



UNOAU Bulletin

A publication from the United Nations Office to the African Union
January-February 2017

AU Peace and Security Council open session on the role of women in protecting lives in challenging security environments in Africa



UNOAU Mandate

Background on the establishment of UNOAU

Since the transformation of the Organization of the 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 a closer UN cooperation with the AU. In 2005, the World Summit underscored the need to devote attention to the special needs of Africa. In a follow-up to the World Summit, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in the 2006 Addis Ababa Declaration on “*Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union*”, pledged UN support for the development and the strengthening of the AU Commission while, 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.

In 2016, the AUPSC Members adopted its 628th Communiqué on the partnership between the UN and the AU on issues of peace and security in Africa. Later, the UN SC adopted resolution 2320 (2016) on the partnership between the UN and Regional Organizations, in particular with the African Union. The UNSG report presented a new level of partnership. This was further strengthened by the new UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres through his expressed vision and priorities, stressed the fact that the UN and the 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 Agenda 2030.

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 provide a support component to the United Nations and the African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Support Coordination Mechanism (JCM) office in Addis Ababa.

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)

UNOAU Bulletin aims to increase visibility and awareness on UNOAU mandate in its relationship 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 African Union and other stakeholders on conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Women Peace and Security

The Role of Women in Protecting Lives in Challenging Security Environments in Africa.



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, delivering UN statement at the session

On 16 February, the AUPSC held an open session on the role of women in protecting lives in challenging security environments in Africa under the Chair of Rwanda.

The objective of the session was to enhance partnerships between the AUPSC, non-state actors, regional networks and international partners in order to better deliver on commitments on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in Africa; raise awareness on the specific roles, and highlight the added value that women bring to building and sustaining peace.

The AU Commission (AUC) Special Envoy on WPS, Ms. Bineta Diop, noted that sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) still occur in peacekeeping missions despite UN and AU zero tolerance policies. Her recommendations to AU Member States include among others: an increase in the number of women in security forces with clear numerical targets for 2020; a solid commitment for the development and the implementation of UN SC resolution 1325 National Action Plans; the integration of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) and SEA training for all peacekeepers; the creation of sufficient structures and monitoring mechanisms at country level; and the development of clear conduct and disciplinary policies for AU-led peace operations.

In her briefing, a senior researcher of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, recommended the enhancement of reporting and follow-up processes of SGBV and SEA cases, the creation of support structures for survivors of SGBV, the establishment of family and child protection units and forensic clinics, and a network of female police and local female police. Finally, two female peacekeepers of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) stressed that the presence and the work of female peacekeepers support the enhanced reporting of SGBV cases, and provide women and children in host societies with a greater sense of security. However, out of the 20,516 AMISOM troops, only 3.5 % are female peacekeepers.

Twenty-One AU Member State representatives, UN and international partners took the floor during the debate. The Council recommendations included: (i) the WPS agenda should be linked to the AU Agenda 2063 and the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns by Year 2020; (ii) Member States need to increase the number of women in national defence forces and peacekeeping missions, including in leadership positions; (iii) inclusion of gender considerations in monitoring frameworks, early warning and rapid response, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation processes; and (iv) systematic use of gender-sensitive analysis and gender-disaggregated data for AU reports and discussions at the AUPSC and during the AU Summits.

UNOAU/UN Women workshop on Women Peace and Security, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



Group photo

On 13-14 February, UNOAU and UN Women jointly organized a workshop on WPS agenda and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) for UN staff members/entities working with the AU in the area of peace and security. The workshop aimed at enhance the understanding of key gender concepts, the differential impact of conflict on women and men, UN and AU normative and legal frameworks, as well as core commitments on WPS and the Prevention of SEA. The participants developed strategies and concrete next steps for UN offices, agencies, and programmes to promote the WPS agenda within their offices and in their work with the AU, including through gender-sensitive conflict analysis and reporting, planning and the conduct of joint UN-AU missions, projects and peace operations.



Panelists at the workshop



Participants during group sessions

UNOAU participated in five Sessions of the AU Peace and Security Council in February



HE Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda

Under the Chair of Rwanda, the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) invited the United Nations to deliver statements in six sessions in February 2017. UNOAU delivered five statements while OCHA provided a statement at the 21st February session on the “Drought situation in Africa”. The five sessions in which UNOAU participated focussed on:

1. Situation in Guinea-Bissau;
2. Role of women in protecting lives in challenging security environments in Africa;
3. Free movement of people and goods, and implications for peace and security in the continent;
4. Protecting children from fighting adult wars: highlighting the case of child soldiers;
5. Briefing on cross-border movement of peace spoilers and response to the challenge.

