



UNOAU Bulletin

A publication from the United Nations Office to the African Union
August – October 2017

The United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council meet for the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting



The United Nations Security Council Chair of September, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu of Ethiopia (left) and African Union Peace and Security Council Chair of September, Ambassador Mamosadinyana P.J. Molefe of Botswana (right) congratulate each other upon the successful completion of the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

UNOAU Mandate

Background on the establishment of UNOAU

Since the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) in 2002 and particularly since the 2004 launching of the AU peace and security architecture, there has been strong support among the UN and its Member States for closer UN 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 the World 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 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 GA 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.

The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) was established on 1 July 2010 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.

In 2016, the AUPSC members adopted the 628th Communiqué on the partnership between the UN and the AU on issues of peace and security in Africa. Later the UN Security Council (SC) adopted resolution 2320 (2016) on partnership between the UN and Regional Organizations, in particular with the African Union. Afterwards, the UN Secretary-General report was presented on a new level of partnership. This was further strengthened by the new UN Secretary-General, through his expressed vision and priorities in which he stressed the fact that UN and AU must continue to keep a strong strategic partnership in the area of peace and security, through the implementation of both organizations programmes namely Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 19 April 2017, at the first UN-AU Annual Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the UN Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres and the AU Commission (AUC) Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat endorsed a Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security as a basis for collaboration through joint mechanisms and regular consultations. In a Joint UN-AU Communiqué SG/2239 of 19 April 2017, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson reiterated their strong commitment to working hand in hand towards achieving the continent’s development goals.

The mandate of UNOAU 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)

About the UNOAU Bulletin: UNOAU Bulletin aims to increase visibility and awareness on the UNOAU’s mandate as it relates to UN’s partnership with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms in the area of Peace and Security on the continent. The Bulletin illustrates the political role that the United Nations is playing with the AU and other stakeholders on conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

UN Special SESGs and SRSGs brief UNSC Members



Briefings for UNSC Members delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) to the African Union, Mr. Haile Menkerios; the SRSG for Somalia, Mr. Michael Keating; the SRSG for South Sudan, Mr. David Shearer and the UN Special Envoy (SESG) for Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. Nicholas Haysom

Upon their arrival, members of the UNSC received briefing delivered by UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) to the African Union, Mr. Haile Menkerios; UN SRSG for Somalia, Mr. Michael Keating; UN Special Envoy (SESG) for Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. Nicholas Haysom; and SRSG for South Sudan, Mr. David Shearer.



Some of the Members of the UN Security Council during the briefing at UNOAU premises in Addis Ababa. Countries represented included (from left to right) the UK, Egypt, Uruguay, Italy, Sweden, Ethiopia (Chair), Japan, Kazakhstan, Bolivia, the US, France and China among others

The briefing covered UN-AU partnership in Peace and Security, and the situations in Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad Basin. From the exchanges, members of the UNSC recognized progress in strengthening partnership between the UN Secretariat and the AU Commission (AUC), and the need to institutionalize collaboration between the two Councils.

Below is the list of the Members of the two Councils:

African Union Peace and Security Council

Country	Term	Expiry Term	Region
Algeria	2	31.3.2018	North Africa
Botswana	2	31.3.2018	Southern Africa
Burundi	2	31.1.2018	Central Africa
Chad	2	31.3.2018	Central Africa
Congo	3	31.3.2019	Central Africa
Egypt	3	31.3.2019	Northern Africa
Kenya	3	31.3.2019	Eastern Africa
Niger	2	31.3.2018	West Africa
Nigeria	3	31.3.2019	Western Africa
Rwanda	2	31.3.2018	Eastern Africa
Sierra Leone	2	31.3.2018	Western Africa
South Africa	2	31.3.2018	Southern Africa
Togo	2	31.3.2018	Western Africa
Uganda	2	31.3.2018	Eastern Africa
Zambia	2	31.3.2018	Southern Africa

UN Security Council

Permanent members	Non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly	Expiry Term
China	Bolivia	(2018)
France	Egypt	(2017)
Russia	Ethiopia	(2018)
The United Kingdom	Italy	(2017)
The United States	Japan	(2017)
	Kazakhstan	(2018)
	Senegal	(2017)
	Sweden	(2018)
	Ukraine	(2017)
	Uruguay	(2017)

UN and AU Councils consult on African conflict issues



From left to right: UNOAU Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Haile Menkerios; the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN Security Council and Chair of the UNSC of September, H.E. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu; the Ambassador of Botswana to the African Union and Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council of September, H.E. Mamosadinyana P.J. Molefe; the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui; and Mr. Amadou Diongue of the AU Peace and Security Department

On 8 September, the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was held in Addis Ababa. This meeting was co-chaired by the Presidents of both Councils namely, H.E. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu (UNSC) and H.E. Ambassador Mamosadinyana P.J. Molefe (AUPSC). Members of the two Councils consulted on the situations in Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad Basin; they acknowledged gains made through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in countering Al-Shabab offensives as well as the sacrifices AMISOM Troops/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) have made. Furthermore, both Councils' members commended elections held in Somalia earlier in the year and stressed the need to fully support the National Strategy and Plan of Action for the stabilization of Somalia. They called for a systematic, conditions-based AMISOM drawdown to avoid a relapse into full scale violence.

