
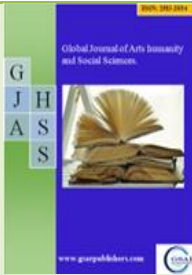


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## THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

By

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### Abstract

*African Union (AU) is a key player in the peace and conflict resolution in Africa. The recurrent security challenges in the continent have led the organization to come up with a few structures to enhance conflict prevention, management, and resolution. Under the African Union, with the guidance of Agenda 2063, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) were set up to ensure that peace and security programs in the member states are coordinated. Nevertheless, the success of the African Union in conflict resolution is limited by a number of problems, regardless of the efforts. Through a qualitative research design of descriptive research and the use of secondary data, this study investigates the role of the African Union in resolving conflicts and specifically in resolving the crisis in Mali. The results indicate that persistent challenges, which are encountered by the African Union, include poor funding, reliance on foreign donors, lack of political goodwill among member states and the increasingly complex nature of conflicts involving numerous non-state actors. Moreover, the difficulty of coordinating with regional and international partners and bureaucratic inefficiencies of the institutions of the AU also restrict its capacity of operations. The paper suggests that member countries in the African Union should make sure that they pay their financial dues on time so as to minimise dependence on foreign funds. It also emphasizes the need to integrate indigenous African conflict-resolution strategies based on the philosophy of Ubuntu and to enhance the integration between African Union and regional economic communities in order to make peace operations more effective.*

**Keywords:** African Union, Conflict resolution, Dependence, Regional Economic Communities, Peace-keeping,

## INTRODUCTION

The African Union (AU) is in the frontline in ensuring peace and conflict resolution in the African continent. Since its inception, the organization has been trying to contribute to stability and promote sustainable peace among its member states. Agenda 2063, a strategic plan adopted by the AU, has served as the driving force of the organization to prioritize good institutions and mechanisms that help to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts (Uwa & Iloh, 2022). Regional bodies like the AU have gained relevance in mediating on conflicts as well as ensuring that disputes do not escalate into bigger conflicts. Indicatively, the Nile River dispute is one of the issues that the AU has engaged in through diplomatic means (Musau, 2023). Moreover, the cooperation between the EU and the

international community, such as the European Union (EU) with the help of the African Union has reinforced the efforts to counter complicated security threats on the continent (Kangdim et al., 2022).

The establishment of the AU was a major change in how Africa handled conflicts, and the goal was to increase the continent ability to react better to crises (Apuuli, 2020). In collaboration with regional and global organizations, the AU has been involved in various peacekeeping and mediation missions. As an example, the organization collaborated with the United Nations and other stakeholders in aiding the resolution of the Liberian conflict (Issaka & Gok, 2022). The 1994 Rwanda genocide along with other past tragedies have also influenced the desire of the AU to



intervene early and establish institutional frameworks that would ensure conflicts did not result in humanitarian crises (Akech, 2020). However, the conflict resolution of such states like South Sudan, Libya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic remains a major challenge to the AU (Mlambo & Dlamini, 2019). These constant crises question the ability of the organization to act efficiently in the face of the growing number of conflicts and violent acts in Africa in the twenty-first century (Mlambo & Dlamini, 2019). However, the AU has also played significant roles in peacekeeping operations, such as efforts to defeat extremist organizations and combat terrorism as well as diplomatic negotiations of peace (Szabo, 2023). Moreover, although the African Union has a significant role to play in resolving conflicts in Africa, it still works in an environment of multifaceted issues. By collaborating with regional and international partners, the AU aims at enhancing its ability to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the continent. The organization continues to work towards conflict prevention and the promotion of sustainable peace in Africa guided by the Agenda 2063 and assisted by its peacekeeping and mediation activities.

More recently, the African Union has been termed as the large continental block formed to enhance co-operation, unity and integration of African states. The AU, which replaced the Organization of African Unity (OAU), was formally established in Durban, South Africa, on 10 July 2002, and marked a new step in Africa to combine efforts to solve political, economic, and security problems (Lumina, 2022).

