

Strategic Security Partnership between the AU and the EU: The Case of Sudan

Avrupa Birliđi ve Afrika Birliđi Arasında Stratejik Güvenlik İşbirliđi: Sudan Örneđi

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Abstract

Peace and security are seen as the main prerequisites for economic and political development and for the developing world in particular. The international community seeks to sustain peace, security and stability but the achievement of this objective is subject to many constraints. These include political and economic factors, security problems and outside influences. The European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) have strengthened their relations in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management, and endeavored to preserve peace and stability on the continent over the last decade. This article will highlight how the EU and the AU are cooperating for the establishment of peace in Sudan.

Key words: *Peace and security, the AU, the EU, Conflict, War, Peacekeeping operation.*

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Özet

Barış ve güvenlik, ekonomik ve politik kalkınma için ve özellikle de gelişmekte olan dünya için olmazsa olmaz önkoşul olarak kabul edilmektedir. Uluslararası toplum barışı, güvenliği ve istikrarı sürdürmek için elinden geleni yapsa da, bu hedeflerin gerçekleştirilmesinin önünde birçok engel bulunmaktadır. Bunlar arasında politik ve ekonomik nedenler, güvenlik sorunları ve dış etkenler bulunmaktadır. Avrupa Birliği (AB) ve Afrika Birliği, çatışmaların önlenmesi ve kriz yönetimi alanlarında ilişkilerini güçlendirdiler ve son on yıl boyunca kıtada barışı ve istikrarı muhafaza etmek için çaba gösterdiler. Bu makale, AB'nin ve AfB'nin Sudan'da barışı tesis etmek için ne tür bir işbirliğine giriştikleri konusuna ışık tutmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Barış ve güvenlik, Afrika Birliği, Avrupa Birliği, Çatışma, Savaş, Barışgücü operasyonu*

Security in Africa

In the 21st century peace and security have become the preconditions for economic development not only for the African continent, but also for the whole international society. Africa's geographical proximity, the spread of international terrorism since the September 2001 attacks on the United States of America (USA), as well as mass emigration are important issues of security, requiring immediate action. The maintenance of peace and security is a more difficult goal to achieve. For this reason, international cooperation for sustaining peace and security has been a more crucial strategy for the United Nations (UN) in particular and other international and sub-regional organizations such as the AU, the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Among the major objectives of the international community are to prevent conflicts and violence and sustain peace and security in the world. In this regard, on October 1999 the UN Security Council adopted an important Declaration on peace and security. The Declaration emphasizes that peace and security are always the objectives of the international community. Besides this, the promotion of peace and security is a fundamental task for the UN and other relevant international organizations. According to the UN Security Council, international cooperation for the promotion of peace and security must be essential.²

According to the EU, the most important challenge of today is to be able to keep peace, security and stability in the world, because during the Cold War there was a divided and complex world so that conflicts and wars have threatened millions of lives and also undermined economic and political stability in the world. Furthermore, conflicts threaten human rights, democratic values and fundamental freedoms.³ For this reason, peace and security are essential for socio-economic and political development in Africa but also for the preservation of European interests on the African continent. For example, 85% of Africa's exports have been

² United Nations (1945). *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*. Available from: <http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CTC/uncharter.pdf> (Accessed 11 May 2010).

³ European Commission (2004). *Securing peace and stability for Africa: the EU funded African Peace Facility*. Available from: http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/publications/docs/flyer_peace_en.pdf (Accessed 14 June 2010).

made to Europe and the EU is also the largest trade partner for Africa in the world.⁴ Therefore, the EU wants to play an active role to make Africa a stable place for the promotion of international trade and development. This is where the idea emerged in December 2003 for the Heads of States and Governments of the EU to adopt the European Security Strategy (ESS) and the maintenance of international peace and security are the key objectives of the ESS. The ESS declares that:

“Europe still faces security threats and challenges. The outbreak of conflict in the Balkans was a reminder that war has not disappeared from our continent. Over the last decade, no region in the world has been untouched by armed conflict. Most of these conflicts have been within rather than between states, and most of the victims have been civilians... Europe should be ready to share in the responsibility for global security and in building a better world.”⁵

The EU highlights its political and financial support in order to play a more active role in the prevention of violent conflict, which is one of the fundamental principles of the EU’s external relations through the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict. The EU has become a substantial contributor to peace, security and stability in the world and in particular Africa. It can be said that with the *Cairo Declaration*, the *Lisbon Declaration* and the adoption of *the EU Strategy for Africa*, the EU has accelerated its comprehensive relations with the AU in particular in the fields of peace and security such as conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict peace-building. In this regard the European Council has adopted the EU policy framework of support for Security Sector Reform (SSR) in June 2006, and declared a Joint EU Concept of Support for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) in December 2006. These instruments set forward a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention to address root causes of conflicts and prevent crises and conflicts.⁶

⁴ Commission of the European Communities (2005). *EU Strategy for Africa: towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa’s development*. [SEC(2005)1255]. Available from: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0489eno1.pdf (Accessed 14 June 2010).

⁵ Council of the European Union (2003). *A secure Europe in a better world: European security strategy*. Available from: <http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf> (Accessed 15 June 2010).

⁶ Council of the European Union (2007). Presidency report to the European Council on EU activities in the framework of prevention including implementation of the EU programme for the prevention of violent conflict, CIVCOM 322. Brussels. Available from: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st11/st11013.en07.pdf> (Accessed 21 June 2010).