On South Sudan, the Councils commended ongoing political initiatives and called for an unconditional, inclusive and genuine political dialogue while expressing support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led revitalization process towards full implementation of the 2015 Peace Agreement stressing that a military solution was not an option.

Thereafter, the Councils observed that, while the Multinational Joint Task Force in the fight against Boko Haram (MNJTF) and other associated operations have weakened Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin, the ground remains fertile for extremist ideologues to recruit and re-group. They called for addressing the political, socio-economic and environmental root causes of the conflict. (A press conference was subsequently held by the two respective co-Chairs, who briefed media on key issues discussed during the Consultative meeting).

Prior to the Joint Consultative Meeting on 7th September 2017, members of the UNSC had met with the African Union's Commissioners for Peace and Security and for Political Affairs, Ambassadors Smail Chergui and Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, respectively. Discussions covered issues of financing the African Union Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs), strengthening collaboration between the two Councils, the role of the A3 (African Member States sitting in the UN Security Council in New York) and the UN-AU cooperation in Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD).

Subsequently, UNSC members met with the AUPSC members for a second informal consultation to converse on similar priorities. There was general agreement on the importance of the existing strategic partnership and the need to further institutionalize it.



Meeting between the UN Security Council Members and the AU Commissioners for Peace and Security, and Political Affairs

The AUPSC emphasized the need for predictable funding of AUPSOs including through UN assessed contributions. The two Councils expressed general agreements for integrating all activities related to peacebuilding, addressing the root causes of conflict not solely through military solutions and enhancing coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the AUPSC.



Members of the UN Security Council delegation at a meeting held with AU Peace and Security Council counterparts



Members of the AU Peace and Security Council at a meeting held with UN Security Council counterparts

UN Security Council members meet with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia

During their visit, the UNSC members held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn.

The meeting covered the situations in Somalia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, and the impact of the Gulf Crisis on the Horn of Africa.



Members of the UN Security Council meet with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia

On Somalia, the Prime Minister noted that significant progress had been achieved, even though noteworthy challenges remain.

On South Sudan, the Prime Minister stressed that the High-level Revitalization Forum led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was the only hope for peace, advocating for an inclusive process.

The Prime Minister also briefed the UNSC members on the Gulf Crisis's impact on the Horn of Africa, and reiterated Ethiopia's support for the Kuwaiti mediation process.

Interview with Members of the AUPSC



Ambassador of Kenya, H.E. Catherine Mwangi

As one of the few female Ambassadors sitting in the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), would you tell us how has work of the Council been impacted by the presence of female Ambassadors in the AUPSC including on topics under the PSC's programme/agenda of the month in particular?

There is no doubt that the female Ambassadors sitting on the Peace and Security Council bring to the table a different dimension to discussions, decisions and outcomes. Specifically, there is effort to include in the monthly Council programs women and children agendas. There is also effort to attempt to mainstream gender in all other discussions, appreciating that in all areas and aspects of peace and security, women are likely to suffer the most, are most ignored and neglected, and yet have great potential and capacity to make a positive contribution. Additionally, the PSC regularly schedules open sessions devoted to women and children in armed conflict, ending child marriages and protection of schools and educational institutions among others especially in crises situations. These open sessions are often at the instance of female Ambassadors who are members of the AUPSC.

The field visits by the AUPSC to conflict situations and to countries emerging from conflict have enabled us to see first-hand the suffering of women and children from the impact of conflicts and crises. These experiences from the field brought by female Ambassadors have helped in shaping the decisions of Council.

We observe that the female ratio in the AUPSC is approximately 10%. How do you explain the fact that not so many female Ambassadors sit in the AUPSC to represent the interests of their respective country, of the continent but also the interests of African women, who are the largest component of our population? What message would you sent or what would you do to see this number increase?

The number of female Ambassadors in the Council is proportionate to the total number of female Ambassadors accredited to the African Union, as PSC members are elected by country, based on regional representation, and not by person. Therefore, it is the bigger issue of greater involvement and participation of women in all work areas on the continent. Perhaps, as a starting point, Member States could be encouraged to consider gender parity in the appointment of Ambassadors; that way, we would then see the number of women Ambassadors accredited to the African Union increase. It is a fact that, women are more than able, and, like men, when elected or appointed on merit and not because of their gender, women have performed exceptionally in all fields and have more than proved their worth.

What is your role in the enforcement of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including UNSC Resolution 1325? And, what do you view as the key priorities in that agenda for urgent and continuous consideration by African Member States and the PSC?

A first role or responsibility is the appreciation of UNSC Resolution 1325, which acknowledges that women and children are directly affected in situations of armed conflict, and recognizes the fact that women transcend victimology and become active and effective contributors to peace and security processes. With this appreciation, my role is to remain engaged and continually advocate for women to play their rightful role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction, and to also stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and the promotion of peace and security on the continent.

