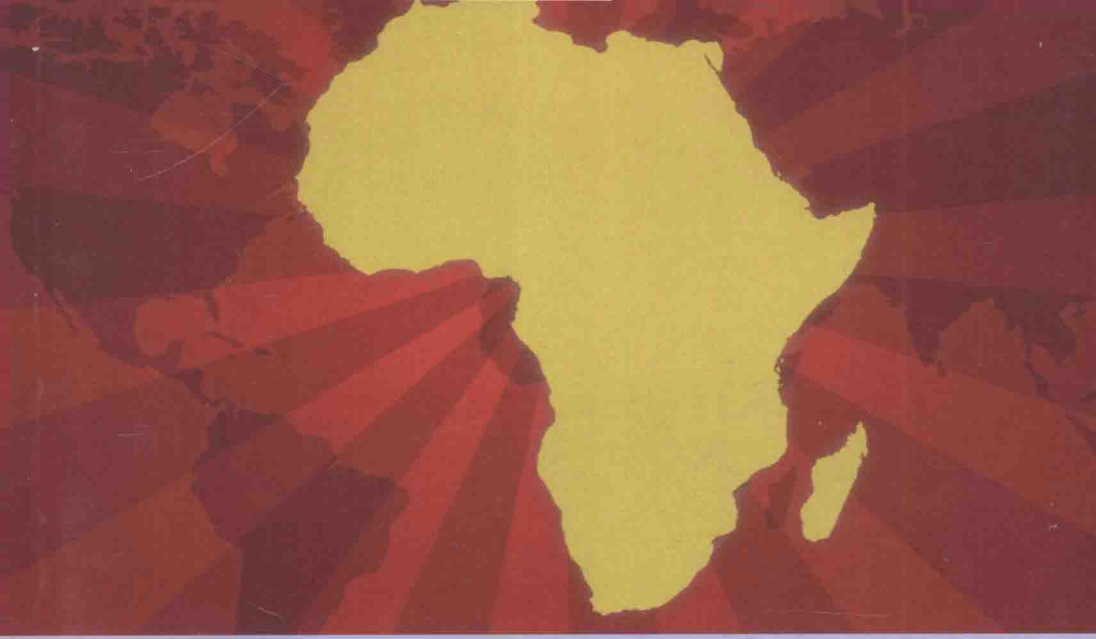

Demelash Fesehagiorgis

The African Union Conflict Management Division

Challenges and Prospects

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I praise you, LORD, because you have saved me and kept my enemies from gloating over me!

Psalms 30:1

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Dedication

To all my family, uncle Mule, Zeb and my late sister Buzi, it's all yours...Things will never be the same!

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Acronyms/Abbreviations

ACCORD	The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
AEC	African Economic Community
AMIS	African Union Mission in Sudan
AMISOM	African Mission in Somalia
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APF	African Peace Fund
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
APSP	African Peace and Security Program
ASF	African Stand by Force
AU	African Union
AUBP	African Union Border Programme
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
AUSF	African Union Standby Force
CADSP	Common African Defense and Security Policy
CEDSA	Center for Development and Security Analysis
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (IGAD)
CEWS	Continental Early Warning System
CIDO (AU)	African Citizens Directorate
CMD	Conflict Management Division

CPMR	Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution
CSJE	Centre for Social Justice and Ethics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSSDCA	Conference on Security, Stability, Development and cooperation in Africa
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSD	Defense and Security Division
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU)
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPF	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
EDF	External Donor Fund
ESF	ECOWAS Standby Force
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
EWSRECs	Early Warning System of Regional Economic Communities
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IPCR	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution

IT	Information Technology
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Maputo Plan of Action
MSC	Military Staff Committee
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PAP	Pan African Parliament
PCRD	Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development
PoW	Panel of the Wise
PRC	Permanent Representatives Committee
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSD	Peace and Security Directorate
PSOD	Peace Support Operations Division
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UN MSC	United Nations Military Staff Committee
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	UN/AU Mission in Darfur

UNDPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping operations
UNSC	United Nation Security Council
WANEP	West African Network for Peace-building

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Africa has witnessed a widespread of intra societal conflicts, which are fuelled by increased poverty, illiteracy, and failures on securing the basic social services for the citizens. The aftermath of this scenario is the political, social and economic instability that generated into insecurity and collapse (Rugumamu, 2002).

In the realm of peace and security in Africa, the 1990's witnessed dramatic and profound changes through the continent. With the conclusion of the cold war, some of the major tensions between East and West over Africa battleground were markedly eased (Ibid). It can be raised some African countries as an example such as South Africa, Namibia, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, etc, who installed democratically elected governments. Relative peace and stability was established in Mozambique and Zimbabwe after some years of confrontations between parties.

