Indicative elements for the APSA Roadmap 2011-2013

1.   The following elements should be considered for constituting a draft roadmap for the full operationalization of APSA during the 2011-2013 period:

I.   The Peace and Security Council

-   Building more synergy with regional entities dealing with conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa;
-   Strengthening coordination in policy making and decision-making over peace and security issues;
-   Further strengthening working relations with similar Organs, such as the UN Security Council, the EU Political and Security Committee and the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States;
-   Addressing non-traditional threats to peace in Africa.

Regarding the Peace and Security Council Secretariat

2.   The need to strengthen the PSC Secretariat arises from the ever-increasing workload of the Peace and Security Council as it responds to existing and emerging peace and security challenges in Africa and to related issues. Yet the PSC Secretariat has, since 2004 when the PSC started operating, remained very thin in human resources and has consequently become overloaded. In order to strengthen the PSC Secretariat and enhance its capacity to support the work of the PSC, measures should be taken to design an appropriate structure. The current structure of the PSC Secretariat was designed in 2002, two years before the PSC began operating. That structure, which provides for a small human resource base, has become inadequate vis-à-vis the momentum of the activities of the PSC. Hence, the structure should be reviewed/expanded to take into account additional human resources required to enhance the operational capacity of the Secretariat in its role of providing direct operational support to the PSC, including the building and preservation its institutional memory.

Strengthening the human resource base of the PSC Secretariat

3.   Provision of additional human resources to the PSC Secretariat is necessary to enable it to provide more effective support to the activities of the PSC's subsidiary organs, as already established/or to be established over time, under Article 8(5) of the PSC Protocol; implementation and monitoring of sanctions imposed by the PSC in situations of unconstitutional changes of Government in Africa and building the institutional memory on the work of the PSC, including the processing and dissemination of outcomes of PSC brainstorming sessions.

<u>Translation and interpretation support service</u>

4.   Putting in place a dedicated and reliable translation and interpretation team to support the work of the PSC with respect to the timely processing of all its working documents.

II.   The Panel of the Wise (PoW)

5.   The indicative areas for the PoW shall include:

Institutionalization of the Panel of the Wise with appropriate location of its secretariat within the AU structure.

Sensitization and assistance to RECs to establish regional panels where they do not exist and inviting RECs to attend meetings of the Panel to review conflict trends on the continent in order to exchange views on their efforts in conflict.

Organization of consultative seminars with RECs on the thematic issues discussed by the Panel.

Enhancing cooperation between the Secretariat of the Panel of the Wise and RECs' Secretariats, including launching joint missions to conflict situations, in accordance with the articles of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the RECs.

Assisting in promoting horizontal relations among the Panels at RECs' level to build up a harmonized continental institutional framework

Contributing to efforts towards the development of AU mediation policy and strategy.

III.   The African Standby Force (ASF)

6.   In discussing the broad indicative areas for the AU-RECs/RMs, the following were proposed for the ASF;

-       Review of ASF scenarios: Due to the changing environment, it is necessary to review the scenarios of the ASF to ensure that it is appropriately prepared for its intended objectives;

-       Communication (Command, Control and Information Systems) with RECs/RMs (Operation Centres);

-       Legal Framework for the deployment of the ASF with reference to issues such as Command and Control, Re-imbursement on Contingent Owned Equipment, authority for deployment, and other related aspects;

- Strengthen mission support. Reference herein is made to Logistics, Medevac, Force Insertion and Rotation, Force Equipment, table of equipment, etc;

- Training with reference to the role of African Peace Support Trainers Association, Centres of Excellence including their relevance and the value they are adding to Force Preparation. The AU also needs to continue with Training Needs Analysis in order to confirm and chart appropriate responses to training as a way of improving Force Preparation. This also includes hosting Exercise Amani II;

- Staffing at all levels (Strategic Headquarters at the AU Commission and the Regional Planning Elements);

- Preparing hand-over systems and procedures. This is against the background of AU or RECs/RMs missions transitioning to UN missions

IV.   The Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

7.   As a follow-up to the PSC Protocol, the Framework for the Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the various decisions by the RECs on early warning, the CEWS will focus on the Framework for the three major components: Data collection and analysis; engagement with decision makers; co-ordination and collaboration with the Regional Mechanisms and other stakeholders as stipulated in the PSC Protocol. In order to implement this, CEWS will undertake the following:

i)   Data collection and analysis

8.   The PSC Protocol in its article 12 (d) stipulates that the CEWS shall develop an early warning module based on clearly defined and accepted indicators, which shall be used to analyze developments within the continent and to recommend the best course of action. CEWS will focus on the following:

- Ongoing refinement and population of the various CEWS tools for data collection and analysis
- Integration of all data collection and analysis tools through the CEWS Portal
- Migration and deployment of the Africa Media Monitor (AMM)
- Acquisition of software and hardware equipments to support the deployment of the AMM in Addis Ababa and mobilize resources to cover recurring IT and communication facilities (band-width and SMS services)
- Connectivity of the early warning systems of the RECs and the AU Field Missions/Liaison Offices through the AU VSAT
- Develop a CEWS database on conflict early warning
- Human resource development and skills training on data collection.

ii)   **Engagement with Decision-makers**

9.   As part of efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of CEWS to constructively engage decision makers, the CEWS needs to put in place the following requirements:

- The production of Daily News highlights using the Africa News Brief (ANB) and similar reports by the RECs such as, Daily Reports, Flash reports, Weekly updates and updates on potential conflict situations
- Production of updates and vulnerability assessments on conflict situations using the Africa reporter and Africa Prospects
- Human resource development and skills training for CEWS analysts as well as in the RECs

10.   As part of efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of CEWS to an increase coordination and collaboration with the early warning mechanisms of the RECs and other stakeholders, the CEWS will undertake the following:

- Sharing relevant information on conflict early warning between CEWS and RECs
- Continue to hold the Quarterly Technical meetings hosted by the RECs
- Provision of technical support to the early warning mechanisms of the RECs in the operationalization of their early warning systems
- Share information using the CEWS Portal
- Refine the customized REC pages of the AMM to enhance their capacity to gather data as well as continue cooperation between the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and CEWS
- Facilitate the sharing of relevant methodologies and templates for data collection and analysis
- Organize ongoing joint trainings on the SCA and other experience sharing programs, including staff exchange programs
- Agree on a Licensing Agreement between the AU and the RECs for sharing data collection and analysis tools developed and acquired by the AU

- Strengthen documentation processes on the development of early warning systems as well as lessons learnt and best practices for CEWS and RECs
- Improve and coordinate engagement with other actors such as UN agencies relevant international organizations, and civil society organizations.

V.   Other indicative elements

11.   In line with the Akosombo Declaration, strategies and policies should be developed to guide interventions in the areas of counter-terrorism, PCRD, disaster management, disarmament, border issues, security sector reform and security sector governance, as well as maritime safety and security.