



The Model Conference Global Security Issues

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



Modelová konferencia Bezpečnostná sekcia

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

The African Union is aware of the importance of ensuring global peace, security, stability, justice and development and intends to fully contribute to this process. The security of the entire international society requires respect towards such issues as human rights; the right to participate fully in the process of governance; the right to equal development as well as the right to have access to resources and the basic necessities of life; the right to protection against poverty; the right to conducive education and health conditions; the right to protection against marginalization on the basis of gender and other agendas. Basic principles of the African Union contain the very basic needs of human population including respect for human rights, peaceful coexistence, non-aggression, non-interference in the internal matters of states, mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state. In order to achieve and maintain these principles, each state strives for their own security, based not only on political values but on social and economic imperatives as well.

With regard to these pillars of the framework of future cooperation, we embrace the initiative of Forum for the 21st century with its attempt to organise this conference. The statement of African union towards this proposal remains within the boundaries of our ideas and reflects the best interests for not only African continent, but the international society as the whole.

NOTES:

1. We agree that since the Second World War the global security environment has changed profoundly. The process of decolonization, the end of the Cold War followed by the collapse of the Soviet Union, emergence of new nation-states, increasing importance of regional international organizations and military alliances, development and shifts in global economy and emergence of non-state actors have changed the balance of power in the international security framework, which requires its reform, namely of the UN Security Council, the primary organ addressing matters of international peace and security.

2. Africa has for long experienced various forms of peace- and security- threatening actions aimed at different targets and people. Being weakened by fragility of the newly built political systems and governments still facing the number of armed conflicts within the borders of the continent, these hostile attacks undermine the delicate balance in the territory. The result of this very often fundamental and extreme behaviour including terrorism were vast loses of thousands of African people and great destruction of so fragile system of peace and security on the continent. Direct linkage between these actions and other scourges, such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, money laundering and drug trafficking, is a cause of inability to eliminate terrorism, fundamentalism, radical behaviour and other forms of extremism for they are fuelled by these affliction. The steps being taken at the national or even regional level are not sufficient enough to stop this threat from influencing the inner political or economic



FORUM FOR
THE 21ST CENTURY





matters of the states and therefore, African union is deeply concerned by the lack of mutual understanding of the states in the area of cooperation and coordination of the steps which are being taken in order to halt any hostile actions from the part of individuals as well as groups of terroristic organisations.

3. Under the circumstances of the contemporary world situation and activities form different areas including those directly affecting the African continent, African union demand a new tendency in the direction of the global crisis management development. Currently it is necessary to address difficult and wide range of issues such as global poverty, environmental and food security, piracy or natural disasters, concerning both security and humanitarian issues. African union fully supports their engagement in the crisis areas under the leadership of European Union, United Nations or NATO. However, the Union witnessed the failure of the current crisis management in Somalia or the lack of interest in other regions and therefore asks for the future improvement. The complexity of this matter requires a great mutual trust between the partners, shortage of which may lead to the obstacles to the development of their capabilities to deal with conflicts in the region.

4. Private security and military companies have become an important actor in many conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building activities. We agree that this phenomenon is controversial as there is no universal definition and no legal status of these actors under the international law. Based on the historical experience, mercenary activities were condemned by the OAU Convention for Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa adopted in 1977 and measures were taken to prevent intervention with the inner matters of a state and any other involvement that would be considered as a potential threat leading to impoverishment of local people and abuse of power coming from extensive financial sources. Nevertheless, we are aware of the necessity of creating a regulatory and legal framework to handle this phenomenon, since the perception of these companies differs from the out-of-law mercenaries.

5. One of the greatest concerns in the 21st century appears to be a matter of the weapons of the mass destruction and their possible transfer to the unauthorised hands. The proliferation of any kind undermines stable government, peace efforts and negotiations between parties and it puts a complete refusal of the respect for fundamental human rights while hindering any progress and development in the country and society. African union remains to be a resolute subject in the area of non-proliferation of weapons of the mass destruction and does not allow any exceptions. However, our effort and determination to secure the safety of the continent hits the boundaries of the resistance coming from some subjects of international relations which refuse to see possible threat to the global balance and the impact on each state or organisation with intention to maintain the contemporary composition of power in the world without causing turbulence in the global security.



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PROPOSES:

1. The African Union calls for reform of the Security Council, the primary organ of the United Nations addressing matters of international peace and security. We are bearing in mind the undeniable fact that in the year 1945, when the United Nations was being formed, most of Africa was not represented and that, as a result, Africa remains to this day the only continent without a permanent seat in the Council. The African states propose to enlarge the Security Council both in permanent and non-permanent categories, namely to increase the membership from fifteen to twenty-six, of which African states would have two permanent seats with all prerogatives and privileges proper to current permanent members including the right to veto and five non-permanent seats.

2. To enhance the possibilities of combating any hostile actions from the initiative of individuals, organisations or even states performing any criminal acts, we strongly recommend improvement of mutual legal assistance, communication and cooperation in this area. Any promotion, sponsoring, contribution to or any other encouragement from the governmental sector of any country is contemptible and cannot find any basis for understanding in the ranks of African union's members. The key traits needed to achieve this are, according to the Union, global supervision of the international security and decrease of the global threats ensured by a strong and respected organ, constitution of a functioning system of early warning and integration of some subjects of international community previously refusing to take part on any discussions and steps taken in order to combat these threats.

3. Further support of the units of crisis management is guaranteed. We would welcome establishment of appropriate institutional structures capable of covering this matter. Since sustainable and predictable funding is a vital part of survival of any operation of this kind, additional financial support accompanied by the improvement of the technical assistance and training is advised

4. The African Union is aware of the threats related to private security and military companies' actions. Similarly we are convinced that the self-regulation of these companies is insufficient. Therefore we call to a dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations in order to create a binding legal and regulatory framework for handling this phenomenon.

5. Considering the key role of this issue in the future peace and security question, a complex agenda at the regional and international level with the enforceable obligations is required. We expect to find our requirements to be met in the global agreement which would cover the basic principles of denuclearization, disarmament and establishment of a nuclear-



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weapon-free zone and the obligation emerged from the treaty to be legally-binding for the parties. Parties should also refrain from any attempt to obtain such weapons- either by developing and producing the weapons themselves or by acquiring them from other sources. To prevent any unlawful proliferation to the third parties, a complex and detailed system of protection with highest security standards is a must. Such a responsibility needs to be overseen by a strong and independent body with full support of the member states of the treaty. This institution would also supervise all peaceful application of nuclear energy and the relevant technology.



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