

THE NATURE AND IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICTS IN SOME AFRICAN STATES (1960-2017)

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Abstract

Conflicts remained prevalent in most of the African States; where hundreds of thousands of people were affected by a number of hostilities across Africa that the scale of destruction and struggling were enough to call it African Wide War (AWW). Most often, these conflicts are triggers from political, religion, territorial, control over mineral wealth, ideology or cultural life. This article explores the common characteristics of the various nature and the impact of these armed conflicts on Africans. The study relied on the historical method which involves the use of content analysis of the secondary data. This paper submitted that the preponderance of violent crisis and armed conflicts in African states constitutes a veritable threat to African peace and security. The study, therefore; in a bid to proffer a pragmatic solution, provides a way forward and suggests a paradigm shift to collective security through all-inclusive African Union and Regional Organisations; this has practically helped to avert series of wars and conflicting situation especially a possible war that was avoided recently in Gambia.

Keywords: armed conflicts, society, security, and co-existence.

Introduction

After the Cold War, Africa earned the dubious distinction of being the world's most bloody continent as a result of its various and prevalence armed conflicts. To explain the nature of these armed conflicts; Williams (2005) offers an in-depth and wide-ranging assessment of more than six hundred armed conflicts which took place in Africa from 1960 to the present day, these conflicts were believe to have range from the wars in Great Lakes region to the expansive conflicts across the Sahel and the tissue of wars in the centres, and throughout the regions of Africa. Ottoh (2016) pointed out that African countries have plagued with a various crisis such as ethnic/tribal rivalry or dominion, economic mismanagement, life-presidents' syndrome, massive electoral manipulation, religious conflicts and militancy to mention a few.

However, issues related to armed conflicts in Africa have trigger concern and therefore bred debate in recent decades even across the globe because African states have been regarded as unsafe region, where important institutions such as political, economic, educational and social aspects structures are relegated, neglected, not functioning and rotten; and where little or nothing is in place or visible to salvage the situation. According to Ezeoba;

‘No matter the perspective one views the contemporary African continent, one cannot but forced to see majorly problems and conflicts. The crisis situation no doubt seems to be multiplying at an alarming rate when compared with the solutions available to remedy the situation’(Ezeoba, 2011).

Ezeoba further confirmed that the crisis has started since the imperial powers of Europe that were compelled to grant summary or blanket independence to their African territories, and of course, not all territories got their independence on a platter of gold, some won theirs through

militant agitation and nationalist struggles. The persistence of armed violence of African state and the decline in a democratic system of many of these states have often been charged to the misbehavior and rule by force of African political leaders, ethnicity problems, and political exclusion. Taking a broad comparative approach to examine the political contexts in which these wars occurred, Africa is, however, the continent most subject to instability, conflicts, and wars (Nimma, 2007). These armed conflicts, in addition to their direct impact on people's lives, properties and their moral and physical environment, are serious problems on African continents.

This study adopts the historical method which involves the use of records and secondary data. The information was collected through content analysis of relevant books and documents, web rich files, downloaded papers, and journals.

The Contexts of Armed Conflicts in African States

The strife all over the globe anchored with the combination of financial crisis, corruption, and struggle to access and retains power, frustration from authoritarian leaders; deprivation and decline cost of living have all combined in different ways in various African countries, leading to a wave of rising anger. Some protests had become revolution protest; some were met with very brutal repression such as in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. The conflicts in African nations were varied and the consequence of these armed conflicts in African societies demonstrates that African nations are weakening and becoming a failing state. Failed states such as Somalia usually become breeding grounds for terrorism that elicit the most concern (Meyers & Choi, 2006). Armed conflicts most often flourish more in weak or failed states because the falling and breakdown of authority, law, and order give rooms for anti-state establishments which hold a lot of attractions for various categories of armed confrontations. The weakening of states is by failing to control all of their territories, tolerating or sometimes encouraging unprofessional security forces, or weakening traditional dispute resolution mechanisms where peaceful co-existence is being threatening.

Williams (2017) admits the true meaning of conflicts as unrest and confrontations that breeds insecurity. Indeed, there is theoretical support for the idea that a troubled state, from the standard Weberian (Max Weber, a famous sociologist) point of view, is one that has lost control of its monopoly over coercive violence or the legitimate use of a coercive instrument to control violence. However, Call (2008) argues that the concept has little utility, having come into the lexicon via the 2002 National Security Strategy of the United States (published after 9/11) which saw any failed, fragile, stressed, weak, violent ridden or troubled state as a possible seedbed for unrest and insecurity. With all sense of reality, failed states also mean a state that breeds the numerous categories of armed conflicts. Zartman (1995), argue clearer on this; says that collapse refers to the disintegration of a nation were various armed conflicts were pervasive.

