About the FES Africa Peace and Security Series

The lack of security is one of the key impediments to development and democracy in Africa. The existence of protracted violent conflicts as well as a lack of accountability of the security sector in many countries are challenging cooperation in the field of security policy. The emerging African Peace and Security Architecture provides the institutional framework to promote peace and security.

As a political foundation committed to the values of social democracy, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) aims at strengthening the interface between democracy and security policy. FES therefore facilitates political dialogue on security threats and their national, regional and continental responses. The FES Africa Peace and Security Series aims to contribute to this dialogue by making relevant analysis widely accessible.

The series is being published by the FES Africa Security Policy Network, namely:

- FES Addis Ababa (FES Regional Security Policy Project Eastern Africa, African Union Cooperation)
- FES Maputo (FES Regional Security Policy Project Southern Africa),
- FES Abuja (FES Regional Security Policy Project West Africa)

About this study

The study at hand is part of a series of studies that investigate how regional organizations in Africa deal with conflict and political crises in their member states. The protocols and declarations at the basis of the regional security architectures in Africa are generally considered as progressive and comprehensive. Yet, while the expectations on Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as part of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) are generally very high, as well as own ambitions, the actual performance often falls short of these hopes. Therefore, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung issued three studies to assess capacities and experiences of RECs in managing conflict and crisis:

Kidist Mulugeta: The case of IGAD and Somalia
Gavin Cawthra: The cases of SADC and Madagascar/ Zimbabwe
Gilles Yabi: The cases of ECOWAS and Guinea/ Guinea-Bissau

These studies shall enrich the necessary policy debate —both in Africa and on other continents—about how to further strengthen regional security architectures in Africa.

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Kidist Mulugeta

The Case of IGAD

The Role of Regional and International Organizations in Resolving the Somali Conflict

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