EARLY WARNING, PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF ARMS CONFLICTS IN AFRICA:
AN EXPOSITION OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

AKUBO, Aduku, A[1]
and
OKOLO, Ikani Benjamin[2]

[1]Centre for Inter - African and Human Development Studies (CIDES), Jos, Nigeria
[2]Member House Committee on Integration and Cooperation in Africa, Federal House of Representative, National Assembly, Abuja, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This paper assesses the deliberate effort made by African Union in her quest for appropriate conflict-prevention and conflict-management mechanism. The African continent continues to experience a high incidence of violent conflict, which not only derails its development trajectory, but also hinders peace and progress, have brought about death and human suffering, engendered hate and divided nations and families. Conflicts have forced millions of African people into a drifting life as refugees and displaced persons, deprived of their means of livelihood, human dignity and hope. In a content analysis, drawing largely from the Secondary sources, we have examined Early Warning, Preventive diplomacy and the Management of Conflict in Africa from three segments: Early Warning, Preventive Diplomacy, and as the current trajectory of conflict management in Africa. It is revealed in this work that: Simply knowing about a developing crisis is not enough, No matter how accurate the early warning, the real test is whether it leads to early action. Every intervention to prevent, transform, manage or resolve conflict must therefore be flexible and configured to the needs on the ground and not according to the institutional set-ups. In summary, if these strategies are used effectively, timely and efficiently, they will change the future and fortune of Africa from a violence endemic region to an arena of peace, engendering progress and development.

Keywords: Conflict Management, Diplomacy, Security, African Union.