A Systematic Review of Africa's Role in Mediating Global Tension

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ABSTRACT

This study examines Africa's involvement in mediating global tensions through a comprehensive literature review of current geopolitical crises, approached from the perspective of Constructivist Theory. Constructivism underscores the significance of social constructs and the impact of identities, norms, and relationships in shaping international relations. As global dynamics shift, Africa increasingly plays an essential role in conflict resolution and diplomacy. The review consolidates existing research regarding Africa's influence across various crises, emphasizing its unique position as a link between developed and developing countries. Key areas of focus include the continent's contributions to peacekeeping efforts, its diplomatic initiatives, and the role of regional organizations like the African Union. This evaluation highlights the necessity of acknowledging Africa's agency in global matters while suggesting strategies to enhance its involvement in future geopolitical negotiations. The aggregate analysis of the studies reveals several important themes related to mediation in African conflicts. A significant finding is the effectiveness of African third parties in mediating civil wars, credited to their legitimacy and cultural relevance. The emphasis on traditional conflict resolution methods suggests that these approaches can promote reconciliation and sustainable peace, particularly in post-conflict contexts. However, the studies also highlight notable challenges, especially the persistent lack of resources faced by the AU and its mediators, which undermines their ability to fulfill mandates effectively. To improve conflict resolution efforts in Africa, it is vital to prioritize resource allocation, foster inclusivity, integrate traditional and modern practices, critically evaluate the roles of external mediators, and conduct further research in these areas. By addressing these challenges, stakeholders can create more inclusive and effective mediation processes that contribute to enduring peace and stability throughout the continent. The AU and its member countries should prioritize the distribution of human and financial resources to bolster the capabilities of mediators and support successful conflict resolution initiatives.

Keywords: AU, African, Meditating, Global Tension, Conflict

1. INTRODUCTION

Africa is the most war-torn continent in the world, having seen 64 civil conflicts between 1960 and 2025.One Africa has witnessed a wide range of peace initiatives aimed at reducing the detrimental effects of these military conflicts. In Africa, peace talks almost always require a third party who seeks to arbitrate the conflicting parties' irreconcilable objectives, even if some of these peace initiatives involved talks between the parties to the conflict without the participation of any outside parties. This raises the issue of what kind of third party often has the best track record of ending civil wars in Africa (Duursma 2015).

Numerous disputes have changed from being between states to being within states since the conclusion of the Cold War. Additionally, this has altered how violent conflict impacts communities. Lederach identifies the "immediacy of the experience" as the distinction between intra- and interstate combat. The civilian population is now directly affected by armed conflicts as they witness and endure murders, rapes, and kidnappings. Conflict lines permeate the entire society in a setting of localized violence, making it difficult to distinguish between combatants and civilians. As a result, many academics have demonstrated that "the enemy is not halfway around the globe; the enemy lives only a village away, or in some instances next door."

Recent discussions in practice and research, based on this altered definition of warfare, emphasize the necessity of addressing the underlying causes of wars, such as economic and social inequality, in addition to attempting to reach a consensus between military and political actors to put an end to violence. The entire society must be involved in such an endeavor. These opinions highlight the necessity of stepping up and connecting initiatives for peacekeeping, conflict prevention, reconciliation, post-conflict reconstruction, and development. The fundamental idea is that disputes must be changed in addition to being settled (John & Sara 2014).

Since tensions between governments or regions can intensify into protracted crises, diplomacy is essential to managing and resolving cross-border disputes. By encouraging communication and providing unbiased answers, mediation a crucial diplomatic tool offers a path toward amicable conflict settlement. With the capacity to destabilize areas, upend economies, and spark humanitarian catastrophes, cross-border conflicts have long been a major obstacle in international relations. Ethnic and religious tensions, resource competitiveness, territory disputes, and the complicated legacy of past injustices are frequently the causes of these conflicts. Hard power and conventional military solutions have frequently been used to resolve these disputes, but they hardly ever bring about enduring peace.

Since it provides a route to negotiated settlements without the catastrophic effects of military warfare, diplomacy and more especially, mediation has become a crucial tool for resolving disputes. Through mediation, a third party who is impartial assists disputing parties in communicating, comprehending one another's viewpoints, and attempting to reach a mutually acceptable resolution (Khan & Qureshi 2024). Conflict and mediation are as widespread in international politics; most international disputes encourage third parties to undertake mediation, either to lower their own expenses or to gain from the mediation effort itself. Although there has been a significant amount of research on conflicts throughout the years, our knowledge of mediation is far less developed.

More academics than practitioners have contributed to the body of literature currently available on international mediation (Berman & Johnson, 1977; Campbell, 1976; cases by Davidow, 1983; Edmead, 1971; Fisher, 1978; portions of Gulliver, 1979; IklC, 1964; Jackson, 1952; Pruitt, 1981; Raiffa, 1982; Raman, 1975; Touval, 1982; Young, 1967; Zartman, 1984), has only started the process of comprehending why and how parties attempt to mediate international conflict. In accordance to Nathan (2007) Given the frequency with which high-level peacemaking is performed in Africa, there is remarkably little discussion in official circles regarding the science and art of mediation. There is nothing remotely comparable with the serious and sustained discussion that takes place around the strategy, methods and structures of military peace operations. This is true also of training: whereas extensive time, effort and money are spent on military training in order to ensure success, manage risk and prevent failure, little if any attention is made to training African mediators. The African Union (AU) and many of the regional bodies on the continent have a formal mandate to engage in mediation and other forms of peacemaking. Examples of this include the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defense, and Security Co-operation (2001), the ECOWAS Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security (1999), and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2002).

African mediators have been working to settle civil wars in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since the middle of the 1980s. The main causes of these crises have been resource shortages, ethnic tensions, elite grievance mobilization, and inadequate postcolonial political systems. Diverse African mediators, including presidents, foreign ministers, elder statesmen, and special envoys, have stepped in to assist combatants in reestablishing the institutions of political order, social cohesion, and economic stability in order to address the regional aspects of the conflicts. In mediation positions, local African actors are not by themselves. Numerous outside mediators in a range of institutional roles have also been drawn to these disputes. One intriguing aspect of comprehending the mediation of conflicts in the Great Lakes region is the interactions between African and other actors (2006).