The organization has since its inception become one of the major players in continental affairs. As Williams (2009) points out, the main missions of the AU are to promote peace, security and stability, safeguard the human rights, and enhance economic development in the continent. The prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa is one of the greatest roles of the AU has played. The mandate of the organization will be to prevent, control, and solve conflicts with the aim of achieving peace and security among the member states (Apuuli, 2020). To achieve these objectives, the AU has come up with various projects that seek to solve conflicts and enhance the capacity to keep the peace. As an illustration, the introduction of such programs as Silencing the Guns was suggested to decrease the armed violence and new conflict eruption on the continent (Apuuli, 2020). The Rwandan genocide of 1994 also contributed to the early warning and intervention efforts of the AU since the war taught the importance of having robust institutional mechanisms to help prevent such conflicts (Akech, 2020).

The importance of conflict resolution is also reflected in the strategic vision of the African Union. Uwa and Iloh (2022) state that the effectiveness of conflict prevention, management, and resolution mechanisms is the key factor to reach the goals of Agenda 2063. The absence of strong institutions and policies to deal with conflicts would make it hard to have sustainable peace and security in the continent. Moreover, the psychological and social aspects are meaningful in conflict resolution procedures. Studies indicate that emotional intelligence and emotions regulation skill can enhance the process of negotiation and

reconciliation in cases of intractable conflict (Halperin, 2013). Emotional dynamics of conflict may thus be understood to assist in the process of dialogue and to promote peaceful solutions. Therefore conflict resolution has been an important aspect of the Africa development agenda. Effective resolution of conflicts may minimize human suffering, enhance cooperation in the region, and enable resources to be diverted to economic and social development. With the focus on the peaceful approach to conflict management, African nations will be able to strive to achieve higher stability, prosperity, and well-being of their citizens.

## Literature Review

The concept of peace promotion in Africa is multidimensional and broad whereby it is involved in the process of preventing, managing and solving armed conflicts and also in addressing the underlying structural factors that lead to violence. Researchers tend to make a difference between negative peace, when there is no armed conflict at all, and positive peace, when there are just social structures, inclusive governments, fair resource allocation, and human rights are observed (Murithi, 2022). In this context, the AU acknowledges that the long term peace cannot be done through military action but must also focus on political instability, economic disparity as well as social divisions which serve as the sources of conflict. Such a view is echoed in the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy of 2006 by the AU that highlights governance reforms, economic recovery, reconciliation and institutional rebuilding as key elements of sustainable peace. However, over the past few years, the concept of human security has become increasingly popular in defining security in Africa, as opposed to the traditional state-centered security practices. Human security system as popularized by the 1994 Human Development Report of United Nations Development Programme is a shift in the emphasis of securing the state to securing individuals. It lays more stress on the absence of fear, absence of want, and the capacity of individuals to lead a dignified life. This view applies especially to Africa, where most of the security problems such as poverty, food insecurity, displacement, health crises, and climate-related conflicts cannot be addressed solely through the use of military solutions (Khadiagala, 2023). In this light, the concept of human security has been included in the Agenda 2063 of the AU and in the overall system of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

African ownership is another principle that promotes peace in Africa because it emphasizes that African institutions and actors should take center stage in addressing conflicts on the continent. This is the concept that is embodied in the most famous doctrine, that is, the African Solutions to African Problems, which is a manifestation of the intentions of African nations to minimize the role of foreign participants in the regulation of security-related issues (Sithole, 2018). A feasible instance of such a commitment is the formation of the African Standby Force (ASF) to give the AU a rapid-response military platform to deal with crises. Nevertheless, the ASF has had challenges in reaching full operational readiness because of financial and logistical constraints even though it is critical.



Other issues that have been used to promote peace in Africa are political instability, electoral violence and unconstitutional change of government. The adoption of various normative frameworks such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG, 2007) and the Ezulwini Framework (2009) have been used to enhance democratic governance and prevent political crises by the AU. According to scholars like Sithole (2018), these frameworks recognize the strong connection between democratic governance and sustainable peace, as states with weak political institutions and low levels of accountability are more susceptible to violent conflict. The application of these norms, however, is still difficult because of political sensitivities and unwillingness of some member states to sanction their colleagues. Cooperation among the regions is also a key feature in the architecture of peace and security in Africa. The APSA framework at the AU acknowledges that most of the conflicts in Africa are of a regional nature and thus should be handled by coordinated action, not just the action of individual states. According to Umar (2025), Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) offers an effective lens through which to view how the dynamics of security in Africa in its sub-regions affect the emergence of conflicts and their management. This has seen the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) like ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC become major partners in the conflict prevention and resolution activities by the AU. However, the issue of coordination of the AU and these regional organisations is still one of the most complicated in the security governance system of Africa.

