

The African Union's Continental Early Warning System:

Conflict Prevention in an African Context

LAUREL BURCHFIELD

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

The 19th Annual Graduate Student Conference in African Studies

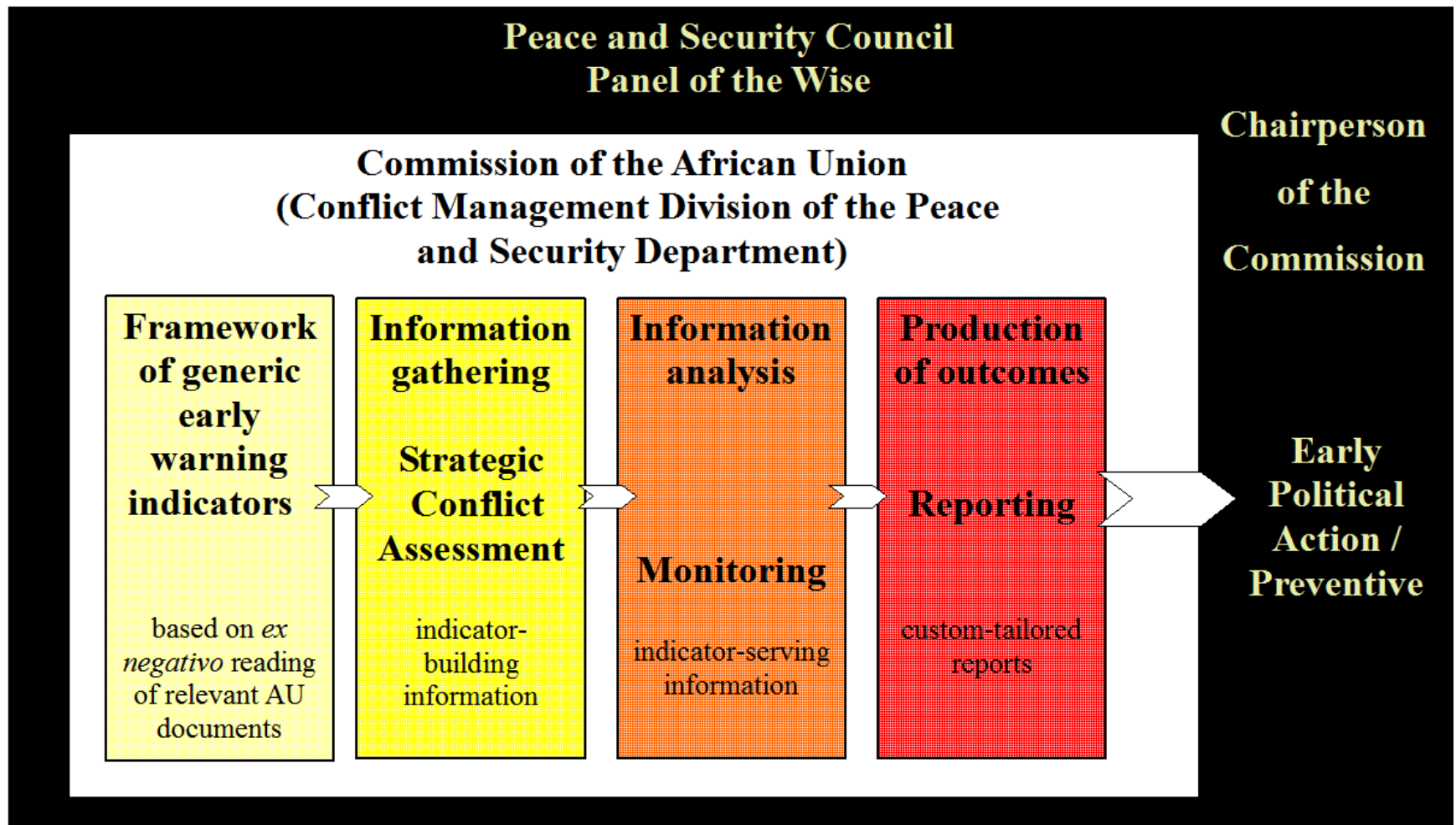
Boston University

March 4-5, 2011

Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

- Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
 - “In order to facilitate the anticipation and prevention of conflicts”
- 2 stages:
 - Data collection and analysis (early warning)
 - Conflict prevention strategies (early action)

Early Warning Systems



Stage 2:

Conflict Prevention

- 2 forms of conflict prevention
 - Structural intervention (deep intervention)
 - Democratic Institutions
 - Development Initiatives
 - Direct intervention (light intervention)
 - Preventive Diplomacy
 - Military and Economic Interventions
- Warning-Response Gap
 - Political Will and Capacity
 - Regionalization

CEWARN

“Empowering stakeholders to prevent violent conflicts”

- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Focused on cross-border pastoralist and related conflicts
- Capacity for Structural Intervention
 - Rapid Response Fund-financially supports local peace committees
- Capacity for Direct Intervention
 - Mapping projects of clusters
 - CEWERU (Conflict Early Warning and Response Units)
- Limitations and Strengths



Warning-Response Gap & Traditional Methods

Are traditional and local methods a resource for the gap between early warning and early action?

- What is Traditional?
 - Focus on reconciliation, relationship-building
 - Use of mediators (elders, women, religious leaders)



Future Research

- What traditional methods are being used?
- How does CEWARN support traditional methods of conflict prevention?
- Are they efficient and institutionalized?
- How can the AU incorporate this into CEWS?