperation and develops African institutions to strengthen regional security infrastructure. Our study method starts with a thorough research of all available literature to fully understand how EU security efforts work through both military and civilian programs together with diplomatic connections and money support. The research studies EU security intervention success rates by examining case examples of its aid program for Africa and regional peace projects. The research simultaneously examines organizational barriers which stop the EU from securing lasting security results in Africa. The research takes into account both the security relationships between EU and Africa while examining the regional and global international politics effects. The research bases its findings on multiple secondary source documents to explain how EU security programs support Africa better and suggests ways to make them more successful.

3. Results

Dimensions of Human Security

Human security is characterized by seven dimensions of security. These are:

- i. **Economic Security:** This type of security requires an assured basic income for individuals mostly from productive and remunerative work or from a publicly financed safety net. In this sense, only about a quarter of the world's people are presently economically secure and the economic security problem may be more serious in third world countries. Major threats of economic security are poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, lack of income. It germane to state that aforementioned threats constitute pertinent factors causing political tensions and other forms of violence in the developing countries.
- ii. **Food Security:** Food security demands that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to basic food. Major threats to this include hunger, famines and the lack of physical and economic access to basic food. Though United Nations maintain that the overall availability of food is not a problem; rather the problem often is the poor distribution of food and lack of money/purchasing power. In the past, food security problems have been dealt with at both national and global levels. However, their impacts are limited. According to UN, the key is to tackle the problems relating to access to assets, work and assured income (related to economic security)
- iii. **Health Security:** This tends to guarantee a minimum protection from diseases and unhealthy daily life. In less - developed countries, the major causes of death traditionally were infectious and diseases, Inadequate health care, new and recurrent diseases including epidemics and pandemics, poor nutrition and unsafe environment and unsafe lifestyles; whereas in develop countries, the major killers are diseases of the circulatory system. However, lifestyle-related chronic diseases are leading killers globally with 80 percent of deaths from chronic diseases occurring in low- and middle- income countries. In both developing and industrial countries, threats to health security are usually greater for poor people in local areas, particularly children. This is as a result of poor or bad nutrition and inadequate access to health services, clean water and other basic necessities.
- iv. **Environmental Security:** The primary goal of this is to protect people from the short and long-term ravages of nature, man-made threats in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment. In the third world countries, lack of access to clean water resources is one of the greatest environmental threats while the major threats in industrial countries are air pollution and global warming which are caused by the emission of greenhouse gases. Again, environmental degradation, natural disasters and resource depletion are general all over the world.
- v. **Personal Security:** This is all about the protection of individuals and people from physical violence either from the state or outside the state. It could be from violent individuals, sub-state actors and from domestic abuse. Hence, the greater and the common threat to personal security from the state (torture), other states (war), groups of people (ethnic tension), individuals or gangs (crime), industrial, workplace or traffic accidents. The security threats and risks on persons and often families are many and vary from place to place and also from time to time. These include: theft, armed robbery, burglary, food poisoning, electrocution, fire outbreak, home accident and host of others.
- vi. **Community Security:** Community security aims to protect people from the loss of traditional relationships, values and from sectarian and ethnic violence. Traditional communities, particularly minority ethnic groups are often threatened. About half of the world's states have experienced some inter-ethnic rivalry. Threats to community security are usually from the group (oppressive practices),

between groups (ethnic violence), from dominant groups (e.g. indigenous people's vulnerability). In 1993, the United Nations declared the Year of Indigenous People to highlight the continuing vulnerability of about 300 million aboriginal people in seventy countries as they face a widening spiral of violence. In Africa, many nation-states have witnessed ethnic clashes, land and boundary clashes, and intra - religious and inter - religious conflict all of which constitute threats.

- vii. Political Security: This embraces guarantee and protection of fundamental human rights of citizenry. It is concerned with whether people live in a society that honours their basic freedoms. Some of threats attached to these are political or state repression, including torture, disappearance, human rights violations, detention and imprisonment. The assessment of the Amnesty International reveals that, political repression, systematic torture, ill treatment, hostage taken and kidnapping are still being practice in about One Hundred and ten (110) countries. Human rights violations are frequent during periods of political unrest and by security agencies in the third world countries [13].