### Factors Influencing Peace Promotion and Security in Africa

There are various structural, political, economic and institutional determinants of the effectiveness of peace promotion and security efforts in Africa. The impact of colonial rule is one of the most popular structural issues. The colonial era saw the African boundaries being drawn without any consideration of ethnic, cultural and linguistic realities and many communities became split along national borders. This historical background has led to ethnic conflicts, land wars and separatist activities in areas like the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and Central Africa (Engel & Porto, 2014). Moreover, the weak state institutions in most African nations tend to restrict the capability of governments to provide their citizens with the public services, ensure proper security mechanisms and address the needs of its citizens. Such governance issues provide armed groups and criminal networks with a chance to capitalize on instability. The impact of politics on conflict patterns on the continent is also significant. Political leadership, the inclusiveness of political systems, and the plausibility of electoral systems are all subject to determine the possibility of a violent conflict. Sithole (2018) argues that political violence is more likely to occur in countries that have exclusionary political systems, are characterized by high levels of corruption, and have contested elections. The reoccurrence of military coups in sections of West and Central Africa over the last few years has only complicated the political stability in the continent and given the cause to worry about the loss of democratic norms and institutions. Economics is

also a contributing factor to conflicts in Africa. Poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality tend to be high, which often enhances the probability of violence because it allows armed groupings to attract new members and become popular among the marginalized groups (Khadiagala, 2023). Another significant example is the phenomenon of resource curse. The availability of valuable natural resources among African nations including oil, diamonds and minerals has created competition and conflict instead of economic growth in certain countries. Such a trend is evident in places like the Niger Delta in Nigeria and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, which is rich in minerals. Moreover, climate change and environmental degradation has further increased competition on land, water, and grazing resources especially in the Sahel and the horn of Africa. The increasing activities of transnational armed groups and extremist groups have also complicated security in the continent. Organizations like al-Shabaab in Somalia, Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), in eastern Congo, act on cross-border national borders and exploit the weak state control in far-flung locations.

According to Umar (2025), the threats reveal the weakness of the national security systems and the necessity to enhance the collaboration between the region-wide intelligence and coordinate security actions. The institutional and financial limitations are also some factors that influence the effectiveness of promoting peace and security by the AU. The organisation heavily depends on the support of external financiers like the European Union and the United States to fund most of its peace support missions (Murithi, 2022). Such dependence on external donors can at times curtail the operational autonomy of the AU and its strategic fluidity. Attempts to overcome this problem have included the reform to enhance the power of the AU Peace Fund, especially amid the Kagame institutional reform proposals of 2017, which sought to hike the contributions of the member states. The advancement on the way to financial self-sufficiency has been gradual, however. Even though, the external geopolitical factors still define the security landscape in Africa. The presence of world powers, such as France, the United States, Russia, China and various Gulf states, in the matters of African security usually adds competing interests, which make it hard to find solutions to conflicts. The example of the changing security dynamics in the Sahel, with the withdrawal of French troops and the influx of personnel of the Russian-linked Wagner Group into such countries as Mali and Burkina Faso, can be illustrated by how external power rivalry can transform the regional security environments (Khadiagala, 2023). The ability to balance these exerted pressures and retain African-led peace efforts is a big challenge to the AU.