In the context of cross-border conflicts, mediation becomes crucial because of the often-complex nature of the disputes involved, which may include diverse political, economic, and social factors spanning multiple countries. Diplomacy, and more specifically mediation, has emerged as an essential mechanism for conflict resolution, offering a path towards negotiated settlements without the devastating consequences of armed confrontation. Mediation involves a neutral third party who helps conflicting parties communicate, understand each other's positions, and work toward mutually agreeable solutions. Unlike arbitration or adjudication, mediation emphasizes dialogue and compromise. A number of variables, such as the parties' openness to communication, the mediator's reputation, and the geopolitical environment in which the mediation takes place, affect how well mediation works to settle cross-border disputes. Although mediation has been effective in a number of situations, there are still difficulties in using it. Power disparities, deeply established historical grievances, and conflicting international interests sometimes complicate the mediation process. Furthermore, mediators have to manage the impact of outside parties whose participation could help or hurt the efforts at resolution. Despite these challenges, mediation offers several advantages over more confrontational met Khan & Qureshi 2024).

One of the most persistent legacies of imperialism in Africa is the regime of colonially imposed boundaries, which, in spite of its limits, has formed the basis of state territoriality and the ordering of interstate interactions on the continent. However, because these borders were drawn by Europeans and are frequently unclear and contested, they have frequently continued to serve as either sources or catalysts of conflict between neighboring governments despite their endurance. One such problematic border that has been the source of ongoing strife between Nigeria and Cameroon is the one where there was a dispute about ownership over the Bakassi peninsula. Ngalim, 2016.

Contrary to the global or universal conception, conflict is as natural as the idea of peace. Conflict is conceptualized differently by Africans. According to traditional definitions, conflict is a struggle for scarce status, power, and resources, as well as for values, in which the opponents' goals are to neutralize, harm, or destroy their rivals (Onigun Otite & Albert, 2001). Conflict, on the other hand, can arise anywhere or whenever incompatible activities take place and can lead to win-lose situations. A win-win situation may also result from the management, transformation, and settlement of conflict. In African communities, conflict can take many different forms and dimensions. It is important to remember that from an African perspective, conflict is hard to describe. Conflict as a component of social interaction has been defined in a variety of ways. According to some authors, a conflict situation arises when two or more parties cannot agree on an issue. As a result, conflicts occur in the form of anger, rift, misunderstanding, family and market brawls, skirmishes and wars, public insurrections and assaults, and chieftaincy and boundary disputes. These conflicts affect people all over Africa (Olaoba, 2005, pp. 22–37; Adeyinka & Lateef 2014). In an incompatible stage among nation-states, each party aims to accomplish specific goals, including more or more secure territory, security, access to markets, prestige, alliances, and the overthrow of an unfriendly government (Omotosho, 2004 as cited in ibid.). The parties to such a conflict may not necessarily be the government or nation states.

Mechanisms for resolving conflicts are designed to promote conciliation. Although mediation is the most popular and successful conflict resolution technique, negotiation is the oldest. African nations have been involved in a number of conflicts, but all of them have eventually been settled using conflict resolution techniques, particularly mediation and negotiation. A complex web of relationships and cooperation has been strengthened in recent years as states in the international system have collaborated to combat issues such as terrorism, environmental challenges, pandemic diseases, crimes against humanity, and the reduction of the spread of weapons of mass destruction.
Because states rely on one another's efforts and energies to promote economic growth, peaceful cohabitation, stability, development, and prosperity, there is a great deal of interdependence and connectivity among them. Because different pressures, particularly the network of trade and other economic linkages, entice governments to cooperate and integrate, the cobweb model of international politics produces a condition of complex interconnectedness (Jeong 2010; Heywood 2011; Nte 2018).

Africa was responsible for almost 87% of all civilian conflict-related deaths between 1980 and 2016, notwithstanding the continent's hard-won democratic transformation and economic expansion. One of the main obstacles to development is the death toll and the devastation of infrastructure, institutions, and human capital brought on by violence. Thus, the African Union (AU) Commission's Agenda 2063 goal of "silencing the guns" is a welcome and pressing attempt to address the continent's conflict-prone situation.

The AU has concentrated on developing mechanisms that can help it become more successful in averting violence and maintaining peace in Africa ever since Agenda 2063 was developed. A mix of supply and demand factors make up the continent's distinct mediation environment. Demand-side factors include escalating political violence, the emergence of political militias, poverty and marginalization, ongoing democratization processes, the spread of small arms and light weapons, and a surge in sectarian conflict, terrorism, and secession.2. Due to these circumstances, the AU must prioritize conflict prevention, resolution, and management, which in turn creates a need for mediation and preventative diplomacy (Bustamante & de Carvalho 2020).

The mediation approach has not received any significant attention in public discourse on the African Union (AU). A larger tendency in international issues is reflected in the lack of attention. There is no comparable emphasis on international mediation as there is on peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and peace enforcement, which are hot topics among politicians, scholars, and activists. UN secretaries-general provide thoughtful viewpoints on early warning, peace operations, and other issues in their main policy statements on peace and conflict, but they hardly mention mediation.

1.1 Problem Statement
Natha (2015) outlined some of the major conflicts that have taken place over the last fifteen years and attempted to pinpoint the key trends in these cases.

