



GA3: Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Student Officer: Defne Yilmaz

Issue: Supporting inclusive governance in post conflict states through regional cooperation frameworks

TIMUN '25 

Turkish International Model United Nations

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I. Introduction

Over the last decade, many African states have been involved in conflicts. Rebuilding effective governance in such an environment is more than a bureaucratic exercise. It is a stepping stone towards sustainable peace, long-term development, and national cohesion. But if such efforts are not inclusive, if voices from the margins continue to be unheard, if ethnic and political complaints go unrelieved, then the threat of renewed instability is very high. In Africa, post-conflict governance is an issue of utmost priority.



Image 1: 25th African Union Summit

Most nations, from South Sudan to the Central African Republic, from Libya to the Democratic Republic of Congo, suffered decades of unrest, civil war, or authoritarian rule. These wars discredited public institutions and created power vacuums that are difficult to fill other than with foreign support. Although the United Nations and other international organizations may advance technical assistance and peacekeeping troops, African regional cooperation frameworks have become more prominent in peacebuilding efforts on the continent. Regional cooperation mechanisms are tools through which African nations collaborate in securing peace, democratic rule, and the prevention of conflict recurrence. Institutional mechanisms such as the **African Union (AU)**, the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, and the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** provide not just diplomatic platforms for negotiation but also technical support, observer missions, mediation teams, and peace enforcement. These institutions have evolved from their traditional diplomatic functions into assertive, often indispensable actors in promoting constitutional governance, political transition management, and reforms aimed at inclusivity and reconciliation. Inclusive governance is also many of the approaches that was and can be taken as a part of the solutions for countries facing post-conflict issues, which promotes inclusivity of all the people from different backgrounds into the governance structure. Even though some of these efforts were sufficient in less complicated issues, there are still many countries and communities suffering from the aftermath of the conflicts that affected them.



II. Key Vocabulary

Decentralization: Decentralization, in general, is the process of transferring some kinds of administrative or decision-making power from a central or higher-level organization to lower-level field, regional, and local organizations. Certain administrative or decision-making powers may be delegated by a national or central government to local or regional governments by law or the constitution. Similarly, a subnational government, like a state or province, may give local governments some administrative or decision-making power.

Democratic Consolidation: A form of regime transition known as "democratization," or "democratic consolidation," occurs when new democracies develop from emerging ones and become less vulnerable to turning to authoritarian rule.

Peacebuilding: In the 1990s, the idea of peacebuilding began to be included in official UN policies. However, peacebuilding centered on peacekeeping, which is the use of neutral, multinational soldiers to try to maintain the "peace" and lessen violent conflict. We now understand that peacebuilding involves more than simply "keeping the peace" and minimizing violent conflict.

Post-Conflict Countries: A country where a long-running war has been peacefully ended and where various reconstruction initiatives are being undertaken by governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations in an effort to help stabilize the political, economic, military, and social structures.

Power Broker: A person or organization that tries to influence people to vote for a specific candidate for political and economic benefits. In post-conflict countries, power brokers can be political leaders, military figures, or community representatives whose support is crucial. Power brokers have an important role in achieving governance reforms because their cooperation could support power-sharing agreements, disarmament programs, or constitutional reforms.

Regional Cooperation Frameworks: Frameworks for regional cooperation are organized systems or procedures that allow nations in a particular geographic area to plan, cooperate, and invest collectively in order to accomplish shared objectives. These frameworks are intended to increase economic integration, enhance connectivity, simplify trade, reduce shared risks, and foster stability and growth among participating nations.

Regional Security Cooperation: Decentralization, in general, is the process of transferring some kinds of administrative or decision-making power from a central or higher-level organization to lower-level field, regional, and local organizations. Certain administrative or decision-making powers may be delegated by a national or central government to local or regional governments by law or the constitution. Similarly, a



subnational government, like a state or province, may give local governments some administrative or decision-making power.

Systemic Conflict Transformation (SCT): SCT is a compilation of systemic models of social connections and the latest developments in conflict transformation work. It incorporates techniques from different fields, including cybernetics, organizational theory, change management, family, and psychotherapy.

Transitional Justice: Human rights violations that are widespread or systematic are addressed through transitional justice. It aims to acknowledge the victims and advance the prospects for democracy, peace, and healing. Transitional justice is justice adapted to societies changing after a period of widespread violations of human rights; it is not a unique type of justice. These changes can occur immediately in some situations or gradually over many decades in others.

