



Organisation for International
Dialogue and Conflict Management

FROM INTERGOVERNMENTALISM TO SUPRANATIONALISM, FROM COOPERATION TO INTEGRATION:

POLICY OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION

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- 1. WHY IS THE REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SECURITY IN CENTRAL AFRICA SO LIMITED?**
- 2. POLICY OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION**



First observation:

Turning towards security issues on regional level since 1990's

ex:

- ECCAS: New security agenda as catalyst for the 1998 revival
- CEPGL: Recent relaunch with increased security focus
- CEMAC: FOMUC



Second observation:

**Central Africa still remains one of the most insecure
regions in Africa**

⇒ What is wrong with the current regional security approach?



Main Motivations for the turning towards security issues on the regional level

- Consideration of Insecurity as Handicap for economic cooperation and economic development
- Awareness of regional impact/ risk of crisis propagation from one country to the other
- Awareness of weakness of unilateral security acting (weakness of states to provide and guarantee security)
- Reluctance of international community to take full responsibility in (Central) African crisis intervention



Consequently...

- ... central aim is NOT regional integration
- ... but cooperation that protects national interests and integrity.

ERGO:

“Regionalism” that is supposed to strengthen and support a regime/
government and rebuild its capacities, instead of states that aim to
strengthen and build capacity at the regional level.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS APPROACH?

- ≠ Wrong level: aims at strengthening the state instead of promoting other levels of action that would be more adapted to address security problems
- ≠ Wrong means: Focus on military and militaristic approach, instead of a more comprehensive approach of security
- ≠ Wrong strategy (exclusive instead of inclusive) : no effective involvement of non-state actors and therefore IR not used as a way to raise legitimacy
- ⇒ Ad hoc and reactive measures instead of continued proactive policies
- ⇒ No real self-dynamic
- ⇒ No contribution the region's security in a sustainable way



SCENARIO 1: **Focus on regional intergovernmental cooperation** **with no effort to go beyond**

- + No transfer of power → therefore higher acceptability by national governments
- + Lower risk of empty and broken promises?

BUT: No real improvement:

- State-centric approach: No attempt to supplement and complement the state as security actor by supranational structures where appropriate and better suited
- No appropriate approach for a comprehensive security understanding
- Non-state actors not able to effectively influence the process – no raise of additional legitimacy



SCENARIO 2: **Regional Integration Process** **with a strong supranational dimension**

- + Multilevel governance: Establish capacities to solve problems on the most suited level of action
- + Consideration of non-state actors' concerns → New source of legitimacy
- + Allows for a more comprehensive understanding of security (not only reactive military approach but proactive and preventive policies)
- Stronger commitment of stakeholders necessary to transfer/ cede power to the supranational level



Recommendations for Regional Process:

- Evolutionary approach: Build on status-quo achievements
- Follow a logic of “Complementarity” (between all involved actors and among different arrangements) and not of “Competition”
- Address economic, political, social and human issues as these are key for ensuring security, stability and peace
- Follow a security logic of Prevention rather than one of Reaction
- Promote a better understanding and support of RI on the civil society level by providing appropriate channels and addressing relevant concerns



Recommendations **for Central African Governments:**

- Perceive supranational policies not as an “external” intervention into “internal” affairs
- Perceive transfer of competences as an opportunity for more efficiency and not as a loss of power
- Accept and Promote stronger involvement of non-state actors and perceive this as a source of legitimacy
- Stronger commitment of resources



Recommendations for the EU/ International Community:

- Promote the role of Regional Institutions as Political Actors
 - Promote inter-regional cooperation
 - Promote and facilitate the engagement of non-state actors and CSOs (Involvement Networks)
 - Consider efficient and effective regional integration as conditionality for development cooperation and assistance
- ▲ Support and encourage regional processes by respecting the principles of own responsibility and ownership!



Recommendations for the Civil Society:

- Working with the States and with the International Community (and not against)
- Promote regional approaches in especially appropriated policy fields (energy, environment, etc...)
- Make use of possibilities of regional networking



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!