According to the Council of the EU, “Europe and Africa are bound together by history, by geography, and by a shared vision of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for all their people”.⁷ Hence, the EU took a historic step in Cairo in 2000 to forge a long-term strategic partnership to develop cooperation and to integrate the two continents as well as maintaining peace and security in Africa. According to the Council of the EU, a long-term strategic partnership with Africa has four important goals:

1. to promote the EU-Africa political partnership, to reinforce institutional ties and find solutions to concerns of Africa;
2. to forge regional and continental integration and elevate the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa as well as to promote peace, security and stability and human rights;
3. to solve global challenges such as conflicts, insecurity, human rights, trade, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, climate change, energy security and sustainability, science and technology and terrorism;
4. to provide reinforcements for relationships with non-state and civil society actors, and make possible stronger conflict prevention management and post conflict reconstruction.⁸

The first EU-Africa dialogue was initiated in April 2000 in Cairo. The Cairo Declaration and the Cairo Plan of Action were adopted by the Heads of the African and European States at the Summit. More importantly, the Cairo Declaration is described “as a roadmap for the EU-Africa dialogue until at present”.⁹ Kotsopoulos¹⁰ described the Cairo Summit “as a comprehensive framework for political dialogue between the EU and Africa”. Since the Cairo Summit, Europeans and Africans have regularly convened at official and ministerial levels in order to address

⁷ Council of the European Union (2005). *The EU and Africa: towards a strategic partnership*. 15961/05 (Presse 367) Brussels. Available from: http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/87673.pdf (Accessed 24 June 2010).

⁸ Council of the European Union (2007). *8th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting*, 9678/07 (Presse 109), Brussels. Council of the European Union, http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/94126.pdf, (Accessed 25 June 2010).

⁹ European Union (2007). *Europe-Africa partnership*. <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r12106.htm>, (Accessed 27 June 2011).

¹⁰ Kotsopoulos, J. (2007). *The EU and Africa: coming together at last?*, European Policy Centre, 1:4, pg. 4.

common issues such as peace and security, HIV/AIDS, human rights and poverty.¹¹

Speiser¹² in his assessment suggested that the EU has understood the importance of Africa with the first ever EU-Africa Summit. The EU has strengthened relationships with Africa in the fields of regional economic co-operation and peace efforts for Africa such as good governance, peace building and conflict resolution. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fisher was of the opinion that the “Cairo summit is a considered golden chance to focus and to learn the problems facing the black continent.”¹³ It is very important to note that the Cairo Summit was the first ever summit between the two regions. More importantly, it launched the new development projects between the two continents and accelerated the EU-Africa dialogue. Besides, the first African-Europe Summit brought together African and European Heads of State. Since the African-Europe Summit in Cairo in 2000, the relationships between the EU and Africa have been strengthened in terms of building peace and security. For example, the African Peace Facility (APF) was established by the EU in 2004 in support of the AU peacekeeping operations. It is said that the Cairo Summit was the most important and concrete step to set up a strategic partnership between the two continents in the areas of peace and security.

Osama El-Baz who was a senior political advisor to the president of Egypt said that “the African-Europe Summit is the first time Europe deals with African states as a unified group”.¹⁴ The EU at the Cairo Summit highlighted that over the years, Africa has been characterised by genocides, conflicts, HIV/AIDS, instability and insecurity situations as well as social and economic issues. To put it in a different way, poverty, diseases and conflicts could damage Europe’s own interests in the future.

¹¹ European Union (2007). Europe-Africa partnership, <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r12106.htm>, (Accessed 25 June 2010).

¹² Speiser, D. (2002). *The political dimension of regional integration*. Available from: http://www.hubrural.org/pdf/conf_political_dimension_regional_integration.pdf (Accessed 2 July 2010).

¹³ Arabicnews (2000). *German Foreign Minister: Cairo summit is a chance to focus on African problems*, <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/000403/2000040358.html>, (Accessed 5 July 2010).

¹⁴ Arabicnews (2000). *Africa-Europe Summit marks serious step to forge institutional ties*, <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/000404/2000040492.html>, (Accessed 5 July 2010).

Therefore, the EU must urgently deal with finding the problems of Africa.¹⁵

Javier Solana who was the High Representative for the CFSP underscored that the Cairo Declaration has the three significant objectives:

1. to strengthen democracy, human rights and economic development in Africa;
2. to build a stable and secure region;
3. to promote cooperation between Europe and Africa.¹⁶

The Cairo Declaration and the Plan of Action approached the African challenges in a wide variety of fields. Notably, the EU and the OAU - currently the AU- emphasised that peace and security are fundamental for sustainable development because without peace there is no durable development, and it is vital to put an end to conflicts and insecurity situations. What is more, working together closely with the sub-regional organisations in Africa in order to prevent conflicts and instability is vital.

The Plan of Action was accepted at the African-Europe Summit. It focuses on the following objectives:

1. economic matters (regional and continental economic cooperation and integration in Africa);
2. human rights, democratic principles and institutions, the rule of law and good governance;
3. peace-building and conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa (particularly post conflict assistance and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and conflicts);
4. development issues (eradication of poverty, issues of education, health and food security).¹⁷

The Cairo Declaration also affirms that,

¹⁵Caritas Europa and Pax Christi International (CIDSE) (2003). *From Cairo to Lisbon: the EU and Africa working together for a new partnership*. Brussels: Caritas Europa and Pax Christi International (CIDSE), pg. 4.

¹⁶ Council of the European Union (2000). *To the Africa-Europe summit, 3-4 April 2000*, http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/solana/details.asp?cmsid=246&BID=107&DocID=61100&insite=1, (Accessed 7 July 2010).

¹⁷ European Union (2007). *Europe-Africa partnership*, <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r12106.htm>, (Accessed 10 July 2010).

"Over the centuries, ties have existed between Africa and Europe, which have led to many areas of cooperation, covering political, economic, social, as well as cultural and linguistic domains. These have developed on the basis of shared values of strengthening representative and participatory democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, good governance, pluralism, international peace and security, political stability and confidence among nations. In the light of the current rapid globalization trend, we are determined to strengthen this cooperation in our mutual interest and make it more beneficial to the two regions. In order to give a new strategic dimension to the global partnership between Africa and Europe for the Twenty-first Century, in a spirit of equality, respect, alliance and cooperation between our regions, we are committed to the basic objective of strengthening the already existing links of political, economic and cultural understanding through the creation of an environment and an effective framework for promoting a constructive dialogue on economic, political, social and development issues".¹⁸

The Second EU-Africa Summit was held in Lisbon in 2007. From this summit the new strategic partnership is strongly enhanced. The EU-Africa Joint Strategy was also adopted by both sides at the Lisbon Summit. The EU and the AU have emphasised that it is time to build a joint long-term strategic partnership. Both sides have agreed that the world has changed steadily and global challenges have emerged. In the light of these developments, cooperation between Africa and Europe has grown continuously in a broader field, particularly the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa and Europe. The EU and the AU have made a strong commitment to work together and cooperate in building peace and security. Africa and Europe understand that peace and security are preconditions for political, economic and social developments.