Find the full interview on UNOAU website: <http://unoau.unmissions.org>



Ambassador of Rwanda, H.E. Hope Tumukunde Casatura

As the AUPSC Chair of the month of February 2017, during which you organized five sessions, (including on the role of women in protecting lives in challenging security environments in Africa) where are we with the implementation of some of the recommendations made in the AUPSC session, on the enforcement of the Women Peace and Security agenda in Africa and also as outlined by the UNSC Resolution 1325?

One of the topics discussed when Rwanda chaired AUPSC, was the free movement of people and goods in Africa and how to address its challenges related to peace and security. One concrete action that Rwanda has taken is to encourage free movement of people across its border by opening boarders. Fore example one of the busiest border in Africa is the one between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Citizens from either country cross the border daily as the country instituted a security clearance system that is efficient and saves time. The country recognizes the benefits that come with cross boarder trade among local communities along either side of the borders and, to date, there haven't been any concerns related to security.

Benin is the latest country in Africa to have announced visa on arrival, to African citizens, following President Patrice Talon's official visit to Rwanda this year. On the second part of the question, there are four female ambassadors in the AUPSC. What we all agreed as a principle was that each time one of us would chair the AUPSC, two key aspects would be given greater attention. These are issues related to children and women. When I chaired the AUPSC on behalf of Rwanda in February 2017, In addition to the aspects of women and children, we discussed also how to address impediments of free movement in Africa topic so that the AUPS can contribute to the principle of continental integration. By sharing Rwanda's example, the aim was to advocate for the removal of mobility barriers in Africa through the AUPSC. Peacekeeping missions were also another topic greatly focused on.

How does Rwanda ensures promotion of women in leadership position in the country and outside the country?

For Rwanda, the inclusion of women is a constitutional right. This is apparent in elective positions within the Government but also applies to special appointments. For example, each district and the City of Kigali has three elected positions – the constitution requires for at least 30% of such leadership to be taken up by female candidates. Every law in Rwanda is gendered – this has become a culture. President Kagame speaks about gender inclusion at all for a and he has been the architect of this system in Rwanda, which is a matter of principle. He always says that with over half of the Rwanda population being women, it would be not logical and unfair not to promote inclusion and participation of women. In the same vein, the President has appointed a number of female ambassadors. For Rwanda, engaging both women and men equally is something that is taken very seriously.

What is the role of Rwanda in the President Kagame's report on the AU Reform? Why do you think that this Reform is important to the AU?

As the Reform report highlights, the AU reform is important so as to enable the Union be able to focus on key priority areas that are continental in nature, improve on its efficiency and most importantly member states to be able to finance the Union themselves.

The success of, and the implementation of the African Union Reform will heavily depend on African Member States' willingness and commitment to take action which is so far encouraging.

As for Rwanda, we have taken steps towards contributing towards AU Reform implementation. Earlier in the year 2017, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, the High Representative for the AU Peace Fund demonstrated that Africa has the capacity to realize the reforms. Accordingly, Rwanda is investing in required systems and has also made all the arrangements to begin the implemented of the 0.2% levy on all import. Rwanda is also up to date its contribution to the African Peace Fund as part of the proposed Member States' financial contributions.

Find the full interview on UNOAU website: <http://unoau.unmissions.org>

Briefing on the AU Peace and Security Council visit to the Lake Chad Basin



AU Peace and Security Council Members during the briefing

On 27 July, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) undertook a five-day field mission to Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria with the overall objective of continuing to stand in solidarity with people and countries affected by the threats posed by the terrorist group, Boko Haram. The mission also sought to obtain first-hand information on security and humanitarian developments in the Lake Chad Basin region, in addition to finding appropriate solutions for challenges faced by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), as well as other issues that the Governments in the region face in the fight against Boko Haram.

UNOAU attends the AU Peace and Security Council open session on “the role of women in countering and preventing violent extremism in Africa”



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh delivering a UN statement at the AU Peace and Security Council session

Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, UNOAU Chief of Staff attended the 728th open session of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), which convened in Addis Ababa in October to consider the role of women in countering and preventing violent extremism in Africa.

Addressing members of the AUPSC and other partners on behalf of the UN, Ms. Ndongo-Seh noted that **“women are critical actors in efforts to prevent violent extremism as they are best placed to identify signs of radicalization, discourage its occurrence, and serve as force multipliers to raise awareness among communities on such threats.”** She also drew attention to

the changing nature of conflicts in Africa which require stronger collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union, citing the recently signed UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership on Peace and Security. Also speaking at the plenary session, the African Union Special Envoy for Peace and Security, Mme. Bineta Diop echoing other speakers, shared examples of girls and women being recruited into violent extremism. Amongst the recommendations, she outlined the need for education and the inclusion of women and youth.

Specific recommendations from Members of the AUPSC and other partners included the creation of a continental database to record atrocities against women, data analysis cells in AU peacekeeping operations and building support structures for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and violent extremism. Pledges were made to continue to enhance cooperation and partnership between the African Union, its Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs and RMs), international partners and the UN.