III. Involved Countries and Organizations

South Sudan

South Sudan is very engaged in regional peace through their involvement with the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). The country has also participated in regional dialogues and visits led by the AU and IGAD, which are organisations that are connected to the South Sudanese government to help put the peace process in place. The government of South Sudan has publicly announced multiple times that its ultimate goal is to achieve inclusive governance. During a mediation in Kenya, President Salva Kiir has stated that “We hope that the opposition groups have a similar conviction and desire for peace in South Sudan, which will bring everlasting stability and economic development in the region, not just South Sudan.”¹ which clearly shows that he wishes that all political groups share the same common goal of having peace and stability in the region. The ambassador of South Sudan in the UN, Cecilia Adeng, has also stated that their goal is to build sustainable peace in the country. This was backed by her request to lift the UN arms embargo, which, as she stated, “would help build strong security institutions essential for peace.”²

African Union (AU)

The African Union is the continent's biggest political organisation, which unites all 55 African states and promotes peace, stability, and unity. The AU has a big role in rebuilding post-conflict societies. The AU

¹ South Sudan Mediation Talks, *AP News*

<https://apnews.com/article/south-sudan-mediation-talks-conflict-8b1419b993cf48c3109f1d001ceea816>

² UN Extends Arms Embargo, *AP News*

<https://apnews.com/article/un-south-sudan-arms-embargo-lift-divided-b88e02dbbef7307f2f0bced1526321>



facilitates inclusive governance and uses peace agreements as a tool to achieve it. With their African Governance Architecture (AGA) and their Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development policy (PCRD), the AU provides a framework to rebuild institutions and ensure that all social groups have a say in their country's future. One of the biggest advantages that the AU has is its close relationship with regional economic groups such as IGAD, ECOWAS, and SADC, which allows it to respond to more specific problems while maintaining a general grasp on all problems on the continent. The AU has deployed political missions in countries like South Sudan, Somalia, and the Central African Republic, which supported their peace negotiations and have helped them build balanced and inclusive governance structures.

The AU's most important goal has always been to achieve inclusive governance and sustainable peace. This point was further emphasised by the AU's Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Bankole Adeoye, when he stated: "The best way to prevent societies from descending into crisis is to ensure that they are resilient through investment in inclusive and sustainable development and inclusive governance."³ In the past, the AU's policy on post-conflict governance highlighted local ownership of recovery processes and integration of human rights principles in governance structures. This point comes from their quote: "African solutions to African problems," which means that African states should lead the rebuilding of their post-conflict governance models with help from third-party partners instead of other organisations trying to solve the issue themselves.

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

The DPPA "marshals international support for countries engaged in efforts to emerge from conflict and build sustainable peace." It provides ways for nations to rebuild after conflicts and provides early warnings for possible future conflicts. The DPPA notably aids nations through election processes, which is an area where most rebuilding nations are found to be lacking. Through their presence, the DPPA can help curb transitional justice and other attempts at vigilanteism while a nation is going through a tumultuous period of rebuilding. The DPPA operates in all 6 UN-member continents and has active initiatives in all of them. They are also an important source of regulating women's and civil rights in such transitional times where such liberties are often diminished or completely ignored.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development is one of Africa's most active and important organizations when it comes to post-conflict governance. It is made up of 8 members: Djibouti, Eritrea,

³ Delegates Highlight Central Role of Inclusive Development, *United Nations*
<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15796.doc.htm>



Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. IGAD has been a very important mediator for the continent, most notably in the Sudan-South Sudan peace conflict, where it had a leadership role in bringing peace into the region. IGAD's approach to inclusive governance lies in its belief that regional peace can only be achieved with political inclusivity. This is further proved by the 2015 agreement on the resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and the 2018 Revitalized Agreement, which were both brokered with mediation from IGAD. These agreements highlight that it is important that there is shared power between rival political parties and that it is important to include the ideas of women, youth, and civil society groups.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The Economic Community of West African States plays a significant role in utilizing regional cooperation frameworks to promote inclusive governance in post-conflict states. Facilitating inclusive elections and political dialogue to guarantee inclusive, free, and fair elections, ECOWAS actively supports them. In order to promote communication and collaboration and aid in the stabilization of political environments, it involves a range of national stakeholders, such as government officials, political players, electoral authorities, and civil society. To guarantee that all residents feel represented and have the opportunity to engage in government processes, ECOWAS, for instance, sent joint delegations to Guinea-Bissau to promote peace, stability, and inclusive elections. ECOWAS offers frameworks and assistance for reforming the security sector with a focus on civil society engagement, democratic control, and accountability. This is crucial in post-conflict environments where stable governance depends on restoring confidence in security institutions. In order to protect democratic governance institutions and promote social cohesion, ECOWAS employs early warning systems and conflict prevention frameworks that focus on reducing risks in post-conflict settings.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Through regional cooperation frameworks centered on peace, security, and political stability, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) largely supports inclusive governance in post-conflict states. SADC provides regional peacebuilding. SADC is still a crucial regional platform for coordinating member states' efforts despite certain limitations and capacity issues that have prevented it from fully executing post-conflict reconstruction and inclusive governance initiatives. To increase its efficacy, SADC's ability and interaction with member states and civil society must be strengthened. SADC has created an initial structure that integrates transitional justice initiatives with post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD). In addition to government actors, this paradigm encourages inclusive, decentralized, and participatory methods that involve local institutions, civil society, and communities. In order to advance justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace, it places a strong emphasis on resolving abuses of economic and social rights as well as civil and political rights, such as land confiscation and systemic corruption. In order to