Both organisations have deepened cooperation in the fields of conflict prevention, longterm peace-building, and conflict resolution and post

¹⁸ Institute for Security Studies (2000). *Africa-Europe summit under the aegis of the OAU and the EU: Cairo Declaration, Cairo, 3-4 April 2000*, http://www.iss.co.za/Af/RegOrg/unity_to_union/pdfs/au/afreurdcl00.pdf (Accessed 11 July 2010).

conflict reconstruction at the Summit. It is important to say that the EU has been playing a strategic role to reinforce the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), African peace-making, peace-keeping and peace building mechanisms. The EU has strongly encouraged and supported the AU PSC for the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular through the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the Panel of the Wise and the African Standby Force (ASF).¹⁹ Kotsopoulos²⁰ stated that to establish a long-term strategic partnership with Africa is crucial for the EU. First of all, new international changes and developments as well as increasing international competition in Africa are important factors. Moreover, other major reasons are to provide sources for energy and raw materials and create a market for investment to Europe. Security challenges are the most crucial issue for the EU. For these reasons, the EU is involved in several peacekeeping operations including the DRC, and Sudan in the framework of the ESDP.

Furthermore, the EU has been trying to reinforce Africa's own efforts within the framework of the AU for crisis management and post-conflict stabilisation. The EU and the AU are seemingly more concerned about peace and stability on the African continent than any other problem within this region. The major principles of the EU and the AU with regard to keeping peace are to achieve peace and security, to prevent conflicts and strengthen peace and security.²¹ The analysis of this article indicates that the EU and the AU have played a key role in the successful democratic transition of the DRC and in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Darfur. So far, the EU has supported the AU's African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in order to reinforce Africa's peacekeeping capacity as well as African peacekeeping operations such as in Darfur, the CAR, the Comoros and the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It is evident that the EU established the APF in cooperation with the AU in order to play a more active role in preserving peace and security. In addition, the EU has also made a financial contribution to reinforce the PSC of the AU. The EU and the AU

¹⁹ Presidency of the European Union (2007). *The Africa-EU strategic partnership: a joint Africa-EU Strategy*.

http://www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/D449546C166BF42-4CB3-B566-407591845C43/0/071206jsapenlogos_formatado.pdf, (Accessed 23 July 2010).

²⁰Kotsopoulos, J. (2007). The EU and Africa: coming together at last? *European Policy Centre*, 1:4.

²¹European Union and United Nations (2007). *EU Presidency Statement - United Nations: relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security*.

http://europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_6908_en.htm (Accessed 25 July 2010).

work together in the framework of a Joint EU-African Strategy adopted at the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007 and it is based on the values of ownership and mutual accountability.²²

At the AU Summit in Durban in July 2002, the European Commission and the AU Commission decided to develop a relationship between the two continents in relation to the promoting of peace and security. In July 2003, the partnership between the continents culminated with the establishment of the APF by the EU at the Maputo Summit. The establishment of the APF is a strategic step for the EU as well as for Africa. The then Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten said *"the European Union is making an increasing contribution to peacekeeping worldwide, including in Africa. The Peace Facility will provide a more stable mechanism for our contributions in the future, in the belief that peace and stability are necessary conditions for sustainable development to take place."*²³

The main purposes of the APF are specially to find African solutions to African countries, to encourage African solidarity and to develop all African countries in terms of economic structure.²⁴ The APF has given a hand to the AU and the African organisation for African Peace Support Operations (PSOs) for the reinforcement of the African capability. So far, the APF has been supporting the following PSOs missions: the African Union Mission in Sudan, the multinational force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community in the CAR, and the African Union Mission in the Comoros. Moreover, the APF has provided financial support to the following areas: reinforcing capabilities of the AU Commission, establishment of the ASF and the CEWS. The EU has thus strongly supported the AU on conflict prevention to preserve peace and security on the continent.²⁵

²² Ibid.

²³European Union and United Nations (2003). *Commission proposes EUR 250 million to supports African-led peacekeeping operations in Africa*. http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/fr/article_2965_fr.htm, (Accessed 26 July 2010).

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵Council of the European Union (2007). Presidency report to the European Council on EU activities in the framework of prevention including implementation of the EU programme for the prevention of violent conflict, CIVCOM 322. Brussels. Available from: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st11/st11013.en07.pdf> (Accessed 24 July 2010).

Darfur Conflict

Sudan was the largest country in Africa and its population was about 40 million.²⁶ The population of Sudan comprises of two important groups which include Arabs and black Africans. There are many different sorts of ethnic and tribal groups as well as languages in Sudan. The conflict began in the western region of Sudan in February of 2003, when the rebel groups in Darfur, the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), started assaulting the government of Sudan.²⁷

The Government of Sudan countered with the Sudanese Armed Force and “JanJaweed militias” against the rebel groups. The conflict is mainly known as a war between “Arab aligned pro-government groups and non-Arab aligned groups”. Many elderly and vulnerable people including children and women have been tortured, raped and killed during the conflict.²⁸ Salih²⁹ contended that the Government of Sudan should be centralised and represent all of the ethnic groups impartially. Also, it must leave its marginalised political view and find solutions to Sudan’s challenges including drought, overpopulation and poverty because these problems are the most important challenges in the country. The other problem in the Darfur crisis is also related to the rebel groups. The SLA is a major rebel force in Sudan and makes peace talks difficult and undermines them. Furthermore, there has not been solidarity between the rebel groups including the SLA, the JEM and the others. It is therefore believed that factions of the rebel groups are a major frustration in the making of a comprehensive political agreement.³⁰

The roots of the ongoing conflict are based on historical elements. These elements which include the following are complicated and continue to affect the recent conflict:

²⁶ Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook (2008). Sudan, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/su.html>, (Accessed 12 February 2012).