However, the contexts of these armed conflicts in African states were several and varied that it is difficult to draw up an accurate list of the different types. Nonetheless, there were obvious common characteristics which enable its divisions into broad groups based on the impact and the nature of these conflicts on similar approaches. According to Paul William;

‘armed conflicts in Africa today occur in distinct; those rooted in the African state system that involves governments and their challengers, fought principally over access to state power; and those armed conflicts that occur on the margins or outside of the society of states, fought for reasons other than acquiring state power by a range of nonstate actors including warlord factions, clans, tribes, and various types of militias’ Paul William (2017)

William's further affirms that traditional civil wars and interstate conflicts are waged by actors directly connected to Africa's society of states and seek to improve their status and power within it, that, the weak states on the continent have facilitated a world of nonstate armed conflicts fought by actors who are excluded from the state system or exist in its peripheries and fight for other reasons. It was recorded that most of the armed conflicts in Africa, however, revolve around struggles and generally generalised to secure local sources of livelihood as it was identified through the views and submission of most scholars that have researched into related papers; most of whom believe that the armed conflicts on the continents contained and involve multitude of forces such as anti-state establishment groups, government counter-forces, paramilitary fighters, militias, guerrillas as well as criminal gangs. Many of these groups according to William are incoherent in as much as they lack a single, unified chain of command but operate instead as relatively decentralized entities with their constituent parts retaining significant autonomy some which also lack or fail to articulate clear and coherent political agendas.

Walter's study in Walter (2015) noted that as at the 2000s, 90 percent of all civil wars worldwide were repeated civil wars, most of which occurred in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East; where every civil war that started since 2003 (with the exception of Libya) has been a continuation of a previous civil war. Walter also correctly observed that civil wars "are much more likely to repeat themselves in countries where government elites are unaccountable to the public, where the public does not participate in political life, and where information is not transparent. Unfortunately, this is a case of most African states.

Major Armed Conflicts in African states

Armed conflict has been a recurring issue in the analysis of postcolonial African states. According to Lindemann (2008), since the 60s, a number of sub-Saharan African countries have suffered war, while others only managed to avoid it. Some of the recorded conflicts in some African states were succinctly and precisely indicated in the table below.

List of Conflicts in Some African States between 1960 to 2017

Country	Year and	Nature of wars/conflicts
Sudan	August 18, 1955 — March 27, 1972	First Sudanese Civil War
	April 1983 — January 2005	Second Sudanese Civil War
	1987	Lord's Resistance Army insurgency
	2003	War in Darfur
	December 18, 2005 — January 15, 2010	Chad Sudan conflicts
	May 26, 2009	Sudanese nomadic conflicts
	January 7, 2011	Ethnic violence in South Sudan
	May 19, 2011	Sudan-SRF conflict
	March 26, 2012 — September 26, 2012	Sudan-South Sudan Border War
	December 15, 2013	South Sudanese Civil War
Libya	1977	Libyan Egyptian War
	1978-87	Chadian-Libyan conflict
	2011	Libyan Civil War
	2011	Post-civil war violence in Libya
	2014	Second Libyan Civil War
	July 1961	Bizerte crisis
	April 11, 2002	Insurgency in the Maghreb
	December 18, 2010 — January 14, 2011	Tunisian revolution