Sessions 3 and 4 above were held at Ministerial-level, and chaired by the Minister of foreign Affairs of Rwanda, Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo.

On the situation in Guinea Bissau

Held on February 13, 2017, the meeting received the briefing of the Commission. The participation of the Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau, who presented his country’s situation, was noted. The Representative of Liberia, (current chair of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of state and Government), the Representative of Senegal (on behalf of the P3), the Representative of the EU and SRSG Menkerios also addressed the Council. ECOWAS, EU, AU and UN reiterated their support to the implementation of the Conakry Agreement.

In the ensuing Communiqué, the PSC, among others, called on stakeholders in Guinea Bissau to adhere to the country’s Constitution, and comply with the Conakry Agreement and the Bissau roadmap. It further encourage Bissau Guineans to strengthen their dialogue and establish an inclusive government in the best interest of their country. The PSC also supported the continuation of ECOMIB and called for joint

efforts to mobilize the required resources to that effect. EU's willingness to consider options for further support to ECOMIB was acknowledged, and ECOWAS was urged to dispatch a ministerial mission to Guinea Bissau "as part of the follow-up steps for the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, in order to identify and address the obstacles impeding the implementation of the Agreement, with a view to promoting a durable solution to the crisis in that country".

On free movement of people and goods and implications for peace and security in the continent

The Chair of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) made a presentation, while using the example of Rwanda. A few Member States raised concerns about the consequences of possible settlements on their socio-economic and environmental systems. While acknowledging the security concerns associated with open borders, participants agreed on their desirability. In the AUPSC Communiqué issued after the meeting, the AUPSC stressed the "need for AU Member States to further enhance mutual trust, cooperation and collaboration in addressing security challenges that are related to free movement of people and goods, in order to prevent terrorists and criminal groups from taking advantage and exploiting such facilities". The Commission is to accelerate the finalization of the AU Protocol on free movement whereas AU Member States were encouraged to sensitize their population on the relevant decisions of the AU Assembly.

On protecting children from fighting adult wars: highlighting the case of child soldiers in Africa

A detailed presentation on the historical developments and current status of child soldiers in Africa was made by retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire of the Child Soldiers Initiative. A statement was also delivered by the Acting Director of the AU Commission (AUC) Peace and Security Department.

In the AUPSC Communiqué issued after the meeting, the Council: (i) urged AU Member States to sign and ratify the main international and regional instruments on the protection of children's rights; (ii) requested the AUC to continue conducting regular sensitization to Member States on child rights in general through the annual PSC open meetings; (iii) requested the AUC to finalize the recruitment of a Child Protection Advisor, who will assist in mainstreaming child protection in the work of AUC and its activities related to peace and security, including with a focus on capacity enhancement and setting up of child protection units in armed forces; and (iv) reiterated the request to the AUC Chairperson to appoint a Special Envoy on children, peace and security.

On cross-border movement of peace spoilers and response to the challenge

The meeting was chaired by the Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda and AUPSC Chair for February 2017, H.E. Hope Tumukunde Gasatura. During the meeting, the AUPSC heard briefings from representatives of AMISOM, MINUSCA, UNAMID, UNOCA and UNOAU. The meeting was also attended by ECOWAS, EAC, and Ethiopia in its capacity as a member of the A3. During the briefings, each mission outlined its efforts and challenges in dealing with peace spoilers across borders. Participants emphasized the need for more enhanced cross-mission coordination and information sharing.



Harmonization and establishment of a common monitoring and evaluation system in support of AUC through the RCM



The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) Secretariat organized a retreat on 09 February 2017, with the presence of UNOAU and all UN Agencies, AUC Departments, African Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms, and the joint Secretariat. The retreat was co-chaired by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) acting Executive Secretary and the Deputy Chairperson of the AUC.

The aim of the retreat was to update participants on the outcomes of the process to align the implementation of Africa's transformative development frameworks and the recommendations regarding coordination to align Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

The AUC Deputy Chair thanked partners for maintaining momentum and for making sure that coordination clusters functioned well. He noted the importance of having an adequate resource base to make a difference on the continent. He stated that, the participants should take advantage of the African Leadership Agreement to annually hold open discussions with the UN Secretary-General on important issues.

One of the important outcomes of the retreat was the re-establishment of the cluster on Governance, Peace and Security (cluster#9) in which UNOAU is a member.