²⁷United States Government Accountability Office (2006). *Darfur Crisis: progress in aid and peace monitoring threatened by ongoing violence and operational challenges*. Washington, DC.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO).

²⁸ Darfur Australia (2007). Sudan Divestment. *DAN Briefing Paper*, 1-6.

²⁹ Salih, M. (2005). *Understanding the conflict in Darfur*. Copenhagen: University of Copenhagen, pg. 26.

³⁰International Crisis Group (2005). Unifying Darfur’s rebels: a prerequisite for peace. *International Crisis Group*, 32:1-20.

1. economic and political marginalisation of the Government of Sudan: This has damaged sustainable development and social coherence in Darfur and in particular has raised ethnic segregation;
2. environmental and ecological factors: In fact environmental and ecological factors are directly or indirectly affecting the life of people as well as the behaviours of governments. Drought, desertification and overpopulation are serious challenges in Darfur. They then constitute the causes of the conflict;
3. the role of the government of Sudan against the ethnic conflict: Government can play a positive role in the fight against the isolation of ethnic conflicts. One can say that the government of Sudan is not active enough in stopping ethnic conflict in Darfur, and has failed to bring the conflicts between the Arab tribes and African tribes under control;
4. external factors: Sudan has historical ties with neighbouring countries. In particular, Chad and Libya fought for the region of Darfur for more than thirty years. Thus, the other cause of the current conflict is still related to interests of the foreign countries.³¹

The EU and the AU have cooperated to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa. Particularly, both the EU and the AU have made big efforts to stop the conflict in Sudan. The conflict in Western Sudan erupted in February of 2003. Since 2003, one million people have been displaced and more that 140,000 people have been oppressed to immigrate into neighbouring countries during the conflict. According to international observers, between 10,000-30,000 civilians have been killed.³² The former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan depicted it as a second genocide after the Rwandan genocide. Moreover, the UN described it as one of the biggest humanitarian crisis.³³

³¹ Young, H. & Osman, A. M. (2006). *Challenges to peace and recovery in Darfur: a situation analysis of the ongoing conflict and its continuing impact on livelihoods*. Boston: Feinstein International Centre, pg. 10–11.

³² United States Government Accountability Office (2006). *Darfur Crisis: progress in aid and peace monitoring threatened by ongoing violence and operational challenges*. Washington, DC.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), pg. 1.

³³ Reuters (2007), *Darfur conflict*. http://www.alertnet.org/db/crisisprofiles/SD_DAR.htm?v=at_a_glance (Accessed 1 August 2010).



Map of Sudan

The EU and the AU's Security Policies in Darfur

The AU has been concerned about the Darfur conflict since its beginning. The AU has thus put into action the Protocol Relating to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the 26th of December 2003. The fundamental objectives of the PSC of the AU are in general as follows:

1. promote peace, security and stability in Africa;
2. prevent conflicts and violence;
3. promote and implement peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction activities;
4. organise continental efforts in order to prevent international terrorism and conflicts;
5. improve a common defence policy for the Union;

6. promote and support good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms.³⁴

The Protocol highlights that it is necessary to maintain peace and security for sustainable development because it is impossible to develop without security. In the case of Sudan crisis, the African Union PSC established the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in April 2004 in order to sustain peace, security and stability in Sudan. In addition, AMIS was expanded and reinforced as AMIS II on the 28th of April 2005 in order to keep peace and security effectively and efficiently.³⁵

The PSC of the AU emphasised that the Darfur crisis is a serious humanitarian one and must be stopped immediately. The conflict devastates all civilian population and threatens human rights principles. Besides, it underlined that attacks against innocent people by the Janjaweed militias are unacceptable, and the government of Sudan must neutralise and disarm them as well as other rebel groups.³⁶ More importantly, the AU PSC stressed that the AU should play a more active role in resolving the Darfur crisis and also work closely with the international community, the UN and the EU for the maintenance of peace and security in the region. Moreover, it called urgently upon all parties including the Government of Sudan (GoS), the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) to implement the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (HCFA). The AU PSC also highlighted the fact that the AU Mission should be strengthened for a more robust peacekeeping operation, and the civilian population should be saved from any kind of violence and supported in terms of humanitarian assistance.³⁷

The AU PSC has three crucial tasks for the sustainability of peace and security in the Darfur crisis: 1. To protect the civilian population; 2. To

³⁴African Union (2002). *The protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union*, www.africaunion.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/Text/Protocol_peace%20and%20security.pdf (Accessed 3 August 2010).

³⁵AMIS-Sudan (2007). *Amis-introduction*. www.amissudan.org/Factsheets/Factsheet%20AMIS%20Introduction.pdf, (Accessed 5 August 2010).

³⁶ African Union (2004). *Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the establishment of a Continental Peace and Security Architecture and the status of peace processes in Africa*, <http://www.africaunion.org/Reports/Report%20of%20CP%20launching%20of%20the%20PSC.pdf>, (Accessed 7 August 2010).

³⁷ Ibid.

disarm and neutralise the Janjaweed and 3. Facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief. Even though the AMIS has some obstacles to maintain peace and security in Darfur, AMIS has made a contribution to peace, security and stability in the region.³⁸ The AMIS has therefore filled an important gap on security area in Darfur crisis. On the other hand, it has encountered some barriers to preserve peace and security strongly and effectively. For instance, limited capacity, insufficient resources and the political situation are challenges of the AMIS.³⁹

According to the ESS, the EU has to play a more active role in tackling global challenges and key threats including terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, state failure, organised crime as well as regional conflicts. The EU has been active in order to keep peace and security in the conflicting region because the current security problems escalate terrorist attacks.⁴⁰ Mutton⁴¹ contended that instability and conflicts in Africa demolish social and economic developments as well as interests of the EU. Thus, the EU should get involved in peace and security in Europe as well as beyond Europe.

