

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY
ARCHITECTURE IN SOMALIA: 2007-2024**

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Abstract

This study examines the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and its role in managing the Somalia conflict between 2007 and 2024. It analyzes the nature of the Somali conflict and assesses APSA's structure, mandate, and effectiveness as a conflict resolution mechanism in Somalia and across Africa. Using secondary data sources and anchored on Liberal Institutionalism as its theoretical framework, the study evaluates APSA's interventions, challenges, and future prospects. The findings reveal that the Somalia crisis is an internal civil war characterized by asymmetrical conflict dynamics, intensified by external influences. APSA, as a peace and security framework of the African Union, was established to promote peace, prevent conflicts, and manage crises on the continent. The study shows that APSA's involvement particularly through peace support operations has had a significant positive impact on conflict management and the restoration of relative stability in Somalia. However, APSA faces persistent challenges, including inadequate funding, limited troop contributions from member states, and overreliance on external actors. Despite these constraints, the study concludes that APSA remains a viable and promising mechanism for conflict resolution and peace promotion in Africa. The study recommends the establishment of a government of national unity in Somalia to foster clan integration and strengthen national identity over clan loyalty. It further recommends that the African Union strengthen APSA by ensuring access to the AU Peace Fund, fully operationalizing the African Standby Force, and reducing excessive external influence in African conflicts.

Key words: Civil War, Clans, Conflict, Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping

Introduction

Conflicts are forms of disagreement between two or more parties. Indeed, conflict has generally become part of human existence and many countries have come to live with it. Some school of thoughts argued that conflict is crucial to human existence with the sole aim of changing an unfavourable situation or status quo. Some submitted that conflict occurred to propel change towards growth and development of a group or society at large. Others believe that conflict often developed as a “result of a clash of interest, values, actions, or directions” (Dauda 2017:139).

The Somalia war is an intra-war between groups within Somalia and therefore could be referred to as civil war. Somalia, just like every other human society is not immune to possibility of conflict, but the concern has been the protracted nature of the conflict despite all internal and external efforts and intervention and number of peace attempts, the conflict has lasted over three decades. The protracted and deteriorating nature of the Somalia civil war has continued to attract global attention, from both local and international bodies. The United States of America and the United Nations have been directly involved in the war mediating for peace among parties.

Central to the conflict resolution and peacekeeping in the Somalia civil war is the African Union (AU). The African Union is an intergovernmental organization that oversees peace and security, economic and developmental issues among African states. The AU took a central stage in the intervention in the Somalia civil war through its conflicts resolution mechanism-the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). (Alabi, 2006:41). This body hence, remains the African Union Conflict resolution architecture across all African countries. This paper is therefore poised to explore the nature of the Somalia conflict to investigate the root cause, as well as examine the AU APSA’s efforts to resolve the conflict. The paper will carry out impact assessment of the conflict on the socio-economic life of the people and the country at large. It also examined the challenges and impacts of the AU and provide functional recommendations that could assist in providing solutions to Somalia, and similar perennial African conflicts.

Conceptual Review:

Conflict: Conflict generally refers to a condition of discord, disagreement, or incompatibility of interests among individuals, groups, or states. Ogunleye (2022:100–101) notes that conflict is difficult to define because it manifests across different settings, but its core elements remain disagreement and incompatibility of goals, perceptions, or emotions that result in antagonistic interactions. Similarly, Patzak (2012:4) defines conflict as a state of opposition or incompatibility between two or more parties, while Robbins (2005:13) views it as a process arising when one party perceives negative impact from another. In this study, conflict explains the deep-seated and prolonged disagreements undermining Somalia’s national cohesion, driven largely by ethnic, religious, and clan identities, and intensified by globalization-induced inequalities.

