

Transcript of an audio-interview with Dr. Admore Mupoki Kambudzi,  
AU Peace and Security Secretariat, Addis Ababa

**Mr. Kambuzi, what are the African Unions lessons learned from the first hybrid mission under joined UN and African Union leadership in Sudan?**

In the African Union itself we have had serious critique of the United Nations. When it comes to the management of African crises, we recall the Ruanda genocide in 1994, the UN did not do anything to prevent it or to minimize the damage. In Burundi in 2000 when the parties signed the peace agreement, the UN did very little to come and support the parties to implement their agreement. And the AU has always seen the UN as a slow mover, or as an organization that marginalizes African issues. Now, the hybrid operation in Darfur has created a golden opportunity for the African Union, the United Nations to develop their partnership and to exploit their comparative advantages in a combination, in a complementarity. And the experience so far, notwithstanding isolated problems here and there, the experience is quite progressive and quite enriching, essentially their efforts. Both organizations have been able to contribute to the pacification of the situation and also to the protection of the civilians.

**How do you see the future cooperation or separation of work between the African Union and the UN in peacekeeping in Africa?**

Well, this is part of the current debate at the African Union. And the African Union sees the future for peacekeeping in two perspectives. The first perspective, of course, is the continuation of the classical peacekeeping led by the United Nations. The second perspective is the hybrid, based on the experience in Darfur, that the UN and the AU or the UN and other regional organizations could again go into common enterprise and intervene in crises with the view to stabilizing those situations. That is the perspective of the

African Union's two models for the future of peacekeeping. Now is the time to realize that the UN on its own cannot manage the crises in the world. It will be overwhelmed. It is time for a rational combination between regional organizations and the United Nations. And to do that, the first step: review in a more objective manner and an innovative manner, chapter eight, how to better implement it to respond the changing reality.

### **When will the African Standby Force be fully operational?**

The current timetable is to operationalize the African Standby Force by 2015. And to do that, all the five regions of the AU of Africa must make ready their regional standby brigades. So far, significant progress has been achieved by Southern Africa and Western Africa, they are at a very advantaged stage. But the other regions, namely Central region, Eastern region and the Northern region, have a lot of work to do in order to contribute to the effective operationalization of their force by 2015.

### **And what can be expected of it, Mr. Kambuzi?**

In terms of the legal texts of the African Union the Standby Force is supposed to play a dual role, if not a triple role. First it can be used for preventive deployments. If there is a flashpoint and there is a risk of explosion in their conflict, the SF is going to be deployed. Secondly, it can be deployed in a crisis situation as an intervention in order to pacify the situation. Thirdly, there are also natural disasters which often disrupt civilian communities; floods, earthquake, volcanoes and other things. The SF can also be deployed in those situations.

### **What is the progress with regard to civilian elements in the African peace and security architecture, compared to the military field?**

So far, since 2002 indeed the efforts of the African Union in the area of the African Standby Force have focused more on the development of the military aspect, and to some extent the police aspect. But over the past year, or two

years, if you want, intensive efforts have been made to build up the civilian component. And in concrete, the AMISOM operation in Somalia which is purely an African Union peace support, peacekeeping operation, manifests the development of the three in harmony, the military, the police component and the civilian component. The civilian component is very important, because we should now focus on the long-term stabilization for Somalia. And a long-term stabilization of Somalia does not come from the soldiers from the boots, it does not come from the police either. It comes from the civilians who are going to support Somalia in terms of capacity building, in terms of economic revival, in terms of socio-economic projects.

**Mr. Kambuzi, thank you for the interview.**