According to the Council of the European Union, the EU is actively involved in all diplomatic solutions and efforts for the Darfur crisis and has consistently worked for the implementation of the CPA signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). The EU has urgently approved "a comprehensive political and security basket" for providing peace, security and stability in Darfur. This basket comprises the following areas:

1. to back efforts of the international community in resolving the Darfur crisis;
2. to achieve a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in Darfur;
3. to accelerate the implementation of the CPA;

³⁸ Powell, K. (2005). *The African Union's emerging peace and security regime: opportunities and challenges for delivering on the responsibility to protect*. Ottawa: The North-South Institute, pg. 32.

³⁹ International Crisis Group (2005). *The AU's Mission in Darfur: bridging the gaps*. International Crisis Group, 28:1-16, pg. 1.

⁴⁰ European Union (2005). *EU support for peace and security in Africa*, <http://www.eurunion.org/News/press/2005/Africa%20final.pdf> (Accessed 10 August 2010).

⁴¹ Mutton, J. F. (2007). *Belgium's commitment to peace and stability in Central Africa*. Paper presented at the meeting of the South African Institute of International Affairs. Johannesburg: The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

4. to promote dialogue between the different ethnic groups;
5. to advocate positive relations between the Government of Sudan and other Sudanese groups as well as non governmental organisations;
6. to sustain regular contact with the Sudanese authorities;
7. to strengthen capacity of the AU in terms of political, economic and military conditions and support its political, military and police efforts in order to maintain peace and security in the region of Darfur.⁴²

On the 18th of July 2006, a comprehensive conference regarding the Darfur crisis was held in Brussels. Solana explicated the following security policy of the EU for the Darfur crisis at the conference: 1. To encourage the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA); 2. To support the efforts of the AU and AMIS in providing peace and security; 3. To provide integration into the UN and the AMIS for a more strong peacekeeping role immediately; 4. To reinforce cooperation including the UN and the AU for effective transition.⁴³ Particularly, the EU has increased cooperation with the AU and the UN to bring peace and security throughout the Darfur conflict.

The Cooperation Between the AU and the EU with Regard to Peacemaking and Peacekeeping Throughout the Darfur Crisis

The EU and the AU have played a strategic role to maintain peace, security and stability and to create peace conditions on the continent. The APSA is strengthened in charge of the AU and also African peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building mechanisms are reinforced rapidly. It is said that African countries understand that maintenance of peace and security is a top priority for sustainable development. The EU has also continued to support the AU in terms of financial, human resources and experience through the principle of African ownership and a strategy of long-term capacity building including the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise and the ASF. The AU is also the most

⁴²Council of the European Union (2005). Javier Solana welcomes today's appointment of Pekka Haavisto as EU Special Representative for Sudan, S260/05, http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/85759.pdf (Accessed 11 August 2010).

⁴³ Council of the European Union (2006). *International conference on Darfur*, Brussels 18 July 2006, S201/06, http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/sg/90538.pdf. (Accessed 15 August 2010).

important institutional partner for the EU in matters related to the maintenance of peace and security.

The EU and the AU have recently reinforced a strategic partnership through a common and comprehensive framework in the fields of security, conflict prevention and long-term peace building, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. More importantly, the EU Commission and the AU Commission adopted the Cairo Declaration in 2000 and the Lisbon Declaration in 2007. Both Declarations have three crucial principles: 1. To strengthen and promote the EU-Africa political partnership; 2. To promote peace, security and stability and to address the root causes of conflicts and 3. To cooperate against global challenges and security threats.⁴⁴ It is clear that the EU and the AU have endeavoured to resolve and manage conflicts in Africa as well as to strengthen cooperation. Throughout the Darfur conflict, there are two kinds of cooperation between the EU and the AU:

1. political and diplomatic cooperation,
2. military support and capacity building.⁴⁵

HCFA was signed in N'Djamena on the 8th of April 2004 between the rebel groups and the Government of Sudan. During the Agreement, the role of the AU was to facilitate the Agreement with the EU, and all expenditures of the agreement were financed by the EU. In addition, the EU actively participated in the Ceasefire Commission (CFC) and Joint Commission with the AU and other international actors in Addis Ababa.⁴⁶ The CFC consisted of the AU, the EU, Chadian mediation, the Government of Sudan, JEM and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A). The objectives of the CFC are to investigate among other things any violations of this Agreement and report to the Joint Commission regarding the implementation of the rules and stipulations of the ceasefire. The Joint Commission is also comprised of the AU, the EU, Chadian mediation, the US and the members of the parties. The

⁴⁴ Council of the European Union (2007). *8th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting*, 9678/07 (Presse 109), Brussels. Council of the European Union. www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/94126.pdf. (Accessed 17 August 2010).

⁴⁵ International Crisis Group (2005b). The EU/AU partnership in Darfur: not yet a winning combination. *International Crisis Group*, 99:1-27, pg. 9.