Participants also benefited from a presentation of the draft matrix on the alignment of the first Ten-Year Implementation plan of Agenda 2063 with the Sustainable Development Goals; and a review of the draft joint programme of work for RCM-Africa for 2017-2018.

Cluster Meeting with AUC Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division



Staff from UNOAU Political Affairs Section

On 10 February, staff from UNOAU and the AU Commission (AUC) Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division held their first Conflict Prevention Cluster meeting for the year to discuss priorities and working methods for 2017. The meeting discussed: (i) the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa by Year 2020 (Lusaka Master Roadmap 2016); (ii) review of collaboration mechanisms for UN-AU conflict prevention; and (iii) possible joint fact-finding missions by UN and AU in Africa.

The Head of the AUC Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division, Ambassador Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga, briefed on the Lusaka Master Roadmap 2016 focussing on conflict prevention. He spoke about enhancing early warning mechanisms in Africa, strengthening preventive diplomacy and further collaboration for the UN-AU partnership on conflict prevention. Ambassador Gateretse-Ngoga proposed possible fact-finding missions in a few African countries. It was agreed that the next cluster meeting would be held on 28 February 2017.

Drawing on the experiences of 2016, the meeting agreed to continue monthly or twice-monthly horizon scanning meetings, or focus discussions on country-specific situations. The outcomes of these meetings should also inform the agenda and discussion points for the monthly AU-UN Director-level meetings.

There was also agreement for UNOAU and the AUC to facilitate meetings of the AUPSC and UNSC Member States present in Addis Ababa at the Expert/Political Counsellor level to discuss thematic and country specific questions, including items on the agenda of both Councils.

UNOAU contributed to activities in support of AU Peace Operations



Planning meeting on AU Police

On 14-15 February, a planning meeting on AU police was organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with the participation of the AU, Secretariats of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and East African Standby

Force (EASF), INTERPOL, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and UNOAU. The overall objective of the meeting was to reach concurrence on the policing activities of the AU, ECOWAS and EASF Secretariats in 2017, with a view to strengthen coordination and cooperation.

The activities are to be funded by the GIZ. Activities in support of the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL) include: the ratification of legal frameworks; the development of a policy framework for, among others, transnational organized crime; staffing; communication equipment; and training.

Following the planning meeting, UNOAU together with Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the African Union Commission worked on draft and produced clean copies of Guidelines on Formed Police Units (FPU) deployment in African Union (AU) Peace Support Operations (PSO) and Special Operations (SO), including Police Command in AU PSOs and SOs. The objective of developing such policy documents is to provide standardization in Policing to all AU PSOs and SOs, including AUC. The respective documents will be published in AU working languages thereafter

African Standby Force (ASF): Progress on the Continental Movement Coordination Centre

UNOAU is working with the AU towards operationalising a Continental Movement Coordination Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Regional Movement Coordination Centres, to strengthen the strategic lift capability of the AU.

These efforts form part of the five-year 2016-2020 Maputo Work Plan for the strengthening of the African Standby Force (ASF). The Continental Movement Coordination Centre reached its initial operational capability in 2015.

UNOAU is working with the AU towards developing training for the AU and Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) in order to upgrade the strategic lift management capability of the AU and sub-regions.

Joint AU-RECs/RMs working sessions also aim at gathering and verifying data on road network, seaports and airports to enhance strategic lift operations.

Mine Action: Meeting between the AU and Geneva International Humanitarian Demining Centre



Participants

On 14 February, UNOAU facilitated a meeting between the Geneva International Humanitarian Demining Centre, and the AUC Security and Defense Division to finalize the arrangements for the start-up of a Swiss-funded project aimed at building the capacity of selected AU Member States to modernize and implement their ammunition safety policies and practices. The project will encompass, inter alia, the implementation of joint assessment missions, the development/delivery of customized training, as well as the drafting of national guidelines. Guinea Bissau and Zambia are among, a number of countries so far, prioritized to participate in the programme.

Briefing at the AU Partners Group (AUPG) on the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA)

On 17 February, UNOAU took part in a meeting with the AU Partners Group (AUPG) chaired by the European Union (EU). On the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), it was outlined that there has been surge in the LRA activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), with the LRA resorting to ambush, robbery, looting and abduction of civilians.

The draft revised RCI-LRA Concept of Operations, which was prepared in December 2016, is being finalized within the AUC Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) before its circulation to partners for comments.

A Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM) will be scheduled in March to consider the revised Concept of Operations (CONOPs). A joint AU/UNOCA mission to Obo, Central Africa Republic (CAR), is also been planned.

