

Box 2.1 Developing Standing Capacities for Peace Operations: The African Standby Force and G8 Initiatives

In 2003 the African Union adopted a policy framework to establish the African Standby Force (ASF) as part of a broader continental security architecture. This was followed in March 2003 by the adoption of a roadmap for operationalization of the ASF. The ASF will comprise multidisciplinary (military, police, and civilian) regional standby brigades from central, eastern, northern, southern, and western Africa. The policy framework outlined six intervention scenarios, ranging from military advice, to a political mission, to intervention in situations involving war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Under the plan, advisory and complex multidimensional peacekeeping missions (Chapter VI) will deploy in thirty days, while those requiring robust military intervention will do so in fourteen days.

The ASF will be developed in two phases. The first phase, initially planned to be completed by 30 June 2005 (now extended to 2006), focused on developing strategic-level management capacity by the AU and the regional economic communities (RECs) to undertake advisory and Chapter VI peace operations, and preventive deployment. The second phase (2005–2010) is focusing on developing the strategic management capacity of the AU and RECs for complex peace operations, including robust military intervention. To date, progress on establishing the police and civilian components has lagged behind progress on the military component.

Progress in establishing the regional standby brigades has been varied. Eastern,

West, Central, and Southern Africa have adopted their policy and legal frameworks, established the planning elements and provided military officers. These regions have all identified the location of logistics depots, but more in-depth studies need to be carried out to determine the feasibility of the locations. They have also received troop pledges of 3,500–4,000; 6,500; 3,655; and 4,000–6,000 respectively. North Africa has made slow progress relative to the other regions. The absence of a subregional political institution has been partially responsible for delays in this region.

The staffing of the Planning Element—the hub of the ASF—at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa has been slow; although its first chief of staff, Major-General Ishaya Isah Hassan, was appointed at the end of 2005.

In 2006, the AU Peace Support Operations Division, in collaboration with the RECs, organized workshops on doctrine, logistics, training and evaluation, command and control, standing operating procedures, and a draft policy framework on the civilian and police components of the ASF. These core policy areas were harmonized at a follow-on workshop in October 2006, and were presented to the African Chiefs of Defense Staff for approval. Much more work remained to be done on the financial, health, and legal aspects of the ASF. As the ASF development unfolded this year, the EU, Group of Eight (G8), and other bilateral partners funded the workshops and provided military and civilian experts to work with their African counterparts.

In 2004, during its summit at Sea Island, Georgia, the G8 launched an action plan to expand global capacity for peace support operations. At the same time, the US government announced a new initiative on global peace operations, which aims to train and equip a total of 75,000 peacekeepers worldwide by 2010. The plan would initially focus on Africa to bridge the gap between increasing demand and existing capacities. Under this initiative, approximately \$660 million are to be provided for training, equipment, and logistical support, with 75 percent of training efforts aimed at African armed forces. In the 2006 fiscal year, 44 percent of the \$100 million went to twelve Africa-only projects. While the ECOWAS secretariat was the beneficiary of the majority of assistance to regional organizations, many of the ECOWAS are being replicated for the African Union. The GPOI funds also support three peace operations training centers: The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana, the École de Maintien de la Paix in Mali, and the Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya. Previous G8-focused initiatives are elaborated in a joint Africa-G8 plan to enhance African capabilities for undertaking peace operations, one goal of which is to support the development of the African Standby Force. While Italy has established the Center on Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) as part of the G8 plan, other initiatives remain largely uncoordinated.