

Emerging Challenges in African Union's Peace and Security Strategy: A Comparative Analysis of UNAMID and AMISOM

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Abstracts: This comparative analysis delves into the emerging challenges within the African Union's (AU) peace and security strategy, focusing on two prominent peacekeeping missions: the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). By evaluating their achievements, obstacles, and approaches, considering African Union dynamics and geopolitical factors, the study assesses variables such as logistical efficiency, funding autonomy, and mission objectives' attainment. The findings offer valuable insights into the effectiveness of AU peacekeeping operations and provide recommendations for future missions. By analyzing UNAMID and AMISOM strategies, identifying commonalities and differences, and addressing challenges related to funding, logistics, and African Union coordination, this analysis contributes to a broader understanding of peacekeeping practices in Africa. It emphasizes the need for effective collaboration, highlights the importance of stability, and offers recommendations to strengthen the African Union's peace and security strategy, ultimately fostering peace and stability in the African Union.

Keywords: UNAMID, AMISOM, African Union, Peacekeeping Missions, Emerging Challenges, Mandate Interpretation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Peacekeeping operations play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security in conflict-affected regions worldwide [1]. Within Africa, the African Union (AU) has emerged as a significant actor in addressing regional challenges and implementing peacekeeping strategies [2]. This study conducts a comparative analysis of two prominent AU-led missions, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), to examine their strategies and approaches and shed light on the challenges faced by AU peacekeeping missions [3].

The UNAMID mission in Darfur and the AMISOM mission in Somalia have encountered significant challenges due to the complexity of the conflicts and unique regional dynamics. Issues such as resource limitations, political dynamics, security threats, and divergent interests among member states have posed considerable hurdles for both missions [4]. [5]. dissertation explores leadership within AU peace operations and conflict mediation using case studies of AU interventions in Madagascar and Somalia. The research emphasizes socially constructed leadership forms and their influence on relationships among AU states, sub-regional organizations, and the AU itself. It also raises questions about the AU's hierarchical leadership role in Africa and contributes to discussions on regional organizations in conflict resolution, particularly in liberal peacebuilding and cosmopolitan peacekeeping. The dissertation enriches our understanding of African conflict dynamics and informs policymaking for regionalized peace efforts.

Understanding the strategies and approaches employed by UNAMID and AMISOM is crucial for assessing the effectiveness of AU-led peacekeeping operations [6].

Analyzing these missions, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by AU peacekeeping missions and the measures taken to address them [7]. It seeks to understand how these missions have navigated resource constraints, political dynamics, security threats, and divergent interests among member states [6]. The findings of this analysis contribute to the broader discourse on peacekeeping effectiveness and offer recommendations to enhance future AU-led peacekeeping efforts [7].

1.1. Research Questions

How do the UNAMID and AMISOM peacekeeping missions contribute to peacebuilding and conflict resolution in their respective contexts?

What operational strategies have been employed by UNAMID and AMISOM, and how effective have they been in achieving their objectives?

What are the emerging challenges encountered by UNAMID and AMISOM during their missions, and how have these challenges been addressed?

What lessons can be learned from the experiences of UNAMID and AMISOM to enhance the African Union's (AU) peace and security strategy in future peacekeeping missions? Of regional cooperation, coordination, and responsive interventions. By strengthening partnerships, fostering dialogue, and prioritizing inclusivity, the AU can improve its approach to peacekeeping and contribute to long-lasting peace and stability in Africa.

1.2. Scope

This study examines leadership in African Union (AU) peace operations and conflict mediation, using case studies of AU interventions in Madagascar and Somalia. It investigates how leadership is developed in these contexts and analyzes interactions among regional actors. The research emphasizes the socially constructed nature of leadership and its implications for the AU's role on the continent. It contributes to debates on regional organizations' roles in global conflict resolution and enriches our understanding of peace dynamics in Africa. The study focuses on two AU-led missions, UNAMID and AMISOM, assessing their contributions, operational strategies, challenges, and lessons for AU's peace and security strategy [8].

2. Theoretical Argument

The existing literature on peace and security in Africa, the role of the African Union (AU), and the effectiveness of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) provides valuable insights for the comparative analysis conducted in this article. Scholars have emphasized the significance of regional organizations, such as the AU, in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, underscoring the importance of African-led solutions to address challenges on the continent [9].

The literature review delves into various theoretical frameworks and debates that inform the comparative analysis. One such framework is the concept of hybrid regionalism, which explores the collaboration between regional and international actors in peacekeeping operations. Scholars have examined the effectiveness of this approach in achieving peace and stability within African contexts [10].

Additionally, the literature explores debates surrounding the role of external actors in supporting African peace operations. It considers the extent to which external support enhances or hampers the effectiveness of AU-led missions, and analyzes the dynamics of collaboration between the AU, the United Nations, and other regional organizations [11].

Through a comprehensive literature review, this article establishes the background, significance, and contextual understanding necessary for the comparative analysis of UNAMID and AMISOM. By synthesizing existing knowledge and scholarly insights, this study aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the emerging challenges faced by the AU in its peace and security strategy, while also providing recommendations for improving future peacekeeping operations on the continent.

Main Key Topic: Coordination and Collaboration between UNAMID and AMISOM in Peacekeeping Efforts

In examining the interpretation and implementation of *mandates* by UNAMID and AMISOM, it is crucial to assess their effectiveness in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa [12]. discuss the case of UNAMID and its interpretation and implementation of the *mandate* in the context of hybrid peacekeeping, while [13]. focuses on AMISOM and its challenges in civilian protection.

