Crisis decision making in East African Community member countries: a case study of 2007-8 Kenya crisis

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Abstract:
This study observes the nature of crisis decisions that were made during the Kenyan 2007-8 crisis. The volatility of the East African sub region and the prevalence of crisis and conflicts has necessitated a further inquiry as to examine international crisis decision making processes and structures within states and non state entities. It is notable that crisis especially political crises mostly require states and governments to make certain decisions that are aimed at resolving the crises and that, non state entities such as the EAC have a limited mandate or jurisdiction to intervene unless such crises are referred to them by the state(s) in the crisis. This research will also endeavor to analyze EAC and Kenya's crisis decision making processes and structures while focusing more on their efficacy and ability to resolve crises. The research was based on library books, journals, internet and official publications from EAC for secondary data. Primary data on crisis decision making in EAC and Kenyan government, was collected using questionnaires and interviews with policy makers in the relevant ministries of Foreign affairs, EAC and Internal security and officials from EAC secretariat. The research concluded that there was indeed a clear crisis decision making process and procedure in Kenya during crisis and indeed a crisis decision making process and procedure in EAC but its limited during political crises due to the principle of sovereignty and non-interference enshrined in the EAC treaty. The absence of that coordination in EAC on political crises was found to be retarding economic progress and political federation. A proposal was made to establish a clear body that deals with early warning and response mechanism to avert escalation of crises to violent levels.