



UNOAU Bulletin

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UN Secretary-General attends 27th African Union Summit in Kigali, Rwanda



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon confers with the Chairperson of the African Union H.E. Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad

Special Edition

UNOAU Mandate

Background to the establishment of UNOAU

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 peace and security architecture, there has been strong support among the UN and its Member States for closer United Nations 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 support for the development and strengthening of the AU Commission, focusing “with priority, on conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, peacekeeping and peace building”. 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 three existing offices: Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Liaison Office, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) AU Peace Support Team, and the Department of Field Support (DFS) Planning Team for Somalia to support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as the support component of the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Support Coordination Mechanism (JCM) 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)

UN Secretary-General engaged the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and partners on the crisis in South Sudan at the 27th AU Summit



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meeting with the South Sudan Delegation



Meeting with AU High Representative for South Sudan, H.E. Alpha Konare (3rd right) and H.E. Festus Mogae (2nd right), Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC)

Following the outbreak of heavy fighting in Juba, South Sudan in the days preceding the African Union Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attended the IGAD Summit on the crisis in South Sudan from 15-17 July 2016. He was accompanied by his Special Representative and Head of UNOAU, Haile Menkerios; the Assistant Secretary General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, El-Ghassim Wane; as well as the Director, Africa II Division in the Department of Political Affairs, Abdel-Fatau Musah. The Secretary-General held consultations with representatives of the government of South Sudan, IGAD Member States, and partners in an effort to stabilize the situation in the country and with a view to explore ways to resume the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS). The 27th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly strongly condemned the 7 July fighting in Juba, the fatalities and attacks on diplomatic missions, UN assets and facilities, while expressing concern about the slow pace and recurring setbacks in implementing the peace agreement in South Sudan.

The Assembly endorsed the 16 July Communiqué of the IGAD-Plus (IGAD member states plus Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa), in particular with respect to the reinforcement of UNMISS and the deployment of a regional protection force to separate the warring parties, protect civilians and demilitarize Juba.

During his visit, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; Prime Minister Hailmariam Desalegn of Ethiopia; President Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire; and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. He also held discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan; as well as with former Presidents Alpha Konare of Mali and Festus Mogae of Botswana.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with President Paul Kagame of Rwanda



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meets Presidents Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire (left) and Idriss Deby of Chad



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in discussions with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon confers with Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana and Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC)



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon consults with Alpha Konare, former President of Mali and AU High Representative for South Sudan

Outcomes of the AU Summit

The 27th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took place in Kigali, Rwanda on 17–18 July 2016. The Summit was attended by more than 35 Heads of State and Government, and was preceded by two important meetings: a retreat on the Financing of the African Union, and a meeting of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Plus on the situation in South Sudan. Elections for the senior leadership of the Commission and consideration of the Report of the High-Representative for the Peace Fund both dominated the proceedings. The Summit theme was **‘The African year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women’** on which the Heads of State and Government adopted a Declaration.

Financing the African Union: The Assembly adopted the recommendations of the AU High Representative of the Peace Fund, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, on financing the African Union and the Peace Fund. Significantly, Heads of State and Government expressed strong commitment to predictable and sustainable financing of the AU and, to that end, agreed to implement Dr. Kaberuka’s recommendations as soon as 2017. These include a 0.2 percent levy on eligible imports into the continent: amounts collected would be paid by the national customs authorities into an account opened for the African Union in the Central Bank of each Member State. In order to ensure effective and prudent use of resources, the AU Commission was asked to establish strong oversight and accountability mechanisms and complete on-going institutional reform.

The Assembly also decided that the Peace Fund shall have clear governance and an independent fund management structure with the following three funding windows: Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy; Institutional Capacity; and Peace Support Operations. These contributions will constitute Africa’s 25% contribution to Peace Support Operations. To this end, the Assembly mandated the AU Commission to finalize the processes relating to decision-making for seeking assessed contributions for AU Peace Support Operations, and requested the Chairperson to undertake consultations with the UN Secretary-General, the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council on the envisaged funding arrangements.

The decisions of African leaders on financing of the AU are significant in that they would, if effectively implemented, enable Africa to fulfil its commitment to finance 25% of the cost of UN-mandated AU peace support operations, potentially encouraging the international community to fund the remaining 75% through assessed contributions.

While specific mechanisms are being worked out, the amounts collected will automatically be paid by Member States into an account opened for the AU within the Central Bank of each Member States for transmission to the AU in accordance with the scale of assessed contribution.

The Summit also appointed President Paul Kagame of Rwanda to lead the ongoing institutional reform of the Union (the AU Commission and the Organs) to ensure that the AU structures and modus operandi are aligned with the demands of integration and implementation of Agenda 2063, and to enable more effective and efficient use of resources. President Kagame is expected to present a report during the January 2017 AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Elections of the AU Commission leadership: The much-anticipated elections of new members of the AU Commission (AUC) took place on 18 July 2016, but none of the three candidates, running for the position of the Chairperson of the Commission, received the required two-thirds majority. After seven (7) rounds of voting, the last of the three candidates obtained 23 votes, with 28 Member States abstaining. Of the fifty-four (54) Member States eligible to vote, fifty-three (53) were present and voted. Only Burundi, absent from the Summit, did not vote. The Assembly decided, as it had done in 2012, to extend the mandate of the current Commission (the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the eight Commissioners) until the next elections, which will take place in January 2017 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During this period, the process will be reopened for new candidates, as well as the current contenders, to apply.