Tunisia	June 26, 2015	ISIL insurgency in Tunisia
Algeria	November 1, 1954 — March 19, 1962	Algerian War
	Oct-1963	Sand War
	1970	Western Sahara conflict
	December 26, 1991 — February 2002	Algerian Civil War
	April 11, 2002	Insurgency in the Maghreb
	1963	Sand War
	1970	Western Sahara conflict
	1975— 1991	Western Sahara War
Morocco	April 11, 2002	Insurgency in the Maghreb
Somalia	July 13, 1977 March 15, 1978	Ethio-Somali War
	1986— 1991	Somali Rebellion
	January 26, 1991	Somali Civil War
	1995 — 2008	Insurgency in Ogaden
	July 13, 1977— March 15, 1978	Ethio-Somali War
	(1998–2000)	Eritrean–Ethiopian War
Ethiopia	2000	Eritrean–Ethiopian border conflict
	June 10, 2008— June 13, 2008	Djiboutian-Eritrean border conflict
	January 1, 2010	Eritrean-Ethiopian border skirmish
Eritrea	February 1972 March 1981	Eritrean Civil Wars
	September 1, 1961— May 29, 1991	Eritrean War of Independence
	December 15, 1995— December 17, 1995	Hanish Islands conflict
	May 6, 1998 — 2010	Eritrean–Ethiopian border conflict
Rwanda	October 1, 1990— July 18, 1994	Rwandan Civil War
	April 7, 1994 CE — July 15, 1994	Rwandan Genocide
Burundi	10 Burundi 1972	Burundi genocide
	October 21, 1993— August 2005	Burundi Civil War
	December 28, 2000	Titanic Express Massacre
	September 9, 2002	Itaba Massacre
	August 13, 2004	Gatumba Massacre
	April 26, 2015	Burundian unrest
Uganda	January 25, 1971	Ugandan coup d'état
	July 4, 1976	Operation Entebbe
	October 30, 1978 — April 11, 1979	Uganda-Tanzania War
	April 11, 1979	Fall of Kampala
	1980 — 1985	Uganda National Rescue Front
	1982 — 1986	Ugandan Civil War
	1986 — 1988	Uganda People's Democratic Army
	1986 — 1987	Holy Spirit Movement
	1987 — ongoing	Lord's Resistance Army
	1996	Allied Democratic Forces
	1996 — 2002	Uganda National Rescue Front II
	1952 — 1960	Mau Mau Uprising
	1963 — 1967	Shifta War
	1980	Garissa Massacre
Kenya	February 10, 1984	Wagalla massacre

	2005	Turbi Village Massacre
	2007 — 2008	Kenyan crisis
Cameroon	1985	Agacher Strip War
	November 2016 — Ongoing	West Cameroon-marginalization motivated Strike
	March 2014 — Ongoing	Boko Haram insurgency
Côte d'Ivoire	September 19, 2002 — March 4, 2007	First Ivorian Civil War
	28 November 2010 – 11 April 2011	Second Ivorian Civil War
Gambia	2016 — 2017	Gambian constitutional crisis
	2017	ECOWAS intervention in the Gambia (2017)
Guinea	2013	Guinea clashes
Guinea-Bissau	1962 — 1974	Guinea-Bissau War of Independence
	1997 — 1999	Guinea-Bissau Civil War
Liberia	1989— 1996	First Liberian Civil War
	1999— 2003	Second Liberian Civil War
Mali	1962— 1964	First Tuareg rebellion
	1985	Agacher Strip War
	1990 — 1995	Azawad insurgency and Malian civil war
	April 11, 2002— ongoing	Insurgency in the Maghreb
	2007— 2009	Second Tuareg rebellion
	2012	Third Tuareg Rebellion
	1970 — ongoing	Western Sahara conflict
	April 11, 2002 — ongoing	Insurgency in the Maghreb
	1990 — 1995	First Azawad insurgency
Mauritania	April 11, 2002	Insurgency in the Maghreb
Niger	2007 — 2009	Second Azawad insurgency
	2012	Tuareg Rebellion
Nigeria	1953	Religious violence in Nigeria
	1967 — 1970	Nigerian Civil War
	1998	Communal conflicts in Nigeria
	1999	Nigerian Sharia conflict
	2004	Niger Delta conflict (2004–present)
	2009 — ongoing	Boko Haram insurgency
DRC	June 30, 1960 — November 25, 1966	Congo Crisis
	1964	Simba Rebellion
	1960 — ongoing	Katanga insurgency
	March 8, 1977 — May 26, 1977	Shaba I
	May 11, 1978— June 1978	Shaba II
	1987— ongoing	Lord's Resistance Army insurgency
	1996— ongoing	ADF insurgency
	October 24, 1996— May 16, 1997	First Congo War
	August 2, 1998 — July 18, 2003	Second Congo War
	1999 — ongoing	Ituri Conflict
	2004 — ongoing	Kivu Conflict
	2012 — 2013	M23 rebellion
	December 2013 — ongoing	Batwa-Luba clashes
	8 August 2016 — ongoing	Kamwina Nsapu rebellion
Chad	1965— 1979	Civil war in Chad
	1978 — 1987	Chadian-Libyan conflict (Toyota War)
	1979— 1982	Civil war in Chad