⁴⁶ Council of the European Union (2004). *Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the EFSP, expressed the EU's strong and continued commitment to supporting the African Union in the handling of the Darfur crisis*, S0238/04. http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/81918.pdf. (Accessed 26 September 2010).

fundamental missions of the Joint Commission are to coordinate investigations, conduct verifications and to monitor (AMIS-Sudan, 2004: Internet Source).⁴⁷

The EU also operated closely with the AU Special Envoy, Dr. Hamit Algabid, during the Abuja peace talks and agreed to the initial step of the negotiation process which started in Abuja, Nigeria on the 23rd of August 2004. Furthermore, the EU joined the first round of the Abuja peace talks held by the AU from the 15 to the 17 July 2004 in Addis Ababa. Also, the EU has provided financial support of €1 billion as well as personnel and political support in liaison with the AU and the UN for the Abuja peace talks/process and the CFC.⁴⁸ The AU and the EU specifically focused on the following issues during the Abuja peace talks:

1. humanitarian issues;
2. security issues;
3. political issues and;
4. socio-economic issues.⁴⁹

The Abuja peace talks brought some strategic implementation policies for the AU and the EU as well as the international community. Firstly, The Abuja talks have served a basic facility for the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). Secondly, it has accelerated the implementation of the HCFA. Thirdly, the Abuja peace talks increased the importance of the CFC.⁵⁰ According to the Declaration of the EU regarding the resumption of the Abuja talks on the 29th of June 2005, the EU will fully endorse the AU in order to play a critical role in the Abuja peace talks. When the Abuja peace talks ceased on the 10th of June 2005, the EU and the AU established a shuttle diplomacy to initiate the negotiations again and they urgently called upon the Sudanese Government and the rebel groups in order to

⁴⁷ AMIS-Sudan (2004). *Agreement with the Sudanese Parties on the modalities for the establishment of the Ceasefire Commission and the deployment of observers in the Darfur*,

<http://www.amissudan.org/Agreements/Agreement%20With%20The%20Sudanese%20Parties%20On%20The%20Modalities%20For%20The%20Establishment%20Of%20The%20Ceasefire%20Commission%20And%20The%20Deployment%20Of%20Observers%20In%20The%20Darfur.pdf> (Accessed 10 September 2010).

⁴⁸ Council of the European Union (2004). *Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the EFSP, expressed the EU's strong and continued commitment to supporting the African Union in the handling of the Darfur crisis*, So238/04,

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/81918.pdf (Accessed 26 September 2010).

⁴⁹ African Union (2004). *Second round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur*, Abuja, Nijeria 23 August–17 September 2004. www.africaunion.org/DARFUR/Chairman%20Conclusion.pdf (Accessed 27 September 2010).

⁵⁰ Sudan Tribune (2004). *Sudan govt, Darfur rebels issue joint statement from Abuja talks*, <http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article7140> (Accessed 28 November 2007).

instigate the Abuja peace talks as well as to cooperate actively with the AU monitoring mission. Moreover, the EU also stated that the EU will fully back the AU mediation and the appointment of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim as the AU Special Envoy for the Inter-Sudanese Political Talks on Darfur.⁵¹

On the 5th of July 2005, The GoS, the SLM/A and the JEM signed the Declaration of Principles in Abuja, Nigeria under the auspices of the AU to bring an end to the conflict in Darfur.⁵² On the 18th of July 2005 the EU assigned Mr. Pekka Haavisto as an EU Special Representative to facilitate the negotiation and political process for Sudan. His basic tasks are to achieve a political reconciliation between the Government of Sudan and the rebels, to expedite the implementation of the CPA, to elevate dialogue in order to remove provocations between the regional ramifications and to strengthen the principle of African ownership as well as reinforce the EU's civilian-military action in order to support the AMIS.⁵³ The EU has actively supported the signed DPA between the GoS and the SLM/A on the 5th of May 2006 in Abuja. Alpha Omar Konare, a former Chairperson of the African Union Commission, contended that the AU was supported by the international organisations including the EU and the UN throughout the peace process and their support facilitated the peace process of the DPA.⁵⁴ The EU and the AU held the 7th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting in October 2006, and underlined the importance of the HCFA. Throughout the meeting, the two parties highlighted their deep apprehension that the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur is of crucial importance. Most importantly, they strongly committed each other to cooperate in preserving peace and security in the Darfur conflict.

The EU has also worked together with the AU in the implementation of the Preparatory Committee for the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and

⁵¹ European Union (2005). Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the resumption of the Abuja talks,

www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/pesc/2005/06/28abuja/index.html, (Accessed 28 September 2010).

⁵² Sudan Tribune (2005). *Declaration of Principles for resolution of Sudan's Darfur conflict*, http://www.sudantribune.com/IMG/pdf/DOP_Darfur.pdf (Accessed 30 September 2010).

⁵³ Council of the European Union (2005). *Javier Solana welcomes today's appointment of Pekka Haavisto as EU Special Representative for Sudan*, S260/05, http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/85759.pdf (Accessed 1 October 2010).

⁵⁴ AMIS-Sudan (2006). *Darfur Peace Agreement*. Available from: [http://www.amissudan.org/DPA\(English%20version\)/DARFUR%20PEACE%20AGREEMENT%20%20-%20%20ABUJA,%20%205%2005%2006.doc](http://www.amissudan.org/DPA(English%20version)/DARFUR%20PEACE%20AGREEMENT%20%20-%20%20ABUJA,%20%205%2005%2006.doc) (Accessed 3 September 2010).

Consultation (DDDC) process and the Darfur Assessment and Evaluation Commission (DAEC).⁵⁵ The DDDC was launched by the AU on the 9th of November 2006. DDDC is a kind of mechanism for mobilising mission for the DPA and resolving the issues of peace and reconciliation as well as to facilitate a durable solution for the Darfur crisis. Furthermore, this mechanism is also an integral part of the Abuja peace process and serves as a consultative mechanism to decision making powers relating to the Darfur conflict.⁵⁶

The DDDC comprised of the EU, the AU, the UN, the League of Arab States, tribal leaders, civil society organisations, representatives of the parties and some stakeholders. The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Ambassador Said Djinnit stated that the DDDC has played a key role in finding a common reconciliation between the Sudanese Government and the rebel groups during the negotiations of the Abuja peace talks.⁵⁷ The EU has also played an active role with the AU in the DAEC. DAEC is a mechanism for the international community to enter into force with the implementation of the DPA.⁵⁸ The EU has assisted the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD) in order to accelerate the relationships between the AU and the EU during the Darfur conflict. The CHD is an independent foundation based in Geneva and operating to prevent and resolve armed conflicts as well as human suffering. The CHD has worked actively with the AU during the peace process and in particular during the N'djamena peace talks.⁵⁹ Furthermore, the EU set up an ad hoc coordination cell and assigned Mr. Pekka Haavisto as an EU Special Representative for Sudan to conduct it in Addis Ababa. The ad hoc coordination cell focused on the developments of the Abuja peace talks and the implementation of the CPA.⁶⁰

According to the Council of the European Union, the signing of the CPA between the Sudanese Government and the SPLM/A under the IGAD

⁵⁵ Council of the European Union (2006). International conference on Darfur, Brussels 18 July 2006, S201/06. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/sg/90538.pdf. (Accessed 8 September 2010).