Analyzing the interpretation and implementation of *mandates* allows for evaluating how their interpretations align with desired outcomes and examining the impact of differing interpretations on mission effectiveness. UNAMID's *mandate* involves protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian assistance, mediating between conflicting parties, and promoting a comprehensive peace process in Darfur. AMISOM aims to stabilize Somalia, create a secure environment, and enable political processes.

Assessing the level of autonomy granted to field commanders in making operational decisions is essential. Autonomy is influenced by factors such as rules of engagement, mission *mandates*, and the chain of command. Granting autonomy allows field commanders to respond swiftly and effectively to changing circumstances, make flexible decisions based on real-time information, and leverage local knowledge and relationships.

Examining how autonomy contributes to the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to changing circumstances on the ground shows the benefits of flexibility in decision-making and efficient resource allocation. Autonomy also impacts coordination and cooperation among troop-contributing countries and stakeholders, promoting clear lines of communication, shared understanding of objectives, trust, and confidence.

The coordination and collaboration between UNAMID and AMISOM in their peacekeeping efforts is crucial. Coordinated efforts enable the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and resources between the missions. This coordination involves joint training programs, intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and the establishment of common goals and strategies.

By evaluating the coordination and collaboration between UNAMID and AMISOM, a comprehensive understanding of their collective impact on regional peace and security can be gained. This analysis highlights potential areas for improvement in fostering greater synergy and cooperation between the two missions.

2.1. Peacekeeping Efforts of UNAMID and AMISOM in Africa

Peacekeeping efforts in Africa are vital for addressing conflicts and promoting stability and sustainable peace [14]. Organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, the European Union, and the African Union are actively involved in these peacekeeping operations. UNAMID and AMISOM are two prominent missions contributing to peacekeeping in Africa.

UNAMID, a United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping mission, focuses on Darfur, Sudan [15]. The study by Prinsloo and Van Niekerk analyzes UNAMID's interpretation and implementation of its *mandate* in the context of hybrid peacekeeping. Understanding how UNAMID addresses challenges and its effectiveness in peacekeeping provides valuable insights.

AMISOM, on the other hand, aims to stabilize Somalia and support its government [16]. The mission involves various international, European, and African organizations. Examining the coordination and collaboration between UNAMID and AMISOM reveals their collective efforts in addressing peace and security challenges.

Funding mechanisms and resource allocation are crucial aspects of peacekeeping missions. UNAMID's funding comes from UN member state assessments, voluntary contributions, and trust funds. AMISOM relies on African Union assessed contributions, voluntary contributions, and bilateral support [17]. Assessing the adequacy of financial resources and logistical support helps understand the operational capabilities of UNAMID and AMISOM.

Insufficient financial resources and logistical support can hinder the effectiveness of both missions. This can lead to limitations in troop deployment, logistical constraints, and reduced capacity for civilian protection. Evaluating the impact of funding and resourcing on mission effectiveness helps identify areas for improvement and resource prioritization.

Building alliances with local forces, regional actors, and international stakeholders enhances the peacekeeping efforts of UNAMID and AMISOM [18]. Collaborating with Sudanese security forces, regional organizations, and

international partners improves coordination, capacity-building, and political support. Analyzing the effectiveness of these alliances provides insights into their contributions to overall success and sustainability.

Assessing the overall effectiveness of UNAMID and AMISOM in achieving their *mandated* objectives is crucial. This evaluation considers factors such as protection of civilians, conflict resolution, peace processes, security and stabilization, state-building, and humanitarian support. Identifying challenges and accomplishments helps determine the impact of these missions on stability, security, and sustainable peace.

In conclusion, UNAMID and AMISOM play significant roles in peacekeeping efforts in Africa. Enhancing coordination, addressing funding challenges, building effective alliances, and evaluating mission effectiveness are essential for improving their contributions to stability, security, and sustainable peace. Lessons learned from UNAMID and AMISOM can inform policymakers and practitioners in refining peacekeeping strategies and strengthening the collective response to conflicts in the region (Dunton et al., 2023).

This article focuses on the challenges and regional implications of the conflicts in Darfur and Somalia, emphasizing the need for international intervention and collaboration. By understanding the historical context, root causes, and regional consequences of these conflicts, this article highlights the complexities faced by peacekeeping missions and emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing these challenges.

2.2. Historical Context and Root Causes

Examining the historical context of the conflicts in Darfur and Somalia reveals a range of factors contributing to their emergence and protracted nature. Long-standing grievances over land, resources, power, political marginalization, and economic disparities have fueled the conflict in Darfur. Similarly, the collapse of the central government, clan-based rivalries, and external interventions have contributed to the conflict in Somalia. Understanding these root causes is essential for comprehending the challenges faced by peacekeeping missions and guiding effective conflict resolution strategies.

Peacekeeping missions in Darfur and Somalia encounter multifaceted challenges due to the historical grievances and socio-political complexities of these conflicts. Addressing the underlying causes, such as political, ethnic, economic, and historical grievances, is crucial for sustainable peacebuilding efforts and effective conflict resolution. Peacekeepers must navigate complex dynamics, engage with diverse stakeholders, and manage potential spoilers to promote stability and peace.

The conflicts in Darfur and Somalia have significant regional implications, posing risks to neighboring countries and the broader region. The protracted nature of these conflicts, marked by violence, displacement, and human suffering, can create spillover effects, and destabilize neighboring countries. The presence of armed groups, cross-border movements, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons threaten regional security and impede peace efforts.

Given the regional implications, international intervention is essential in addressing the challenges posed by the conflicts in Darfur and Somalia. Peace operations, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), play a crucial role in mitigating spillover effects, protecting civilians, and supporting efforts to stabilize the region. International collaboration, including support from the United Nations and regional organizations, is necessary to address complex challenges and contribute to conflict resolution.

In summary, the conflicts in Darfur and Somalia present complex challenges and have significant regional implications. Understanding the historical context and root causes of these conflicts is crucial for comprehending the multifaceted dynamics that peacekeeping missions face. Addressing the underlying causes, such as historical grievances and socio-political complexities, is key to achieving sustainable peace and effective conflict resolution. The regional implications, including spillover effects and threats to neighboring countries, underscore the rationale for international intervention and collaboration. By working together, the international community can mitigate the

regional consequences of these conflicts, protect civilians, promote stability, and contribute to the resolution of the ongoing conflicts in Darfur and Somalia.

2.3. Mandate Interpretation and Implementation Challenges

The interpretation and implementation of *mandates* in peacekeeping missions are critical aspects that shape the effectiveness and outcomes of such operations. UNAMID and AMISOM, as peacekeeping missions in Darfur and Somalia respectively, have faced significant challenges in understanding and implementing their *mandates* within complex and dynamic conflict environments. This section will delve into the intricacies of *mandate* interpretation and implementation, highlighting the difficulties encountered by the missions and examining strategies employed to address these challenges. By analyzing specific examples and case studies, a comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved will be gained.

One of the primary challenges in *mandate* interpretation lies in comprehending the intricacies of the *mandates* themselves. Peacekeeping *mandates* are often broad and multifaceted, requiring careful analysis and contextual understanding to determine the most appropriate course of action. In the case of UNAMID and AMISOM, their *mandates* include tasks such as protecting civilians, facilitating political processes, supporting humanitarian efforts, and promoting security and stability [13]. Interpreting these *mandates* in the specific context of Darfur and Somalia necessitates a nuanced understanding of the root causes, dynamics, and actors involved in the conflicts.

Furthermore, the fluid nature of conflicts presents implementation challenges for the missions. Conflict situations are dynamic, with evolving power dynamics, shifting alliances, and changing security threats. This fluidity often requires peacekeepers to adapt their approaches and strategies to effectively address emerging challenges [13]. For example, AMISOM has had to adjust its operational tactics in response to evolving strategies employed by Al-Shabaab, a militant group operating in Somalia [13]. Flexibility and agility in *mandate* implementation are crucial to effectively respond to the changing dynamics on the ground.

Engaging with a wide array of stakeholders, such as host governments, rebel groups, and affected communities, is a crucial component of effectively implementing peacekeeping mandates. However, this engagement often encounters significant hurdles due to conflicting interests, power dynamics, and historical grievances. Both UNAMID and AMISOM have grappled with the complex task of balancing their objectives with the expectations and demands of these diverse stakeholders. For instance, negotiating access to conflict-affected areas and gaining the cooperation of armed groups has consistently proven to be a formidable challenge for both missions.

Furthermore, successful mandate implementation relies heavily on coordination and collaboration with regional organizations and host governments. Achieving a unified and integrated approach to peacekeeping efforts is essential, but it can be hindered by disparities in priorities, strategies, and capabilities among these various actors. To surmount these challenges, effective communication channels, joint planning efforts, and a shared understanding of objectives are paramount among all involved stakeholders.

Addressing the difficulties in interpreting and executing mandates demands innovative and adaptable strategies. UNAMID and AMISOM have employed diverse tactics to navigate these intricacies. For example, they have implemented community engagement initiatives, facilitated local mediation endeavors, and conducted capacity-building programs. These approaches serve the purpose of bridging the gap between the peacekeeping missions and local communities, fostering trust and collaboration as integral elements in the pursuit of sustainable peace.

In summary, *mandate* interpretation and implementation pose significant challenges in peacekeeping missions such as UNAMID and AMISOM. The broad and multifaceted nature of *mandates*, coupled with the fluidity of conflicts, necessitates careful analysis and adaptive strategies. Engaging with local stakeholders and ensuring effective coordination among all actors involved are crucial for successful *mandate* implementation. By addressing these challenges head-on and employing innovative approaches, peacekeeping missions can strive to overcome obstacles and contribute to lasting peace and stability in conflict-affected regions.

A comparative analysis of peace operations conducted by African regional organizations and the United Nations in Africa from 1990 to 2012 reveals similarities, differences, and trends in their approaches to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts on the continent. The findings emphasize the significance of regional organizations' involvement in addressing conflicts within their regions and highlight the importance of collaboration and coordination between regional organizations and the United Nations. Strengthening partnerships and enhancing the capacity of regional organizations can contribute to more effective and sustainable peace operations in Africa. Adequate funding mechanisms and resources are crucial for supporting peace operations, and financial support from the United Nations and other international stakeholders is needed to ensure the success of peace efforts by African regional organizations.

Comparative Analysis of African Regional Organizations and United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Africa

The comparative analysis of peace operations conducted by African regional organizations and the United Nations provides valuable lessons for future peace operations in Africa. Regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), have demonstrated a willingness to intervene in conflicts within their own regions, reflecting a sense of regional ownership and responsibility. The United Nations, with its broader international support and access to resources, has exhibited a broader *mandate* and a more extensive presence in various African countries, illustrating the organization's global reach and responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

Both African regional organizations and the United Nations have faced challenges in their peacekeeping efforts in Africa. Funding constraints, resource limitations, and complex political dynamics have been common obstacles encountered by both actors. However, the United Nations, with its global reach and access to international resources, has displayed greater capacity in deploying larger peacekeeping forces and engaging in multifaceted tasks, such as peacebuilding and civilian protection.

Lessons can be learned from the experiences of African regional organizations and the United Nations in conducting peace operations in Africa. These lessons highlight the significance of regional organizations' involvement in addressing conflicts within their regions and emphasize the importance of collaboration and coordination between regional organizations and the United Nations. Strengthening partnerships and enhancing the capacity of regional organizations can contribute to more effective and sustainable peace operations in Africa.

The findings also underscore the need for adequate funding mechanisms and resources to support peace operations in Africa. The United Nations and other international stakeholders should prioritize financial support to African regional organizations to ensure the success of their peace efforts. Financial contributions can be made through assessed contributions from member states, voluntary contributions, and partnerships with regional financial institutions. Adequate funding will enable regional organizations to build their capacity, strengthen their peacekeeping forces, and effectively address the complex challenges of conflicts in Africa.

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of peace operations conducted by African regional organizations and the United Nations in Africa reveals both similarities and differences in their approaches. Both actors have made significant contributions to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts on the continent, albeit with varying scopes and capacities. Collaborative efforts and resource mobilization are essential for enhancing the effectiveness of peace operations in Africa. By capitalizing on their respective strengths and fostering partnerships, African regional organizations and the United Nations can better address the complex challenges and contribute to sustainable peace and security in Africa. Financial support from the United Nations and other international stakeholders is critical for ensuring the success of peace efforts by African regional organizations. Adequate funding mechanisms will enable regional organizations to build their capacity and effectively address the challenges of conflicts in Africa.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

Enhancing peacebuilding in Africa is a complex *endeavor* that requires addressing a range of challenges faced by African regional organizations and the United Nations in their peacekeeping operations. These challenges have shaped their approaches and outcomes, providing valuable lessons for future peacebuilding efforts.

Resource limitations have been a persistent challenge for African regional organizations, such as ECOMOG and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Inadequate funding, logistical support, and a lack of specialized equipment hinder their ability to effectively carry out peacekeeping operations. Insufficient resources limit their capacity to deploy and sustain peacekeeping forces, impeding their ability to fulfill their *mandates*.

Political dynamics and cooperation among member states within regional organizations also pose challenges to peacekeeping efforts. Divergent national interests, power struggles, and rivalries among member states can hinder the effectiveness of peace operations. Achieving *consensus* and fostering coordinated decision-making within regional organizations are crucial for successful peacekeeping. By aligning national interests and prioritizing the collective goal of peace and stability, regional organizations can enhance the effectiveness of their peacekeeping operations.

African regional organizations have provided valuable lessons in peacekeeping through their demonstrated regional ownership and responsiveness. ECOMOG's interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone *exemplify* the importance of regional ownership in peace operations. By leveraging local knowledge, cultural understanding, and regional relationships, African regional organizations can enhance the effectiveness of their peacekeeping operations and contribute to sustainable peace in their respective regions.

Coordination and collaboration with other regional and international actors are also essential for successful peacekeeping operations. Cooperation with the United Nations, neighboring countries, and relevant stakeholders enhances the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts and contributes to regional stability. By sharing information, coordinating actions, and leveraging the strengths and resources of different actors, African regional organizations can achieve better outcomes in their peacekeeping *endeavors*.

The United Nations faces challenges related to political *mandates* and consent. Gaining the cooperation and consent of conflicting parties, particularly non-state armed groups, can be a complex and daunting task that may impede the implementation of peacekeeping operations. Negotiating and mediating among the parties involved in the conflicts to secure their consent is crucial for the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Resource allocation and funding present additional challenges for the United Nations. It heavily relies on contributions from member states for its peacekeeping operations, leading to uncertainties in resource allocation and funding. Insufficient financial resources, delays in contributions, and limited access to specialized equipment and technology pose formidable challenges to the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Addressing these challenges requires exploring innovative funding mechanisms, ensuring timely and predictable contributions, and *mobilizing* additional resources from international partners and donors.

In conclusion, resource limitations, political dynamics, coordination, and funding challenges are significant hurdles faced by African regional organizations and the United Nations in their peacekeeping operations. By addressing these challenges through enhanced resource mobilization, political dialogue, coordination mechanisms, and sustained funding, both African regional organizations and the United Nations can strengthen their peacekeeping efforts and contribute to a more peaceful and stable Africa.

4. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The analysis highlights the significance of early intervention as a crucial factor in peacekeeping effectiveness. Timely action in de-escalating conflicts can prevent further violence and contribute to stability. Additionally, the availability of adequate resources, including sufficient funding and troop deployments, plays a vital role in ensuring

the successful implementation of peacekeeping operations. Insufficient resources can hinder mission effectiveness and limit the ability to address complex challenges on the ground.

Furthermore, the importance of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, African Union, regional organizations, and troop-contributing countries is emphasized. Collaborative efforts allow for the pooling of resources, sharing of expertise, and maximizing the impact of peacekeeping operations. Strengthening logistical efficiency, such as improving rapid deployment capabilities and addressing infrastructure limitations, is essential for timely and effective responses to conflicts.

Sustainable funding mechanisms, such as the African Peace Fund, are essential to provide predictable and adequate resources for peacekeeping operations. This autonomy in funding enables African regional organizations to address conflicts more effectively and sustain their peacekeeping efforts.

Addressing coordination and communication issues is crucial for enhancing mission effectiveness. Strengthening coordination mechanisms between various stakeholders minimizes challenges and improves operational efficiency. Clear *mandates* and improved communication channels facilitate effective collaboration and decision-making.

Learning from best practices, such as the experiences of successful missions like UNAMID and AMISOM, can inform future peacekeeping strategies. Identifying lessons learned and implementing them in peacekeeping operations contributes to continuous improvement and better outcomes.