Zimbabwe
President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa was designated by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 2007 to mediate disputes in Zimbabwe, which was growing more tense as the government repressed opposition groups. Many people believed that Mbeki and SADC were looking out for President Robert Mugabe. The state stepped up its violence after Mugabe lost the 2008 presidential election's first round, forcing the front-runner, Morgan Tsvangirai, to withdraw from the contest. A free and fair runoff election was deemed impossible by the UN Security Council. However, China and Russia blocked a Council resolution that called for sanctions against Zimbabwe, while South Africa opposed it. Proposals to deploy a UN envoy and fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe were also opposed by these nations. Despite the Council's stance on the runoff election, Mbeki and SADC supported the poll and then praised Mugabe's faulty win.3

Libya
The AU adopted a diplomatic approach in reaction to the 2011 civil war, demanding an immediate end to hostilities and the implementation of reforms thought required to eradicate the root causes of the problem. In order to facilitate an inclusive conversation between the Libyan parties, it designated a group consisting of five African presidents. However, the UN Security Council declared a no-fly zone over Libya and approved the use of force to defend civilians. NATO's subsequent attacks advanced the Western goal of toppling Muammar Qaddafi. The African Union was furious that the Security Council had ignored its opinions, trampled underfoot its diplomatic efforts, and permitted NATO to misuse a Council decision to overthrow a government.6

Madagascar
With the help of the Malagasy army, Andry Rajoelina overthrew President Marc Ravalomanana in 2009. Strategic disagreements between the UN, AU, and SADC, as well as impolite arguments over who should lead the mediation, threw the international attempt to restore constitutional order off

course during the course of the following two years.**4.** The AU quickly overtook the UN, which had taken the lead at first. After that, SADC took the mediation away from the AU. The SADC's demand for Ravalomanana's unconditional restoration and its threat of using force if this demand was not fulfilled constituted the primary strategic point of contention. The option of multiparty negotiations without preconditions was favored by the UN and the AU. Later, SADC retreated from the threat of using force and instead chose to mediate.

Côte d'Ivoire
President Laurent Gbagbo lost the 2010 presidential election to Alassane Ouattara. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations, and the African Union all endorsed the triumph. When Côte d'Ivoire's Gbagbo President Laurent Gbagbo lost the 2010 presidential election to Alassane Ouattara. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations, and the African Union all endorsed the triumph. ECOWAS vowed to use force to overthrow Gbagbo when he refused to cede control. The AU started a number of mediations attempts instead of endorsing armed action.**5.** Former President Mbeki led the first and enraged ECOWAS by demanding a power-sharing agreement. An AU mediation team made up of five heads of state reaffirmed Mbeki's call. However, power sharing was seen by the UN and ECOWAS as a breach of democracy. Ouattara defeated Gbagbo's army with military assistance from France and the United Nations. The UN's marginalization of the AU caused it great grief.

Guinea Bissau
The Guinea-Bissaun president passed away while in office in 2012. Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior won the first round of the subsequent presidential election. Although the election was deemed free and fair by the world community, the other presidential contenders disagreed with the outcome. The army took control during this chaos and detained Gomes Júnior. ECOWAS started the mediation process. Its transition plan disbanded the government, called for a new election, acknowledged that Gomes Júnior would be replaced, and canceled the current one. The road map was seen by the UN and the AU as a subversion of democracy, and they unsuccessfully urged for the election process to resume.

Mali
Following the 2012 coup, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) decided that the army had to return to the barracks and that the junta members were subject to prosecution. However, the coup leader and the ECOWAS mediator, Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaoré, inked an agreement that granted the junta amnesty and specifically left open its role and status during the election transition. "A slow and perverted process" of rebuilding democracy resulted from the AU and ECOWAS's disagreement on these and other matters.

Darfur
Former President Mbeki, who led the AU's High-Level Panel on Darfur, and Djibril Bassolé, the joint UN-AU mediator, had heated disagreements in 2011. Bassolé came under fire from Mbeki for moving forward without the participation of the major rebel movements that were boycotting the negotiations and for failing to involve Darfurian civil society in the mediation. The mediation's unity and credibility were harmed by the public dispute. The UN rejected the AU's request to give Mbeki the post of main mediator.

Central African Republic (CAR) 2013

The Séléka rebels, under the leadership of Michel Djotodia, began their attempt to depose President François Bozizé in 2012. A brief peace deal was brokered by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). When the uprising resurfaced in 2013, Bozizé was overthrown. The AU PSC banned the rebel leaders from traveling and demanded their "complete isolation." To the dismay of the AU, ECCAS disregarded the travel ban and chose to acknowledge Djotodia as the "head of state of the transition."

The African continent has historically been a focal point for global tensions, encompassing issues such as colonial legacies, ethnic conflicts, and geopolitical rivalries. Despite these challenges, African nations and organizations have increasingly engaged in conflict resolution and diplomacy, aiming to mediate not only regional but also global tensions. Among the conflict types were contested elections, uprisings, and coups. Southern Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa were all locations for them. The question of which organization won the disagreements is the most unexpected dynamic. As one might anticipate, the most influential group had influence in some instances (e.g., the UN on CAR 2015, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, and Libya). At other times, however, it was the least powerful group that prevailed (such as SADC on Madagascar and Zimbabwe, and ECOWAS on Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali). The African continent's involvement in mediating global tensions presents a complex landscape shaped by historical, political, and social dynamics. Despite the increasing recognition of Africa's role as a mediator, a comprehensive understanding of its effectiveness, challenges, and strategies remains fragmented in existing literature.

Research Objectives

- To Synthesize Existing Literature on the Role of African Nations and Regional Organizations in Mediating Global Tensions
- To Identify Gaps and Future Research Directions in the Literature Concerning African Mediation in Global Tensions

Research Questions

- What themes and patterns emerge from the existing literature regarding the effectiveness of African nations and regional organizations in mediating global tensions?
- What gaps exist in the current literature concerning the challenges faced by African mediators, and what new avenues for research could enhance understanding of their roles in global conflict resolution?

2. INSTRUCTIVISM THEORY

Constructivism underscores the importance of active engagement and social interaction in learning, which can enhance the understanding of how African nations and regional organizations construct their mediation strategies and responses to global tensions through collaborative experiences and contextual knowledge. This theory suggests that these entities build their approaches based on past experiences, cultural contexts, and interactions with other stakeholders, allowing them to adapt and innovate in their conflict resolution efforts. Additionally, the dynamic nature of knowledge in constructivism reflects the evolving geopolitical landscape, where African mediators must continuously reassess and refine their strategies to effectively address global tensions.

By employing constructivist principles, researchers can better analyze the multifaceted challenges and successes faced by African nations in their mediation roles, ultimately contributing to a deeper understanding of their impact on international peace and security. Additionally, constructivism asserts that learners build new knowledge upon the foundation of their existing understanding, significantly influencing how they interpret new information. Each learner has a unique perspective shaped by their experiences, meaning that the same lesson can lead to different interpretations and understandings among students. Knowledge is viewed as dynamic and ever-changing, shaped by ongoing experiences and interactions, contrasting with traditional views that see knowledge as static. Constructivism underscores the importance of active engagement and social interaction in learning, which can enhance the understanding of how African nations and regional organizations construct their mediation strategies and responses to global tensions through collaborative experiences and contextual knowledge.