	1998 — 2002	Civil war in Chad
South Africa	March 21, 1960	Sharpeville Massacre
	June 16, 1976	Soweto Uprising
	August 26, 1966 — March 21, 1990	South African Border War
Angola	February 4, 1961 — April 25, 1974	Angolan War of Independence
	November 11, 1975 — April 4, 2002	Angolan Civil War
Mozambique	September 25, 1964 — September 8, 1974	Mozambican War of Independence
	May 30, 1977 — October 4, 1992	Mozambican Civil War
	2013 — 2014	Internal conflict in Mozambique

Source: Conflicts in Africa-Wikipedia

The Impact of Armed Conflicts in African Society

The conflicts here and there in Africa have caused untold sufferings on the African people which have also given the continent the bad image and a name of a big wasteland. The unending political tensions, wars, and conflicts in the continent have however given long-term negative impact on the socio-economic development of Africa because socio-economic development cannot be sustained in an environment riddled with violence, instability, and insecurity (Conteh, 1998:20).

Nigeria

The Nigeria crises were noticeable in various ways and varied from militancy in Niger Delta, the popular among the militant groups operating in the region are the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) led by Henry Okah, the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) led by Alhaji Asari Dokubo, the Niger Delta Vigilante Force (NDVF) led by Ateke Tom, the Bush Boys, the Martyrs Brigade, the Egbesu Boys of Africa, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) and the recent Independent Peoples of Biafra led by Kanu among others. These militant groups have severally attacked oil facilities in the Niger Delta region. Another noticeable armed violent activity in Nigeria is the Boko Haram insurgency which surfaced with bombing attacks and killings. The Jamaatul Alissunna lid da a wa wal Jihad, which known as Boko Haram rebellion started in Bauchi State on July 26, 2009, and however had spread to other parts of Nigeria especially the Northern part. The group has since 2009 existed. Most of the times this kinds of attacks are always targeted and directed at the state its institutions, and the civilian populations, such as police stations including, markets, bus –stops, schools, government establishments and places of worship; where the North-Eastern states of Nigeria (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe) and other major northern cities such as Jos, Kaduna, Kano and Madalla (in Niger State), have become the epicentre of Nigeria's terrorism-related violence and the herdsmen Fulani hullaballoo; the new war now in Nigeria that is tearing everybody apart.

Cote d'Ivoire

In Cote d'Ivoire, the presidential elections that held in October 2010, the President Laurent Gbagbo and opposition candidate, Alassane Ouattara, claimed victory. Even though the International observers agreed that the Ouattara won, but Gbagbo refused to accept defeat. Dialogues and consultation failed which lead the situation to be hot-blooded and armed violent broke up which turned the country into its second civil war. Forces supporting Ouattara were swept through the country and Gbagbo's position looks precarious while he remains defiant. At the same time, possibly many people were recorded and reported to have fled their homes, many of which crossed over into neighboring Liberia. Thousands of civilians were killed in what observers found to be mass human rights violations.

DRC

The conflict in the DRC (formerly known as Zaire) was as a result of a number of complex reasons, these were believed to including conflicts over basic resources especially water, the distribution and control over rich minerals wealth and other various political interest and imbroglios. This was however geared and buttressed by various national and international conglomerates. Meanwhile, by the time Mobutu left power, Congo was already a wasteland. The country which happens to be one of the most endowed countries in natural resources around the world. The International Rescue Committee reported that at least 2.5 million people were killed in Congo, the killing was attributed to violence, the remaining is attributed to other effects of the war.

The Middle East and North Africa

Sprays of clashes and protest were recorded in the Middle East and North Africa. The crisis in Libya where pro-democracy protests spread throughout the region and resulted in an armed violent attack, where civilian population took up arms to help free themselves from Qadhafi's brutal regime, and Qadhafi's forces increasingly targeted civilians, many lives were lost, properties were destroyed.

Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda.

In Liberia, their supposed leader(s) (Tailor) was more of a warlord, he troubled the country and never respects human rights. Sierra Leone does also taste stern and ridiculous human rights violations during the civil war. According to Human Rights Watch, over 50,000 people were killed, with many others being displaced. The wounds as resulted from Rwanda genocide is also yet to be healed, many affected were always being referred to as a lost generation. Rwanda was bogged down by the vicious cycle of revolt by Hutus and repression by Tutsis.