Civil war: Civil war is a sustained violent conflict occurring within a state between government forces and insurgent groups largely drawn from the country's population. It represents the most extreme form of internal conflict, as it involves the breakdown of societal cohesion (Mark 2019). Fearon (2004:275–301) argues that civil wars result from a combination of political, economic, and social grievances, alongside opportunities for rebellion. Collier (2009:123–124) further notes that struggles over control of natural resources often drive civil wars, producing severe economic and social consequences. In Somalia, conflict between the state and rebel groups rooted in clan structures has entrenched prolonged civil war, reflecting deep political, economic, social, and cultural divisions within society.

African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) According to Okeke (2017), the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is a framework established by the African Union (AU) to promote peace, security, and stability across Africa. Operating under the Peace and Security Council (PSC), APSA is mandated to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts within and between states through an integrated approach. Its core objectives include conflict prevention, promotion of peace and stability, enhanced cooperation among African states, and strengthening the AU's conflict-response capacity. APSA has recorded notable successes in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response in countries such as Mali, Sudan, and Rwanda (Okeke, 2017). Despite ongoing challenges, APSA remains a vital mechanism for addressing Africa's complex security threats.

Conflict resolution: It is the process of resolving disagreement, disputes or discords between individuals, states, groups, or organizations in a peaceful and constructive manner with the aim of seeing disputing parties living in harmony. Kenneth (1992) conceived conflict resolution to mean the process of finding a solution that satisfies all parties in a conflict. Wiklund, (2013). emphasized the importance of effective communication, empathy and understanding in resolving disputes. Therefore, Conflict resolution in this research work serves as dependent variable and form the subject of analysis as the main aim of the research study is to examine APSA intervention in conflict resolution in Somalia.

Peacekeeping operations: Peacekeeping operations are military or civilian interventions aimed at maintaining or restoring peace in conflict-affected areas, often conducted by international and intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations and African Union. Paul (2012) defines peacekeeping as the deployment of military or civilian personnel to conflict zones, with or without host-state consent, to maintain or restore peace. While some scholars argue that peacekeeping reduces violence and protects civilians (Okeke 2017), others question its effectiveness, citing cases of failure or conflict escalation (Paul 2014:14). In this study, peacekeeping is central as the key mechanism deployed by APSA in Somalia.

AMISOM: AA body otherwise called the African Mission in Somalia is a peacekeeping mission created in 2007 by the African Union to intervene in the Somalia civil war with the support of the United Nations. The Mission was established to support the Somalia government in its effort to stabilize the country and combat terrorism under the AU the Peace and Security Council. Its mandate includes:

- (i) Supporting the Somali National Army (SNA) in stabilizing the country
- (ii) Protecting the civilian and humanitarian workers
- (iii) Providing security for government and its institutions and
- (iv) Supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

(Adebajo, 2011).

ATMIS: This is a successor to AMISOM mission in Somalia designed to maintain and secured the peace and stability already achieved by AMISOM in Somalia. As part of the APSA activities. The acronyms stand for African Transition Mission in Somalia. ATMIS replaced AMISOM in Somalia in 2022 and its responsibilities include to provide training mentoring and capacity building support to the Somali National Security Forces to enhance their capabilities. Troops contributing countries to ATMIS include Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Burundi and Uganda. The body also has a police component which provides support to the Somali National Police Force (Paul, 2012).Nigeria currently provides a contingent of 160 police officers to ATMIS each year.

Theoretical Framework

The theory of Liberal Institutionalism adopted in this study is largely associated with the works of Robert Keohane and emerged in contrast to neorealist scholars who are skeptical about the prospects for sustained cooperation in the anarchic international system. Keohane (2020) argues that cooperation among states is both possible and sustainable when supported by effective international institutions. Liberal Institutionalism therefore emphasizes that institutions reduce uncertainty, facilitate information sharing, lower transaction costs, and create norms that encourage cooperative behavior among states. In a similar vein, Mohammed (2009) contends that institutional arrangements are essential for initiating, coordinating, and sustaining cooperation, particularly in the areas of peace and security. The theory assumes that states are rational actors capable of recognizing mutual interests beyond zero-sum competition. It further assumes that institutions matter independently of power politics, as they shape state preferences, constrain behavior, and promote compliance through rules and shared norms. Liberal institutionalism also assumes that collective security frameworks and multilateral cooperation are more effective in managing conflicts than unilateral action.