Peace and security in Africa: The Assembly considered the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on peace and security in Africa. The government of **Burundi** was urged to fully honor its commitment to facilitate the speedy deployment of 200 AU human rights observers and military experts, including with the issuance of visas. On **Libya**, the Assembly reiterated commitment to assisting Libyan parties in finding a solution to the conflict in their country, and reaffirmed that durable solutions may only arise from political dialogue. The Summit expressed deep concern over the spread of terrorism, commended the efforts against Boko Haram by the **Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)** and **Benin** through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), and called on the international community to provide additional logistical and financial support to the LCBC.

Reform of the UN Security Council: The Assembly reaffirmed the AU's strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the need for comprehensive reform of the United Nations System taking into account the principles and ideals contained in the Charter. It also emphasized that such reform must ensure equitable geographic representation for Africa in the Security Council. The decision reaffirms that full representation for Africa in the Security Council means two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges or permanent membership, including veto power, and five further non-permanent seats. The Summit requested that Member States prioritize the reform of the Security Council in their foreign policies.

The Kingdom of Morocco seeks to join the African Union: King Mohammed VI of Morocco addressed a letter to the Chairman of the African Union expressing the Kingdom's wish to join the African Union. The Kingdom of Morocco withdrew from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 12 November 1984.

Launch of the African Passport: The African Passport, one of the signature projects in the first 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, was launched on 18 July at the AU Summit. The passport will initially be issued to all African Heads of State and Government as well as Foreign Ministers to facilitate their travel within the continent. Presidents Idriss Deby of Chad and Paul Kagame of Rwanda were the first recipients of the passport. The African Passport is a step towards visa-free travel across the continent for Africans. It is uncertain when the African Passports will be issued to citizens.

The Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 24 to 31 January 2017, under the theme “**Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth**”

Nicholas Haysom appointed Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan (OSESSS)



We are pleased to welcome Mr. Nicholas Haysom of South Africa, Special Envoy (SE) of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan. SE Haysom succeeds Haile Menkerios of South Africa, who had served as Special Envoy since the establishment of the Office on 1 August 2011. The Special Envoy assists the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan reach a negotiated settlement to residual outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and post-secession issues.

Mr. Haysom, a lawyer whose long international career has focused on democratic governance, constitutional and electoral reforms, reconciliation and peace processes joins OSESSS from Afghanistan where, until his designation as Special Envoy and since 2014, he had been serving as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

(UNAMA). He had also served as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for UNAMA between 2012 and 2014

Previously, from 2007 to 2012, USG Haysom was Director for Political, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, and Head of the Office of Constitutional Support for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) from 2005 to 2007.

USG Haysom served in the Government of South Africa, including as Chief Legal and Constitutional Adviser in the Office of the President from 1994 to 1999. He was involved in the Burundi Peace Talks as chair of the committee negotiating constitutional issues from 1999 to 2002 under the facilitation of Nelson Mandela, and was the Principal Adviser to the Mediator in the Sudanese Peace Process from 2002 to 2005.

Mr. Haysom earned a degree in law from the Universities of Natal and Cape Town in South Africa. In 2012, he received an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Cape Town.

US Ambassador to the AU briefs the UN Liaison Team in Addis Ababa on developments in South Sudan



US Ambassador to the African Union H.E. Susan D. Page

On 22 July, Ambassador Susan Page, Charge d'Affaires at the United States Mission to the African Union, and former US Ambassador to South Sudan (including during the December 2013 crisis), briefed the UN Liaison Team on latest developments in South Sudan. She was joined by UNOAU SRSG Haile Menkerios, who hosted the UNLT meeting upon his return from the AU Summit in Kigali. Ambassador Page provided a brief context to the conflict in South Sudan and shared information on the latest security developments on the ground, warning of the very grave humanitarian consequences arising from rapid deterioration in the situation throughout the country. SRSG Menkerios contributed political insight and analysis based on his extensive experience in mediating

the conflict and following the political situation in South Sudan. Ambassador Page and SRSG Menkerios then fielded questions from the UNLT. (The UNLT is the coordination forum for all UN Secretariat entities, funds, programmes and agencies that work with the African Union).

UNOAU supports the AU Technical Assessment Mission in Mali



AU and UN team during the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mali



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, Abdoulaye Diop (2nd from left)

UNOAU provided technical and expert advice to the AU in an AU-led Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) to Mali from 23 July to 02 August 2016. The TAM was a follow up to the recommendations of an Initial Assessment Mission (IAM) undertaken by the AU from 19 March to 02 April 2016. The objective of the TAM was to assess the security situation in northern Mali and make proposals on how to strengthen international efforts to stabilize the country. The findings and recommendations of the TAM will be discussed by the AU with a view to reinforcing the implementation of the peace agreement in the country.

Upcoming Events

09 October 2016 Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security, Lomé Togo
24-31 January 2017 African Union Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,



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UNOAU Bulletin aims to increase visibility and awareness on UNOAU mandate and activities in relation with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms in the area of Peace and Security on the continent. It illustrates the political role that the United Nations is playing with the AU and other stakeholders on conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

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