

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS

24.C.A Mumma – Martinon, (2008). Peace and Security in the Eastern African Region: Perspectives and Ways Ahead. *Joint Seminar on Peace and Security*. The French Military Mission in Kenya, the Institute of security Studies and the French Institute of research in Africa (IFRA).

ABSTRACT

The issue of peace and security has become central to the concepts of conflict prevention and crisis management. In East Africa, particularly, this issue broadly covers the complexity of contemporary conflicts in this part of Africa.

It is important to note that security cannot be achieved without addressing the causes of instability and that sustainable development can only occur within a secure and peaceful environment. Furthermore, internal security cannot thrive in an atmosphere of regional instability. The importance of African union working together with regional and sub regional organizations in promoting peace are widely acknowledged and in recent years, closer cooperation and coordination have been fostered.

However, the mechanisms employed have often proved unable to reconcile the multifaceted dimensions of peace and security including: Impoverishment and unemployment, environmental degradation and pollution, corruption and ethnic discrimination, as well as eroding state institutions, which can all cause despair, frustration, fuel extremism and bring violence, leading to insecurity.

This paper tries to address these challenges. It further gives proposals to a more comprehensive, multilateral approach which could be advanced and that can appeal to a wider spectrum of actors including local, national, regional and international organizations, as well as NGOS and civil societies. It also emphasizes the fact that promoting peace and stability in this region effectively, still poses a major challenge. Thus, a strong need exists for further research and insight from the professional and academic domains to better understand the complexity of contemporary conflicts.