National Security

Nations of the world prioritize the safety of its territorial integrity, resources and its entire citizenry. This informs the belief that national security is the preservation of independence and sovereignty of a nation state. In reality, every country has a large number of interests to protect. These interest put together constitute the national interest which originates from values, good governance and protection of social and economic well-being of the entire citizenry. Based on this, one may describe national security as the protection and maintenance of national interest of a state or nation. This corresponds with Harold Brown's [US Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981] perception when he defines national security as the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve it nature, institutions and governance from disruption from outside and to control its borders [14]. Hence, national security has no universally accepted definition but there are two schools of thought to it - the Old or Traditional Security Paradigm and the New or Contemporary perspective.

International Security

International security is described as the efforts and measures taken by nations, regional and international organizations to ensure mutual survival and safety through the use of diplomacy and military actions. According to Ogaba, the concept of security at the international level is built on the basis of state - centric conception of security. International security is therefore synonymous with a global political circumstance which defining attribute is the distribution of power in the international system [12]. International security is thus the national security or state security in global arena. Buzan views the study of international security as more than a study of threat but also a study of which threats can be tolerated and which demands immediate action ADDIN ZOTERO_ITEM CSL_CITATION

{"citationID":"I6oqn415","properties":{"formattedCitation":"[10]","plainCitation":"[10]","not eIndex":0},"citationItems":[{"id":3725,"uris":["http://zotero.org/users/16161951/items/FERR6RK3"],"itemData":{"id":3725,"type":"article-journal","container-title":"Conflict Management and Peace Science","issue":"5","page":"491-515","title":"Rural-urban migration, inequality and urban social disorder: Evidence from African and Asian cities","volume":"33","author":{"family":"Ostby","given":"G."},"issued":{"date-parts":["2016"]}}}], "schema":"https://github.com/citation-style-language/schema/raw/master/csl-citation.json"} [10]. He perceives the concept of security as not either power or peace but something in between. United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) Report of 1994 defines international security as freedom from fear and freedom from want. The report perceives that security can only be assured from two points of views. First, is the safety of the vulnerable people and groups in numerous parts of the world from violent conflicts caused by interstate and intrastate crises and war. The second view is the safety of the people from poverty, hunger, unemployment and other kinds of social, economic and political deprivations. International security can also be called global security and some dimensions which include; human, environmental, national, transnational, and transcultural security. However, the concept of international security actor has been protracted from individuals, groups, nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations. International organizations like United Nations and other continental cum sub - regional organizations are working assiduously to promote and maintain world peace as it constitutes the cogent objective of these organizations.

The security challenges facing African States

The primary threats to peace and security in Africa are well known: poverty, weak state institutions, and bad governance. This culminate into the emergence of terrorism in the continent. Nonetheless, specific economic, political, and demographic developments have contributed to the observable changes of symptoms of violence and insecurity. Despite relative improvements in a lot of states, the absolute prevalence of poverty and economic inequality has increased in many African countries. This constitutes a risk for intra-state conflict and potentially induces more decentralised forms of violence. Many African countries have experienced high and steady economic growth in recent years, which has led to a substantive decline in poverty rates across the continent. However, as a consequence of pronounced population growth, the absolute number of poor people has increased. Moreover, the benefits of growth are often distributed in a highly unequal way. In fact, Africa as a whole has the highest level of inequality of any region in the world. According to World Bank data, around half of African countries have experienced increases in income inequality in recent years despite reductions in poverty rates (for example Rwanda, Chad, and Ethiopia).

Importantly, rising inequality is regularly driven by income gaps between regions, identity groups, and urban-rural divides as well as by unequal distribution of resources (including international development aid). The resulting so-called horizontal inequalities are particularly politically destabilising, playing an essential role not only in fuelling armed conflict but also other forms of violence such as urban riots and terrorism.

In addition, many African countries are confronted with the depletion of natural resources as a consequence of long-term environmental developments. Africa is among the parts of the world that are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of climate change. Given the importance of agricultural livelihoods on the continent, such developments can contribute to aggravating preexisting tensions stemming from the political exclusion and economic marginalisation of rural communities.