Applying Liberal Institutionalism to the analysis of APSA's role in Somalia provides important insights into how regional and international institutions contribute to peace and stability in conflict-prone regions. The African Union (AU), as a regional intergovernmental organization mandated to promote

peace, security, and stability, established the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) as a continental framework for conflict prevention, management, and resolution (Mark 2019). APSA comprises key institutions such as the African Standby Force (ASF), the Panel of the Wise, the Peace Fund, and the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), which collectively aim to address conflicts across Africa (Paul 2014). Somalia has remained a central focus of APSA's intervention due to the protracted civil war, state collapse, and persistent instability that began in the early 1990s. With authorization from the United Nations, APSA facilitated peace operations through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and later the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), aimed at stabilizing the country and supporting state reconstruction (Okeke 2017).

Despite its strengths, Liberal Institutionalism has faced criticism. Critics argue that it underestimates power asymmetries among states, overstates institutional autonomy, and fails to adequately account for external interference and local political complexities in conflict zones. Others contend that institutions often depend heavily on powerful states and external donors, limiting their effectiveness. Nevertheless, the theory's strength lies in its ability to explain why and how collective African mechanisms remain relevant in addressing security challenges. In Somalia, Liberal Institutionalism underscores the rationale for continental cooperation through APSA and regional mechanisms to counter insurgent groups, support peacebuilding, and facilitate the gradual transition from AU-led peacekeeping to Somali-led security consolidation. This makes the theory highly relevant to the study.

The Nature of the Somalia Civil War

The Somalia Civil War has persisted for over three decades and has generated extensive academic debate regarding its nature and causes. According to Mark (2019:2), the conflict emerged during a period when the post-Cold War international order was being reshaped, making Somalia a testing ground for ideas relevant to a possible future world order. Consequently, Somalia became a theatre in which international intervention, state collapse, and internal factionalism intersected. Somalis within and outside the country—including intellectuals, political leaders, elders, and civil society actors—have developed diverse perspectives on both the causes of the conflict and pathways to its resolution, which is typical of most intra-state conflicts in Africa (Abdulkadir and Alabi, 2022).

Mark (2019:2) emphasizes the complex and protracted character of the conflict, noting that it has passed through repeated cycles of violence over several years. What began as a localized confrontation in May 1988, when the Somali National Movement attacked government garrisons in Burco and Hargeisa, later escalated into an internationalized conflict. This involved United Nations intervention under United States leadership and direct confrontation with local factions, particularly those led by General Mohamed Farah Aideed. The war also produced widespread displacement, with Somali refugees

dispersed across the Horn of Africa and beyond. As a result, the Somali crisis came to be described as a “complex emergency” characterized by overlapping political, humanitarian, and security challenges

(Kusow, 1994). Providing further background, Hassan (2018:42) argues that the Somalia civil war has long puzzled scholars and Somalis alike. The conflict is often attributed to multiple interrelated factors, including colonial legacies, neoliberal economic reforms, entrenched clan divisions, competition over resources and political power, widespread availability of arms, and economic decline during the 1980s. Similarly, Paul (2014) highlights elite manipulation under Siad Barre’s authoritarian regime, combined with historical clan rivalry, as key drivers of the conflict’s complexity and longevity.

In a broader view Solomon (2009:8–10) argues that state collapse is a major driver of the Somalia conflict. He explains that prior to colonial rule, Somalis operated under an indigenous traditional governance system, which colonial powers dismantled and replaced with a modern political structure incompatible with local cultural realities. This disruption generated confusion and frustration among Somali clans, contributing to prolonged instability and eventual civil war (Abdis’, 2013:20). Hassan (2018:46) further identifies key factors shaping the conflict, including the politicization of clan identity, communal contestation, unmet human needs, the repressive role of the state, and international linkages.