control and avoid conflicts in the African region, SADC plays a political and mediating role. It provides training and capacity building for national actors in conflict management to prevent development and regional intervention needs, and it has assisted with crises in Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho. Supporting transnational projects like cross-border investigations and compensation plans is one way SADC aims to work with the African Union and other regional organizations to guarantee consistency and technical integrity in activities related to peacebuilding, governance, and justice.

Kenya

Kenya has played a major role in supporting inclusive governance in post-conflict states, specifically in the Horn of Africa region. Kenya, especially Nairobi, has been the centre for many peace negotiations and has acted as a mediator in regional conflicts. The main reason Kenya has had a big role in trying to achieve peace is that the surrounding peaceful countries benefit Kenya's trade routes, security, and refugee policies. Kenya's most important contribution to this matter is its assistance in the creation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, which helped with South Sudan's independence in 2011. Kenya has also been involved in efforts to stabilize South Sudan and has been working with organizations like the IGAD and the AU to achieve it. Outside of South Sudan, Kenya has also supported Somalia's state-building by contributing troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Kenya has also hosted millions of Somali refugees, which was a key reason why it helped Somalia's transition to a more inclusive governance model.

The Kenyan government has also underlined how important regional peace and inclusive governance should be achieved through peaceful dialogue instead of war. President William Ruto has further emphasized this with this quote he made during a peace talk: "A political crisis like the Sudan conflict should be resolved through dialogue and not military means."⁴

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is also another country that is highly involved in creating an inclusive governance in post-conflict states. Ethiopia, being a founding member of the AU, has always played a major role in peacebuilding initiatives. Ethiopia's own internal conflicts, like the civil war in Tigray, have also helped it get a better grasp on how to solve similar issues in other countries. Due to its geographical position, Ethiopia has acted as a mediator for neighboring conflicts, especially in South Sudan and Somalia. Ethiopia has deployed many peacekeepers with both the AU and the UN. This just further underlines how committed Ethiopia is to creating and keeping regional stability. Another point that further emphasizes this is how Addis Ababa has been the neutral ground for countless peace negotiations, with Ethiopia acting as the mediator. Ethiopian

⁴ President Ruto Urges Sudan Warring Parties, *Office of the President of the Republic of Kenya*
<https://www.president.go.ke/president-ruto-urges-sudan-warring-parties-to-embrace-dialogue/>



officials have also publicly spoken out about the best way to achieve an inclusive governance structure. The best example would be the words of the prime minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ali: “Inclusiveness and co-existence are critical in Ethiopia because of differences ... We must not just give the concept [of democracy] expression, but practical purpose.”⁵

Ethiopia’s own policy on this matter is clear: there cannot be stability in the Horn of Africa without there being inclusive governance and regional trust. This is the same point that organisations like IGAD and the AU also try to achieve. Ethiopia, being both a mediator and a supply of peacekeepers, shows its commitment to achieving inclusive governance in Africa and especially in post-conflict states.