The mission may coincide with a planning meeting for military officers from the Regional Task Force Sector Headquarters to review and improve their coordination. In the meeting, partners were also briefed on the advanced stages of the engagement between the EU and the AUC regarding the signing of a two million Euros contribution agreement with the EU for the RCI-LRA for 2017.

UNOAU participated in a workshop on Transitional Justice in South Sudan

On 15-17 February, UNOAU and the Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan (OSESSS) participated in a workshop on Transitional Justice in South Sudan, which was organized by the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRISS). Participants included representatives from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement In Opposition (SPLM-IO), international and South Sudanese NGOs, research institutes, AU Commission (AUC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), UNMISS, UNDP and the UN Office of Legal Affairs. The three-day workshop aimed to discuss progress in the establishment of the three key justice instruments envisaged in Chapter V of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCISS), namely: (i) the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, (ii) the Commission for Truth, Healing and Reconciliation, and (iii) the Compensation and Repatriation Authority. The discussions included possible linkages between those instruments and the National Dialogue proposed by the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU). During the workshop, participants discussed possible steps towards ensuring a meaningful implementation of Chapter V provisions given the difficult political context. To date, the AUC has established two Task Forces for the implementation of Chapter V of the ARCISS, and has drafted the Statute of the Court. However, it has been unable to engage the TGoNU on the draft.

OSESSS meeting with Sudanese women groups

On 1 February, in Addis Ababa, the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Mr. Nicholas Haysom (Fink) received the Sudanese Task Force on the Engagement of Women. Members of the Task Force urged stakeholders: (i) to advocate for inclusivity in the peace initiative, mechanism and processes, and (ii) to create a linkage between policy makers and communities in peace and political processes. Members also recommended that the parties to the conflict in the Two-areas and Darfur cease hostilities and reach an agreement. They requested the international community to provide support to the Task Force to enable direct engagement with the parties to this end. They also advocated for 50% women representation in peace and political mechanisms and process. For his part, Mr. Haysom highlighted the importance of women's participation in peace and political processes, stressed the relevant provisions of SCR 1325 and highlighted that peace agreements are more sustainable when women are represented and participate in the process.



Sudanese Taskforce and the OSESSS team

UNOAU in Action



UNOAU SRSG meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the AU, H.E. Ambassador Bengt Van Loosdrecht



UNOAU SRSG and OSESSS SESG meeting with AU partners in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



UNSOS SRSG visiting to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



UNOAU Political Affairs Section consultative meeting with the Embassy of Sweden



UNOAU Chief of Staff providing a presentation to members of the UN Country Team



UNHQ/UNOAU/AUC working session on Human Resources issues



Visit of the Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide



On 23-27 February, the Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, visited Addis Ababa to participate in a meeting with religious leaders from the Great Lakes Region on the situation in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). During his visit, Mr. Dieng met with a wide range of Officials from the AUC, the UN and the Ethiopian Government.

2017 Tentative Elections Calendar in Africa

N0	Country	Election	Tentative date
01	The Gambia	Parliamentary	12 April
02	Algeria	Parliamentary	May
03	Gabon	Parliamentary	29 July
04	Senegal	Parliamentary	30 July
05	Rwanda	Presidential	3-4 August
06	Kenya	General	8 August
07	Angola	General	August
08	Liberia	Presidential	10 October
09	Congo	Parliamentary	TBC
10	Libya	General	TBC
11	Chad	Parliamentary	

Staff movement

UNOAU Welcomes



Mr. Eyasus Maccall, UNOAU Strategic Planning Officer under the Office of the Chief of Staff



Mr. Emmanuel Massawi, UNOAU Finance & Budget Officer, in administrative & Support Section



Mr. Patrick Loots, UNOAU DDR Officer in Political Affairs Section



Upcoming Events

6-7 March 2017	AU / UN working group on implementation of Security Council Resolution 2320, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
7 March 2017	UNDP-World Bank Workshop on Conflict Prevention and Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
7-8 March 2017	Rule of Law and Security Institution, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
8 March 2017	AUPSC meeting of preparation for the 11th Joint Annual consultative meeting with the UNSC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
8 March 2017	Consideration and finalization of the Joint Communiqué of the 10th Annual Joint Consultative meeting between AUPSC and UNSC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
9-10 March 2017	AMISOM Lessons Learned workshop, Nairobi, Kenya;
13 March 2017	AUPSC briefing by the Panel of the Wise on its activities in the year 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
23-27 March 2017	Regional Coordination Mechanism meetings, Dakar, Senegal;
28-30 March 2017	Visit of the President of the UN General Assembly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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