Drawing from these scholarly perspectives, the Somalia conflict exhibits complex and dynamic characteristics shaped by historical and structural factors. Colonial legacies and the collapse of the state following the ouster of Barre in 1991 led to the disintegration of authority and social cohesion. The political vacuum precipitated lawlessness, forcing communities to rely on clan and sub-clan affiliations for security and basic needs (Solomon, 2013:8–9). Abdis’ (2013:20) highlights the colonial institutional legacy and neoliberal economic policies as primary drivers of the conflict, while Addow (2016:105–117) emphasizes weak institutionalism, which undermined state-building efforts and reinforced the protracted instability in Somalia.

The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that existed between 1963 and 1999. The African Union

(AU) was officially launched in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, following a decision in September 1999 by its predecessor, the OAU to create a new continental organization to build on its work. The decision to re-launch Africa’s pan-African organization was the outcome of a consensus by African leaders that in order to realize Africa’s potential, there was a need to refocus attention from the fight for decolonization and ridding the continent of apartheid, which had been the focus of the OAU, towards increased cooperation and integration of African states to drive Africa’s growth and economic development, (AUECHO, 2023:7).

Murithi (2007:72-73) stated that the inauguration of the OAU on 25 May 1963 represented the institutionalization of pan-African ideals. There were heated debates about the shape and function of the organization. However, the radical point of view promoted by foremost leaders like Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika (present-day Tanzania) and Gama Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Obafemi Awolowo of Nigeria, Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal and others pushed for even closer political unification. In Nyerere's view, he argued and rightly so "the boundaries dividing African states were 'nonsensical' as they had been arbitrarily drawn by Europeans in the 1885 'scramble for Africa'" (Nyerere 1979:1).

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) faced significant limitations in addressing internal conflicts and human rights abuses, as many conservative African leaders prioritized the "illusion" of national independence over interventionist policies. Consequently, the OAU was largely ineffective in influencing national policies or monitoring member states' internal conduct. In contrast, its successor, the African Union (AU), adopted a more proactive approach, supported by stronger legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms. According to Sarjoh, Elizabeth, Solomon, Brenda, and Murithi (2014:21), the transformation from OAU to AU was driven by shifts in Africa's political, peace, security, and socio-economic needs, shaped by global changes after the Cold War. A key aspect of this evolution was the reconceptualization of security from a narrow, state-centered view to a broad, human-centered approach (Sarjoh et al., 2014).

To operationalize conflict resolution and peacekeeping, the AU established the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), comprising the African Union Commission, the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise (POW), the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), and the African Standby Force (ASF). The PSC serves as APSA's highest security decision-making body, recommending the initiation or termination of AU peace operations through the AU Commission and the Assembly of Heads of States and Government. Utilizing early warning systems, the PSC facilitates timely responses to conflicts across Africa (PSC, 2002). APSA missions in Somalia include the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and the ongoing African Union Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

Impacts of APSA Intervention in Somalia-Component of AMISOM

The impacts of APSA intervention in Somalia through AMISOM could be best discussed under the components of AMISOM. Indeed, AMISOM has four components:

- (I) The Military,
- (II) The Police,
- (III) A Civilian Section,
- (IV) A Humanitarian Section.

The Military Component

The Military Component is the biggest of the components of the AU Mission in the country. The component was mandated to conduct peace support operations in Somalia and seeks to stabilize the situation in the country, create the necessary conditions for the conduct of humanitarian activities and an eventual handover of the Mission to a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation. Headed by the AMISOM Force Commander, Lieutenant Gen. Jim Beesigye Owoyesigire, the component also provides protection to the country's Federal Institutions as they carry out their functions and helps secure Somalia's key infrastructure including its airports and seaports. (Bortoluzzi, 2024:1) At a time, the military component was comprised of troops drawn from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia who are deployed in six sectors covering south and central Somalia.

According to (Bortoluzzi, 2024:1), these are the force levels and AU areas of operation as of September 24, 2020:

Uganda: The Ugandan contingent remains the largest contingent in AMISOM with 6,223 troops based in Sector 1 which comprises Banadir (Mogadishu), Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.

