

学位論文の要旨（論文の内容の要旨）  
Summary of the Dissertation (Summary of Dissertation Contents)

論 文 題 目

Dissertation title

Cooperative Institutionalization of Conflict Prevention in Regional Subsystem: A Case Study of West Africa

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This study is an attempt to present a new conceptual perspective to the practice of conflict prevention in the regional subsystem of West Africa. Conflict prevention mechanisms are veritable tool to prevent violence and build resilient societies. It constitutes a broad and complex process that demands concerted efforts by institutions and groups towards its operationalization. The multi-dimensional and multi-faceted agendas and frameworks, and the process-based nature of its organization and implementation make its outcomes unpredictable and hard to evaluate. Recognizing these analytical challenges in previous studies, this dissertation conceptualizes recent trends of cooperation amongst multiple actors for prevention of conflict in West Africa through a new conceptual approach of cooperative institutionalization of conflict prevention in regional subsystem. In this regard, the primary research question is what are the existing institutional capacities for conflict prevention? how can institutional cooperation and partnership between sub-regional, state, non-state and local actors help to institutionalize conflict prevention? and how and in what way institutions converge in taking action to respond to risk and vulnerabilities to conflicts in the sub-region?

West Africa remains one of the most advanced regional subsystems in Africa with regards to building architecture for peace, conflict management and prevention. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a regional grouping has successfully taken leadership roles in building the foundation for peace making and peacekeeping as well as institutional frameworks towards conflict management in the sub-region. It operates the most sophisticated early warning system in Africa, and has strategic advantage in peacekeeping and enforcement

systems as well as an operational architecture to manage conflict that may emerge within and across states. There are regional initiatives and national processes as well as local platforms that are constantly emerging to tackle conflict issues. These new frameworks are laying emphasis on collective action to build a preventive regime in the sub-region. It requires that regional cooperation and integration lay emphasis on conflict prevention and must be operationalized through institutional cooperation across sectors and institutions for its realization.

West Africa with its complex security and conflict dynamics and its strategic advantage of a wide area of regional network among institutions and groups engaged in preventive actions, fits well in the framework of a regional subsystem in which the structure of cooperative institutionalization of initiatives towards prevention can be conceptually analyzed.

Therefore, part of the study focuses on developing a framework to understand institutional cooperation in a regional subsystem showing the network of relational arrangement between and across regional, national and local setting. This framework does not stand on its own and can change to fit institutional context operating vertically and horizontally across sectors and institutions. It can be cooperative institutionalization of conflict prevention mechanisms within and between, state-governments, regional organizations, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), and local actors.

Cooperative institutionalization as a theoretical approach established in this study, conceptualizes any network of relational arrangement of institutions at different levels of a subsystem in taking decisions or actions towards managing conflict prevention. In this regard, the study's methodology applies a case study approach to analyse various practices of preventive actions, and understudy, observed and collected data on patterns of institutional cooperation from different levels of institutional sectors in West Africa.

The study covers normative case studies, institutional case studies, operational case studies, presented in Chapter Five and Six and country-based case studies analysed in Chapter Seven within the analytical framework of cooperative institutionalization of conflict prevention. These case studies include operationalization of early warning system, preventive diplomacy and the ECOWAS Standby Force as well as development of National Infrastructures for Peace (NI4P). They form the analytical discourse for institutionalization of conflict prevention in West Africa. From analyses in these cases presented, the study finds that cooperation is always possible between regional, state, non-state and sub-state structures in the subsystem. The study conclusion from theory, concepts and case studies is that presence of regional organizations, civil

society groups, traditional systems of dialogue and reconciliation and democratic regimes etc., that cut across communities is a readily available platform for institutions to cooperate vertically and horizontally. It is the premise for cooperative institutionalization of conflict prevention mechanism in responding to potential risk factors to conflict and insecurities within the context of West Africa.