New African Union Panel of the Wise inaugurated



AU Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat (fifth from the left) with Members of the Panel of the Wise and mediation experts

On 4 October, the African Union (AU) inaugurated its new Panel of the Wise. The Panel of the Wise supports the AU Commission Chairperson and the AU Peace and Security Council in conflict prevention, and also works closely with similar regional structures. The Panel’s new members were appointed earlier in July during the 29th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly for a three-year term. The AU renewed the mandate of Dr. Speciosa Kazibwe (Uganda), who represents East Africa in the Panel and appointed the former President of Liberia, Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for West Africa; Mr. Armah Moussa (Egypt) for North Africa; the former President of the Central African Republic, Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza Central Africa; and the former President of Namibia, Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba for the South Africa regions, respectively.

At the inaugural ceremony, the AU Commission Chairperson, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat recalled the 2007 AU Summit’s decision to establish a Panel of the Wise and underscored its vitality in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). He emphasized the relevance of mediation as a conflict resolution tool in a context marked by protracted war and violence, citing the examples of the Central African Republic, Somalia, Libya, the North of Mali and Guinea Bissau, among others.

H.E. Moussa Faki recalled that Agenda 2063 is a reference instrument for the Panel of the Wise, and urged for concrete proposals pertaining to conflict resolution with focus on conflicts related to natural resources.



Newly elected Members of the Panel of the Wise



Angle view of the Panel of the Wise Members discussion with AU and UN

Launching of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa)



Members of the African Network of Women Mediators (FemWise-Africa) and AU technical staff at the Steering Committee inaugural meeting

On 5th and 6th October, the African Union launched the Steering Committee of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation, which is also known as 'FemWise-Africa'.

The official launch marked the creation of a formal advocacy, capacity and partnership-building platform for African women mediators entrusted to help tackle conflict-related crises on the continent while promoting the role of women in conflict and post-conflict settings, both at leadership and grassroots levels.

FemWise-Africa promotes a collective approach and involves similar African Union entities.

FemWise-Africa was co-chaired by Catherine Samba Panza (Central African Republic) and Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe (Uganda) during the launch.

This FemWise-Africa Steering Committee comprises core members (female members of the AU Panel of the Wise and Friends of the Panel) as well as their counterparts from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Peace and Security Department, and ten pre-selected women mediators and associate members (UN Women, civil society organization ACCORD, Africa Leadership Centre and thematic experts, who advise the FemWise-Africa Secretariat as required).

The event featured thematic sessions aimed at facilitating the development of the 2017-2020 FemWise-Africa action plan and 2018-2020 strategic priorities.

The UN Gender and Mediation Guidelines document was also launched on this occasion in the presence of the Director of Policy and Mediation Division within the UN's Department of Political Affairs, Ms. Teresa Whitfield, who shared some her perspectives in an interview with UNOAU.

Finding Entry Points for Preventive and Mediation Efforts

Excerpt from remarks delivered at the Inaugural Meeting of the AU Panel of the Wise by Teresa Whitfield, Director of the Policy and Mediation Division in the UN Department of Political Affairs



Ms. Teresa Whitfield, Director, Policy and Mediation Division at DPA delivering remarks at the inauguration of the newly elected AU Panel of the Wise Members

A brief view of the characteristics of contemporary conflicts and our response brings bad news, some good news – and urgency to the issue of early engagement for conflict prevention.

After years of relative decline, armed conflicts and violence are increasingly complex and protracted. The statistics are familiar. Direct deaths from conflict grew six-fold between 2011 and 2015, and civil wars tripled in the decade before that. The year 2014 was second only to 1994, the year of the Rwandan genocide, as the deadliest since the end of the cold war.

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of this with over 65 million people forced to flee their homes, and a further 20 million people either experiencing or on the brink of devastating famine. Many of those most at risk are on the African continent: in Somalia, South Sudan, Northern Nigeria and elsewhere.

Factors that complicate an effective multilateral response include the internationalisation of conflicts and the fragmentation of armed groups, often with blurred political, economic, criminal and ideological interests. In too many contexts distinct phenomena such as violent extremism, transboundary population movements, climate change or cyclical financial shocks compound state fragility and contribute to a breakdown in trust between populations, governments, and the multilateral actors whose primary purpose is to serve those very populations.

Meanwhile, divisions in the international community, both regionally and amongst global powers, run deep. States approach armed conflicts with different priorities – even if not actively fuelling them.

The United Nations, like the African Union, has long approached conflict prevention as consisting of both structural prevention – actions taken to build the resilience of states and societies to reduce the likelihood of the outbreak of conflict or violence – and operational prevention – actions taken to address or reduce the immediate risk of violent conflict, when its outbreak or escalation threatens.

Over time, the UN, like the AU, has developed tools to inform its response in both spheres of activity.