Ethiopia: The Ethiopia National Defence Forces (ENDF) has provided 4,395 uniformed personnel located in Sector 3.

Burundi: The Burundi contingent is the second largest within AMISOM with 5,432 troops. Based in Baidoa, the contingent is primarily responsible for operations in Sector 3, which covers Bay and Bakool regions but also maintains troops in Sector 1 where they work closely with the Ugandan forces.

Kenya: There are 3,664 troops from Kenya located in Sector 2, which has its headquarters in the port city of Kismayo, which is comprised of Lower and Middle Juba.

Djibouti: The country has deployed a contingent of 960 troops into Somalia and they are based in Beletweyne which serves as Sector 4 headquarters which covers the Hiran region. Total 20,674 (Bortoluzzi, 2024:1)

The Police

AMISOM police Component has the mandate to guarantee the rule of law in the city of Mogadishu and to improve the capacity building of the Somali Police Force (SPF) with the aim of transforming it into a credible body that can provide security for the population. AMISOM police component continues to support the reform, restructuring, reorganization and professionalization of the SPF. AMISOM police, including the Formed Police Units (FPUs), worked closely with the SPF at various police establishments in Mogadishu to mentor, train and advise Somali police officers on a wide range of policing issues, including human rights and the management of crime. However, the mandate of AMISOM police was to extend its deployment to the other Sectors in order to provide support to the SPF (Mark 2019).

A Civilian Section

The component has political, humanitarian and public information units. The political unit monitors, interprets and reports on political and other developments throughout Somalia, as well as providing advice on political processes. It is responsible for the implementation of political decisions on Somalia taken by the Africa Union Peace and Security Council and is helping to build up the capacity of the nation's public service. The Civilian Component was committed to encouraging the launch of civil reconciliation initiatives with a view to seeking political inclusiveness and representation (Neus 2013). The civilian component of AMISOM is led by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC), and is comprised of the following pillars: Mission Support, Political Processes, Stabilization and Early Recovery, Protection, Human Rights and Gender, Security Sector Reform.

Humanitarian Section.

The humanitarian unit worked closely with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, the UN Children's Fund, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Program (WFP) and other UN agencies as well as Somali and international NGOs to establish coordination mechanisms and the sharing of information. It also collaborates closely with the relevant Somali government agencies and ministries. The humanitarian component fulfils the mission mandate to facilitate access to humanitarian assistance, assisting in the reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. AMISOM has worked to secure transport routes including the seaport, airport, and roads around Mogadishu in order to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. (Roosevelt and Ikuru, 2017:4).

AMISOM Transition to ATMIS and other APSA Peacekeeping Missions in Somalia

AMISOM as a peacekeeping force in Somalia existed for over a period of fifteen years and achieved within that period many of its designed objectives with the assistance of the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations and the Somali government. The peace support operations PSO provides support to the transitional Federal institutions in their efforts towards the stabilization of the situation in Somalia and furtherance of dialogue and reconciliation. It also facilitates the provision of humanitarian assistance and creates a conducive atmosphere for a long-term stabilization, reconstruction and developments in Somalia (Kareem: 2023). When the PSO was inaugurated in 2007, al Shabaab terrorist group controlled virtually every part of Somalia, however by the time its mission ended, the Federal Government of Somalia with the support of the AMISOM troops had gained control of most al Shabaab areas. Isse (2020), To attain the feat,

AMISOM has had to conduct several operations including operation Mogadishu (2010), Operation PanuaEneo (2011), Operations Eagles (March 2014), Operation Indian Ocean (November 2014), Operation Ocean Build (Nov 2014-July 2015), Operation Juba Corridor (July 2015) and operation

Badbado (2018-2019). These operations led to the recovery of several Somali towns including, Mogadishu, Afgoye, Marka, Barawe, Beletweyne, Kismayo, Badoa and Doble. (Kareem: 2023)

(From AMISOM to ATMIS –critical lessons for optimising the transition mission)