Several dozens of African countries held democratic elections. Unquestionably, all these are positive and significant signs towards peace, stability and development. However, while many parts of the world moved towards greater stability and political and economic cooperation, Africa remained one of the cauldrons of instability. Political insecurity and violent conflicts became increasingly persistent realities of the development scene in Africa. Internal conflicts with deep historical roots flared in many parts of the continent. Ironically, while the international community paid less and less attention to African security affairs, the continent's institutional and organizational capacity to manage its pervasive conflicts was not developing at the same pace as conflict escalations (Ibid).

In the past 20 years, Africa was the most conflict-prone region worldwide (Stefan Mair, 2009). The most recent human security report states that throughout the 1990s more people had been killed by violent conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa than in the rest of the world combined (Human Security Report, 2009). As a result, the prevalence of conflict has remained as a major feature of post independence Africa. The hopes that accompanied Africa's independence in the early 1960's have, so far, proved to be largely a mirage for

many Africans as the region continues to be devastated by conflicts and the widespread destruction of life and property (Onumajuru, 2005).

In order to overcome such problems, our leaders have been signing different laws, protocols and agreements on behalf of their citizens. They have also been organizing different institutions for a better tomorrow in the African continent. Among many persuasions, the formation of the African Union (AU) is the iconic move. The AU is only nine years old, having been launched in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002. It is a new organization in terms of its structures and tasks so that it cannot be considered as the re-structured institution of the Organization of African Union (OAU). Sometimes, it seems that it is difficult to see the two organizations; OAU and AU, different but in terms of their visions, aims and mandates, they are also different.

The AU, since its nine intervening years, has established a range of bodies, mechanisms, protocols and institutions. A sufficient amount of effort has been focused on creating a peace and security architecture to combat the multitude of challenges that the AU is facing. The AU's Constitutive Act, which was signed in Lome, Togo on 11 July 2002 and officially inaugurated in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, is a core document that defines the principles and objectives of the AU's security policy (Kwesi Aning, 2008).

Prior to the adoption of the Constitutive Act, several processes had been initiated towards establishing a collective African security regime. There was the establishment of a Peace and Security Council (PSC) in July 2002 as a standing decision-making organ of the Union. Subsequently, the Protocol establishing the PSC became effective in December 2003, after the required ratification by 27 member states (Ibid). As part of the broader framework for establishing security architecture, the PSC is supported by a host of institutional arrangements, in which one of them is the African Union Conflict Management Division (CMD).

The CMD, which is found under the Peace and Security Directorate (PSD), is one of the 'operational policy arms' of the PSC. Within the CMD, there are three main 'programmes'. The first 'programme' is Conflict Prevention, which the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) is found within it. The CEWS has two 'sub-units' called Situation Room and Early Warning System of Regional Economic Communities (EWSRECs). The two work together by anticipating and sharing information that are related with conflicts in Africa.

The second 'programme' within the CMD is Pool of Desk Officers. Their responsibilities are checking the day-to-day management of conflicts in Africa. The last 'programme' is called Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), which is still in an infant stage in terms of its implementation.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Africa is a continent rife with conflicts. Much of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping and peace building operations worldwide have been in Africa. The number of conflicts in Africa indicates the need to focus on conflict management and resolution before general development can take place. African conflicts are spread all over the continent and in the past five years, there are no regions without conflicts (Mathiasen, 2006). The nature of African conflicts creates the need for capabilities for peace support operations.

Conflicts in Africa show different characteristics such as conflicts are intrastate, transnational, international or a mixture; states are often weak or failing, external players traditionally try to influence areas of interest, and regional organizations as well as state aspirations for regional borders in Africa are in many cases artificial and artificial borders can cause internal conflicts where two or more nations are living within one state. A conflict management and resolution mechanism, therefore, has to be capable of conducting operations in both civil wars, transnational, and international conflicts (Adebajo and Landsberg, 2000).

Conflicts in Africa often entail weak states. Independence left many African states as weak states, characterized by social instability, lack of health services and education, and lack of security and widespread plutocracy, an extensive number of military coups and poverty (Ibid). Cold War arming of warring fractions and proliferation of small arms, post–colonial era spheres of influence of the former colonial powers, who try to maintain cooperation with and exert influence on former colonies (Steven Maja, 2001) contributed to maintaining the causes for conflicts. While the current external reluctance to intervene in conflicts in Africa increases the requirements for continental interventions. Therefore, an effective peace management effort must be capable of providing or assisting the build-up of the three basic services in a state, authority, institutions and security (Mathiasen, 2006).

Learning from the lessons of the OAU, the AU has adopted a much more interventionist stance through its legal frameworks and institutions. It has made a significant effort to become an active partner in resolution of African conflicts. To bring the framework into

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