Find the full interview on UNOAU website: <http://unoau.unmissions.org>



Group photo of participants and panelists, who attended the annual celebration of the International Peace Day

On 21 September, 2017, the African Union (AU) in partnership with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), Oxfam International, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) organized a panel discussion on the theme, “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: Meaningful Youth Inclusion in Peace-Building”, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (Peace Day).

The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui encouraged the African youth to promote peace and urged Member States to ensure meaningful youth participation in peace-building initiatives, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction.

Panel discussions focused on four thematic areas namely: the protection of civilians from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, giving spaces in conflict transformation and recognition to youth to prevent all forms of violence, meaningful participation of youth in decision-making at all levels, as well as partnership to fully support youth initiatives and ensure quality education, youth employment and empowerment.

Panel participants advocated for the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) to hold annual open sessions on youth, peace and security and embed a youth focal point within the AU Peace and Security Department (AUPSD).

In addition, capacity-building, mentoring and learning through continuous intergenerational dialogues were recognized as key approaches towards ensuring the meaningful participation of the youth in Africa.

Amongst the panelists was Mr. Ibraheem Sanussi, the Deputy Head of the Africa Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat at the African Union Commission who agreed to sit in an interview with UNOAU.



Interview with Mr Ibraheem Sanussi, Deputy Head, Africa Governance Architecture Secretariat - African Union Commission

As Speaker at the 2017 International Peace Day organized by UNOAU, the AU, IPSS and other partners, can you outline some of the key issues you raised and recommendations you put forward?

I made some recommendations. First, the abundance of instruments and tools that the youth can utilize to execute their roles in peace, governance and security issues. The problem however has been the inability to match what is written on paper with implementation. The need to interpretatively look at what the norms mean in practical terms to programmes, and initiatives equipped with adequate capacity and resources.

Second, many programmes that leverage on the youth in terms of preventing conflict may lack sufficient support. There is for more investment in implementing norms. Several youth are already making an impact on the ground, for example the Elman Peace Center in Mogadishu, Outfit Run by Gwendolyn Myers in Liberia (lobbying for peace through national elections processes); Ugandan youth working against the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) and so many others. What needs to happen is for initiatives to receive the support they require; linkages with RECs and AU policies need to be established, in addition to connecting the initiatives to each other.

What kind of AU support mechanisms can the youth tap into to ensure their inclusion and participation in good governance, electoral processes, peace process and so forth?

There are several processes – some are codified in various norms and standards like the African Youth Charter. Some are policy-enabled like the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Youth Engagement Strategy, the African Union Decade Plan of Action and so forth. What some of these norms and policy directives have done is to create an opportunity for the African Union Commission (AUC) and various African Union (AU) organs and institutions to come up with a plethora of programmes and initiatives that address youth meaningful participation in peace, governance and security issues.

One popular example is the African Union Youth Volunteer Programme (AYV), which has been a recruitment ground for young Africans who desire to be exposed to policy processes at the continental level at the AU. Volunteers join the AU for a year, this creates many opportunities within the AU policy space, AU organs and institutions and hopefully, in the nearest future with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

As a youth representative, what is your message of peace to other young Africans?

As a young African myself, I see that we do not have a choice but to create a continent that is peaceful, democratic and prosperous. There needs to be action beyond words of mouth. The youth must take action and work towards such goals. While appreciating the generations before us – for many African countries they achieved independence – it is important to engage to make even better progress. This generation can unlearn the bad and re-learn new values that sustain peace by practicing tolerance, understanding and peaceful co-existence and co-habitation. The UN outlines that sustainable peace is not just a buzz word but must be a culture. We must work towards it. AGA has been lucky to be run by the youth which was not an original design concept. Some have joined through the African Union Volunteers (AUV) scheme – like myself. This brings new enthusiasm, vibrancy and new ideas into our work. Speak to youth is being overlooked as naïve and inexperienced – but the youth are ‘diamonds in the rough’, a lot is going on in their thinking process and how to cope.

Find the full interview on UNOAU website: <http://unoau.unmissions.org>

SRSR Haile Menkerios addresses the UN Security Council



Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, addresses the UN Security Council meeting on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haile Menkerios addressed the UN Security Council meeting on ‘Cooperation with Regional Organizations’ on 12 September, 2017.

Highlighting several points arising from deliberations between the UN Security Council (UNSC) Members and African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held in Addis Ababa earlier in the same month, SRSR Menkerios said that both Councils had reiterated the Charter principle that the Security Council bore primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the critical role played by the African Union and its regional communities and mechanisms. Moreover, there had been consensus that the partnership could be deepened by more frequent interactions, such as joint field missions, among others. The Security Council’s deliberations could be enriched by joint briefings from African Union special representatives and envoys, he said. Since early action remained a challenge in prevention efforts, the United Nations and the African Union must strengthen their collaboration in engaging non-State actors, he continued, noting that the two Councils had emphasized the need to pay greater attention to addressing root causes and preventing relapses into conflict.