### The African Union's Role in Conflict Resolution in Africa

African Union is a key player in the conflict resolution processes in the continent with a mix of diplomatic, institutional, and military



strategies designed to prevent, control, and solve conflicts. Considering that armed conflicts continue to plague most parts of Africa, the interventions of the AU are critical towards ensuring peace and stability of the continent. Among the most significant institutions of the AU in this respect is the Peace and Security Council (PSC) that was set up to respond to the threats to peace and security in the continent (Majinge, 2011). The PSC coordinates the peacekeeping operations and facilitates negotiations between warring countries and responds to arising security threats, such as terrorism and violent extremism, through the PSC (Szabo, 2023). The use of the AU has also been effective in solving political conflicts that have occurred due to disputes over elections, offering mediation and diplomatic options to overcome violent conflict (Sixpence et al., 2021). The participation of the AU in the resolution of conflicts is also quite consistent with its general development agenda, especially Agenda 2063, which underlines the significance of sustainable peace and security in the long-term development of Africa (Uwa & Iloh, 2022). The organisation understands that good conflict prevention, management and settlement institutions are vital to the attainment of its vision of a stable and prosperous continent. In this approach, the AU collaborates closely with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), like ECOWAS, to enhance regional responses in dealing with security threats (Terwase et al., 2018). Besides formal diplomatic processes, the use of traditional African methods of justice and reconciliation has also been used to inspire the AU. Indigenous conflict resolution methods, including the gacaca courts in Rwanda and the Acholi traditional justice system in Northern Uganda, have been the topic of discussion in terms of locally based methods of peacebuilding (Tafese, 2016). These orthodox systems prioritize community involvement, reconciliation and restorative justice that portrays the larger African cultural value in conflict resolution processes. The African Union, therefore, operates in a complex manner of conflict resolution by undertaking peacekeeping missions, diplomatic mediation, and enhancement of African-owned solutions to conflicts. The fact that the AU has remained to foster stability in Africa by putting peace and security as the key factors of continental development is a move that has enhanced stability in the continent. However, there are still great challenges. The effectiveness of the interventions of the AU is usually impaired by financial constraints, logistical constraints and the complexity of the contemporary wars. In other instances, lack of willingness of opposing sides to adhere to peace treaties complicates more the work of the organisation in maintaining the peace.

### The AU's Mandate in Conflict Resolution

The African Union (AU) has a clear mandate to foster peace, security and stability throughout Africa, as it is stipulated in its Constitutive Act of 2000. This requirement is extensive, and it encompasses peacekeeping operations, peace-building operations and mediation. This, in practice, implies the active intervention of the AU in conflict areas, with the aim of preserving the lives of civilians, stabilizing inconvenient places, and facilitating the long-term peace processes (Khudaykulova, 2023).

One of the most apparent means through which the AU exercises this role is peacekeeping. The AU seeks to establish safer environments to the affected populations through missions that can be conducted in partnership with other bodies like the United Nations (UN) or regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (Gaibulloev et al., 2015). In addition to military intervention, the AU is also involved in peace-building and mediation. The focus of the AU on long-term solutions as opposed to short-term ones is possible by focusing on the underlying causes of the conflict and promoting dialogue between the warring sides (Steiner et al., 2009). The efforts of the AU are enhanced with the collaboration with international partners such as the UN, the European Union (EU) and individual countries. By collaborating, these actors can combine resources, share experiences and offer political goodwill, which is more effective in terms of peacekeeping and peace-building programs (Wilen and Williams, 2018).

Concisely, the mandate of the AU is diverse. It will not only entail the deployment of forces, but also in conflict resolution, peace building, and collaborating with international and regional players to achieve long-term stability on the continent.

### Mechanisms and Tools Used by the AU for Conflict Resolution

In order to execute its mandate, the AU uses numerous tools and mechanisms which aim to prevent, control and solve conflicts. Coercive diplomacy is one of those strategies, where the threat of action is credible and could be used along with dialogue to persuade the conflicting sides to find peaceful solutions (Wilen and Williams, 2018).

However, the AU does not just exert pressure but it also actively encourages dialogue, early warning mechanisms and peace education to create a culture of tolerance and cooperation in Africa (Uwa & Iloh, 2022). The AU is trying to ensure that conflicts do not escalate to crises by identifying conflicts at the initial stage and promoting communication.

On an institutional level, the framework on managing conflicts created by the AU was informed by the previous tragedies, including Rwandan genocide in 1994 (Akech, 2020). This framework enables the AU to be proactive rather than reactive. These efforts can be further reinforced by collaboration with regional organizations, which allows them to respond more strongly, harmonizing resources, experience, and influence (Musau, 2023).