Furthermore, investing in the capacity-building of African regional organizations is vital for advancing regional peace support capability. Enhancing their ability to address conflicts effectively and promoting stability requires training, infrastructure development, and the professionalization of African militaries.

Bridging the gap between research and policy is essential to ensure evidence-based decision-making. Further research should focus on areas such as leadership dynamics, gender distribution in peacekeeping missions, and the role of the global South in peace operations. Policy efforts should prioritize structural remedies, equitable support, and professionalization to avoid favoritism and enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

considering these factors and addressing the challenges faced, African regional organizations can strengthen their contributions to resolving conflicts and promoting long-term stability in Africa.

4.1. Comparative Assessment: Logistical Efficiency of UNAMID and AMISOM

The logistical efficiency of peacekeeping missions is crucial for their overall effectiveness and the successful achievement of their *mandates*. In the case of UNAMID and AMISOM, both missions have encountered significant logistical challenges that have impacted their operational capabilities and effectiveness.

UNAMID, operating in the conflict-affected region of Darfur, faced substantial infrastructure constraints that posed significant logistical hurdles. Darfur's remote and inhospitable terrain, lack of developed infrastructure, and limited transportation networks made it difficult to deploy personnel, equipment, and supplies to the mission area [19]. The vastness of the region and the absence of proper roads and communication systems hindered the timely movement of peacekeepers and impeded their ability to respond swiftly to emerging security threats or humanitarian needs. These challenges significantly affected UNAMID's ability to fulfill its *mandate* effectively.

Similarly, AMISOM, deployed in Somalia, encountered complex logistical challenges. Somalia has experienced years of conflict and instability, resulting in damaged infrastructure and inadequate logistical support systems. AMISOM faced difficulties in coordinating and maintaining supply chains for essential resources, including food, water, fuel, and medical supplies [20]. Limited infrastructure, including airports, ports, and roads, hampered the timely and efficient delivery of critical supplies to peacekeepers stationed in various locations across Somalia. These logistical constraints strained mission operations and affected the morale and effectiveness of deployed personnel.

The impact of these logistical challenges on the effectiveness of UNAMID and AMISOM cannot be overstated. Delays in the deployment of personnel and equipment, inadequate access to essential supplies, and difficulties in maintaining sustained logistical support compromised the missions' ability to carry out their *mandated* tasks promptly and efficiently. The limited mobility and constrained resource allocation hindered the missions' capacity to protect civilians, maintain security, and facilitate peacebuilding efforts.

To address these challenges and enhance logistical efficiency, several strategies can be considered. First, improving infrastructure development in conflict-affected regions, such as building or rehabilitating roads, airports, and communication networks, would facilitate the movement of personnel and supplies. This requires collaboration between the missions, host governments, and international partners to invest in infrastructure projects aimed at supporting peace operations.

Second, implementing effective resource allocation mechanisms and supply chain management systems is crucial. Clear protocols for procurement, storage, and distribution of essential supplies should be established, ensuring transparency and accountability in the logistics process. Leveraging technology and digital solutions, such as tracking systems and data analytics, can optimize supply chain management and mitigate logistical challenges.

Third, fostering partnerships and collaboration with regional organizations, host governments, and local communities can help overcome logistical constraints. Engaging local actors and leveraging their knowledge and resources can enhance the missions' logistical capabilities and facilitate smoother operations. Cooperation with regional bodies, such as the African Union and neighboring countries, can provide additional logistical support and expertise [35].

In conclusion, both UNAMID and AMISOM have faced significant logistical challenges that have impacted their operational effectiveness. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, incorporating infrastructure development, efficient resource allocation, and strategic partnerships. By improving logistical efficiency, these missions can enhance their capacity to protect civilians, maintain security, and contribute to sustainable peace in their respective operational areas.

Coordination and collaboration efforts between UNAMID and AMISOM have played a crucial role in enhancing peacekeeping operations and achieving mission objectives in Africa. Both missions have demonstrated successful joint operations, information sharing mechanisms, and cooperation with regional organizations, leading to positive outcomes and benefits.

One example of successful joint operations is seen in the cooperation between UNAMID (United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur) and AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) in addressing conflicts in Sudan and Somalia, respectively. In Sudan, UNAMID, consisting of both UN and AU personnel, worked together to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and support the peace process. Their joint efforts helped to stabilize the situation, reduce violence, and create an enabling environment for political negotiations.

Similarly, in Somalia, AMISOM, a regional peacekeeping mission authorized by the AU, has *collaborated* effectively with the UN to counter insurgent groups and establish a secure environment. The UN has provided support to AMISOM in terms of logistical assistance, funding, and capacity building. This cooperation has been instrumental in improving security conditions, enabling the delivery of humanitarian aid, and fostering political stability in Somalia.

Information sharing mechanisms have been crucial in facilitating coordination between UNAMID, AMISOM, and regional organizations. Regular exchange of intelligence, situational updates, and operational plans has allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the conflict dynamics and the development of effective strategies. Sharing information on security threats, peacebuilding initiatives, and political developments has enhanced the ability of both missions to adapt and respond to evolving challenges on the ground.

African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations, exemplified by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), face persistent challenges that require attention and improvement. The AU's peace and security strategy must address various issues to enhance its effectiveness in fostering peace and stability in Africa [37].

One of the key challenges faced by AU peacekeeping operations is logistical efficiency. Rapid deployment of forces and resources is crucial in effectively responding to conflicts and maintaining stability. Efforts should be made to improve logistical capabilities, including transportation, communication, and supply chains. This can involve strengthening infrastructure, investing in technology and equipment, and establishing effective coordination mechanisms among contributing countries [44].