Taken together, these economic developments not only constitute an important element of the complex causes of insecurity on the African continent, they also explain some of the patterns and developments of decentralised forms of violence that characterise most current forms of insecurity. Overall, Africa has become more democratic since the end of the Cold War. The extension of political and civil rights has been a very positive development that is likely to have contributed significantly to a reduction of large-scale conflict. It is often overlooked, however, that processes of incomplete democratisation may also have fuelled other forms of violence. Democratic setbacks like manipulations of presidential term limits and weak governance (for example clientelism, corruption, and discriminatory policies) constitute important stability risks, as seen in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Moreover, the introduction of electoral democracy coupled with weak state institutions has also nurtured more decentralised

forms of violence. Prior research indicates that one potential reason lies in the fact that in a lot of countries democratisation has created a political bias towards demographically strong rural areas. While the inclusion of rural elites can help reduce the risk of the emergence of organised rebellions, the political marginalisation of urban areas simultaneously increases grievances and can lead to new forms of political violence in urban settings.

Rapid urbanisation increases the risk of unrest and support for radical organisations and terrorist groups. Sub-Saharan Africa's urbanisation rate (the share of people living in urban areas) has increased from less than 20 per cent in 1970 to nearly 40 per cent today. This trend led to an increase in the absolute number of urban residents by nearly 100 per cent between 1995 and 2015 alone. This demographic development has been accompanied by rising unemployment rates (particularly among the youth) and insufficient infrastructure and service provision by the state. Under conditions of weak governance and economic strain, rapid urbanisation can become a breeding ground for gang violence and riots. Poor and unequal educational opportunities and the socio-economic marginalisation of rural-urban migrants have been found to particularly increase levels of urban violence [15]. Despite the fact that urban unrest is often considered "low-intensity," it increases the risk of fragility, which may in turn develop into a substantial security threat. Moreover, individuals and groups living in urban poverty have been found to be at high risk of supporting terrorist organisations

The increasing number of conflict recurrences in many African countries is not only driven by the unaddressed economic and political issues that led to violence in the first place. Violence in itself begets violence by negatively affecting political institutions, economic development, and intercommunal relations. Moreover, the evidence suggests that different forms of violence mutually influence each other. Organised crime is more likely to flourish where the state has been pushed back as a consequence of previous violent conflict, such as in northern Mali or in Libya.

Exposure to violence has been found to generally increase support for radical and terrorist groups. For instance, individuals that have experienced high levels of violence are more likely to normalise aggressive behaviour and become more susceptible to black-and-white ideologies, whereas exposure to communal violence has been found to increase support for violent extremism in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Chad [16]. Similarly, regions in Kenya, Mali, and Nigeria that have experienced forms of conflict in the past have become particularly prone to Islamist violence.

The European Union and Africa Security Partnership

The partnership between the European Union (EU) and African countries in the field of security has evolved over time, with various initiatives and collaborations aimed at addressing common security challenges. The origins of this partnership can be traced back to historical, political, and socio-economic factors. Colonial legacies is one of those factors. The historical context of European colonization in Africa laid the foundation for future interactions between Europe and Africa. Many African countries were former colonies of European powers, and after gaining independence, they sought to establish new relationships with their former colonizers. Another significant factor, is the advent of the Post-Cold War Era. The end of the Cold War in the early 1990s brought about significant changes in global geopolitics. It led to a shift in focus from ideological rivalries to addressing transnational challenges such as terrorism, organized crime, and illicit trafficking. Both Europe and Africa faced similar security threats and recognized the need for collaboration. The Cotonou Agreement of 2000, is another significant factory. In 2000, the EU and African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries signed the Cotonou Agreement, replacing the Lome Convention. This agreement aimed to foster political dialogue, development cooperation, and regional integration between the EU and ACP countries. It included provisions for cooperation in security matters, recognizing the