UN-AU Joint Task Force convenes at UN Headquarters

At its thirteenth consultative meeting convened at UN Headquarters on 15 September, the UN-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security (JTF) discussed political, security and humanitarian developments in a number of country situations as well as UN-AU cooperation in conflict prevention, and in sustaining peace. The JTF also discussed UN reforms and institutional support to the AU. The meeting centered around finding new ways to create more synergies between UN and AU peace efforts on the continent. The AU informed of an intention to increase the use of quick impact projects on the continent with the leadership of prominent women who would visit various countries to raise awareness on the needs of women and children. On conflict prevention, the UN and the AU agreed to continuously carry out joint analyses and assessments for convergence in decision-making. It was agreed that the next JTF meeting would be held in January 2018 in Addis Ababa in the margins of the AU Summit.

Status of the implementation of the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security



AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Chergui with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Menkerios

On 18 August, SRSR Menkerios met with AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui to discuss progress in the implementation of the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security; High-level events for the month of September in the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), including the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) consultations with Members of the UN Security Council (UNSC), the UN-AU Joint Task Force (JTF) meeting between Under Secretary-Generals (USGs) of the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Field Support (DFS), UNOAU and AU Commissioners for Peace and Security and for Political Affairs.

They also touched on plans for a High-Level UN-AU dialogue on human rights and the situation in the Central African Republic.

African Union 8th Annual Retreat on the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa



UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Menkerios addressing retreat members

From 24 to 25 October, the African Union Commission (AUC) held its 8th Annual Retreat on the ‘Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability’ in N’Djaména, Chad. Every year, the AUC gathers representatives from across the continent and invites the UN Africa-based Special Representatives and Envoys to exchange views on common challenges.

This year, the theme was “Emerging Global Order, Multilateralism and Africa”.

In addition to the AU and UN, partners, academics and experts from think-tanks also attended the retreat.

In his remark, the AUC Chairperson H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat emphasized the importance of strengthening mediation practices to realize Africa’s goal towards finding solutions to its own problems, whilst acknowledging the strengthened partnership with the UN after the signing of a Joint Framework in April 2017.

Enhancing Partnerships between the AU and RECs in Peace and Security



Mr. Nurudeen Kolawole Azeez, UNOAU Head of Operational Planning and Advisory Section, at the briefing shares perspectives with participants

On 14 September, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), in collaboration with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) hosted a briefing session on ‘Enhancing Partnerships between the AU and RECs in Peace and Security’.

The session was the first in a series of joint events with UNOAU following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations in June 2016. Moderated by Seth Appiah-Mensah, Chief, Mission Support and Planning Section at UNOAU, the session gathered approximately 50 participants from the AU, Regional Economic Mechanisms (RECs), African Union Member States and donor partners to discuss two key thematic areas: i.) the current working relationship between the RECs and the AU, including lessons learned and best practices going forward; and ii) the AU reform process led by President Kagame which places an emphasis on “clarifying the division of labor between AU, RECs/RMs, Member States and other continental organizations”.

Participants observed that progress has been made but challenges remain: Mr. Alghali from the AU highlighted the issue of subsidiarity, noting that the Kagame Report titled ‘The Imperative to strengthen our Union’, places a strong emphasis on shared responsibility.

This required a functionalist approach that looks into why the RECs were originally created and their evolving role from primarily economic formations to serving as key building blocks for peace and security on the continent.

He also stated that partnerships between the AU and RECs should go beyond Secretariat-to-Secretariat and Commission-to-Commission relations as there needs to be political engagement and agreement to ensure implementation at the Secretariat and Commissioner levels. Third, he emphasized the need to take note of trends and trajectories of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), particularly new ways in which Member States may work together. He also noted the growing prominence of ad-hoc security initiatives, which are arising from the need to interrogate whether these formations undermine the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) or increase its capacity.

The Economic Commission for West Africa (ECOWAS) representative, Ms Raheemat Momodu, weighed-in on the above points, arguing that, indeed Secretariat-to-Secretariat relations have improved but there remains much to be done about the working relationship between the PSC and the RECs.

Ms Raheemat elaborated on the fact that the RECs are often excluded from key meetings, yet meaningful responses to peace and security challenges cannot be made without involving the regions in which they occur. She further underscored that a collective response to such challenges should be the underlying approach.



Mr. Huang Hongjiang Counselor, Political Affairs at the Chinese Mission to the African Union sharing perspectives at the briefing

A representative of the Chinese Mission to Ethiopia agreed with these sentiments, stating that the limited resources available on the continent require the AU and RECs to pursue greater coordination, rather than competition. Colonel Abdelrehim shared the challenges from the North African Religious Council (NARC) perspective while arguing that Member States are individually facing unique challenges and levels of instability, making it difficult for them to unify their joint working relationship with the AU.

While placing the RECs in the context of peace and security in Africa, a participant raised the recurring issue of how the AU is supposed to partner with the RECs when they are structurally different and are at different stages of development.