Funding autonomy is another significant challenge for AU peacekeeping operations. The reliance on external funding sources, such as the United Nations and donor countries, can limit the AU's ability to prioritize and sustain its peacekeeping efforts. To overcome this challenge, initiatives like the African Peace Fund have been established to provide predictable and sustainable funding. However, further development and support for such initiatives are necessary to ensure adequate resources for AU missions [32].

Effective coordination and collaboration with regional organizations play a crucial role in strengthening AU peacekeeping operations. Regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), possess valuable knowledge, expertise, and understanding of local contexts. By leveraging the strengths and resources of regional partners, AU missions can enhance their operational effectiveness, promote local ownership of peace processes, and foster sustainable peace and security [44].

Furthermore, addressing the diversity among member states is vital for successful AU peacekeeping operations. Each contributing country may have varying levels of military capabilities, resources, and strategic interests. Harmonizing these diverse perspectives and ensuring unified command and coordination are critical for achieving mission objectives. Regular consultations, joint training exercises, and standardization of procedures can contribute to a cohesive and effective peacekeeping force [23].

To prioritize civilian protection, robust mechanisms should be established within AU peacekeeping operations. This includes preventing and responding to human rights abuses, sexual and gender-based violence, and attacks on vulnerable populations. Taking lessons from successful initiatives such as the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), community-based approaches, such as local peace committees and early warning systems, can be implemented to enhance civilian protection strategies [21].

In addition to addressing challenges related to logistical efficiency, funding autonomy, regional coordination, and civilian protection, there are further aspects that can contribute to strengthening AU peacekeeping operations.

One crucial aspect is the need for effective leadership and governance within AU missions. Strong leadership at various levels, from mission commanders to field officers, is essential for ensuring efficient decision-making, coordination, and implementation of peacekeeping strategies. Adequate training and capacity-building programs can enhance the leadership skills of AU personnel, enabling them to effectively manage complex peacekeeping environments (Idachaba, 2017) [22].

Moreover, ensuring gender mainstreaming and promoting women's participation in peacekeeping operations is critical. Women's inclusion not only contributes to gender equality but also brings diverse perspectives, expertise, and skills that can enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts. Efforts should be made to increase the recruitment, training, and deployment of female peacekeepers, as well as incorporating a gender perspective in mission planning and operations [25].

Furthermore, addressing issues of discipline, corruption, and inefficiencies within the AU peacekeeping forces is essential. Mechanisms for monitoring and accountability should be established to prevent misconduct and maintain high standards of professionalism among peacekeepers. This includes robust systems for reporting and addressing

allegations of misconduct, conducting regular assessments, and providing adequate training on ethical conduct and human rights [23].

To support these efforts, partnerships with international organizations, such as the United Nations and regional bodies like ECOWAS, should be strengthened. Cooperation and resource-sharing among these entities can enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations. Additionally, engagement with external actors, including donor countries and non-governmental organizations, can provide valuable support in terms of funding, expertise, and technical assistance [24].

In conclusion, addressing the challenges related to logistical efficiency, funding autonomy, regional coordination, civilian protection, leadership, gender mainstreaming, discipline, community engagement, and partnerships are crucial for strengthening AU peacekeeping operations. By implementing effective strategies in these areas and promoting ongoing research, policy efforts, and collaboration, the AU can enhance its ability to contribute to peace, stability, and sustainable development in Africa. Strengthening AU peacekeeping operations will require the commitment and collective efforts of AU member states, regional partners, and the international community.

4.2. Challenges and Feasibility

The complexities of enhancing peacebuilding in Africa stem from the challenges confronted by African regional organizations and the United Nations during peacekeeping operations. These challenges have significantly influenced their approaches and outcomes, offering valuable insights for future peacebuilding endeavors.

This study emphasizes the need to address these challenges, making it crucial for African regional organizations and the UN to adapt their strategies accordingly. Their experiences serve as important lessons that can guide and inform future peacebuilding efforts in the region.

In summary, the lessons learned from these challenges should be integrated into future peacebuilding initiatives, facilitating more effective approaches to conflict resolution and peacekeeping in Africa [36].

In summary, the lessons learned from these challenges should be integrated into future peacebuilding initiatives, facilitating more effective approaches to conflict resolution and peacekeeping in Africa [26].

One of the persistent challenges for African regional organizations, such as ECOMOG and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), is resource limitations [27].

Inadequate funding, logistical support, and a lack of specialized equipment pose significant obstacles to the effective execution of peacekeeping operations. Insufficient resources constrain their ability to deploy and sustain peacekeeping forces, ultimately hindering their capacity to fulfill their mandates [38]. Furthermore, the study conducted by Dwyer and Gbla in 2022 highlights the often-underestimated issue of family-related stress in peacekeeping missions. Through interviews with Sierra Leonean soldiers and key decision-makers, the research identifies specific factors contributing to family-related tensions and reduced morale among these peacekeepers. Notably, the study emphasizes that family-related stress during deployment extends beyond family separation and is closely intertwined with the historical trajectories of the armed forces and the socio-economic conditions within the sending country. This research sheds light on the unique challenges faced by soldiers and their families in lower-income countries contributing troops to peacekeeping missions.

Addressing these resource constraints requires increased financial support from member states, as well as exploring innovative funding mechanisms and partnerships with international donors [39].

Political dynamics and cooperation among member states within regional organizations also pose challenges to peacekeeping efforts. Divergent national interests, power struggles, and rivalries among member states can hinder the effectiveness of peace operations [40]. Achieving consensus and fostering coordinated decision-making within regional organizations are crucial for successful peacekeeping endeavors. By aligning national interests and

prioritizing the collective goal of peace and stability, regional organizations can enhance the effectiveness of their peacekeeping operations. Additionally, strengthening regional mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, such as early warning systems and mediation capacities, can contribute to more effective peacebuilding [41].