Notwithstanding these mechanisms, there are still challenges. The effectiveness of the AU in resolving conflicts is usually influenced by financial constraints, political will and logistical constraints (Freire et al., 2016). To further improve its functions, the AU should keep on updating its systems and resolving these challenges, which makes sure that its mechanisms and plans have the capacity to provide a sustainable peace and security.

## Successes and Limitations of the AU in Resolving Conflicts

The AU has been in the forefront in resolving conflicts in the African region developing structures and mechanisms of preventing and managing conflicts (Akech, 2020). Its interventions have assisted in solving crises in South Sudan, Libya, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic (Mlambo & Dlamini, 2019). Among the most successful actions of the AU is the creation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), such as the Peace and Security Council (PSC), which has a decision-making body in the event of a crisis (Arthur, 2017). APSA provides an organized way of intervention, starting with humanitarian assistance to the use of military intervention where it is needed. The norms of governance, security, and peace have also been encouraged by the AU, and more stable societies are laid (Khadiagala, 2020).

The effect of the AU is pointed out by specific examples. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 came to an end of decades of civil war in Sudan, and the presence of the AU peacekeeping troops has helped to stabilize Somalia, as well as to re-establish the rule and counter extremist factions such as Al-Shabaab. Also, the Cote D'ivoira election tensions in the year 2010 were solved peacefully through the efforts of the mediation of the AU which showed that the organization is dedicated to violence prevention and the need to bring democratic transitions. Although these achievements have been recorded, there are still difficulties. The AU frequently uses external assistance in the form of military and financial, restricting its autonomy (Szabo, 2023). The lack of coordination challenges, the imbalance between diplomatic influence, and the discrepancy in political priorities may weaken its efficiency as well (Bokeriya, 2022). In addition, the process of translating peace-building policies into practical and sustainable results remains a challenge (Khadiagala, 2020). Therefore, the AU has gone a long way in developing models of resolving conflicts and fostering peace in Africa. However, to realize its full objectives, it needs to deal with its reliance on foreign assistance, enhance its operational capabilities and make its peace-building activities lead to meaningful, sustainable stability on the continent.

## Theoretical Framework

The International Capitalism Theory of Conflict is the theory which guides this study and is based on the ideas of such thinkers as Adam Smith and Karl Marx. The theory provides a helpful prism through which one can explain the way colonialism has influenced the political and economic realities of modern-day Africa (Bayeh, 2015). It is especially pertinent to this research as much of the political systems in post-independence Africa are characterized by ethnic-based marginalization and exclusion, as well as corruption and mismanagement of leaders. The boundaries established arbitrarily by colonialism also tended to divide ethnic groups across nations or compel historically distinct groups to coexist with each other, resulting to tensions. These circumstances have added a lot to frequent conflicts, in-between and within states. The war between the northern and southern Mali, in particular,

demonstrates the dynamics, and similar tendencies could be detected in such countries as Nigeria, Rwanda, and Sudan.

## Methodology

The research design that was used was a qualitative-descriptive design that is quite applicable in investigation and presentation of situations in the natural environment. All data were gathered through secondary sources, which included published sources, like journal articles, newspapers, textbooks, official reports, and information on the African Union site. This approach allowed for a thorough examination of existing knowledge and insights on the AU's peace and security initiatives, particularly in the context of the Malian conflict, and helped provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand.

## Results and Discussions

The African Union (AU) has been keen in ensuring that the Malian conflict is resolved but it encounters some major challenges that hamper its functions in ensuring that the country is peaceful and stable. These issues are complex, both in terms of financial and political interference, as well as the complexity of the conflict and the role of regional and international players.

The insufficiency of resources and funding is one of the most urgent issues of the AU (Musau, 2023). The lack of adequate financial resources makes it difficult to conduct peacekeeping operations, humanitarian aid, or mediation activities in war-torn areas. Such financial constraints render the UN ineffective in solving conflicts, which time and again extend the instability and insecurity (Arthur, 2017). This has made the peace operations of the AU very dependent on the external donors including the European Union, the United States, and the United Nations. Such donors provide Africa-led peacekeeping operations with billions of dollars each year, but this reliance undermines the independence of the AU to make decisions and set its priorities (Nate, 2023).