importance of addressing security challenges collectively. We also have the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. In 2007, the EU and Africa adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, which provided a comprehensive framework for cooperation in various areas, including peace and security. The strategy emphasized the importance of conflict prevention, crisis management, and postconflict reconstruction and acknowledged the interdependence between security and development. Furthermore, the EU has been supportive of the African Union's efforts to enhance its peace and security capacities. The African Union established the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) as a framework for conflict prevention, management, and resolution on the continent. The EU has provided financial and technical support to APSA, demonstrating its commitment to strengthening African security institutions. In the Sahel and Horn of Africa, the EU has been actively engaged in addressing security challenges in the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions, which are characterized by instability, terrorism, and other forms of transnational threats. Through initiatives like the Sahel G5 Joint Force and the EU Naval Force Somalia (Operation Atalanta), the EU has collaborated with African countries to enhance security and stability in these regions. Also, in the area of migration and human trafficking, there is significant collaboration between Africa and the European Union. The migration crisis and the issue of human trafficking have brought the EU and African countries closer in terms of security cooperation. Both regions face challenges related to irregular migration, smuggling, and human rights abuses. The EU has sought to work with African partners to address the root causes of migration, improve border management, and enhance cooperation on law enforcement.

The Africa-EU Strategy, also known as the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), is a comprehensive framework for cooperation and partnership between Africa and the European Union (EU). It was adopted in 2007 during the Africa-EU Summit held in Lisbon, Portugal. The Africa-EU Strategy was developed to address the shared challenges and opportunities faced by both continents and to promote sustainable development, peace, and security. It aims to strengthen the political dialogue and cooperation between Africa and the EU in various areas, including governance, peace and security, trade and regional integration, climate change, and migration. The strategy is based on eight partnership priorities that guide the collaboration between Africa and the EU:

Peace and security: Promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa through conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Democratic governance and human rights: Strengthening democratic institutions, promoting human rights, and enhancing good governance practices. Trade, regional integration, and infrastructure: Enhancing trade relations, supporting regional integration initiatives, and developing infrastructure to facilitate economic growth and development. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development: Addressing poverty reduction, achieving the MDGs (now replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals), and promoting sustainable development. Energy: Promoting access to energy, renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency to support economic and social development. Climate change: Addressing climate change, promoting adaptation and mitigation measures, and supporting sustainable management of natural resources. Migration, mobility, and employment: Addressing migration challenges, promoting legal migration channels, and enhancing cooperation on labor and employment issues. Science, information society, and space: Strengthening cooperation in the fields of science, technology, research, and innovation, and promoting access to information and communication technologies. The Africa-EU Strategy is reviewed and updated every three years during Africa-EU Summits. It serves as a framework for dialogue and cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the EU, as well as their respective member states and institutions. The strategy aims to foster a stronger and more balanced partnership between Africa and Europe, based on mutual respect, common interests, and shared values.

The Strategies adopted by the European Union to enhance African Security

The European Union (EU) has adopted a multi-faceted strategy to address security challenges in Africa. While it is difficult to provide a comprehensive assessment of all EU actions, Akokpan outlined some key aspects of their approach as;

Development Assistance: The EU has been a significant contributor of development aid to Africa. Through its European Development Fund and other financial instruments, the EU provides support for infrastructure development, governance, education, health, and poverty reduction. By addressing socio-economic challenges, the EU aims to create conditions for stability and security.

Security Sector Reform: The EU supports security sector reform in African countries to enhance their capacity to maintain law and order. This involves providing training, technical assistance, and financial support to improve the professionalism, effectiveness, and accountability of security forces. The EU also promotes respect for human rights and the rule of law in security operations.

Conflict Prevention and Mediation: The EU is actively engaged in conflict prevention efforts in Africa. It provides political support and diplomatic mediation in peace processes, often in partnership with regional organizations like the African Union (AU). The EU has supported peacekeeping missions, such as in Mali and the Central African Republic, by providing financial aid and logistical support [12].

Counterterrorism Cooperation: The EU collaborates with African partners to address the threat of terrorism. This includes sharing intelligence, enhancing border management, improving aviation security, and supporting regional initiatives to counter extremist ideologies. The EU also assists in the capacity-building of African security forces to respond effectively to terrorist threats. The EU supports counter-terrorism initiatives and activities on the African continent. In June 2020, to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to protecting EU citizens against terrorism and violent extremism, the Council called for the EU's external engagement and action on counter-terrorism to be stepped up in certain priority areas, including North Africa, the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa. In June 2017, the EU committed to providing €50 million to support the newly established G5 Sahel Joint Force in order to improve security in the region.

