

## 7. The Strength of African Conflict Resolution Potentials

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Katende argues that conflict resolution methods from outside the continent have replaced traditional conflict resolution mechanisms (TCRMs) in many African societies. These outside methods have, in many cases, failed to resolve conflicts because they are not suited to the African environment. TCRMs are widely used in rural and poor urban areas, where there is often minimal access to formal state justice. The advantages of TCRMs include: practical solutions suited to local situations and environments, lower administration costs, less complexity, quicker settlement, suitability for multi-party disputes, increased flexibility and participation, and preservation of relationships and reputation. The main aims of TCRMs are to restore order and relationships, to restore justice, and to build consensus.

International frameworks such as the ICC need to study and internalize the potentials of African TCRMs. They should try to see how they may work with them or, where possible, integrate them into their systems. Also, TCRMs did not consider the involvement of women in the process. As we think of integrating indigenous approaches with modern approaches to conflict resolution, the role of women as both perpetrators and peacemakers should be critically assessed.