3. METHODOLOGY

This methodology for a systematic literature review (SLR) on African mediation begins with defining key research questions, such as identifying themes and patterns related to the effectiveness of African nations and regional organizations in mediating global tensions and recognizing gaps in the current literature regarding the challenges faced by these mediators. A detailed protocol was developed to outline the objectives, scope, and procedures of the SLR, including specific inclusion and exclusion criteria for selecting studies based on publication date, language, and focus on African mediation. Relevant databases, including academic sources like JSTOR, Scopus, Researchgate, Academia and Google Scholar, as well as institutional repositories from organizations like the African Union and the United Nations, were identified for the literature search. A systematic search was conducted using predefined keywords and search strings related to African mediation, conflict resolution, and global tensions, with the search process documented to include the databases used and the number of results retrieved.

The literature used a multi-step screening process, starting with title and abstract screening to eliminate irrelevant studies, followed by full-text screening to confirm eligibility based on the established inclusion and exclusion criteria. A data extraction form systematically gathered relevant information from the included studies, capturing details such as authors, year of publication, study design, key findings, and methodologies used. The quality of the included studies was assessed using appropriate tools like PRISMA and CASP to evaluate methodological rigor and reliability, considering factors such as study design, sample size, and potential biases. The extracted data were then analyzed and synthesized to identify key themes, patterns, and gaps in the literature, employing qualitative synthesis methods to summarize findings and highlight areas for future research.

Consequently, a comprehensive report was prepared, detailing the methodology, findings, and implications of the review, which will include an introduction to the research questions, a description of the search strategy, and a synthesis of key findings related to African mediation in global tensions. Finally, the findings will be disseminated through academic publications, conferences, and workshops to reach a broader audience interested in the role of African nations and regional organizations in mediation efforts.

Inclusion Criteria

1. **Publication Type**: Peer-reviewed articles, books, and reputable reports that focus on African mediation and conflict resolution.
2. **Language**: Studies published in English or French to ensure accessibility and comprehension.
3. **Geographical Focus**: Research specifically addressing mediation efforts by African nations or regional organizations (e.g., African Union).
4. **Time Frame**: Studies published within the last 20 years to capture recent developments and trends in mediation practices.
5. **Thematic Relevance**: Articles that discuss themes such as effectiveness, challenges, strategies, and case studies related to African mediation in global tensions.
6. **Intra-State Conflicts**: Studies focusing on mediation efforts in civil wars or internal conflicts within African nations, including ethnic, political, or resource-based disputes.
7. **Inter-State Conflicts**: Research addressing mediation in conflicts between African states, particularly those involving territorial disputes or diplomatic tensions.
8. **Transnational Conflicts**: Literature examining mediation efforts addressing cross-border issues, such as refugee crises or regional terrorism, that affect multiple African nations.
9. **Post-Conflict Reconstruction**: Studies that analyze mediation in the context of post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding initiatives within African countries.
10. **Human Rights Violations**: Research that discusses mediation related to conflicts arising from human rights abuses, including studies on restorative justice and reconciliation processes.

Exclusion Criteria

1. **Non-Peer-Reviewed Sources**: Exclude opinion pieces, blogs, and non-academic articles that lack rigorous research methodology.
2. **Irrelevant Focus**: Studies that do not specifically address African mediation or are focused on mediation efforts outside of Africa.
3. **Outdated Research**: Literature published more than 20 years ago, unless it provides foundational insights that are critically relevant to current practices.
4. **Limited Methodological Rigor**: Exclude studies that do not employ sound research methodologies or lack empirical evidence.
5. **Duplicate Publications**: Remove duplicate studies that provide the same data or insights to avoid redundancy in the review.
6. **Non-African Contexts**: Exclude studies that focus on conflict types occurring outside of Africa, unless they offer comparative insights directly relevant to African mediation.
7. **Non-Conflict Situations**: Remove literature that discusses peacebuilding or mediation in contexts without significant conflict or tension, such as purely diplomatic negotiations without underlying disputes.
8. **Insignificant Conflicts**: Exclude studies addressing minor conflicts or disputes that lack substantial impact or relevance to broader regional stability or international dynamics.
9. **Historical Conflicts**: Remove research that focuses solely on historical conflicts without clear implications for current mediation practices or lessons learned applicable today.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Objective 1: To Synthesize Existing Literature on the Role of African Nations and Regional Organizations in Mediating Global Tensions

S/N	Source	Methodology	Author Name /Year of Publication/Title	Type of Publication	Theory
1.	Google scholar	Explorative research	Wamuyu L.N. (2015) The role of the African union in mediating Intra-African conflicts: case of Darfur, Sudan	Journal	Human Needs Theory
2.	Research online	Conflict dyad-years	Duursma, A. (2017) Partnering to make peace: The effectiveness of joint African and non-African mediation efforts.	Journal	Svensson's operationalization
3.	Google scholar	Mixed methodology (qualitative and quantitative research tools)	Mugo J.W. (2016) An analysis of mediation as a tool in conflict resolution in Africa: a case study of mediation process in south-Sudan between December 2013-march 2015	Journal	Ripe Moment Theory
4.	Google scholar	Survey	Mutanda D. (2013) The art of mediation in resolving African conflicts: lessons for Zimbabwe and Africa	Research paper	The grievance and greed models
5.	Google scholar	Case study	Duursma A. (2018) Mediating Solutions to Territorial Civil Wars in Africa: Norms, Interests, and Major Power Leverage	Journal	A Theory of Third Party Willingness and Opportunity
6.	Academia	Mixed methods approach	Duursma A. (2015) African Solutions to African Challenges Explaining the Role of Legitimacy in Mediating Civil Wars in Africa	Research paper	Ideational theory

