

African States and Foreign Interventions, Comparing Chad and Sudan and their Respective Peacekeeping Operations

Emmanuel Fanta¹

¹·UNU-CRIS, Bruges, Belgium

efanta@cris.unu.edu

In recent years both Chad and Sudan have had to deal with foreign interventions in the form of peacekeeping operations being deployed on their respective territory. On the one hand, in Sudan the African Union engaged with the situation by deploying what was initially an observation mission and was eventually transformed in a full-fledged peacekeeping mission deployed together with the UN. In Chad, on the other hand, it has been a European mission that sent troops to the eastern part of the country to address some of the security issues in the area in parallel to a UN mission to which it handed over its responsibilities in the end. Moreover, Chad and Sudan have had very different attitudes regarding the possibility of a foreign intervention on their territory. Whereas the Sudanese government staunchly refused to see the deployment of a ‘western’ operation and favored an ‘African’ operation, Chad openly welcomed the opportunity of having a European mission deployed in the country. The aim of this paper is therefore to understand the reasons behind such different attitudes by Sudan and Chad. By analyzing the policies and attitudes of both Chad and Sudan it will be possible to shed light on the different reasons why such different peacekeeping missions were deployed in these two African states. For that purpose the paper will focus firstly on the internal political and security situation of both countries before turning the attention on their foreign policies. By doing so it will be possible to investigate the reasons why each state has favored a certain type of foreign intervention and their respective engagement with the different security actors involved in Africa. In addition, the paper will give some insights on the foreign policy processes put in place by these two African states at the international level in order to push forward their case for the type of intervention they tended to favor.