IV. Focused Overview of the Issue

Numerous recent studies have voiced strong confidence regarding the ongoing decline in armed conflicts worldwide. According to one such analysis, the percentage of warring nations will have drastically decreased by 2050, with promising prospects for world peace and security (Hegre et al. 2013). Hegre et al. link the world's sustained peace with a decline in global poverty using data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), and they predict that this trend will probably continue in the future. The outlook indicates that a large number of nations will continue to live in peace throughout the ensuing years. However, it should be highlighted that nations with high rates of poverty, low levels of education, and youthful populations are ideal for conflict, and that over half of the world's population. For example, ECOWAS's military intervention in The Gambia's 2016–2017 political crisis enabled a peaceful transition of power and rescued the nation from plunging into war. Similarly, IGAD has been instrumental in mediating peace talks between South Sudan's belligerents, and the AU has launched transitional justice processes and post-conflict reconstruction policies to assist states recovering from violence. They reflect a growing recognition that African problems must be answered with African solutions, rooted in local realities, historical understanding, and regional solidarity. Even with these achievements, there are challenges. Regional institutions tend to be resource-poor, politically fragmented, and weakly endowed with enforcement capabilities. Member states sometimes refuse to call out or pressure each other, especially when the principle of non-interference is paramount. In addition, the intricate character of post-conflict environments, where questions of justice, power-sharing, demilitarization, and identity politics are inextricably compounded, demands a strong, long-term commitment that is not always easy to pursue in the midst of domestic political pressure or other regional agendas.

1. Definition of Inclusive Governance

⁵ Inclusiveness and Co-existence, *All Africa* <https://allafrica.com/stories/201810180629.html>



Inclusive governance is a form of governance in which all groups within a society, including poor or excluded groups in the past, have meaningful participation and representation in making decisions. It does not just require free and fair elections but inclusive institutions, equal access to justice, good leadership and protection of minority rights. Known as a type of decision-making, inclusive governance gives all stakeholders a say in establishing law, regulations, and institutional processes regardless of their socioeconomic background, identity, or history. It guarantees various groups' active involvement in governing institutions, fair representation, and equal access to resources. In conflict aftermath countries, this model is particularly needed: it ensures that peace isn't just the absence of war, but the presence of political equity and justice.

2. History of the African Union

Eighteen years after the United Nations was established in 1945, the Organization of African Unity was established in 1963. The United Nations was founded by four African nations: South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Liberia. As more African nations gained independence, they joined the UN to demonstrate their independence and sovereignty. As a result, the UN African Group grew rapidly. Between its founding and the establishment of the OAU, 29 countries joined the UN: Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Ghana, Guinea, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia, Togo, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Algeria, and Uganda. The OAU was the first significant continental organization created with the goal of encouraging collaboration, solidarity, and unity among recently independent African republics. This fundamental concept was carried over to the AU, which expands upon these ideas while having an expanded and integrated political and economic mandate. With a policy of non-interference in domestic matters, the OAU became known for its strict respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of its members. Its ability to resolve internal disputes and violations of human rights was limited by this assumption. Learning from this, the AU strengthened its position on human rights and engaged in continental stability, establishing more proactive structures like the African Peace and Security Council. Due to fundamental principles such as territorial integrity and non-interference that African leaders used to avoid responsibility, regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which is now the African Union, have historically been unable to effectively tackle governance issues in member states. This weakened the goals of integration and governance by fueling conflicts, military takeovers, and government failures throughout the continent. Muammar al-Gaddafi, the leader of Libya, brought the African Union back into existence in the middle of the 1990s. On September 9, 1999, the OAU's heads of state and government published the Sirte Declaration, which called for the creation of the AU. At its first Assembly session in 2002 in Durban, South Africa, the AU was formally established. Since then, it has taken steps to promote economic integration, especially the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), form the African



Peace and Security Council, start the African Standby Force, and engage in disputes. There are now 55 member nations in the African Union.

3. UN Missions

Encouraging inclusive leadership in post-conflict nations through multilateral frameworks is a specific focus of several United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations in Africa. The complex mandates of these missions usually encompass not only security but also political stabilization, governance support, and peacebuilding initiatives in a regional setting. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMISS in South Sudan, UNMIL in Liberia, and UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone are a few examples of missions that have incorporated these governance goals into their mandates with the goal of promoting inclusive, accountable, and participatory governance systems that maintain the rule of law and represent the opinions of vulnerable groups and minorities. Encouraging inclusive, cooperative political solutions engaging important national and local stakeholders and supporting peace accords, promoting and upholding human rights, paying particular attention to marginalized populations like women, children, refugees, and internally displaced people, helping transitional governments restructure and oversee security services, including as the military and police, to guarantee human rights and democratic policing, assisting in the rebuilding of national authority and efficient local and national administrative systems. Supporting plans to combine the legal, judicial, and unlawful systems, among other governmental agencies are few examples of the goals regarding these missions.