S/N	Source	Methodology	Author Name /Year of Publication/Title	Type of Publication	Theory
7.	Google scholar	Explorative study	Adeyinka A.T & Lateef B.O (2014) Methods of Conflict Resolution in African Traditional Society	Journal	-
8.	Google scholar	Explorative study	Porto J.G. & Ngandu K.Y. (2014) The African Union, Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation, and the Panel of the Wise: Review and Reflection on the Panel's First Six Years.	Journal	-
9.	Research gate	Qualitative research methodology	Ubelejit N.T. (2018) Conflict resolution mechanisms and the traits of effective mediation in Africa	Journal	The Complex Interdependence Theory
10.	Google scholar	Explorative study	Ngalim A.N. (2016) African boundary conflicts and international mediation: the absence of inclusivity in mediating the Bakassi peninsula conflict	Journal	Contemporary mediation theory

- **To Identify Gaps and Future Research Directions in the Literature Concerning African Mediation in Global Tensions**

Wamuyu L.N. (2015) highlights that the African Union (AU) currently lacks the necessary institutional capacity to effectively mediate the conflict in Darfur. It also points out that various competing mediation efforts complicate the peace process in the region. The imposition of deadlines for peace agreements has been identified as a significant barrier to achieving lasting peace. To address these challenges, the study suggests establishing an AU Mediation Unit focused on enhancing security in Darfur and complementing the Continental Early Warning Systems. Additional recommendations include adopting a problem-solving approach to negotiations, ensuring future peace talks in Darfur are inclusive, and involving external actors, such as China, in mediation efforts. In a multiethnic context, it is crucial for the AU and other stakeholders to employ a comprehensive peace strategy that recognizes and respects diverse cultural perspectives. This analysis is directly related to the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It underscores the need for further investigation into the AU's limitations in mediating conflicts like Darfur, the effectiveness of different mediation strategies, and the potential roles of external entities.

Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of considering cultural diversity in peace processes, suggesting a rich area for future research on how these factors influence mediation outcomes.

Strengths of the Study
1. **Comprehensive Analysis**: The studies provide an in-depth examination of the African Union's capacity and challenges in mediating the Darfur conflict, offering valuable insights into the complexities of peace processes.
2. **Practical Recommendations**: They propose actionable solutions, such as the establishment of an AU Mediation Unit and a problem-solving approach to negotiations, which can guide future mediation efforts.
3. **Focus on Inclusivity**: Emphasizing the need for inclusive peace talks reflects an understanding of the diverse cultural landscape in Darfur, which is crucial for sustainable peace.
4. **Identification of External Influences**: The studies recognize the role of external actors, such as China, in mediation efforts, highlighting the importance of international collaboration in addressing regional conflicts.
5. **Highlighting Systemic Issues**: By identifying institutional weaknesses and the impact of competing mediation initiatives, the studies shed light on systemic barriers that hinder effective conflict resolution.

Limitations of the Studies
1. **Lack of Empirical Data**: The studies may rely heavily on theoretical frameworks and qualitative assessments, which could limit the robustness of their conclusions.
2. **Generalization of Findings**: Conclusions drawn from the Darfur context may not be universally applicable to other African conflicts, potentially overlooking unique regional dynamics.
3. **Insufficient Exploration of Local Perspectives**: The studies might not fully incorporate the voices and opinions of local communities affected by the conflict, which are essential for a comprehensive understanding of the situation.
4. **Limited Focus on Implementation**: While recommendations are made, the studies may not address the practical challenges of implementing these solutions within the existing political and institutional frameworks.
5. **Underestimation of External Political Dynamics**: The influence of global politics on local mediation efforts may not be fully explored, which could affect the effectiveness of proposed strategies.

Duursma, A. (2017) found that Africa has faced a total of 938 conflict dyad-years from 1960 to 2012, with mediation occurring in 334 of these instances. This means that approximately 36% of conflict dyad-years involved mediation, indicating that international mediation is a common strategy for addressing armed violence on the continent. Moreover, mediation efforts led by African third parties tend to be more effective than those from non-African parties. The most successful outcomes arise from mixed mediation efforts, where both African and non-African third parties collaborate. Particularly effective are scenarios where African mediators take the lead, supported by coordinated efforts with their non-African counterparts. The phrase "African solutions to African challenges" should be interpreted as a framework for shared responsibilities, rather than a rationale for non-African parties to overlook Africa's issues or for African mediators to act independently.

This analysis aligns with the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It underscores the prevalence of mediation in Africa and highlights the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between African and non-African mediators. This suggests a need for further research into the dynamics of mixed mediation strategies and their impact on conflict resolution. Additionally, exploring the implications of the "African solutions" framework can provide insights into how to enhance cooperation and responsibility-sharing in mediation processes.

Strengths:
1. **Quantitative Insight:** The study provides valuable data on the extent of conflict and mediation in Africa, establishing a clear picture of the mediation landscape.
2. **Effectiveness of Mixed Mediation:** It identifies that mixed mediation efforts, especially those led by African parties, yield the best results, emphasizing the importance of collaboration.
3. **Conceptual Clarity:** The clarification of "African solutions to African challenges" fosters a nuanced understanding of roles and responsibilities in mediation.

Limitations:
1. **Temporal Scope:** The analysis covers a specific period (1960-2012), which may not reflect more recent developments in conflict and mediation dynamics.
2. **Lack of Contextual Detail:** While it discusses mediation effectiveness, it may not delve into the specific contexts or factors that contribute to varying degrees of success.
3. **Generalization:** The findings might oversimplify the complexities of mediation by grouping diverse African contexts under a single framework without addressing unique regional challenges.

These strengths and limitations inform future research directions, suggesting the need for updated studies that incorporate recent data and contextual analyses, as well as a deeper exploration of the implications of mixed mediation efforts. Mugo J.W. (2016) identifies multiple actors involved in the mediation process in South Sudan, including IGAD as the primary mediator, regional states like Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, as well as the African Union (AU) and various international entities such as the Troika, the US, the European Union, the UN, and China. The participation of nearby regional actors in peace negotiations presents both advantages and challenges. Key limitations to IGAD's mediation efforts include regional rivalries and power struggles, centralized decision-making at the Heads of State level, and difficulties in broadening the peace process to engage beyond South Sudan's political elites.