Change in the Security Situation in Somalia: Indeed, one major gains of APSA was the drastic change in the security situation in Somalia. What had been achieved by AMISOM laid strong foundations for the restoration of peace and security witnessed further under ATMIS. Some of this gain was the improved democratic process which resulted in moving from a transitional government to an elected central government. This was the first election to be held inside the country after nearly 21 years. (Ikuru, 2017:4). In addition, local administrative structures in some parts of the country, particularly in areas liberated from al - Shabaab, by the Somalia National Security Forces (SNSF) with the support of AMISOM, was established. From 2015 to 2017 according to Kareem: (2023), a state building process took place culminating in the creation of five regional administrations through AMISOM support to the consolidation of federal institutions. Economically, improved security enabled the FGS to stimulate both the formal and informal sector of the economy. It also spurred many members of the Somali diasporas to return home and provide local jobs. As a result of the AMISOM activities, the World Bank restored the country’s access to regular concessional financing under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative in 2020. In terms of political developments, since then, three cycles of general elections occurred in the country within ten years and culminated in the election of presidents in 2012, 2017 and 2022. There has also been some progress in advancing cultural, gender and human rights in the country (Kareem: 2023). In January 2025, Somalia was elected into the United Nations Security Council as one of the Africa representatives.

Challenges of APSA in Somalia

Poor Institutional Capacity: APSA’s operations in Somalia face significant institutional and operational challenges that undermine its effectiveness. One key issue is poor institutional capacity, as Somalia’s weak governance structures and limited resources constrain APSA’s ability to implement peacebuilding and conflict-resolution strategies effectively (Solomon, 2013).

Inadequate Coordination among APSA Components: Isse (2020) further highlights inadequate coordination among APSA components, which reduces the efficiency and responsiveness of missions on the ground.

Context-Specific Approach: Gelot (2020) identifies the absence of a context-specific approach in APSA operations, underscoring the need for strategies tailored to Somalia’s complex social, political, and cultural environment.

Limited Integration with Local Stakeholders: Another major challenge is APSA’s limited integration with local stakeholders, as noted by Coning (2018), emphasizing that engagement with Somali communities is crucial for legitimacy, sustainability, and operational success. Lotze (2019) reinforces

this point, highlighting APSA's heavy reliance on external funding and actors, which undermines local ownership and disconnects the mission from local needs.

Over Dependent on AMISOM and ATMIS: Furthermore, APSA operations are overly dependent on AMISOM and ATMIS, both heavily influenced by United Nations funding and approval processes. Sues (2013) and Sebastiano (2016:3) note that this reliance creates delays, reduces autonomy, and negatively impacts troop deployment outcomes. Collectively, these factors demonstrate that APSA's success in Somalia is limited by weak institutions, poor coordination, insufficient local engagement, and dependency on external actors, highlighting the necessity of locally informed, adequately resourced, and well-coordinated peace strategies for effective conflict resolution.

Drawing from the challenges noted by scholars APSA's effectiveness in Somalia is constrained by weak institutional capacity, poor coordination, and heavy dependence on external funding and UN approval. These challenges are further compounded by entrenched clan loyalty, lack of political will among local elites, poor environmental conditions, widespread poverty, and high unemployment rates. Together, these factors undermine local ownership, delay timely responses, weaken public trust, and significantly reduce the sustainability and overall impact of APSA's peace and security interventions in Somalia.

Discussions of Findings

The study identifies the Somalia conflict as a prolonged and multifaceted civil war lasting over three decades. Key factors sustaining the conflict include colonial legacies, weak state institutions, and the collapse of authority following the overthrow of President Siad Barre in the early 1990s. The conflict has been further intensified by the rise of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group, clan rivalry, tribalism, and competition among clan-based militias. Socio-economic conditions such as widespread poverty, high illiteracy levels, and poor environmental conditions have also deepened grievances and instability. Collectively, these factors explain the persistence and complexity of Somalia's civil war.

