

10 STEPS TO PROMOTE A PAN AFRICAN SECURITY SECTOR COOPERATION & CONVERGENCE

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THE PROBLEM:

Why are security structures in Africa fragmented and silo in National buckets in a continent crying for unity and convergence of security operations in order to promote peace and unity?

Africa has become the scavenging ground for different world powers who have carved out the continent through Divide and Rule tactics that has made a cohesive African security cooperation impossible for over a hundred years.

Although many security cooperation institutions exist on paper; in reality security convergence has eluded Africa due to many factors I want us to look at today.

With mutual mistrust, dozens of wars and civil conflicts, massive corruption and a penchant for sit-tight leadership; a perfect storm has been created which makes a Pan-African security convergence almost impossible to create in reality.

A divided Africa will always remain under-developed and remain a playing ground for powers who play us against one another and keep us individually small and collectively weakened.

Such an Africa will remain dependent on Aids and Handouts while its resources and people are exploited for the development of Global powers. This reality must come to an end.

Africa needs a new reality that will promote security convergence and pan-African responses to global challenges.

So what are the **TEN STEPS** needed to promote a **Pan-African Security Sector Convergence and Cooperation**?

THE SOLUTIONS

- 1) **Change of emphasis from just Force alone to Service.** Modernisation of laws to reflect modern realities and away from antiquated colonial methods and powers.
 - a. African Security Force have been used more to repress Nation's citizens than against external threats.
- 2) **Greater political convergence amongst African Political Leaders on What the future of Africa should be.** - At least agree on a unified direction of Travel. The EU project has only been sustained to a political will and acceptance of the direction of travel by all members. That is why core decision are still based on Consensus with one NO vote enough to STOP the action.
- 3) **Reorientation from Regime Preservation to Citizen Protection.** An Africa Security project has to be focused on embedding the Rule of Law and Human Rights of Citizens
 - a. Better Accountability for misbehaviours and openness about discipline matters from all Security Agencies.
- 4) **Less Opacity in Security matters.** We know more about European and American defence systems and procurement than we do about that of African countries; who still shrouds most things in secrecy.
- 5) **More Intra-African exchange of Personnel, Methods, Ideas and Best Practice.**

- 6) **A Pan African Security Agency to interface with Interpol and Global Agencies on behalf of Africa.** - Less individualist silos
- 7) **Promotion of principles of Interoperability of Systems and Harmonisation of Standard Operating Procedure** across the continent
- 8) **Political Will that emphasises the need for Less Colonial Mentality that prefers Non-African solutions, Equipment, Tools and methods.** -- SA Cheetah Jet was never bought by any African country.
 - a. Equador and Chile were the two known buyers. The range died a natural death as it was not commercially viable in my opinion.
 - b. The Cheetah Cs and Cheetah Ds models were retired during April 2008, having been being replaced by the **Swedish-built Saab Gripen.**
- 9) **Standardisation of Kits and Equipment.** Interoperability will be easier if kits are standardised. **Africa is currently dominated by Military equipment from a minimum of SEVEN non-African countries.** These variations make interoperability more challenging.
- 10) **Priority for creating an African Security Industry that will be focused on manufacturing tools that are African focused.** - This will reduce the divide and rule tactics of World Powers on Africa. African Countries currently buy defence equipment from different world powers. **There are all kinds of strings attached to such deals that is against the spirit of Pan Africanism.**

If these Ten steps can be taken seriously by African Leaders; we will consequently be able to witness a stronger, more agile and peaceful Africa that is our dream. Insecurity is a hindrance to development. Only a peaceful Africa can develop economically. Security convergence and cooperation will definitely promote peace on the continent. That Peace will enable Africa to take its place on the global stage as a force for good in the world.

Thank you.