[42]. analyze Africa's evolving role, particularly that of the African Union (AU) and various sub-regional organizations, in assuming greater responsibilities for peace operations across the continent since the early 21st century. This report, in collaboration with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), extends previous RAND research on nation-building led by the United States, Europe, and the United Nations (UN). It delivers a comprehensive analysis of African-led peace operations, drawing lessons and recommendations from detailed case studies encompassing missions in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Darfur, the Comoros, Somalia, and the Lake Chad Basin. The study offers valuable and concise insights into these efforts.

[43] delves into the intricate dynamics of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and its initial portrayal as a model for peacekeeping collaboration between the UN and African regional organizations. However, as time elapsed, UNAMID encountered challenges from various stakeholders, ultimately prompting both the UN and AU to abandon the hybrid approach. The article explores the connection between the diminishing legitimacy of UNAMID and the evolving self-legitimation strategies employed by both organizations.

At the outset, the UN and AU engaged in mutual legitimation while establishing UNAMID. However, they later resorted to invoking historical narratives and distinct normative standards to assert competing claims of authority. This research offers insights into the inherently political nature of inter-organizational relations.

In summary, Spandler's study provides a nuanced analysis of the UNAMID mission and the evolving dynamics between the UN and AU. It underscores the significance of self-legitimation strategies in shaping the landscape of peacekeeping cooperation.

African regional organizations have provided valuable lessons in peacekeeping through their demonstrated regional ownership and responsiveness [33]. ECOMOG's interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone exemplify the importance of regional ownership in peace operations. By leveraging local knowledge, cultural understanding, and regional relationships, African regional organizations can enhance the effectiveness of their peacekeeping operations and contribute to sustainable peace in their respective regions. These organizations should continue to build on their experiences, share best practices, and strengthen their institutional capacities to improve their peacekeeping efforts [34].

Coordination and collaboration with other regional and international actors are also essential for successful peacekeeping operations. Cooperation with the United Nations, neighboring countries, and relevant stakeholders enhances the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts and contributes to regional stability [30]. By sharing information, coordinating actions, and leveraging the strengths and resources of different actors, African regional organizations can achieve better outcomes in their peacekeeping endeavors. The United Nations, as a global actor, can provide support in terms of technical expertise, resources, and coordination mechanisms [31].

The United Nations faces challenges related to political mandates and consent. Gaining the cooperation and consent of conflicting parties, particularly non-state armed groups, can be a complex and daunting task that may impede the implementation of peacekeeping operations [29]. Negotiating and mediating among the parties involved in the conflicts to secure their consent is crucial for the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Strengthening political dialogue, promoting inclusivity in peace processes, and building trust among conflicting parties are important steps toward achieving sustainable peace.

Resource allocation and funding present additional challenges for the United Nations. It heavily relies on contributions from member states for its peacekeeping operations, leading to uncertainties in resource allocation and funding (Henke, 2019). Insufficient financial resources, delays in contributions, and limited access to specialized equipment and technology pose formidable challenges to the effectiveness of United Nations

peacekeeping missions. Addressing these challenges requires exploring innovative funding mechanisms, ensuring timely and predictable contributions, and mobilizing additional resources from international partners and donors.

In conclusion, resource limitations, political dynamics, coordination, and funding challenges are significant hurdles faced by African regional organizations and the United Nations in their peacekeeping operations. By addressing these challenges through enhanced resource mobilization, political dialogue, coordination mechanisms, and sustained funding, both African regional organizations and the United Nations can strengthen their peacekeeping efforts and contribute to a more peaceful and stable Africa. Continued research, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building efforts are essential to improving peacebuilding practices and achieving lasting peace in the continent [28].

4.3. Lessons from United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Within the challenges and feasibility of implementing effective peacebuilding strategies in Africa, there are several key details that deserve further elaboration.

One critical aspect is the adoption of multidimensional approaches in peacekeeping operations, as embraced by the United Nations. By integrating military, political, humanitarian, and developmental efforts, peacekeeping missions can address the root causes of conflicts and support sustainable peacebuilding. This comprehensive approach recognizes the interconnected nature of conflict dynamics and the need for holistic responses to achieve lasting peace.

Another crucial consideration is the protection of civilians and the promotion of human rights within peacekeeping operations. The United Nations has increasingly prioritized civilian protection strategies, such as early warning systems, local peace committees, and human rights monitoring. These efforts are essential in ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations and creating an environment conducive to peace and stability.

To effectively implement peacebuilding strategies, collaboration and cooperation among African regional organizations and the United Nations are paramount. Establishing regular consultations, joint planning mechanisms, and platforms for information sharing can enhance coordination and maximize the impact of peacebuilding efforts. By pooling resources, expertise, and experiences, actors can leverage collective strengths and improve the effectiveness of peace operations.

Resource mobilization and sustainable funding mechanisms are crucial considerations in peacebuilding. Both African regional organizations and the United Nations need to prioritize resource mobilization and explore innovative funding options. This may involve assessing contributions from member states, seeking voluntary contributions, and establishing partnerships with regional financial institutions. Sustainable and predictable funding is essential to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

Investing in capacity building and training programs is also imperative. By enhancing the capabilities, skills, and knowledge of peacekeeping forces, African regional organizations and the United Nations can improve their rapid deployment capabilities, logistical support, and operational effectiveness. This investment in capacity building contributes to more efficient and impactful peace operations.

