African Peacebuilding Operations from OAU to AU

アフリカ統一機構からアフリカ連合までの平和構築活動

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Serious conflicts have occurred frequently especially since 1990 in Africa. The Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was the biggest African organization at that time, could not intervene in those conflicts actively. This noninterference had brought a toll of lives and refugees, and ended up leaving them to their suffering. The OAU, which had not fulfilled its duty for African peace, had transformed itself into a new pan-African organization, the African Union (AU), in 2002 with a focus on peace and security.

I proposed the following hypothesis in this thesis; to eradicate conflicts and not to repeat them, not only the African Union but other institutions are greatly crucial. When cooperating with those actors, the African Union can take leadership.

This thesis emphasizes the need for peacebuilding. There are two reasons: 1) 43% of the conflicts since 1990 have recurred within five years after the cease-fire. Consequently, recognition of the importance of recurrence prevention for conflict prevention is widespread. Especially, in the AU Sirte Summit in 2005, the executive decision showed that the development of reconstruction and peacebuilding are important issues after a ceasefire agreement. 2) One of the big issues in post-conflict development of reconstruction is continuing involvement of international relations. The large number of cases of conflict recurrence within five years is partly due to the early withdrawal of PKO forces and a decrease in support due to the decrease in the international community's attention after a peace agreement. That is to say, even though the conflict is formally concluded with a peace agreement, it is certain that the region is still unstable for a while afterwards. If an international intervention works effectively, it could prevent recurrence of conflicts in countries undergoing conflict. Also, since eventually citizens cause conflict, regaining peace at the community level further below the national level is also important to prevent the recurrence of conflict. In other words, not only international involvement such as PKOs from United Nations, but also African regional organizations which can promote the foundation of the peace consolidation through DDR, which stands for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, are certainly essential.

There is an argument that international society plays a role of connecting each organization in the area. However, the international communities cannot engage permanently in the area. No matter how long they may be involved, they never continue peacebuilding activities forever. On the other hand, the local society must inevitably undertake the interests of peace which brought about by the international community and the disadvantage when they are lost. In other words, the local society keeps permanent responsibility for the peace of their society. However, it is difficult for the local society to organize various organizations. If the local society plays this role; 1) forces that seek peacebuilding must exist in the local society, and the forces must be in a strong position internally. 2) the local society must have the ability to bear

the responsibility. Even if there is an intention to promote peacebuilding in the local society, there are cases where there is no ability to fully play a role in human, institutional, physical and financial resources. The organization which can play a coordinating role should be the African Union.

The OAU, the precursor organization of the African Union influenced the establishment of the African Union. The number of conflicts has peaked in the first half of the 1990s such as Rwanda, where at least 500,000 people were slaughtered in less than 100 days, and Somalia, where effective control failed after the government collapsed and anarchy continues to this day. Although since 1990, African leaders began to realize that dealing with conflicts which occurred frequently in Africa was an extremely high priority for urgency with based on circumstances: 1) Frequent conflicts and broadening of the area, 2) Further worsening of the social and economic crisis in the region, 3) Large number of refugees and IDPs which stands for Internally Displaced Persons. However, the OAU could not suppress or prevent those conflicts. The OAU's non-interference in conflicts brought about a worsening of conflicts and its limited organizational structure led to its collapse. It is indeed true that the OAU has collapsed and transformed into the African Union, but experiences and some failures brought the establishment of the African Union, and creation has taken over the former organization not a little. In other words, the progress of the AU has been effectively made because of the OAU.

The major difference between the OAU and the AU is in the peace and security field. As an examples, there are; establishment of Peace and Security Council (PSC) which is a key structure of conflict resolution and prevention, and actively collaboration with Regional Organizations which contributes to PSC as a key mechanism of peace and security and international actors such as PKOs from the United Nations. Especially we could see those collaboration in the Liberian conflict which occurred in the 1990s.

Once the dispute fell under the support of the UN and the ECOWAS which is outstandingly contributing to conflict intervention and prevention among Regional Organizations, it recurred again. This is because it was not enough to remain community after consensus and to build peace in community organizations, including reconstruction of society then. In response to this conflict, the AU grasped the leadership and requested the dispatch of ECOWAS. Following the activities of ECOWAS, the UN sent a PKO. That is the AU which emphasized peacebuilding and also the largest organization of the African continent, took the initiative, so it was able to move regional organizations quickly and the UN was able to respond quickly. Through activities in this Liberian conflict, it is indispensable that cooperation with the international community and regional organizations in order to eliminate the fundamental conflict. In addition, by taking the leadership position of the AU among them, it is possible to more effectively carry out peacebuilding in the region. The hypothesis was proved.