Migration and Border Management: Given the complex migration challenges between Africa and Europe, the EU has focused on managing migration flows and addressing the root causes of migration. The EU supports initiatives to strengthen border management, combat human trafficking, and promote legal migration channels. Additionally, the EU provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.

Regional Integration and Trade: The EU promotes regional integration in Africa through trade and economic cooperation. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a key initiative that the EU supports, aiming to foster economic growth, job creation, and stability. The EU engages in trade negotiations and provides development assistance to promote sustainable economic development. While the EU's strategy demonstrates a comprehensive approach to security challenges in Africa, there are some limitations and criticisms. Some argue that EU policies and actions often prioritize European interests and lack sufficient African ownership. There are also concerns about the effectiveness of EU interventions and the need for better coordination with African partners.

4. Discussion

The Impact of EU Interventions and Strategy in Promoting Security in Africa

The European Union (EU) has been actively involved in promoting security in Africa through various interventions and strategies. While assessing the impact of these efforts, it's important to consider both the positive contributions and the challenges faced by the EU. Sepos, A. offered the following as the impact of EU interventions and strategy in promoting security in Africa;

Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution: The EU has deployed peacekeeping missions and supported conflict resolution efforts in several African countries. For example, the EU has played a significant role in stabilizing the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through its military mission, known as EUSEC RD Congo, and its support for the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the country. These interventions have helped to reduce violence, protect civilians, and create conditions for peace .

Security Sector Reform: The EU has supported security sector reform programs in various African countries, aimed at improving governance, accountability, and professionalism within security forces. By providing training, technical assistance, and financial support, the EU has contributed to strengthening the capabilities and capacities of African security institutions. These efforts have helped to enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of security forces, which is crucial for maintaining stability and promoting human rights.

Counterterrorism and Anti-Piracy Operations: The EU has actively supported African countries in their efforts to combat terrorism and piracy. It has provided financial assistance, intelligence sharing, and capacity-building programs to help African nations improve their counterterrorism capabilities. For instance, the EU has been involved in the fight against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region and has contributed to the multinational naval task force tackling piracy off the coast of Somalia. These interventions have contributed to reducing the threat posed by extremist groups and pirates in these regions.

Migration and Border Management: The EU has implemented various initiatives to address migration challenges and enhance border management in Africa. Through funding programs such as the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, the EU has supported projects focused on improving border controls, addressing the root causes of migration, and promoting socioeconomic development in African countries. While these efforts aim to prevent irregular migration and human trafficking, there have been concerns regarding the impact of certain policies on human rights and the humanitarian situation.

Solutions to the Challenges Handicapping the Efforts of the EU to Enhance Security in Africa.

Enhancing security in Africa is a complex task, and the European Union (EU) faces several challenges in its efforts. Here are some potential solutions to address these challenges:

Strengthening local capacity: The EU can focus on building the capacity of African states and regional organizations to effectively manage security challenges. This can be done through training and providing technical assistance to enhance the skills and capabilities of security forces, including military, police, and border control agencies.

Promoting good governance: Many security challenges in Africa are rooted in governance issues such as corruption, weak institutions, and lack of accountability. The EU can support efforts to promote good governance, rule of law, and anti-corruption measures. This can be achieved through targeted development assistance, institution-building programs, and support for civil society organizations.