To achieve peace in South Sudan, the study recommends two essential actions: First, IGAD must overcome its perception as an impartial and credible mediator. Second, the South Sudanese government should not shift its responsibility for peace to external entities; it must actively engage in finding solutions to end the conflict. The study further asserts that African countries and institutions, including IGAD, the IGAD Plus Five, the AU Peace and Security Commission, and the AU Commission, need to unite and be steadfast in enforcing peace agreements. Additionally, increased security must be provided to protect the proposed government of national unity, the reform process, and civilians affected by the conflict.

This analysis relates directly to the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It highlights the complexities and challenges of mediation in South Sudan, emphasizing the need for further research on the roles of various actors and the impact of regional dynamics on mediation efforts. Exploring how to enhance the credibility of mediators and the responsibilities of local governments can offer valuable insights for future mediation strategies.

Strengths:
1. **Diverse Actor Representation**: The study provides a comprehensive overview of the various mediators involved, offering a nuanced understanding of the mediation landscape in South Sudan.
2. **Identification of Challenges**: It effectively highlights the limitations faced by IGAD, such as regional rivalries and centralized decision-making, which are critical for understanding mediation dynamics.
3. **Practical Recommendations**: The study offers actionable recommendations for both the South Sudanese government and regional institutions, focusing on accountability and collaboration.

Limitations:
1. **Insufficient Contextual Analysis**: While it addresses the actors involved, the study may not delve deeply enough into the specific contexts that influence mediation outcomes.
2. **Temporal Limitations**: The recommendations may not account for changes in the political landscape or shifts in international involvement since the study was conducted.
3. **Generalization Risks**: The findings might oversimplify the complexities of South Sudan's conflict by not adequately addressing the unique historical and cultural factors at play.

These strengths and limitations point to the need for future research that includes deeper contextual analyses, updates on the evolving political situation, and a more nuanced understanding of the diverse factors influencing mediation efforts in South Sudan.

Mutanda D. (2013) in his study highlight how the southern African region recognized the worsening political and economic conditions in Zimbabwe, leading to the appointment of Thabo Mbeki in 2007 to help restore peace and stability. It also examines the challenges faced by South African mediation efforts in Zimbabwe. In this context, the article proposes pragmatic strategies and tactics that should be implemented to enhance the effectiveness of mediation, both in Zimbabwe and across the continent.

This analysis is relevant to the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. By highlighting the specific challenges and proposing practical solutions for mediation in Zimbabwe, the paper underscores the need for further exploration of effective mediation strategies in various African contexts. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the political dynamics that influence mediation outcomes and the role of regional actors in promoting peace.

Strengths:
1. **Contextual Relevance**: The paper provides a timely analysis of the political and economic crises in Zimbabwe, illustrating the need for effective mediation strategies.
2. **Pragmatic Recommendations**: It offers actionable strategies for improving mediation efforts, making it valuable for policymakers and practitioners.
3. **Insight into Mediation Merits**: The paper highlights the benefits of mediation as a tool for reducing political violence, contributing to the broader discourse on conflict resolution in Africa.

Limitations:
1. **Limited Scope**: While focusing on Zimbabwe, the paper may not fully address how its findings apply to other African nations with different contexts and challenges.
2. **Lack of Empirical Data**: The analysis might benefit from empirical evidence or case studies to substantiate its claims about the effectiveness of proposed strategies.
3. **Potential Oversimplification**: The complexity of Zimbabwe's political landscape may be oversimplified, failing to capture the nuanced factors that affect mediation outcomes.

These strengths and limitations suggest the need for further research that incorporates empirical studies and broader contextual analyses to enhance the understanding of mediation strategies in Africa, ultimately contributing to more effective conflict resolution practices.

Duursma A. (2018) stressed that the "theme that African leaders generally oppose territorial revisions is well-established in African International Relations research (Jackson & Rosberg, 1982; Jackson, 1990)." However, there is limited exploration into why the norm of territorial integrity has persisted for such an extended period. African leaders have internalized this norm, making opposition to territorial changes a key aspect of their identity interests. As a result, Africa's collective resistance to territorial revisions diminishes the likelihood of mediation processes proposing such changes.

This trend illustrates that third-party mediators in African civil wars are typically hesitant to advocate for secession. This reluctance stems from the belief that supporting secession could create a precedent that encourages other secessionist movements across the continent. Consequently, despite the stabilization of borders over time, African leaders remain committed to the territorial integrity norm. This situation highlights that third-party mediators are not neutral entities; they come with their own interests and norms that shape their mediation approaches. These factors are significant, as mediators will seek solutions to civil conflicts that align with their established interests and norms.

This analysis is pertinent to the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It emphasizes the need to investigate the persistence of the territorial integrity norm and its implications for mediation efforts. Understanding the internalized beliefs of African leaders and the motivations of third-party mediators can provide deeper insights into the challenges of conflict resolution on the continent.

Strengths:
1. **Theoretical Contribution**: The paper contributes to the understanding of the territorial integrity norm within African International Relations, offering a framework for analyzing its impact on mediation.
2. **Focus on Identity Interests**: It highlights how the internalization of norms shapes the identity and interests of African leaders, providing a nuanced view of their opposition to territorial changes.
3. **Insight into Mediator Dynamics**: The analysis underscores that third-party mediators are influenced by their own interests and norms, enriching the discussion on mediation strategies in Africa.

Limitations:
1. **Lack of Empirical Evidence**: The argument may benefit from empirical case studies to illustrate how the territorial integrity norm affects specific mediation efforts.
2. **Generalization Risks**: The findings may oversimplify the complexities of individual conflicts, failing to account for unique historical and political contexts that influence mediation.
3. **Limited Exploration of Alternatives**: The paper does not extensively address potential alternatives to the territorial integrity norm or how mediation could adapt to changing circumstances.

These strengths and limitations suggest a need for further research that incorporates empirical analysis and contextual exploration to enhance understanding of the territorial integrity norm and its implications for mediation practices in Africa. Duursma A. (2015) highlighted that African third parties are notably effective in mediating civil wars on the continent due to their high degree of legitimacy. This legitimacy stems from a widespread belief within African states that African-led mediation is the most appropriate approach to resolving conflicts. Utilizing data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, along with additional unique data covering all mediation efforts in Africa from 1960 to 2012, the study provides quantitative evidence supporting the effectiveness of African mediators.

The findings indicate that African third parties are significantly more likely than their non-African counterparts to achieve peace agreements, and these agreements tend to be more durable. The study also includes two case studies focusing on various mediation efforts during the civil wars in Sudan, which explore the causal mechanisms behind the success of African mediation. While the study does not claim broad causal generalizability from these case studies, they highlight the importance of third-party legitimacy in achieving successful mediation outcomes. This research represents the first systematic comparison of African and non-African mediation efforts.

This analysis aligns with the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. By demonstrating the effectiveness of African mediators and the critical role of legitimacy, the study underscores the need for further exploration of the factors contributing to successful mediation in Africa and how these can be leveraged in future conflicts.

Strengths:
1. **Quantitative Evidence:** The study provides empirical data that substantiate the effectiveness of African mediation efforts compared to non-African ones, enhancing the credibility of its claims.
2. **Focus on Legitimacy:** It emphasizes the importance of third-party legitimacy, offering a valuable insight into why African mediators may be more successful in peace processes.
3. **Systematic Comparison:** This research is pioneering in systematically comparing African and non-African mediation efforts, filling a significant gap in the literature.

Limitations:
1. **Limited Generalizability:** While the case studies provide insights, they may not be representative of all African conflicts or mediation efforts, limiting the ability to generalize findings.
2. **Potential Bias in Data:** The reliance on specific datasets may introduce bias, depending on how mediation efforts were recorded and assessed.
3. **Lack of Contextual Depth:** The study might benefit from a deeper contextual analysis of the unique factors influencing mediation success in different African settings.

These strengths and limitations highlight the need for further research that incorporates diverse case studies and contextual factors, aiming to enhance understanding of the dynamics of mediation in Africa and the role of legitimacy in conflict resolution. Adeyinka A.T & Lateef B.O (2014) argues that the Western world tends to emphasize judicial systems led by councils of elders, kings' courts, and community assemblies for dispute resolution and justice dispensation. It concludes that traditional African conflict resolution techniques such as mediation, adjudication, reconciliation, and negotiation along with methods like cross-examination, have greater potential for fostering peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationships during post-conflict periods compared to modern litigation methods used in law courts. This analysis is relevant to the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. By recognizing the value of traditional conflict resolution methods, the paper invites further exploration into how these practices can be integrated into contemporary mediation efforts, particularly in post-conflict settings.

Strengths:
1. **Emphasis on Tradition:** The paper highlights the strengths of traditional conflict resolution methods, providing a counter-narrative to the predominant focus on Western judicial systems.
2. **Potential for Peacebuilding:** It suggests that traditional practices may be more effective in promoting harmony and reconciliation, which is crucial for sustainable peace in post-conflict societies.
3. **Cultural Relevance:** By grounding its analysis in African contexts, the paper acknowledges the importance of cultural practices in conflict resolution.

Limitations:
1. **Lack of Empirical Evidence:** The argument could be strengthened with empirical data or case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of traditional methods in specific contexts.
2. **Generalization Risks:** The paper may oversimplify the diversity of conflict resolution practices across different African cultures, potentially overlooking unique regional variations.

3. **Neglect of Modern Dynamics**: While advocating for traditional methods, the paper may not fully address how these practices can coexist with or adapt to modern legal frameworks and societal changes.

These strengths and limitations suggest a need for further research that examines the integration of traditional and modern conflict resolution methods, exploring how they can complement each other to enhance mediation efforts and promote lasting peace in African contexts. Porto J.G. & Ngandu K.Y. (2014) highlights that a chronic lack of resources both human and financial poses a significant challenge to the panel's ability to fulfill its mandate and existing commitments within the African Union (AU) Commission. This issue is endemic throughout the AU and is likely to persist, necessitating creative strategies for how the panel and its secretariat interact with other departments within the AU, particularly the Peace and Security Department and the Department of Political Affairs, as well as with partner organizations. As the panel moves forward with various commitments, such as PanWise initiatives, horizon scanning, monitoring legal and normative frameworks, and engaging with member states on conflict prevention, addressing these resource constraints becomes increasingly critical. Ensuring that the secretariat can overcome current human capacity limitations will be vital for achieving its objectives, particularly in enhancing coherence, collaboration, and subsidiarity in mediation efforts with Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

This analysis is pertinent to the objective of identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It underscores the need to explore innovative approaches to resource mobilization and capacity-building within the AU, which are essential for effective mediation and conflict resolution.

Strengths:
1. **Recognition of Resource Challenges**: The paper accurately identifies a fundamental issue that impacts the effectiveness of the AU's mediation efforts, drawing attention to a critical area for improvement.
2. **Call for Innovation**: It encourages creative solutions for overcoming resource constraints, fostering a proactive approach to addressing systemic challenges within the AU.
3. **Focus on Collaboration**: By emphasizing the importance of collaboration with different departments and partner organizations, the paper highlights a pathway toward greater effectiveness in mediation.

Limitations:
1. **Lack of Specific Solutions**: While it identifies the challenge, the paper does not provide concrete examples or strategies for overcoming resource constraints, limiting its practical applicability.
2. **Generalization Risks**: The discussion may overlook the diversity of resource challenges faced by different departments within the AU, potentially oversimplifying a complex issue.
3. **Limited Contextual Analysis**: The analysis may benefit from a deeper exploration of how resource challenges have impacted specific mediation efforts or initiatives in the past.

These strengths and limitations indicate a need for further research focused on developing specific strategies for resource mobilization and capacity-building within the AU, which are crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of mediation efforts across the continent.

Ubelejit N.T. (2018) concludes that forceful mediation has emerged as the most effective mechanism for conflict resolution in Africa. It emphasizes the necessity for mediators to maintain neutrality and sincerity throughout the mediation process. Additionally, it highlights that warring factions must genuinely desire peace and commit to respecting any agreements reached during negotiations or mediation. This analysis is relevant to identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It prompts exploration into the dynamics of forceful mediation and the conditions under which it is most effective, as well as the roles that mediator characteristics and faction willingness play in successful conflict resolution.

