Background
The nature of armed conflict is constantly evolving. Since the end of the Cold War the international community has witnessed a significant decrease in interstate conflicts, whereas intrastate conflicts continue to be on the rise. Conflicts have become more protracted, complex and deadly, with civilians bearing the brunt of the suffering. State fragility, proliferation of non-state armed actors, lack of livelihood opportunities, as well as unconventional threats such as climate disasters and disease epidemics, are amongst several challenges faced by African and Arab countries, which threaten their stability and economic development.

In the face of these challenges, the international community is shifting its attention to conflict prevention that is not only operational, but structural in nature – focusing on addressing the root drivers of conflict, and creating the conditions for peace, long before early warning signs are observed. The United Nations Sustaining Peace Twin Resolutions (2016) highlight the importance of such a paradigm shift and coin the term “sustaining peace”, as both a goal and a process, to “prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of violence”. The argument for early investment in preventive action is further underpinned by the UN-World Bank joint study Pathways for Peace (2018), which highlighted the role of national governments in conflict prevention.

Training
CCCRA works towards building capacities in the following areas:

(i) Conflict Analysis for Sustaining Peace
Understanding conflict is key to the effectiveness and success of peace interventions. As such, CCCPA conducts trainings on “Conflict Analysis and Sensitivity”, with the aim of enhancing practitioners’ skills in analyzing the root causes, dynamics, and actors involved in armed conflicts.
(ii) Dialogue, Negotiation, and Mediation

This training focuses on strengthening national and regional capacities in the areas of designing mediation processes, as well as mediation and negotiation techniques. The course targets practitioners from Africa and the Arab world.

(iii) Media & Conflict

This training aims to improve participants’ knowledge on the important role played by the media throughout the various conflict stages (pre, during, post). The course includes modules related to sensitive conflict reporting, as well as safety & security.

Convening Power

The Cairo Center has been actively involved in the UN strategic review processes of peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. In 2014, and in partnership with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO), CCCPA organized a regional workshop titled “Regional Aspects of Peacebuilding: Identifying Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities”. The workshop’s outcome report was distributed as an official UN Security Council and General Assembly document (A/69/654-S/2014/882). Furthermore, in 2015, CCCPA hosted the “Arab Consultations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO)”, as part of the UN peacekeeping review process.

As a follow-up, in 2016, CCCPA organized a High-Level Ministerial Breakfast titled “The Continuum of UN Response in Conflict”, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Breakfast provided a unique opportunity to reflect on the outcome of the review processes and to explore ways to enhance the UN’s role in preventing and responding to conflict.

In preparation for the Egyptian Presidency of the AU in 2019, its Championship of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, as well as hosting the AU Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PRCD), CCCPA - in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) - organized a high-level workshop titled "Operationalizing the African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUPCRD) Policy in the Sahel Region: Charting The Way Forward", in October 2018. The workshop put forward concrete recommendations and action points for the operationalization of the AUPCRD and for the modalities of the AUC-PRCD, while enhancing policy and programmatic coherence between various actors and stakeholder.

Future Activities

During the Egyptian Presidency of the AU in 2019, and as an integral part of the preparations for the launch of the “Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development” in December 2019, CCCPA is organizing a workshop, titled "Conflict Prevention in Africa: From Policy to Practice. The workshop will take stock of the implementation of relevant international and African frameworks on conflict prevention. It will provide an opportunity for local, national, regional, continental and international actors to advance the conversation on operationalizing these policies, and strengthening synergies, complementarity and coherence across the peace-development-humanitarian continuum.

Furthermore, CCCPA is organizing a workshop titled "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in Africa: Evolving Challenges and the Way Forward", to deliberate on practical ways and means to refocus PCRD efforts on more comprehensive and long-term strategies that address the root causes of conflict and instability, instead of quick-fix solutions. The workshop, organized jointly with the AU Commission and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO), will serve as the African consultation leading to the 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture.

CCCPA

Founded in 1994 by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and re-charted in June 2017 by a Prime Ministerial Decree, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, is an Egyptian public agency specialized in training, capacity building and research in the fields of peace and security. It is the successor of the Cairo Regional Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA).