



# UNOAU News

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## The United Nations at the 26<sup>th</sup> African Union Summit

UN and AU: Strengthening strategic partnership in Africa



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## UN and AU: Strengthening strategic partnership in Africa

The African Union Ordinary Summit is the gathering of all key policy organs of the AU. Two Ordinary Summits are held every year, one in January in Addis Ababa and the second in June in another African capital. Each Summit consists of 3 two-day: the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC, composed of Ambassadors), the Executive Council (comprising Ministers of Foreign Affairs) and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The Summit brings together policy making Organs of the Union, representatives from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Private Sector, the Diaspora, Partner Organizations, International media and dignitaries. The United

Nations actively participates through the Secretariat and its many funds, programmes and agencies.

Mostly every January, the UN Secretary-General leads a delegation to the AU Annual Assembly, comprising senior advisers, experts and support staff from UNHQ, Political and Peacekeeping missions, and those Departments and agencies whose work is related to Peace and Security issues on the African continent. Other UN specialized agencies also participated. The UN SG delegation this year was composed as follows in the box (right):

- Under Secretary Generals from DPKO, DFS, OSAA
- Senior Advisors: Agenda 2030 for sustainable development; Burundi; UNHCR
- Special Representatives of the Secretary General from UNOAU, SVC, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNSOM, UNOCA, UNOWA, UNSMIL, UNMIS
- Special Envoys from the Sahel and the Great Lakes
- Executive Secretaries from ECA and the Deputy of UN WOMEN
- Assistant Secretary Generals from DPA, Humanitarian Affairs and OHCHR
- Director General of UNON
- Joint Special Representative of UNAMID

UN Secretary General delivered a speech on the theme of the year on Human Rights and emphasized UN and AU efforts to address conflict on the continent. He engaged with Heads of State to discuss and promote peace and security among other issues. Meanwhile, the Principals attended the Heads of State meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held bilateral meetings with several ministers of Foreign Affairs and partners, and participated in a range of side events. UNOAU played a crucial role in support of the UNSG delegation visit in Addis Ababa at both politically and logistically.

Thank you  
Haile Menkerios

## UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the AU Summit under the 2016 theme of Human Rights, with an emphasis on women's rights

The 26<sup>th</sup> African Union January Summit was opened on 30 January 2016 in Addis Ababa, with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The AUC Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma in her opening remarks, observed that under Agenda 2063, Africa refuses to be indifferent or silent in the face of violent extremism, gender based violence, and the suffering caused by wars and conflict, adding that Africa has pledged to leverage its diversity as a force for peace and democracy. The Chairperson acknowledged the need to create opportunities for young people in order to address root causes of conflict. She also strongly called on the UN to find a solution to the decades-old crisis in Western Sahara so as to forestall the risk of youth radicalization in refugee camps. She welcomed newly elected Heads of State, John Magufuli of Tanzania and Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kabore of Burkina Faso as



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

well as Presidents Alassane Ouattara of Cote D'Ivoire and Alpha Conde of Guinea, who were recently re-elected. In concluding her remarks, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma thanked President Robert Mugabe, who handed over Chairmanship of the Union to President Deby of Chad, for his "excellent guidance".

In his last speech at the AU Summit as UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, whose term ends in December 2016, congratulated the AU for deciding to focus on human rights as its theme for 2016, stating that women should be able to fully take part in society, including at the highest levels of state structures and in peace and security. The age of exclusion is over, he announced. Mr. Ban urged the AU to build on human rights successes through "3 I's": Implementation, Institution-building and Investment. He expressed hope that the UN-AU framework for enhanced cooperation in Peace and Security would be finalized this year –marking an important step towards strengthened cooperation. In reference to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the Secretary General reaffirmed that African contingents are the backbone of UN peace operations, and that as such they should exemplify respect for Human Rights. He welcomed the AU proposal to deploy human rights observers in Burundi. Mr. Ban applauded the efforts of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in bringing peace to Somalia. He also expressed gratitude and admiration for the health workers who rushed towards danger to help in Ebola-affected countries "while the world was running away". He further conveyed his appreciation for the leadership of the AU and its efforts to deploy hundreds of health workers.

In his capacity of AU Chair at the end of term, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe lamented the continued dominance of developed countries in world affairs, criticizing the lack of African representation in the UN Security Council. With regards to peace and security, Mr Mugabe stated that, despite continuing conflicts in some parts of the continent, "we witnessed some successes and overall, there was political stability". He complimented the Amani II Field Exercise, saying it demonstrated that the continent can now deploy the African Standby Force as a tool for conflict prevention and a step towards silencing the guns. He joined his voice to the calls for freedom in the Western Sahara. President Mugabe declared that climate change has become a real threat, saying the current El Nino meteorological phenomenon is increasing chances of hunger and disease. He emphasized the need for African countries to work together to silence the guns, and to address the issue of migration with the resource mobilisation strategy for Agenda 2063.

Chad's President Idriss Déby, newly elected AU Chair for 2016, saluted Mugabe's passion and determination, and congratulated him on his mandate. He underlined the need for African countries to collectively defend their interests, emphasising that solidarity and complementarity are the best weapons against poverty and transnational threats. The new AU Chairperson emphasized that AU member states have not sufficiently surrendered sovereignty to make the Union meaningful. Stressing the common identity of Africans, he called for freedom of movement on the continent, a single African passport, and urged Africans to "think, speak and consume African" in the face of globalization. He urged AU member states to act more and talk less, and emphasized the importance of promoting and defending the rights of women. Recalling the ongoing crises in Libya, Somalia, Burundi and the Lake Chad Basin, he stated that these must be resolved in order to clear the path towards development. Deby called for the support of AU member states in completing the AU's organizational reform, and to end its dependence on foreign funding.



The Summit concluded with an expression of gratitude to Ebola fighters and with the adoption of several decisions and declarations which can be found on [www.au.int](http://www.au.int); or [www. peaceau.org](http://www.peaceau.org); or [unoau.unmissions.org](http://unoau.unmissions.org)

***The full new Bureau of the AU is as follows:***

- 1) AU Chair: President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad (picture to the above)
- 2) First Vice-Chair – President Yayi Boni of Benin;
- 3) Second Vice-Chair- President Paul Kagame of Rwanda;
- 4) Third Vice-Chair – President Nouri Abdusahim of Libya;
- 5) Rapporteur- President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe



First line USG DPKO Ladsous (right) and UNOAU SRSG Haile M. (left); last viewers on the second line: from left to right: ASG DPA Taye Z.; USG DFS Khare A. and Special Advisor for 2030 agenda for sustainable development, Navarro.

## ELECTION OF THE 15 MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Executive Council at its 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held on 27-28 January 2016, elected the fifteen members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union.

Region	Country	2 year term	3 year term
Northern	Egypt		X
	Algeria	X	
Western	Nigeria		X
	Niger	X	
	Togo	X	
	Sierra Leone	X	
Central	Congo (Rep.)		X
	Burundi	X	
	Chad	X	
Eastern	Uganda	X	
	Rwanda	X	
	Kenya		X
Southern	South Africa	X	
	Botswana	X	
	Zambia		X

# SIDE EVENTS

## UNOAU, UNOWA and UNOCA participated at the African Union Commission Donors' Conference in Support of the Multidimensional Joint Task Force against Boko Haram

*UN SRSGs for UNOWA Ibn Chambas (left) and UNOCA Abdoulaye B. (right)*



The long-awaited AU donor's conference to mobilize additional resources for the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram took place on 1st February. The event was chaired by the Chairperson of the AU, President Idris Deby of Chad, whose country hosts the MNJTF Headquarters. Also present were the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG) to the African Union, Haile Menkerios, the Head of the UN Office for West Africa, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the Head of the UN Regional Office for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Head of Mission of the MNJTF, Sanusi Imran Abdullahi. Ministers from the LCBC Member States as well as the Republic of Benin were joined by participants from other AU Member States and partners. The LCBC and Benin stressed the need for greater support in order to assist the affected countries in combatting Boko Haram and addressing the related challenges including humanitarian relief (refugees and IDPs), and socio-economic root causes, as the economies of the affected countries are stretched to their limits. They also emphasized their commitment to carrying out the fight against Boko Haram with full regard to the rule of law. Most of the partners recalled the support they have been providing to the countries and to the MNJTF. New pledges made during the conference included: EUR 50M (USD 56.7 M) by the EU; USD 10 M by Nigeria; and 4 million Swiss Francs (USD 4.1 M) by Switzerland. Partners reiterated their commitment to continue supporting the affected States and the MNJTF.

*UN and AU planners for the MNJTF*



## IGAD Council of Ministers 55<sup>th</sup> Extra-ordinary Session



*From left to right: The IGAD Special Envoy for Somalia, H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Abdi Affey AUC Commissioner for Peace and Security, Chergui S. UN Department of Peacekeeping, USG Herve L. and UN Department of Field Support USG Khare A.*

The IGAD Council of Ministers held its 55<sup>th</sup> Extra-Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa on 30-31 January 2016 under the Chair of H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the IGAD Council. The Council was briefed by H.E. Dr. Abdusalam Omer and IGAD Special Envoy to Somalia on the situation in Somalia. The Council also received briefings from H.E. Dr. Barnaba Benjamin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan and H.E. President Festus G. Mogae, Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) on the current situation of the Republic of South Sudan. On Somalia, the Council expressed support for the Government's model for elections and the commitment to an inclusive process. It requested IGAD member states, the UN and other partners to collaborate to ensure potential political spoilers do not destabilise the political process. The council decided to establish an IGAD ministerial team comprised of Ethiopia (Chair), Kenya (Rapporteur), Djibouti and Uganda to support Somalia organise the elections.

On AMISOM, the Council commended the efforts and commitment so far, lamenting the recent attacks. Djibouti will host a Summit level meeting of AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries before the end of February 2016 to consider proposals on how to revitalize the campaign. On financing AMISOM, the Council welcomed the recent appointment of HE Donald Kaberuka as the AU's High Representative for the AU Peace Fund and recommended that a working group be established specifically on AMISOM financing composed of experts from IGAD, AU and UN. Again, proposals to be brought to the February Summit. Given the number of security threats in the IGAD sub-region, the Council recommend the establishment of a Regional Security Co-operation Framework between Somalia and its neighbors. A ministerial meeting on this agenda will be held on the margins of the February Summit.

## UN SRSG KOBLER M. Addressed the fifth meeting of the International Contact Group for Libya (ICG-L)

The International Contact Group for Libya (ICG-L) convened its 5th meeting, at the ministerial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 28 January 2016, on the margins of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The meeting was co-chaired



*From left to right: UN SRSG for Libya M. Kobler and AUC Commissioner for Peace and Security Chergui S.*



Meeting Participants

by the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, and the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Libya, Martin Kobler.

In his opening statement, the Commissioner recognized the important role of the UN in the successful political dialogue, welcomed the signing of the Libyan Political Accord (LPA) and its endorsement by Tobrouk's House of Representative (HOR). He referred to the issue of the establishment of a Government of National Accord (GNA), and the fight against terrorism as the two most important issues. He further stressed the need for effective coordination between the AU and the UN and offered AU assistance in national reconciliation and the security sector reform in Libya. SRSR Kobler named the three major factors determining the situation in Libya namely the rapid expansion of the DAESH, the dire humanitarian situation and the financial situation. He reminded the meeting of the five leading principles he agreed upon with the internationally recognized Libyan authorities on the way forward.

On the basis of the updates provided by the AU Commission, the UN Special Representative for Libya, Algeria, Egypt and Chad, on behalf of the Ministerial Committee of Libya's Neighbors, as well as by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya, participants reviewed the evolution of the situation in Libya since the 4th meeting of the ICG-L, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 12 June 2015. They also reviewed the efforts being made at the regional, continental, and international levels in order to facilitate an inclusive political dialogue among the Libyan stakeholders. Participants welcomed the signing of the Libya Political Agreement (LPA) on 17 December 2015, as well its adoption by the House of Representatives (HoR) on Monday 26 January 2016, and stressed that only through unified state institutions that enjoy broad popular support can Libya address the numerous political, economic, security and humanitarian challenges facing the country. In this regard, participants called on Libyans to unite behind the Libya Political Agreement and engage positively to complete Libya's political transition with the objective of ending violence, and promoting national reconciliation, based on the preservation of Libya's sovereignty, independence unity and territorial integrity, as well as on the respect of the will of the Libyan people

At the end of their deliberation, participants underscored the importance of coordinated international action and continuous consultations and information sharing through the platform provided by the ICG-L under the joint leadership of the African Union and the United Nations in facilitating such efforts. They reiterated their commitment to strengthen the ICG-L to enhance coordination, harmonization and effectiveness of international engagement on Libya, while strengthening Libyan ownership. They agreed to convene their next meeting at a date to be agreed through consultations.

## Peace and Security Council: AU Heads of State and Government expressed gratitude to the UN during their deliberations on Burundi and South Sudan



The Summit was held on 29 January 2016, in the presence of the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, to consider the political situation in both Burundi and South Sudan.

On its deliberation on Burundi, the Summit decided not to deploy the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi (MAPROBU) because it considers it premature to send such a force to Burundi and that an inclusive political dialogue must be supported under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni; the Summit further decided to dispatch a high level delegation to Burundi to meet with the highest authorities of the Republic of Burundi, as well as with other Burundian stakeholders, to hold consultations on the inclusive Inter-Burundian Dialogue; They requested the Chairperson of the Commission to take all the necessary initiatives to enable the expeditious mobilization of international assistance in support for the Inter-Burundian Dialogue;

They expressed gratitude to the United Nations, the European Union, ICGLR, and other international partners for their multifarious support to the Inter-Burundian Dialogue, under the auspices of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and urged them to continue their support;

The Summit requested the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit the present Communiqué to all Member States and to the UN Secretary-General and through him, to the UN Security Council for its action as appropriate

On its Deliberation on South Sudan, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Smail Chergui presented the report of the AU Commission on the situation in South Sudan. He welcomed progress in the implementation of the agreement but highlighted the continuing challenges, which, according to him, will require sustained engagement from the region.



During the discussions, the AU Peace and Security Council meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government was unanimous in calling for full support to the efforts of JMEC to enable it to discharge its mandate. All speakers welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of the peace agreement, notably the agreement on the distribution of the ministerial portfolios, but expressed concern at reports of continuing fighting and the failure of the parties to establish the transitional government of national unity. The Summit urged the international community to lend support towards the implementation of the Agreement in a coordinated manner, in accordance with the mechanisms established under the Agreement, particularly the JMEC. Council welcomed the establishment of the JMEC Partners Forum and urged that this Forum be an open mechanism to allow other donors and supporters to provide financial support to the implementation process of the various components of the Agreement; Council appealed to the international community to urgently provide assistance in addressing the humanitarian situation in the country. Council further stressed the need for assistance to be directed towards the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of South Sudan; they urged the Presidents to sustain the momentum created by these developments and work closely with the African Union High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP) led by former President Thabo Mbeki. In this context, Council renewed its support to the efforts of the AUHIP to assist Sudan and South Sudan to resolve the outstanding issues in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement of 2012 -



## UN SRSG, participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Special Envoys and representatives on the Sahel



*UN Special Envoy for Sahel Hirute G.*

AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel H.E. Pierre Buyoya, invited Special Envoys for the Sahel at the fourth meeting of the Special Envoys/Representatives meeting on 28 January 2016 in Addis Ababa. The session opened with introductory remarks from Smail C., the AUC Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mme Hiroute G.S. UN Special Envoy for the Sahel and H.E.Moussa F.M., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad and current chair of the Ministerial Platform of coordination of Sahel strategies (MPC) as well as by Ambassador Angel L., Special Representative of the EU. The aim was to enhance the various mechanisms consultation forums established to facilitate a better coordination in the implementation of various Sahel strategies and initiatives, particularly the MPC its Technical Secretariat and The matic Groups.

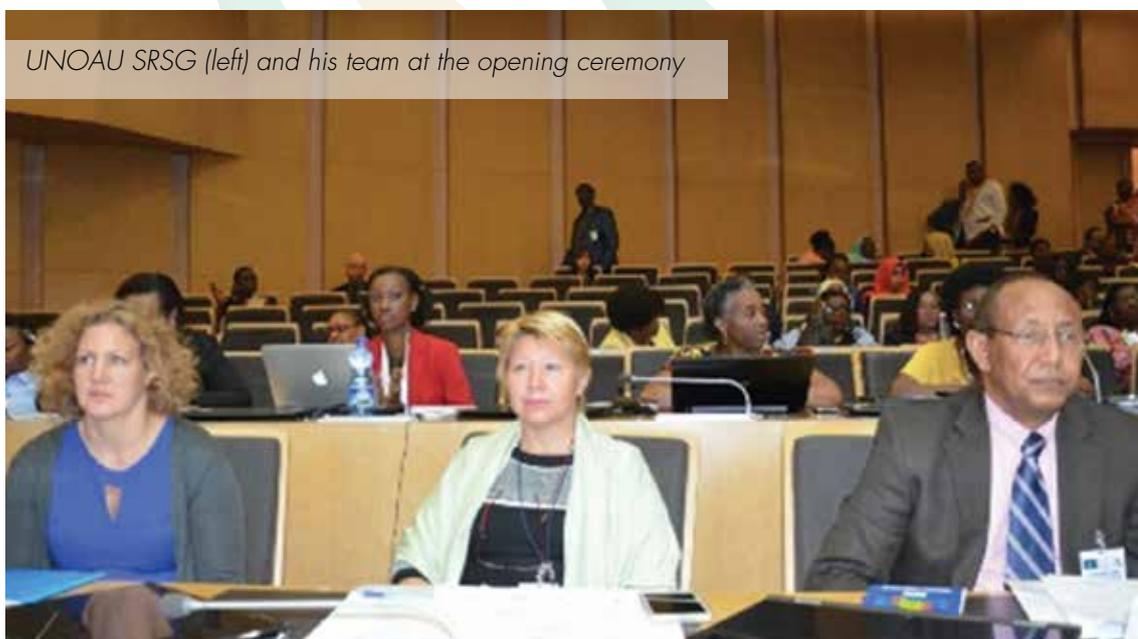
Participants reviewed together the security and social-political situations in the Sahel region, and expressed their deep concerns about the persistence of the threat of terrorism and other forms of trans national organized crime in the Sahel-Saharan region, as illustrated by recent attacks at the Splendid Hotel in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali, as well as numerous other fatal attacks registered in Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroun and Libya, perpetrated by the Boko Haram, DAESH, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) groups and other terrorist and criminal movements. They expressed their solidarity with the affected countries and reaffirmed their determination to continue being engaged and assist the countries of the region to enable them effectively resist these threats. After they reviewed the political situation, they expressed wish that the recent political agreement signed by Libyans parties will open the way to a peaceful climate and political normalization in the country. They also congratulated the EU for its commitment through

financial support to the countries about 100 billion Euros. They saluted the AfDB for its contributions of about 2 billion USD in support of populations in the coming years. At the end of their deliberations, they agreed that the next meeting will take place in Switzerland in April 2016.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Gender Pre-Summit: AUC Chairperson Nkosaza Dlamini Zuma urged Women to be Transformers and not just Conformers.

*UNOAU SRSG (left) and his team at the opening ceremony*



*Group photo of participants*







## UNOAU SRSR Good Offices during the Summit

The period of the Summit gave opportunity for UNOAU to undertake political activities through the Head of Office, Haile Menkerios. SRSR, Menkerios met with a number of Leaders, who attended the Summit, to discuss ongoing peace and security issues for the lasting search of peace on the continent. Among others UN New Zealand State Secretary Jeff Langely and the UN ASG for Human Right Ivan Simonovic.



*UNOAU SRSR HAILE, left, meeting with Ivan Simonovic UN ASG for Human Right.*



*UNOAU SRSR Haile left meeting with the New Zealand State Secretary Jeff Langely right.*



# The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

## *UNOAU Mandate and History*

Since the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union (AU) in 2002, and in particular the 2004 launching of the AU's peace and security architecture, there has been strong support among the UN and its Member States for close cooperation with the AU.

In 2005, the World Summit underscored the need to devote attention to the special needs of Africa.

In follow-up to this Summit, Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the 2006 Addis Ababa Declaration "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union", pledged the UN's support for the development and strengthening of the AU Commission, focusing "with priority, on conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, peacekeeping and peacebuilding".

In 2007 the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/296 on cooperation between the UN and the AU and requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat to meet the special needs of Africa.

By 1 July 2010, the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) was established by UN General Assembly Resolution 64/288. The Office integrated the three existing offices: DPA Liaison Office, the DPKO AU Peace Support Team and the DFS Planning Team for Somalia to support AMISOM, as well as the support component of the UNAMID Joint Support Coordination Mechanism office in Addis Ababa.

## **UNOAU's mandate is to**

- Enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security;
- Provide coordinated and consistent United Nations advice to the African Union on long-term capacity-building and short-term operational support matters;
- Streamline the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa to make it cost-effective and efficient in delivering UN assistance to the AU.

**(A/64/762, A/RES/64/288)**





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