

Abstract

The thesis deals with the European Union Military Training Mission (EUTM) in Mozambique, which has been operational since 2021. The EU built on the foundations of the Portuguese training mission, which started training a few months earlier. Portugal, in particular, is a long-standing partner of its former colony on the African continent, with which it has regularly updated its bilateral Defence Cooperation Framework Programme – ‘Programa-Quadro’ – since the Carnation Revolution. In response to the insurgency by the militant group Ansar al-Sunna wa Jama’a (ASWJ) in Mozambique's northern region, Cabo Delgado, in October 2017, Portugal explored adding a new sixth cooperation Project with Mozambique to their Framework Programme. It was to support the training and capacity-building of the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces (FADM) for counter-insurgency operations. The formalisation of this project took place in Lisbon in May 2021 with the signing of a new ‘Programa-Quadro’ by both the Portuguese and Mozambican Ministers of National Defence. Simultaneously, Portuguese officials took the opportunity of the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2021 to discuss the implementation of the EUTM Mozambique. It was to build on the Portuguese training mission to strengthen the FADM capabilities with their equipment and to create a Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The thesis explores the mandate for establishing the mission, signed by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, in July 2021, and also supported by a request from Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi from September 2020 for non-executive military assistance. The thesis primarily focuses on the impact of Portugal on the establishment of the EUTM Mozambique and its subsequent course.