

African Ownership in Peace Operations: The Cases of MICOPAX in the Central African Republic and AMIS in Darfur

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One of the objectives of the panel is to determine to what extent the dependence on external support compromises the implementation of the principle of “African ownership”. In a previous article, we established the distinction between two key concepts in the field of peace and security: *africanisation*, i.e. the increasing participation of African actors in a particular field, and *ownership*, i.e. the de facto political control over an issue (meaning the control over decision-making processes).[1]

Through this conceptual framework, we were able to highlight that Ali Mazrui’s dream of a “Pax Africana that is protected and maintained by Africa herself” is far from being realized. While an *africanisation* of security has unquestionably taken place, there are reasons to think that this process has not translated into real *African ownership*.

In this contribution, we will apply this framework to two case studies: The African Union mission in Darfur (AMIS); and the *MICOPAX* (Mission de Consolidation de la Paix) operation in Central African Republic mandated by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). More precisely, we will look at the influence of external actors on specific decisions related to these missions:

- The decision to send the operation itself ;
- The decision to resort to an “African solution” (and not to the UN or EU...) ;
- The definition of its mandate, its composition, its number of soldiers ;
- The decision to put an end to the mission...

Through the comparison between these two cases, involving different African institutions (AU vs ECCAS) and external partners (EU, UN, NATO in Darfur vs. France and EU in CAR), we will be in a position to give a large picture of the politics of *africanisation* and to identify the owners of *African ownership*.

[1] Benedikt Franke and Romain Esmenjaud, "Who owns African ownership? The Africanisation of security and its limits", *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 2008, vol.15, n°2, p.137-158