⁵⁶ Conciliation Resources (2006). *Chapter four: Darfur-Darfur dialogue and consultation*. (Accessed 10 September 2010). <http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/sudan/key-texts-dpa-dddc.php#top>

⁵⁷ Sudan Tribune (2006). *AU launches Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation*, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article18632> (Accessed 13 September 2010).

⁵⁸ European Union (2007). *European Union response to the Darfur crisis*. (Accessed 13 September 2010). <http://www.eurunion.org/newsweb/HotTopics/DarfurEUFactsheetDec2007.doc>

⁵⁹ International Crisis Group (2004). Sudan: now or newer in Darfur. *International Crisis Group*, 80:1-25, pg. 9.

⁶⁰ International Crisis Group (2005). The EU/AU partnership in Darfur: not yet a winning combination. *International Crisis Group*, 99:1-27, pg. 9.

brought a lasting solution for the Sudanese politics. Reinforcing the EU-AU partnership is the best way to sustain and promote peace and security in Darfur. The EU expressed that it has continued to work closely with the AU for the implementation of the CPA.⁶¹ Furthermore, the EU participated in all negotiations as an observer during the CPA with the AU and the other international players.⁶²

With regard to military-operational partnership between the AU and the EU, there is a wide range of military-operational cooperation between the AU and the EU in the Darfur conflict. The EU has two important priorities in its cooperation with the AU during the Darfur crisis at operational level:

1. to strengthen the ability of the AU, and
2. to engage in peace support and peace operations in Africa.

The AU Heads of State proposed to set up an effective and comprehensive peace facility in order to prevent wars, genocides and armed conflicts on the continent through the EU development cooperation at the Maputo Summit in 2003. The EU accepted the establishment of APF in order to strengthen the peace and security agenda of the AU and promote peacekeeping in Africa in 2004.⁶³ The APF is based on three important principles: 1. To strengthen African ownership; 2. To develop African-European cooperation and 3. To contribute to African solidarity. The EU has particularly given weight to reinforcement of peacekeeping operations of the AU and supported capacity building of the AU during the Darfur conflict. It must be noted that €35 million of the €250 million of the APF has been used for reinforcing capacity building of the AU⁶⁴ and for the following activities:

1. “Supporting the AU in the development of a comprehensive peace and security policy;

⁶¹ Council of the European Union (2005). *Javier Solana welcomes today's appointment of Pekka Haavisto as EU Special Representative for Sudan*, S260/05, (Accessed 17 September 2010).

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/85759.pdf

⁶² Relief Web (2005). *The Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army*. (Accessed 18 September 2010).

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EVIU-6AZBDB?OpenDocument>

⁶³ European Commission (2004). *Securing peace and stability for Africa: the EU funded African Peace Facility*.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/publications/docs/flyer_peace_en.pdf, (Accessed 19 September 2010).

⁶⁴ International Peace Academy and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (2006). *The European Union in Africa: a strategic partner in peace operations*. Geneva: International Peace Academy and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, pg. 10.

2. Supporting the establishment of a relevant planning capacity within the AU Peace and Security Directorate;
3. Supporting the establishment and training of reconnaissance teams to enhance the AU and sub-regional potential for the functional preparation of peacekeeping operations;
4. Enhancing the capacity of the AU and sub-regional organisations in the financial and administrative management of peace operations, either with AU backing or through donor support.⁶⁵

The APF is financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) which has also financed African peacekeeping forces, soldiers' living expenses and development of capabilities. It is important to note that the bulk of the funds of the APF have been allocated to support and reinforce the AMIS. The EU also accepted responsibility to provide an additional amount of € 300 million in order to continue to support the APF for the next three-year period (2008-2010). Paul Nelson who is the EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid stated that the Peace Facility provides an important instrument to reinforce African peacekeeping efforts and builds security and stability in Africa. He paid tribute to the former President of the AU Commission, Alpha Omar Konare and the AU Peace and Security Commissioner Said Djinnit, for working closely with the EU in the establishment of the APF.⁶⁶

To begin with the AMIS, the AU made a decision to deploy a monitoring mission in Darfur in accordance with the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (NHCA) on the 28th of May 2004. The first function of the AMIS was to deploy military observers and to monitor the Ceasefire Agreement. The African Union Mission in Sudan is known as AMIS I, it consisted of 465 personnel from ten African countries and was deployed in the Western Sudan at the beginning of June 2004.⁶⁷ The EU and the AU have worked closely to consolidate the AMIS to sustain peace and security in the Darfur crisis.

⁶⁵ European Commission (2004). *Securing peace and stability for Africa: the EU funded African Peace Facility*. http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/publications/docs/flyer_peace_en.pdf, (Accessed 21 September 2010).

⁶⁶ European Commission (2006). *Mid term evaluation of the African Peace Facility framework-contract (9ACP RPR 22) 250 MC*. Available from: http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/docs/APF-Evaluation-Final_Report-ECDPM_version_for_ECORYS_190106.pdf, (Accessed 26 September 2010).

⁶⁷ AMIS-Sudan (2007). *Background and Chronology*. Available from: <http://www.amissudan.org/history.html> (Accessed 27 September 2010).