Strengths and Limitations
Strengths:
1. **Clear Findings**: The study provides a definitive conclusion regarding the effectiveness of forceful mediation, which can inform future mediation strategies and practices.
2. **Emphasis on Mediator Qualities**: By highlighting the importance of neutrality and sincerity, the study underscores essential qualities that can enhance mediation effectiveness.
3. **Focus on Faction Commitment**: The recommendation for warring factions to genuinely seek peace emphasizes the need for mutual willingness in the conflict resolution process.

Limitations:
1. **Potential Oversimplification**: The assertion that forceful mediation is the most effective approach may oversimplify the complexities of different conflicts, as various situations may require different mediation strategies.
2. **Lack of Contextual Nuance**: The study may not sufficiently consider the specific contexts or historical backgrounds of the conflicts analyzed, which could influence the effectiveness of mediation approaches.
3. **Limited Examination of Consequences**: The implications of forceful mediation, such as potential backlash or long-term stability, may not be adequately explored, raising questions about its sustainability.

These strengths and limitations suggest a need for further research that delves into the nuances of forceful mediation, including its application in diverse contexts and the potential impacts on long-term peace and stability in African conflicts. According to Ngalim A.N. (2016) the case of the Bakassi peninsula boundary dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon illustrates that while international adjudication and mediation played a role in resolving the conflict, certain less powerful parties such as activists advocating for the independence of Southern Cameroons and Nigerians residing in Bakassi were excluded from the process. This exclusion is particularly concerning given that major powers, including the United States, France, Britain, and Germany, participated without being direct stakeholders in the dispute.

Relation to Objective
This analysis is relevant to identifying gaps and future research directions in the literature on African mediation in global tensions. It highlights the need to explore the implications of excluding marginalized voices from mediation processes and how this impacts the legitimacy and sustainability of conflict resolution outcomes.

Strengths and Limitations
Strengths:
1. **Highlighting Marginalization:** The paper effectively points out the exclusion of less powerful parties, drawing attention to a significant issue in mediation processes.
2. **Critique of Power Dynamics:** It critiques the involvement of great powers in conflicts where they are not stakeholders, raising questions about the legitimacy of their influence in mediation.
3. **Call for Inclusivity:** The analysis underscores the importance of including diverse voices in conflict resolution processes to ensure that all affected parties have representation.

Limitations:
1. **Lack of Detailed Analysis:** The discussion may benefit from a deeper exploration of how the exclusion of these parties affected the mediation outcome and the broader implications for peace.
2. **Generalization Risks:** The focus on the Bakassi dispute may not fully capture the varying dynamics of other conflicts in Africa, which could differ in terms of stakeholder involvement.
3. **Limited Exploration of Alternatives:** The paper does not propose specific mechanisms for ensuring that marginalized voices are included in future mediation efforts.

These strengths and limitations suggest a need for further research that examines the role of marginalized groups in mediation processes, exploring strategies for enhancing inclusivity and addressing power imbalances in conflict resolution in Africa.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The collective analysis of the various studies reveals several critical themes regarding mediation in African conflicts. A prominent finding is the effectiveness of African third parties in mediating civil wars, attributed to their legitimacy and cultural relevance. The emphasis on traditional conflict resolution methods highlights the potential for these approaches to foster reconciliation and sustainable peace, especially in post-conflict periods. However, the studies also illustrate significant challenges, particularly the chronic lack of resources faced by the AU and its mediators, which hampers their capacity to execute mandates effectively. The tension between traditional and modern conflict resolution methods is evident, with forceful mediation being highlighted as effective yet potentially oversimplifying the complexities of various conflicts. The exclusion of marginalized voices, such as local activists and communities, from mediation processes raises questions about the legitimacy and inclusivity of conflict resolution efforts. The involvement of great powers in mediation, despite their lack of direct stakes, further complicates the dynamics, as it risks sidelining the voices of those most affected by conflicts.

Summary
In summary, while African mediation efforts, particularly by third parties, demonstrate effectiveness and cultural appropriateness, challenges remain regarding resource constraints, the need for inclusivity, and the balance between traditional and modern approaches. The findings underscore the importance of recognizing and incorporating diverse perspectives in mediation processes, ensuring that all stakeholders, including marginalized groups, have a voice.

Additionally, the role of great powers in mediation, especially when not directly involved in conflicts, warrants careful consideration to avoid undermining the legitimacy of the process.

6. CONCLUSION

The analysis of mediation efforts in African conflicts highlights both the strengths and challenges inherent in these processes. African third parties have demonstrated a unique ability to mediate effectively due to their legitimacy and cultural relevance, often surpassing non-African mediators. Traditional conflict resolution methods show promise in fostering reconciliation and sustainable peace, particularly in post-conflict contexts. However, significant challenges persist, including chronic resource constraints within the AU, the exclusion of marginalized voices from mediation processes, and the complexities introduced by the involvement of external powers. These factors can undermine the legitimacy and effectiveness of mediation efforts.

To enhance the efficacy of conflict resolution in Africa, it is crucial to prioritize resource allocation, promote inclusivity, integrate traditional and modern practices, critically assess the role of external mediators, and conduct further research into these dynamics. By addressing these issues, stakeholders can foster more inclusive and effective mediation processes that lead to lasting peace and stability across the continent.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The AU and its member states should prioritize the allocation of human and financial resources to strengthen the capacity of mediators and support effective conflict resolution initiatives.
2. Future mediation efforts should actively seek to include marginalized voices, such as local activists and communities, in the negotiation processes to ensure that all affected parties are represented.
3. There should be a concerted effort to integrate traditional conflict resolution practices with modern mediation approaches, recognizing the value of cultural relevance in fostering peace.
4. The involvement of external powers in mediation should be critically evaluated to ensure that their participation does not overshadow or undermine local perspectives and interests.
5. Additional studies are needed to explore the dynamics of marginalization in mediation processes and to develop strategies for enhancing the inclusivity and effectiveness of conflict resolution in Africa.

By addressing these recommendations, stakeholders can work towards more effective and legitimate mediation processes that contribute to lasting peace and stability across the continent.

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