

future, can help in this capacity building.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should encourage the UN to provide space on every UN African crisis intervention or peacekeeping mission for an OAU Secretariat observer/trainee. The expectation would be that this person will take what they learn back to the OAU and train and educate others. In this same vein, the OAU should second operational staff to such functional divisions or agencies as DPKO and UNHCR. The UN should provide them with office space and on job training by assigning them to a variety of tasks through which they will learn the operational requirements of mounting the conflict resolution components of humanitarian or peacekeeping missions.

The OAU should be encouraged to sub-regionalise aspects of its conflict resolution operations. For example, sub-groupings of the Central Organ²⁸ of their new Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution could meet to undertake initiatives in their particular region. This will allow particularly the Southern African region²⁹ to undertake successful initiatives such as occurred in Lesotho, and thus create both success and precedence for other sub-regions.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should encourage the OAU Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to mandate sub-regional groupings of the Organ to design and proceed with initiatives that do not impose duties or obligations on other OAU members.

In conclusion, the OAU had a limited role in the Rwandan crisis. This was partly due to a lack of finances and most definitely a lack of operational capacity. Both of these factors are showing signs of improving, and the larger world community can play a significant role in strengthening this OAU capacity. Much more problematic is the question of OAU political will inasmuch as state sovereignty remains an overwhelming issue for African governments.

²⁸ this is composed of the State members of the Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government elected annually

²⁹ Strengthening Southern Africa sub region by building upon the economic and political links of SADCC (now with South Africa as partner not pariah) is clearly Canadian CIDA's key African strategy. Quite apart from the merits of putting resources where they will have the most impact, there is also the ancillary objective of fostering the southern region's economic growth and political stability as a example and sheet-anchor for the rest of Africa.