The AU PSC decided to intensify the capacity of the AMIS on the 20th of October 2004, because AU urgently wanted the support of the international community to strengthen the AMIS. Consequently, the AMIS was strengthened with civilian police and is now known as AMIS II.⁶⁸ The EU set up EU civilian–military supporting actions to AMIS in response to a requirement of the AU, named “AMIS EU Supporting Action”. The reasons for the EU supporting action are to reinforce cooperation between the AU and the EU and to make the AU a central actor in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa as well as to bring an end to the conflict in Darfur immediately by strengthening the AMIS.⁶⁹ The African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) replaced AMIS at the end of 2007⁷⁰ in order to sustain peace, security and stability.

The EU-AU Ministerial Meeting Final Communiqué was issued in Luxemburg on the 11th of April 2005. During the meeting, the two sides underlined the strategic importance of the APF and the achievements of the AMIS during the Darfur conflict. Moreover, they strongly emphasised that the AU-EU cooperation will carry on with the maintenance of international peace and security.⁷¹ It can be said that the AMIS under the APF has been implementing crucial and strategic functions since the beginning of the Darfur crisis. Meanwhile, the Partnership Technical Support Group (PTSG), the Liaison Group, the Darfur Integrated Task Force (DITF), the Administrative Control and Management Centre (ACMC) and the Joint Logistics Operations Centre (JLOC) are important components of cooperation between the EU and the AU through the Darfur conflict. Within these structures, operational and logistic planners and military staff officers have been deployed from various European countries to the AU in order to provide the strategic, tactical and cooperational support through the Darfur conflict.⁷²

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ European Union (2005). Council Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP of 18 July 2005 on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan. Available from: http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_188/l_18820050720en00460051.pdf (Accessed 28 September 2010).

⁷⁰ UNAMID African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur. (Accessed 12 February 2012). <http://unamid.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=890>

⁷¹ Council of the European Union (2005). *European Union-African Union Ministerial Meeting Final Communiqué*. Available from: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/04/11ue-ua-final/index.html> (Accessed 29 September 2010).

⁷² International Crisis Group (2005). *The EU/AU partnership in Darfur: not yet a winning combination*. *International Crisis Group*, 99:1-27, pg. 10-11.

During the Darfur conflict, security relations between the AU and the EU peaked and made a significant contribution to developing strategic partnership between Africa and the EU in the fields of peace and security. The causes of the Darfur conflict were complicated, having erupted in the western region of Sudan in February 2003 it was halted in May 2006, when the foremost rebel group, the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Government of Sudan reached a comprehensive agreement. On the 9th of January 2011, Southern Sudan held a referendum to determine whether the region would become a separate state. On the 7th of February 2011, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission published the final referendum results, according to which, people with 98.83 % vote in the Southern region of the Sudan decided to separate from the Government of the country.⁷³ A new state was officially established as “Southern Sudan” on the 9th of July 2011. Even if the conflict had ended, the political atmosphere remains fragile and complex in the Sudan.

All things considered, the EU has strengthened the AU financially and made it a central actor in peacekeeping operations throughout the Darfur conflict. Most importantly, the EU established the APF in 2004 to preserve peace and security in Africa. The establishment of the APF reinforced cooperation between the EU and the AU. Moreover, the AU deployed AMIS to prevent conflict immediately after the Darfur conflict erupted. The EU has reinforced AMIS with the APF to maintain peace and security in the region of Sudan. The EU and the AU realised that peace and security in Africa are top priority for political, social and economic development. Therefore, the EU and the AU have worked together in a wide range of activities including from political cooperation to military cooperation throughout Darfur conflict.

⁷³ See Southern Sudan referendum final results report, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, 7 February 2011, pg. 2.

Conclusion

Peace and security are essential for economic and political stability. For this reason, international actors such as the UN, the EU and the AU have been playing a more active role in order to sustain peace and security in the world conflicting regions. It can be said that many conflicts have emerged in Africa. As a result of brutal conflicts in Africa, thousands of people have been killed and also security of the continent has been threatened. In addition, this situation stems from the interests of the states. Judged from this fact the maintenance of peace and security has been the first priority in Africa. According to the European Security Strategy, peace and security are necessary for economic growth. As a global superpower the EU has to actively get involved in peace and security in Europe as well as beyond Europe and work together with other relevant organisations such as the UN and the AU. The EU has deep interest in a prosperous and democratic Africa because Africa is the biggest trade partner for the EU.

According to the Council of the European Union, “Europe and Africa are bound together by history, by geography, and by a shared vision of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for all its peoples.” Based on this rationale, the EU’s relations with the AU are increasingly focused on supportive efforts to bring about security, peace and stability in Africa’s conflict zones. The EU involvement in African conflict has therefore increased continuously. Since April 2000 an EU-African dialogue has been developed as a result of the Cairo Declaration. Since 2000, the relationships between the EU and the AU have been strengthened in the fields of political, economic and social patterns. More importantly, the Second EU-Africa Summit was held in Lisbon, December 2007. Both sides agreed that peace and security are the first priority and it is essential to work together and cooperate in order to preserve peace and stability.

So far, the EU and the AU have taken concrete steps to protect Africa from conflicts and violence. Particularly, the EU supports the AU peacekeeping operations. One must recall that the EU established the APF in 2004. This mechanism has played a key role in the prevention of conflicts and violence in Africa. It should be underlined that the EU has provided financial, technical and diplomatic support to the AU peacekeeping operation in Sudan. However, its support to the AU has increased

dependency of the AU on the international actors. Importantly, the EU needs to take into consideration internal factors such as the root causes of conflicts and wars while cooperating with the AU in the fields of peace and security. Providing financial and technical support to the AU is not a long term solution to prevent conflicts and wars on the African continent. Even though the EU's financial and technical contribution to the AU during the Darfur conflict played an important role in reinforcing the AU peacekeeping operation in Sudan, it failed to make a long-term strategy to bring peace and security in Sudan. Creating peace and security requires understanding internal parameters in a conflict area. This article has elaborated how much cooperation has existed between the EU and the AU regarding the maintenance of international peace and security in Sudan.