

Promoting Governance, Peace and Security in Africa

Support to the African Union on crisis prevention, conflict management and peace consolidation within the frameworks of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA)

The Challenge

Several coups, unconstitutional changes of government, as well as disputes over political power and resources have led to a rise in civil unrest and political instability across Africa in recent years. This has had devastating effects on the future development of the continent.

In response, the African Union (AU) has established the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA) to prevent and manage violent conflicts as well as to improve governance in its member states.

Despite substantive progress, challenges regarding the effectiveness of AU interventions still exist. The AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS) has integrated the functions of APSA and AGA under one structure but is not yet fully operational.

The Objective

The programme aims to improve the ability of the African Union to effectively employ APSA and AGA instruments to prevent and manage conflicts and to consolidate peace in its member states.

Our Approach

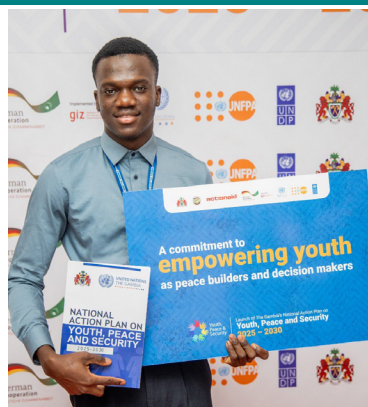
To achieve the objective, the programme works to improve the organisational development and ensure the coherent integration of APSA and AGA instruments for enhanced crisis prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in Africa.

Project name	Support to the African Union on crisis prevention, conflict management and peace consolidation within the frameworks of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	African Union (AU)
Lead executing agency	African Union Commission (AUC); Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)
Budget	EUR 13.65 million
Duration	05/2022 - 04/2026

Activities include:

- Consolidating AU's support to crisis prevention in Member States and promoting the development of strategic guidelines to harmonise APSA and AGA
- Piloting joint initiatives between the AU, Member States and civil society to harness synergies between APSA and AGA
- Supporting the organisational development of the AU PAPS department, including expert support for the functional and organisational restructuring of the department
- Enhancing the AU's network of think tanks for peace (NeTT4Peace), to provide policy-related advice and needs-based learning experiences to the AU





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Results

The support programme is achieving the following impacts:

- Consolidation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a crisis prevention mechanism within APSA
- Enhancement of the capacities of Member States to structurally prevent crises and conflicts through the establishment of national peace infrastructures
- Civil society participation leading to more successful and sustainable peace initiatives due to greater local ownership and inclusiveness (youth acts as agents for peace, integration of civil society in transitional justice and regional stabilisation processes)
- Anchoring of approaches linking APSA and AGA at the AU level with a special focus on child protection, post-conflict reconstruction and development and the climate, peace, and security nexus
- Enabling PAPS to take evidence-based decisions based on the ongoing change management process and detailed information provided on current developments on the African continent provided by NeTT4Peace

Stories

GIZ supports the implementation of the AU Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) in AU Member States. The AUTJP provides a continental guideline for the development of policies, strategies and programmes to promote sustainable peace by addressing the legacies of violent conflicts and human rights violations. As a result of the various capacity building measures conducted by the African Union, trainees have created their own platform for youth inclusion in transitional justice.



Angeline Abuor from Kenya states: *“As a humanitarian lawyer specialised in the protection of human rights, I am committed to promoting meaningful participation of youth in transitional justice (TJ) processes. A pivotal moment occurred when I attended the 3rd African Youth for TJ training. Inspired by this training, our cohort took the initiative to launch the Youth Organisation for Research and Justice Advocacy (YORJA) as a collective effort to disseminate acquired knowledge and skills to fellow youths in Africa. YORJA serves as a centre to lead the implementation of the AUTJP, encouraging active youth participation and providing a platform for them to engage in policy-making processes. Investing in youth inclusion in TJ processes is a moral imperative and a testament to the transformative power of young people.”*

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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On behalf of

German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

As of

May 2025