The political interference and the absence of the political will of the member states further undermine the work of the AU (Akech, 2020). The interests of countries tend to override the goals of collective security, weakening the capacity of the AU and reducing the reach of its decisions (Magara, 2022). The principle of non-indifference, which is one of the foundations of the AU, obliges the member states to assume a shared responsibility in dealing with crises. However, pragmatically, regional leaders tend to be reluctant in implementing punishment or aiding the efforts of the AU. As an example, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance that includes sanctions imposed on leaders who do not give up power has been ratified by numerous countries, but it is not always enforced (AU, 2017; Nantulya, 2019).

The Malian conflict is especially multifaceted, as it includes numerous actors, including Islamic extremism factions, secession movements and criminal networks (Sixpence et al., 2021). This complexity is what complicates the ability to create and use effective interventions by the AU. Such settings frequently involve a situation where a failure in one aspect may lead to the failure of the whole process Peacebuilding in such situations may involve

solving two or more issues at the same time, such as with the independence of South Sudan in 2012 that helped to draw attention to how multifaceted conflicts can complicate the level of resolution efforts (Sandy, 2020). In Mali, the interests of the northern and southern people need to be reconciled, further complicating the situation.

The relations of the AU to the outside community, such as the United Nations, influential world forces such as China and regional communities, such as ECOWAS, also influence its ability to address conflicts (Nieuwkerk, 2011; Bokeriya, 2022). The problem of coordination, conflicting interests, and priorities of various actors usually prevents the possibility of a quick and efficient reaction (Mayamba, 2024). An example of this is that ECOWAS was able to react swiftly to the crisis in Mali, although its influence was limited due to its small membership and resources. Interfering with the situation, the AU had to deal with conflicting opinions of the neighboring states, such as Algeria and Chad, on which insurgent groups deserved to be considered terrorist (Sophie, 2024). Moreover, the African Standby Force (ASF) which is projected to be a rapid deployment force under the Peace and Security Council of the African Union is more of a concept than a reality. The ASF would have greatly helped the AU to respond to the Malian crisis promptly, had it been fully operational.

There are also structural problems of the AU which hinder its performance. The duplication of powers between the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government tends to be confusing. Although the PSC is supposed to exercise independent and evidence-based decisions regarding sanctions and interventions, the Assembly often overruled such decisions undermining the credibility of the AU (Nantulya, 2019). One such situation is the involvement of the AU in Burundi in 2015. With the assistance of the AUC, the PSC suggested the implementation of a 5,000-strong civilian protection force, but the differences between member states and allegations of exceeding its powers made the plan be withdrawn, which weakened the role of the AU as a conflict-solver institution.

## Conclusion

The Malian crisis that has affected the country over the decades has caused dismemberment, humanitarian and refugee crises and a series of coups and counter-coups. Although many peace agreements were signed such as the Algiers Agreement, Bamako Agreement, Tamanrasset Agreement, National Pact, Ouagadougou Agreement, and the use of troops by the African Union and other parties, the lasting peace has been eluded. This is because the African Union has various agencies, structures, and policies that are meant to prevent and solve conflicts in Africa and these mechanisms were put into action in Mali. Their success has however been hampered by a number of factors such as lack of financial resources, complexity of African conflicts, domination by regional and international forces, internal inefficiencies of structure, and overlapping powers. These have limited the capacity

of the AU to effectively exercise its peacekeeping and conflict resolving mandates in Mali.

## Recommendations

To enhance the capacity of the African Union to manage conflicts.

- i. States and leaders of Africa are supposed to be urged to make their contributions of the required amounts in time so that peacekeeping operations are properly financed and are less dependent on external funds.
- ii. The reliance on foreign organizations not only restricts the financial independence of the AU, but also its ability to adopt policies that respond to local demands and that promote African values and priorities.
- iii. African states are supposed to settle disputes in a manner that is based on the African philosophies, like Ubuntu, which puts more stress on the community, mutual support, and common humanity. This practice encourages the appreciation of interdependence between the warring groups and collaboration towards a viable peace.
- iv. The functions and roles of regional peace keeping players such as AFISMA and ECOWAS must be well spelt and coordinated to ensure that they do not overlap, interfere, or perform poorly. The AU can use this by making such mandates clear and making them more coordinated to make its peacekeeping efforts more effective, especially in a complicated scenario such as the Malian conflict.

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