

The Nation  
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In the midst of contentious domestic politics in many African countries, a quiet continent-wide revolution has been in process since the first years of the new millennium.

() Specifically, African states have moved to organise the African Standby Force (ASF), supported by sub-regional and country-level military units. ()

() The specific objectives of this new force were to be to

- (1) conduct and observe peacekeeping missions,
- (2) intervene in member states when their internal security is gravely threatened,
- (3) conduct preventive deployments where such security threats loom in the horizon,
- (4) conduct post-conflict peace-building operations, including disarming and demobilising warring militias,
- (5) provide humanitarian assistance in conflict and disaster areas, and
- (6) perform such other functions as the Peace and Security Council may authorise.

() The objectives seem to embrace () the Africa Union doctrine on **Responsibility to Protect (R2P)** ), which includes all the foregoing purposes plus promoting and encouraging democratic practices, good governance, and the rule of law.

In a word it implies amendment of the 350-year-old Westphalian principle of absolute state sovereignty and non-interference by states in each other's affairs to embrace a new doctrine of what Ambassador Francis Deng has termed "responsible sovereignty," - that is states are sovereign as long as they behave themselves. ()

Full article available at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200804280037.html?page=2>