

ECAS Conference Leipzig June 4th - 7th, 2009
Panel 101 :
Peace Building in Africa: National, Regional and Global Perspectives
(Cyril Obi / Kwesi Aning)

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REGIONAL MULTINATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS:
THE CASE OF FOMUC AND MICOPAX
IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The deployment of the “Force Multinationale en Centrafrique” (FOMUC) by the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) marked in 2002 a pivotal step in Central Africa’s regional history. Indeed, it was the first time that a multinational joint intervention has been carried out by a Central African regional community in a member state proving incapable of sufficiently guaranteeing peace, security and stability within its borders.

However, over its six- year existence, the FOMUC operation has not been able to sufficiently contribute to the restoring of peace and stability in a sustainable way as the level of insecurity still remains considerably high in the country and the region. Since July 2008, FOMUC has been completely restructured and placed, under the new name of MICOPAX, under the authority of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

This paper will critically examine and discuss the role and capacity of regional multinational peace operations for the enhancement of peace and security in Africa. It will in particular resort to the Central African example and question the appropriateness of the here deployed and frequently restructured operation in view of the nature and origin of current insecurity.

The paper will start by a brief presentation of the two Central African multinational missions, FOMUC and MICOPAX, and the frequent attempts to adapt them to the security concerns in the Central African Republic and the region.

It will then discuss the main reasons for FOMUC’s incapacity to appropriately respond to the increasing instability and tensions. It will hereby in particular address the problem of insufficient inclusion of the civil society and a civil besides the military dimension, as well as the neglected consideration of human security issues. Based on

these considerations, it will question if the renewed MICOPAX presents in this regard a more suitable operation.

The paper will conclude with a set of more general recommendations for African regional multinational peace operations, addressing on the one hand African policy-makers and on the other hand the International Community.

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