AMISOM’s Lessons for Contemporary Peace Operations

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1. Partnership peacekeeping is the new normal in Africa. We have to do it better.
2. Success requires unified, sustained political support + the ability to exert leverage over local political elites.
3. Without unified command & control a peace operation won’t be more than the sum of its parts.
4. Beware optimistic planning assumptions, especially about local security forces.
5. Logistics

Don’t expect success in war if you separate a commander from their logistics and rely on frameworks intended for peacekeeping.
6. Security Sector Reform

It’s the politics, stupid!
(And some technical stuff.)
7. Civilian Protection

Not having a mandate to protect civilians doesn’t insulate a mission from expectations to protect civilians.
8. Strategic Communications

Missions require built-in, flexible and resourced capacity to do effective strategic communications.
Effective local partners hold the key to delivering stability and a peace dividend to local populations.
10. Exit

Politics not plans determine exit. Peacekeepers aren’t in control of their own successful exit.