ACCORD

THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

TWENTY YEARS OF CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE

UN Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Reviews: Implications for Training and Capacity Building in Africa

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2015: The Year of Reviews

- 3 reviews were undertaken in the field of Peace and Security :

a) the UN peace operations review by The High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) => HIPPO Report

b) the review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture by the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) => AGE Report

c) the review of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 by a High-level advisory group. => Global Study Report

*It would be a *faux pas* not to holistically examine the 3

Themes highlighted in all the 3 reports

i. <u>The changing nature of conflict</u>: rise of violent extremism, sexual targeting of women and children, challenges arising from transnational networks fostering illicit trade, etc.

ii. <u>The importance of the women, peace and security agenda for the UN's work</u>: impact on, and needs of women and girls in violent conflict; and the need for their increased participation at all levels including leadership

iii. <u>The primacy of prevention and the need for a long-term focus</u>: prioritization of prevention in order to build lasting peace

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Themes highlighted in all the 3 reports (2)

iv. <u>Shifting towards people-centred, inclusive processes</u>: more consultative engagement and the involvement of broad sections of the society in which the UN operates

v. <u>The primacy of politics</u>: need to focus on the long-term orientation of dealing with root causes and structural drivers of conflict – political process

vi. <u>The need for field focus and context awareness</u>: currently there is a lack of attention to the real needs and conflict dynamics on the ground, including gender dynamics

Themes highlighted in all the 3 reports (3)

vii. <u>The preference of the military response to violent conflict is counterproductive</u>: militarised solutions are an obstacle to lasting peace

viii. <u>Partnership with other actors</u>: emphasis on the importance of partnering up with regional organisations, e.g AU, sub-regional organisations and financial institutions

ix. <u>UN system coherence</u>: need for more integration and system coherence and greater coordination between three pillars human rights, development and peace and security

Possible capacity development areas

a) More investments in strengthening of AU's CMPCRD and similar mechanisms within RECs as well as NIfPs

b) Strengthening of the Africa Peace Fund with a focus on its PCRD elements

c) Think Tanks and advocacy entities need to profile the paradigm shift that is happening – the "sustaining peace" approach in order to catalyse continuous discourse on how to make it more practical to the practitioners at all levels (peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding)
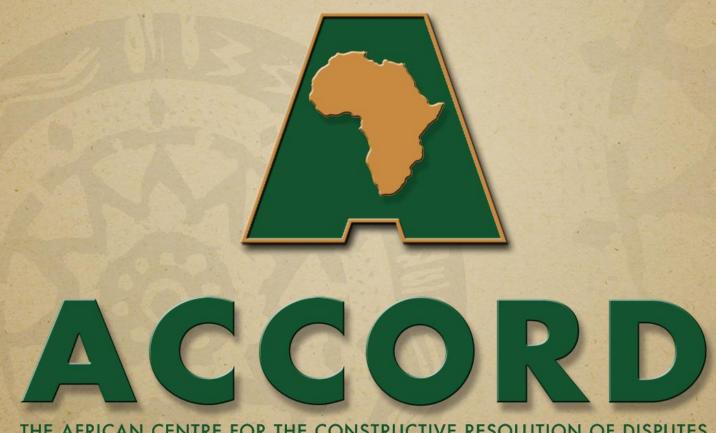
Ultimately...

"...there can be no peace without development, no development without peace and neither without human rights..."

- Kofi Annan