Finally, effective peacebuilding must go beyond peacekeeping and address the root causes of conflicts. This includes focusing on conflict prevention, promoting good governance, inclusivity, socio-economic development, and addressing historical grievances. By addressing the underlying factors that contribute to conflicts, sustainable peacebuilding and long-term stability can be achieved.

In conclusion, implementing effective peacebuilding strategies in Africa requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses multidimensional efforts, civilian protection, collaboration, sustainable funding, capacity building, and addressing root causes. By considering and addressing these key details, African regional organizations, the United Nations, and other stakeholders can contribute to more effective, sustainable, and comprehensive peacebuilding efforts on the continent.

4.4. Political Will

Implementing effective peacebuilding strategies in Africa requires addressing various challenges and obstacles. One of the primary challenges is the need for sustained political will. Political leaders at the national and regional levels must demonstrate a commitment to peacebuilding efforts. To strengthen political will, it is essential to promote a shared understanding of the benefits of peace and stability. Diplomatic engagement, awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts can play a crucial role in highlighting the positive outcomes of peacebuilding, such as improved security, economic development, and social cohesion.

Another significant challenge is resource constraints. Limited funding, inadequate logistical support, and a lack of specialized equipment hinder the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. To overcome these constraints, innovative approaches are required. Exploring alternative funding sources, such as public-private partnerships and crowdfunding initiatives, can help mobilize resources. Engaging international donors and regional financial institutions in providing sustainable and predictable funding can also contribute to addressing resource limitations.

Divergent interests among member states within the African Union can complicate the implementation of peacebuilding strategies. National priorities, political agendas, and conflicting interests may hinder *consensus* and coordinated decision-making. Overcoming this challenge requires inclusive dialogue and mediation to find common ground and shared objectives. Building trust among member states and fostering a sense of collective responsibility for peace and stability are crucial in aligning divergent interests towards a common vision.

Security challenges pose significant obstacles to peacebuilding efforts in Africa. The presence of armed groups, terrorism, and transnational criminal networks disrupt stability, pose risks to peacekeeping forces, and hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid. Addressing security challenges requires robust coordination and cooperation among regional organizations, the United Nations, and national security forces. Sharing intelligence, conducting joint operations, and enhancing capacity building initiatives are essential to mitigating security threats and creating a secure environment for peacebuilding activities.

Building and strengthening institutional capacity is another critical aspect of effective peacebuilding in Africa. Enhancing technical expertise, operational capabilities, and administrative structures within African regional organizations and national institutions is vital. Investing in capacity building programs that focus on areas such as conflict analysis, mediation, human rights protection, gender mainstreaming, and other relevant aspects will enable organizations to respond effectively to crises and implement sustainable peacebuilding initiatives.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of the African Union's peace and security strategy, focusing on the UNAMID and AMISOM missions, has shed light on the challenges and achievements of peacekeeping efforts in Africa. To enhance peacebuilding in the region, addressing political will, resource constraints, divergent interests, security threats, and institutional capacity is of utmost importance. Additionally, promoting inclusivity, gender mainstreaming, and strong partnerships with civil society can further bolster the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives.

Key findings from the analysis highlight the significance of cultivating political will at national, regional, and international levels, as sustained support from leaders is crucial for successful peacekeeping operations. Effective regional coordination mechanisms play a vital role in harmonizing efforts between African regional organizations and the United Nations in peacekeeping *endeavors*. Transparent financial management systems are necessary to

ensure efficient utilization of peacekeeping funds, while early involvement of conflict resolution experts can prevent conflicts from escalating.

Moreover, integrated approaches combining military, political, developmental, and humanitarian strategies offer better prospects for achieving lasting peace and stability. Capacity-building efforts should extend beyond military capabilities to encompass governance, rule of law, and human rights promotion, which are equally vital aspects of peacebuilding.

The analysis also emphasizes the significance of information-sharing and intelligence cooperation among regional organizations, the UN, and international partners to effectively address security threats. Furthermore, local ownership and community engagement are vital to enhance the legitimacy and sustainability of peacekeeping missions, while early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms can help identify and address emerging security challenges promptly.

The involvement of women in peace processes has been shown to contribute to more inclusive and durable peace agreements, highlighting the importance of gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding strategies.

Based on the findings, several recommendations emerge. Prioritizing conflict prevention strategies, investing in early warning systems, and engaging in diplomatic efforts can help address potential crises proactively. Secure, predictable, and sustainable funding mechanisms are essential to overcome resource constraints and ensure uninterrupted peacekeeping operations.

Encouraging national governments to allocate sufficient resources to peace and security initiatives and integrate peacebuilding into national development agendas is crucial. Strengthening coordination between the African Union, regional bodies, and international partners can lead to a more robust collective response to peace and security challenges in Africa.

Capacity-building programs should include training in conflict resolution, human rights, and gender-sensitive approaches. Efforts to combat corruption within peacekeeping operations are essential to ensure funds are effectively utilized and objectives are achieved.

Promoting women's leadership and participation in peacekeeping missions and decision-making processes is vital to foster inclusive and sustainable peace. Building partnerships with the private sector and regional financial institutions can explore innovative funding mechanisms for peacekeeping operations.

Tailored approaches that consider the unique challenges and dynamics of each conflict zone should be adopted, as a one-size-fits-all approach may not be effective.

Lastly, enhancing collaboration with African civil society organizations amplifies their roles in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes.

By adopting these findings and implementing the provided recommendations, the African Union, member states, regional organizations, and international partners can significantly strengthen peace and security efforts in Africa. A collective commitment to addressing challenges and embracing innovative approaches will contribute to realizing a peaceful and stable continent where prosperity and social progress can thrive for all its people.

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