For Ms Raheemat (ECOWAS), the uneven development of the RECs is not a barrier if there is clarity about the relationships with the AU. Such an understanding requires institutional grounding to ensure an end to the duplication of efforts. She further recommended that conversations between the two should be frank and foster a shared understanding with the purpose of promoting coordination amongst RECs, in order for and better relationship with the AU. Additionally, she strongly advocated for greater access for RECs to meetings, particularly those held by the PSC.

During the discussions, the AU reform process was perceived by the participant as an opportunity to strengthen relations. Nevertheless, the RECs were urged to be proactive and work together to develop a position paper that outlines current challenges, details ways through which they can be better represented and involved with the work of the AU, as well as propose a way forward during the reform process.

It was noted that implementation was a recurring issue and for this to change, it would require greater political will. The current relationship between the AU and the RECs is not built in a spirit of subsidiarity. For this to be improved, the AU should try to relate more to the RECs in the way it expects other international organizations to do with their own institution.

It was emphasized that the reform process presents a good opportunity for RECs to start a dialogue with the Institutional Reforms Unit at the AU. Member States, particularly through their Heads of State, remain primarily responsible. Capacity development of both the AU and the RECs should also be a priority. Finally, the strengthening of the RECs may allow for better resource mobilization in order to fill the funding gap of peace and security initiatives.

Twenty-Fourth Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) on AMISOM



AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Chergui delivering a statement at the 24th MOCC



Mr. Nurudeen Kolawole Azeez, Head of UNOAU Operational Planning and Advisory Section at the 24th MOCC

On 5 September, the African Union Commission (AUC) hosted the 24th Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) meeting for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The meeting, which convened in Addis Ababa, was chaired by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui and brought together Chiefs of Defense Staff (CDS) in addition to designated representatives of AMISOM Troop/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) including Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda and Somalia. Key outcomes of the meeting were a consensus on achieving

the reduction of AMISOM military personnel by December 2017 and the gradual hand-over of security responsibilities to the Somali National Security Forces, as per UN Security Council Resolution 2372 (2017).

Enhancement of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)



Group picture of participants who attended the second meeting of the AU-Germany coordination platform on enhanced small arms and light weapons control

On 4 October, UNOAU Mine Action and Disarmament, Demobilization and Repatriation (DDR) officers attended the second meeting of the coordination platform for the African Union's and Germany's project on the enhancement of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) in the Greater Sahel Region.

The meeting centered on the African Union "Silencing the Guns Continental Plan of Action", which intends to translate the aims of the AU Master Roadmap into concrete activities for the control of illicit SALW in Africa.

The meeting was attended by representatives from thirteen AU Member States, five Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as France, Germany, the United States, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Canada and the United Kingdom. Representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Small Arms Survey and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) also participated as observers.

Participants reviewed the outcomes and recommendations of a previous two-day workshop, including the Operational Guidance Note (OGN), roster of experts, and the intention to establish an online data base of SALW and PSSM projects. Overall, there was strong support for the initiative in statements from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Benin and the United States.

G5 Sahel Force Headquarters: Joint UN-AU visit



Mr. James Amenyah, UNOAU Military Logistics Planning Officer (right) with AU Peace Support Operations Division team at the G5 Sahel Force headquarters

From 2 to 6 October, a team of UNOAU and AU Peace Support Operation Division (PSOD) personnel within the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission conducted a joint visit to the G5 Sahel Joint Force Headquarters in Savare, Mali. The team discussed options for the implementation of a two-pronged approach comprised of civil-military activities and quick impact project to build the confidence of the population and intelligence-based operations respectively.

UNOAU joins the UN Family in celebrating UN Day

UN staff in Ethiopia joined several Ambassadors, Representatives from the Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission, as well other invited guests in the celebration of the 2017 UN Day. A representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia thanked the UN for the support Ethiopia continues to receive and assured that the partnership will continue to grow as the country works towards achieving middle income status. H.E. Commissioner Mme Minata Samate Cessouma of the African Union Department of Political Affairs, also delivered remarks.



Official UN Flag Raising ceremony in the UN compound



UN, AU and Government of Ethiopia representatives who attended the ceremony



H.E. Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner at the African Union Department of Political Affairs (second from left) with UNOAU representatives



Diplomatic corps representatives at the ceremony



High school students reciting a poem on why UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) matter



H.E. Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma of the African Union Department of Political Affairs delivering a statement

UNOAU joins celebrations of UN Day at Addis Ababa University



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh speaking to Addis Ababa University students at the UN Week panel discussion

As UN Week celebrations in Addis Ababa came to an end, UNOAU joined sister UN agencies at Addis Ababa University, for a panel discussion that explored SDG 4, 5 and 16 in an effort to engage youth in a dialogue around the work of the UN as well as impact on communities.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie delivered the opening remarks in which she stressed on the need to educate girls and young women. As it stands, the world loses close to 95 billion dollars every year for lack of effectively including girls and women.

Mr. Samuel Kissi, African Union Policy Specialist at UNFPA reflected on the positive benefits that come with educating girls and women noting that Africa can further harness the demographic dividend by ensuring gender equality.