Angola, Algeria, and Ethiopia

In Angola, in their 1994 general election, where Dr. Savimbi claims that the elections were rigged and therefore refused to submit this, however, leads to unrest and many people lost their lives and property in Angola. Many other Angolans became refugees even throughout the world. Algeria, their government and Islamist groups fought, this turned to the worst; with a religious undertone, hence breed outbreak of religious armed violence, many people were killed, children and women were not saved. In 1998, Ethiopia and Eritrea for no apparent reason sent troops at each other borders. Thousands of people were killed. Villages and towns were destroyed people were displaced some seek refugee. People in both countries were still trying to identify why there was a war.

Somalia.

There was a military coup in Somalia 1969 lead by General Mohammed Said Barre. And for twenty years, Barre's government grew ripe with corruption. During this period, the Somali people felt increasingly alienated by their own government, which led them to define themselves more by tribal association than nationality. In 1988, an open rebellion began in Northern Somalia and gradually spread throughout the country. Arising from this, in January 1991, General Farrah Aideed's United Somali Congress forces stormed the capital of Mogadishu forcing General Barre to flee to Nigeria. However, Somalia's many tribes were unable to form a consensus government and by April of 1991, hence plunged the country into all-out civil war.

South Africa

South Africa was colonized by the English and Dutch in the 17th century. However, the diamond was discovered in South Africa around 1900 and this discovery of diamond resulted in an English

invasion, this sparked the Boer War. And in the 60's, a plan of "Grand Apartheid" was executed, emphasizing territorial separation and police repression. In 1960, a large group of blacks in Sharpeville refused to concur; the government, therefore, professed a state of emergency this led to an uprising, and hundreds of people were killed, and many people were wounded.

However, Gerbian k and Venessa L (2005) affirms that many African countries are enduring civil unrest, such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Sudan, which have plagued by disastrous armed conflicts that have caused catastrophic breakdown of law and order and opened the floodgate of carnage, social dislocation, hunger, and famine. The researchers observed the political and communal turmoil of the recent years in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d' Ivoire and a host of others, in real sense, these take a characteristics of failed states and it's like these countries are moving towards a failed state.

Although some of others conflicts on the continent were silent over, while only major conflicts were referred to here but the fact is that this steps, however, helps to focus on the similar and common characteristics of these conflicts on African continents. Meanwhile the massive of it were regarded as intrastate crises and conflict type. There were also conflicts which are more of internationalized and transnationalized. A report by Oxfam International and Saferworld (2007) stated that the African continent had lost million dollars as a result of conflicts, an upsurge of wars and insurrection.

However, records as per major armed conflicts have shows that the environments where these happen were married with high levels of tension, violence, political and social instability deserve special attention. There were also territorial tensions and aggressions which always sparked to confrontations; such include Nigeria and Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula Chad and Sudan over the situation in Darfur. Sometimes generally characterized with heavy military activity. Some were however linked to secessionist ambitions such as the Casamance region in Senegal or Cabinda in Angola, Biafra in Nigeria etc. Some were also linked to traditional identity like ethnic, religious or cultural belief. Some also were the scarcity or the abundance or the distribution of mineral wealth. (Alabi, D.T. 2006; Cramer, C 2006, Francis 2008) suggest; as a result of their findings on war and violence in African states a developing complex analysis that would accommodate the immediate and remote factors of various kinds of these conflicts according to their common characteristics.

Observations and Conclusion

It is obvious that conflicts, wars, and crisis at varying degrees have threatened African peaceful coexistence and challenged its security over time and space. The human peaceful coexistence in Africa over time has however suffered untold hardships arising from insurrections, conflicts, and war such as the crisis in Liberia, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Egypt, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi etc. Though this is not only limited to Africa alone but with varying dimensions across other continents such as the Cyprus-Europe, Chile-Americas, Vietnam-Asia, Kosovo-Europe, world wars I and II etc. This paper, therefore, observed that the destructive and destabilizing impacts of war in Africa over years have created an atmosphere of siege and desolation in most parts of Africa which had given the continent a bad name; hence, the state of Africa needs and should engage in more legitimization especially by the multilateral bodies like the AU and the UN. Though, the readiness of the UN and Africa's regional organizations to enforce peaceful coexistence through peace-making, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding, operations in the past has however influenced conflict undercurrents in some parts of the continent. Peace operations since

2010 have come close to warfighting or crossed the line against triggers elements in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali, and Somalia, even it helps to curtail a possible war in Gambia.