To address violent conflicts on the continent, the United Nations deploys military missions. Nevertheless, these UN missions have failed and still fail miserably to fulfill their duties, even though they have better weapons than armed groups dispersed over Africa. Peacekeepers are frequently faced with unfamiliar political and cultural settings in nations such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Mali, and the Central African Republic. Additionally, there are special interests that frequently oppose the UN's mission. When the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) was established in 1999, for instance, its mandate was to neutralize armed groups, lessen the threat to state authority, and provide civilian security space for stabilization efforts.



V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
09/07/2002	The African Union (AU) replaced the Organization of African Unity (OAU) during a summit in Durban, South Africa. This was the beginning of a new continental approach to governance with more focus on democracy, human rights and conflict resolution.
01/01/2008	To address the tension, ECOWAS adopted the Conflict Prevention Framework. This policy placed a strong emphasis on inclusive politics and cooperation to prevent instability in West Africa
01/07/2010	The United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) was established by the UN Security Council through Resolution 1925
17/10/2015	After years of conflict, the people of South Sudan voted in a peaceful referendum for independence. Regional actors from the AU and IGAD ensured the process was fair and the South Sudan Peace agreement was signed.
19/01/2017	After a disputed election in The Gambia, ECOWAS intervened diplomatically and with a regional force to prevent any possible crisis. They helped to achieve a peaceful transfer of presidency from leader Yahya Jammeh to Adama Barrow.
12/02/2019	Realizing the need to address past conflicts, the AU's Peace and Security Council endorsed a new policy on transitional justice. It created a framework to build inclusive institutions in post-conflict countries.

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

- [A/RES/79/264 General Assembly](#)

A UN resolution that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Seventy-ninth session.

- [Revised Treaty](#)



Revised treaty signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States in 1993.

- [THE 1975 TREATY OF ECOWAS](#)

The original treaty was signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States in 1975.

- [MONUSCO welcomes the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda](#)

Peace agreement between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Rwanda that was signed with the support of MONUSCO.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Mechanisms for regional security cooperation, like the G5 Sahel, have had many difficulties and are frequently seen as having fallen short of their goals of achieving regional stability via inclusive governance. Divergent member state perspectives, donor-driven goals that prioritized military tactics over sociopolitical solutions, financing insecurity, and the loss of important member nations as military administrations came to power were all challenges facing the G5 Sahel initiative. The program lost regional relevance and confidence despite some long-lasting security collaboration, indicating challenges in maintaining inclusive governance cooperation in the face of difficult political circumstances and outside forces.

Weak political institutions, inefficient dispute settlement procedures, and significant informal power networks that limit official state-building initiatives frequently restrict post-conflict recovery and governance initiatives within regional frameworks. Political opposition and marginalization have complicated post-conflict inclusive governments in nations including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan by causing peace processes to fail and exclusionary governance to take place.

To summarize, the reasons behind the failure of regional cooperation frameworks in Africa to promote inclusive governance are: fragmented regional security initiatives; conflicting interests between local and international actors; sovereignty concerns that limit intervention; the influence of informal governance networks that undermine formal cooperation efforts after a conflict; militarized approaches that overshadow social inclusion; and fundamental institutional weaknesses. Together, these elements make it more difficult for regional cooperation frameworks to provide inclusive, long-lasting governments in African nations that have recently emerged from conflict.



VIII. Possible Solutions

There are several solutions for supporting inclusive governance in post-conflict African states through regional cooperation frameworks, based on recent research and policy guidance. With the theme being “Navigating Uncertainty Through Mutual Trust” in TIMUN’25, the first solution that comes to mind is **strengthening regional policy frameworks** in African states. Strengthening regional frameworks can be sustained by encouraging a coordinated strategy that incorporates resource management, human rights, justice, socioeconomic development, political governance, and security. Delegates may put into practice unique strategies that take into account the particular circumstances of every post-conflict scenario. Encouraging inclusive participation and social cohesion by including underrepresented populations in policy and reconstruction efforts, including women, young people, those with disabilities, former fighters, and internally displaced individuals by creating mechanisms for mediation and multi-level discussion that involve community leaders and civic society can also be a solution since communication and mutual understanding is the key to trust and taking a peaceful approach.

IX. Useful Links

- [Security Governance in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding](#)
- [Supporting Statebuilding in Situations of Conflict and Fragility \(EN\)](#)
- [Enhancing Inclusive Governance in Fragile & \(Post\) Conflict-Affected Settings](#)
- [Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development \(PCRD\) policy](#)
- [4. Regional security cooperation in the early 21st century](#)
- [Reimagining Cooperation to Support Inclusive Transitions | United Nations Development Programme](#)

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