Ms. Zeleka Paulos, a social policy analyst from UNICEF Ethiopia shared the country context of the SDGs.

Ms. Letty Chiwara, the UN WOMEN Representative to Ethiopia, the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa, moderated the session.

UNOAU's Chief of Staff, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh spoke on the need for building a better understanding around the linkage that exists between education, gender and peace.

She outlined the UN Secretary-General's call for a better inclusion of youth on matters related to promoting and sustaining peace and security in the world. She encouraged university students to be

inquisitive about the work of the UN and the UN Youth Envoy to better understand the roles they can play in helping create lasting and sustainable peace for all, a key foundation for achieving development in African countries in particular.

Some of the questions raised by the students revolved around existing policies, mechanisms and the impact that the UN has achieved, and how the youth can utilize these to engage further with the UN. The students called for similar engagements with the UN to take place more often.



Addis Ababa University students and faculty members during the UN Week panel discussion on education, gender and peace

UNOAU in Action



UNOAU Chief of Staff welcomed Headquarters HRDDP Compliance and Accountability Framework team



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh (right) at the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between UNSC and AUPSC Members at the African Union Commission



UN Security Council members view UNOAU publications ahead of UN SESGs and SRSGs briefing



UNOAU Chief of Staff with a team of UN experts on a three-month mission to support the African Union Knowledge and Exchange Expertise Programme (KEEP)



UNOAU staff at the UNSC and AUPSC informal consultation



UNOAU & OHCHR discussed strengthening support to the African Union in the area of human rights



UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Menkerios in a press conference with local media upon the arrival of UN Security Council members in Addis Ababa



UNSC Members briefing on the situation in Somalia and South Sudan at UNOAU



UNEP Ethiopia Representative Mr. Samba and UNOAU explored partnership with AU on environment in a meeting



UN Department of Political Affairs, Africa I Director, Mr. Graham Maitland discussions with UNOAU Chief of Staff, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh during his mission to Addis Ababa



UNOAU staff at UN flag raising ceremony (UN Day)



The Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan (OSESSS) staff retreat



SRSR, Mr. Menkerios making introductory remarks to UNOAU, UNECA and UNDSS teams in preparation for the UN Security Council Members visit to Ethiopia in September



SRSR, Mr. Menkerios welcomes Ambassador Tekeda Alemu of Ethiopia, Chair of the UNSC in September at Bole International Airport

Staff Movements

UNOAU bade farewell to:



Luke Ronald Bertram, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Taskforce (CTITF) Consultant

UNOAU welcomes:



Shadrack Mogho, Political Affairs Officer



Oana Raluca Topala, Information Analyst



Pauline Adero, Political Affairs Officer (UN Department of Political Affairs embedded in OSESS)



Sebastien Hounhouedo, UN Police Reform Officer

Upcoming Events

AUPSC activities (Chair of the month of November: The Republic of Chad):

- 14 November 2017: Briefing on the situation in Guinea Bissau;
- 16 November 2017: 3rd Joint Retreat and the 10th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the AUPSC and EUPSC;
- 17 November 2017: 10th Annual Joint Consultative meeting between the AUPSC and EUPSC;
- 20 November 2017: Briefing on the situation in Mali and the Sahel;
- 21 November 2017: Briefing on the situation in Central African Republic;
- 29-30 November 2017: AU-EU Summit in Abijan, Ivory Coast;
- 29-30 November: African Union – European Union Summit (AU-EU Summit), Abidjan, Ivory Coast;

AUPSC activities (Chair of the month of December: The Democratic Republic of Congo):

- 4-5 December 2017: The 5th High-Level Seminar on the Security of Countries in Africa, Livingstone, Zambia;
- 6 December 2017: IPSS-UNOAU Joint Briefing Session- Building Trust in Peace building Processes: Best Practices from the UN and the AU;
- 7 December 2017: Renewal of the Multi National Joint Force Mandate;
- 7 December 2017: Communication by the UN Peacebuilding Commissions;
- 7-8 December 2017: The UN-AU Consultative Meeting on Prevention and Management of Conflicts (Desk-to-Desk), Bishoftu, Ethiopia;
- 8 December 2017: Communication on the situation in Libya;
- 8 December 2017: Review of questions related to the PSC, RECs/RMs, ECOSSOC and other Organs;
- 8 December 2017: Review and adoption of PSC programmes for the month of January 2018;
- 11-15 December 2017: Joint retreat of the AUC – Permanent Representatives' Council (PRC), Egypt;
- 18 December 2017: Open Session on Migration, Development and Security in Africa;
- 19 December 2017: Communication on the situation in Somalia;
- 19 December 2017: Update on the Implementation of the Communique of AUPSC Ministerial Committee Meeting on South Sudan held on 20th September 2017 in New York;
- 20 December 2017: Open Session on the Presentation of a Study on the Impact of the Implementation of African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) by AUC, IPSS and GIZ;

AU Summit 2018

- 22-23 January: 35th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee, Addis Ababa;
- 24-25 January: 32nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, Addis Ababa;
- 28-29 January: 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union



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