Some of the observed factors that facilitate these armed conflicts are linked, summarised and analyzed as follow:

1. **Democratic Transition Related Process:** The most common types of conflict are observed and linked to the process of the overall context of democratic and transition, this has however experienced in certain African countries, as it has traced to the difficulties experienced by the various political forces in most African countries in reaching agreement on the conditions and methods for accessing and stepping down from powers, and also exercising such power where power is subjected to the rule by force. Within this category are such countries as -Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Togo, Libya, Egypt, Angola, Cote D Ivory, Chad, and Gambia.
2. **Ethnicity and Tribal Relating Problems:** Some nations were subjected to conflicts linked to problems of identity or ethnicity aggravated by the fact that, in these countries, power is subjected to some significant tribe where other ethnic grouping and factors breeds insurrections. These conflicts potentially do lead to destructions and deaths on a massive scale, sometimes ending in genocide, as the case of Rwanda in 1994. In this category are countries like Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, and Sudan.
3. **Control and Traffic of Profitability of Mineral Wealth:** Other conflicts are the result of struggles mainly around access to mineral wealth and the control of the traffic of such wealth. This, thus, clearly exists in Africa between the location of the certain high value of mineral wealth and the location of the main beneficiaries, especially gold, crude oil, and diamonds. On the other hand, armed conflicts which have not been able to feed on such mineral wealth have become blurred in spite of their far-reaching aims. Such is the case were the Tuareg rebellions in Mali, others in this category are the conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Guinea, Niger, and Angola.
4. **Geo-Political and Regional Conflicts:** These are regional conflicts resulting from a situation of geographical and geopolitical alignments and realignment against a background of generalized insecurity caused by numerous unresolved boundaries problems and issues. Some countries involve include Great Lakes region, involving the forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Burundi, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Congo, the Central African Republic and as affecting many other countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia etc) through the flow of refugees.

Dynamics of conflicts in Africa

Democratic Transition Related Process

Fragment of ruling elites
Human rights violation
The growth of armed violence

Ethnic and Tribal Relating Problems

Institutionalised political exclusion
Relative deprivation
Frustration and aggression
The rise of private militias or guerrillas

Control and Traffic of Profitability of Mineral Wealth

Corruption
Failure of social contracts
Informal privatizations of social services
High poverty rates
Revolts

Geo-Political Conflicts

Disharmony between communities
Communal group violence
Loss of control over regions

In respect of the implications of this on the African continent, it has however been regarded as unsafe continent by the wider world, where the rising incidence and prevalence of internal and regional conflicts exposed the continent to serious levels of humanitarian and territorial vulnerabilities because the consequences that include but not limited to human casualties/fatalities, population displacement and refugee debacle, human rights abuses, livelihood crisis, as well as public insecurity. In the light of the foregoing, this paper therefore submitted that the preponderance violent conflicts and crisis in Africa constitutes a veritable threat to African peace and security, hence the need to devise a means of ensuring a pragmatic solution to it. In this regard, the paper recommends a paradigm shift to collective security through African Union AU as the way forward. This should, however, be based on the common vision, unity of purpose and strong united Africa which would build a partnership between all and sundry; governments and all segments of civil society and organizations, in particular women, youth and the public/private sector, this is to facilitate the strengthened solidarity and cohesion amongst Africa inhabitants. This would, however, focus on a continental organization and established organized healthy coexistence and promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent as a minimum and prerequisite for the development and formation of the agenda of the Union. The African Union through the collective security should therefore:

- a. Maintain members' state peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN.
- b. Investigate, any disputes or situations which could lead to international conflict and formulate methods of settlements.
- c. Develop the means to regulate and put armaments under check.
- d. Determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to formulate appropriate action to be taken.
- e. Call on member states to apply sanctions and other diplomatic measures that is not involving the use of force during dispute among nations. This is to prevent hostilities and aggression.
- f. Take collective military action against an aggressor.
- g. Mandate all African nations to be a member.

h. Exercise the trustee functions in strategic issues.

And, sourcing for the data to reconstruct, rebuild and document conflict in African states is necessary and desirable. This would, however, enable the future generation to understand and interpret the nature, the impact and the management schemes and attendant on the conflict in African societies.

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