Findings from the literature show that APSA's intervention in Somalia has been significantly impactful, particularly in reducing the intensity of the conflict compared to the pre-intervention period. APSA's overall impact can be rated at about 70 percent, reflecting the restoration of relative peace. Through APSA, the AU supported the conduct of three consecutive elections, leading to democratically elected governments between 2012 and 2024. During this period, improvements were recorded in education, economic, political, social, and infrastructural activities. APSA's peacekeeping efforts through AMISOM and ATMIS have also paved the way for the African Union Stability and Support Mission in Somalia.

The study also revealed that the African Union Stability and Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) is aimed at strengthening Somali security forces. However, despite the remarkable impacts of AU conflict resolution mechanisms, APSA continues to face challenges that hinder its effectiveness. Major concerns include inadequate funding, as the African Union lacks the financial capacity to independently sustain

APSA operations and relies heavily on external donors such as the United States, United Nations, and especially the European Union. Additionally, limited political will among Somali leaders and citizens, driven by strong clan and tribal loyalties, continues to undermine national unity and conflict resolution efforts.

APSA's operations in Somalia are constrained by limited troop contributions from AU member states, inadequate training, weak peace plans, non-compliance with agreements, and lack of sincerity among conflict actors. Socio-economic challenges such as poverty, hunger, poor environmental conditions, and high illiteracy further fuel insecurity and facilitate Al-Shabaab recruitment, especially in unsecured areas outside major cities. Despite these constraints, APSA has recorded notable achievements, including recovery of territories from insurgents, restoration of jobs, resumption of education, and revival of socio-economic and political activities. These successes demonstrate APSA's strong potential for effective conflict resolution in Somalia and across Africa if adequately funded and institutionally strengthened

Conclusion

The paper examined the African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and conflict resolution in Somalia between 2007 and 2024. Using qualitative research approach, it investigates the nature of the Somalia conflict and noted that it is basically a civil war and it is asymmetrical in nature. The paper also examined the nature and structure of APSA and noted that APSA is basically meant to promote peace and resolve conflict within the African region. The study also evaluates the impact of APSA in resolving the Somalia conflict and noted that APSA has made some impact by reducing the intensity of the conflict and restoring peace in the country. Also, the paper identified some challenges that hinder APSA to have fully resolve the conflict, challenges such as lack of funding and others, intense clannism, lack political will and external influence. It also noted that APSA has a prospect for conflict resolution in Africa and therefore concludes that AU's intervention in conflict resolution in Somalia have yielded positive result and the organization has continued to make remarkable progress by stabilizing the country and transferring authority to elected government and security of the State to the Somali Security Forces as well as successfully transitioning from AMISOM to ATMIS, and ATMIS to the yet to be established AUSSOM through continuous dialogue between the warring groups and capacity building of the Somali forces.

Recommendation

Findings from this study informed the following recommendations emerging from key expected actions focusing on strengthening political inclusiveness, institutional capacity, and sustainable financing to address APSA's challenges in Somalia.

The African Union and the Somali government should prioritize the formation of a broadly accepted federal government through a government of national unity. Given the civil war's roots in clan divisions

shaped by colonial history, inclusive governance that guarantees representation and a sense of belonging for all clans is essential for national cohesion and long-term stability. This would reduce clan loyalty-driven conflict and enhance collective responsibility for development.

The AU should intensify efforts to secure stronger commitment from member states, particularly in troop contributions and financial support, to strengthen APSA's operational capacity. Reforms aimed at improving coordination, training, and accountability within APSA are also necessary to enhance effectiveness.

Another recommendation is that to sustain peace gains so far in Somalia, the AU and APSA should deepen engagement with the United Nations and development partners to fully implement UN Resolution 2719. This would ensure predictable and sustainable funding for African-led peace operations, including the African Union Stability and Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). Early agreements on troop deployment and transition arrangements are crucial to prevent security vacuums that could be exploited by Al-Shabaab.

Finally, APSA should pursue greater financial independence by fully operationalizing the AU Peace Fund alongside UN-backed financing mechanisms. Reliable funding will enable APSA to respond swiftly to conflicts, strengthen local ownership, and consolidate its role as a credible and effective conflict resolution framework in Somalia and across Africa.

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