Enhancing regional cooperation: Security threats in Africa often transcend national borders, requiring regional approaches. The EU can encourage and facilitate regional cooperation frameworks, such as the African Union (AU) and regional economic communities, to Akopkari [17] averred that regional and international initiatives are a key route to address insecurity on the African continent. Concurrently, strengthening peace and security on the continent has been one of the main concerns of the African Union (AU). Its African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is the primary framework for developing and implementing African solutions for peace and security on the continent. In particular, the APSA outlines “the system (roles, instruments and procedures) by which the AU, the RECs [regional economic communities] as well as the RMs (regional mechanisms) can realise their conflict prevention, management and resolution mandates”

[18]. However, despite notable successes, the APSA is ill-equipped to comprehensively deal with the various forms of conflicts and the multiple causes introduced above. The AU is seeking to strengthen the own funding of its peace activities in order to achieve its ambitious goal of “silencing the guns” by 2020. Consequently, the AU Assembly decided in 2015 to take financial responsibility for 25 per cent of the costs for peace activities on the African continent by 2020 (excluding the African Union Mission in Somalia, AMISOM). Following the recommendations of the Kaberuka Report, the key instrument for collecting and distributing these funds will be the AU Peace Fund, which will serve as a financing mechanism for realising the AU’s goal of providing “greater investment in Mediation, Preventive Diplomacy and Institutional Capacity” [18]. In addition to bundling AU member state contributions, the Peace Fund might also be directly supported by the AU’s external partners, most notably the EU, which currently (2016) covers 98 per cent of the costs of AU peace initiatives. However, raising funds and creating new funding procedures is just one of the challenges that need to be addressed to devise more effective responses to insecurity on the African continent. One key imbalance that has prevented African institutions and their international partners from more effectively addressing the key causes and new forms of insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa is the APSA’s focus on military responses to escalated conflicts over sustainable peace-building. Most importantly, the APSA does not focus on addressing the underlying causes of the above-described economic, political, and social tensions. Moreover, the primary APSA instruments in this area (most notably, peacekeeping and mediation) have been designed with the objective of countering instances of large-scale organised violence such as armed conflicts or civil wars. While this specific form of violence continues to be an important threat to peace and stability on the continent, more decentralised and low-level forms of violence dominate now. Thus the main elements of the APSA, such as early warnings and international interventions, are less suited to addressing these types of violence.

Brown outlined, “new” threats as terrorism and violent extremism characterise insecurity on the African continent [5]. In response to these challenges, the APSA and the AU’s international partners should rebalance their approach to systematically strengthen the development-security nexus. This requires implementing more-comprehensive conflict-prevention and peace-building strategies to help reduce the multiplicity of conflict drivers and increase societal and political resilience against security threats. Strengthening conflict prevention and peace-building requires that the AU member states and the AU Commission take the structural drivers of insecurity (such as low and unequal development) more systematically into account in the framework of the APSA. Borzel and Risse, (2016) noted that this does not necessarily entail greater responsibility for peace-building and development on the part of individual organisations, most notably the AU; it does, however, necessitate a better coordination and joint programming between the actors involved in both areas. The APSA Roadmap 2016-2020 concurrently declares conflict prevention and peace-building to be two of its five strategic priorities (the others being crisis/conflict management, strategic security issues and coordination and partnerships) [18]. According to Adelle and Lightfoot, despite their prioritisation, peace-building and structural conflict prevention remain the weakest element of the APSA [4]. Moving away from the often “emergency-driven approach” requires more attention to preventive action that contributes to the de-escalation of conflicts at an early stage, for example, targeted development interventions, sanctions, and elections monitoring.

This would require the APSA and its international supporters to more effectively bring together various conflict prevention and peace building activities and integrate them into related development activities in a comprehensive framework. Such an approach would also contribute to overcoming the classic compartmentalization of support according to the traditional “conflict cycle,” which differentiates between conflict prevention, conflict management, and peace building efforts but no longer reflects the reality of an increasing number of conflict recurrences or the diversity of conflict types and

their causes. Instead, support should be structured along the lines of key priority areas such as economic reconstruction that addresses inequality and deprivation of the youth and political reform that focuses on governance-related causes of conflict independently of specific conflict phases. This would serve to more effectively tackle the structural causes of varied forms of insecurity on the African continent.

5. Conclusion

We found in this study that The EU's external relations practices are inconsistent about its commitment to an enduring relationship with Africa that achieves true partnership despite the efforts shown. This is connected to the unequal power relations between them. Positive change within the Africa-EU relationship requires a reconciliation to the broader implications of the colonial past, and particularly as it has shaped the continued exercise of the coloniality of power. As highlighted by an EU member state leader Irish President Michael D Higgins.

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