

UNITED NATIONS STATEMENT

[DELIVERED BY SRSG UNOAU – Parfait Onanga- Anyanga]

AUPSC MEETING ON THE PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS:

Follow-up to the Tangiers Conference

21 February 2024

**Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council,
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Peace and Security Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

UNOAU associates itself with the multistakeholder approach to deliver impactful programmes, as outlined in the compelling presentation made by Commissioner Bankole. It provided a clear vision on a concrete, pragmatic way forward. Let me also appreciate the remarkable work done by AfDB and other relevant institutions. Our contribution will focus on the policy and normative requirements, both at national and global levels, for transformative action, including resource mobilisation measures that will help secure adequate financing for Africa's development.

The United Nations wishes to thank the Council for organising this meeting on "Peace, Security and Development nexus: following up on the Tangiers Conference", and for the invitation to address your august body. This being the first time I am briefing the PSC under your leadership, allow me Chair to warmly congratulate you on your skilful stewardship of the Council's business and to praise your country, the Kingdom of Morocco, on its leadership in this highly strategic agenda before us today.

Chairperson,

The United Nations recognises the continent resolve to advance on its development path, guided by Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in a rather challenging global environment. Agenda 2063, the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, the Silencing the Guns initiative, as well as implementation of several other multi-sectoral programmes by the Union and its Organs and Institutions, aimed at promoting effectiveness and delivery of the Union's strategic objectives are all testimony to continent's commitment to the aspirations of "The Africa We Want."

While there has been some progress in recent years in some countries, in terms of socio-economic development and access to basic services, threats to peace and security, both in Africa and globally,

have reached unprecedented levels. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted in his policy brief 'A New Agenda for Peace', "more than in any previous era, States are unable to insulate themselves from cross-boundary sources of instability and insecurity," and the mutually reinforcing effects of this instability and insecurity go well beyond the ability of any single State to manage.

The Secretary-General's policy brief further notes, with concern, that there is a deep sense of unease, which is growing, that Governments and international organizations are failing to deliver for their people.

The social contracts between Governments and the governed are either under strain or broken, demanding much greater attention to the peace, security and development nexus to avoid the reversal of the progress and achievements made towards the attainment of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

Recovery from the recession induced and aggravated by the COVID -19 pandemic has been uneven. Moreover, most developing countries lack an adequate fiscal space to shield themselves from the compounded socio-economic repercussions of climate change, COVID and conflict.

Chairperson,

Development is conflict sensitive. The root causes of conflict can be found in competition for political power and resources, inequality, marginalization and exclusion, poor and weak governance institutions and sectarian divides. Many of these causes of conflict are preventable, especially those linked to national-level institutional governance challenges.

Against this backdrop, without being prescriptive, in 'A New Agenda for Peace', Secretary-General Guterres has been stressing the centrality of prevention as a political imperative that requires a nexus and holistic approach, including at political, developmental, social and cultural levels. Such an approach also requires political will and leadership, effective partnerships, sustainable resources and national ownership. Allow me, Chairperson, to highlight the following three key points:

Firstly, on Prevention. Given the huge cost of conflict management and peacekeeping, prevention efforts must be a core national priority with Member States bearing primary responsibility. National ownership and nationally defined priorities help assuage concerns about external interference and build trust.

The Secretary-General stresses that prevention must start at home through 'tailor-made' national prevention strategies to address the drivers and enablers of violence and conflict in societies and strengthen national infrastructures for peace. These strategies can help reinforce State institutions, promote the rule of law and strengthen civil society and social cohesion.

And if and when national prevention efforts are insufficient, Member States should make full use of the AU's comprehensive conflict prevention mechanisms. In fact, no other region or institution is endowed with robust normative frameworks such as APSA and AGA. But their effectiveness hinges upon Member States' willingness to leverage their impressive potential for peaceful resolution of conflict.

Secondly, peace too is development sensitive. That is why in a world of competing emergencies and growing inequalities, within and between nations, the Secretary-General has also stressed that conflict prevention and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The full attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of Agenda 2063 is critical both in their own right, and because sustainable development is ultimately the only way to comprehensively address the interlinked, multidimensional drivers of violence and insecurity.

To this end, the Secretary-General is urging Member States to ensure the SDGs are back on track. He is therefore calling for a 500 billion USD Stimulus package per year to help invest upfront in the SDGs, Climate Action and Future Generations.

Thirdly, while urgent measures are needed to prevent a dangerous backsliding of hard-won gains, progress will continue to be precarious if steps are not applied to address more systemic and structural discrepancies of the prevalent global financial and economic system.

Ahead of the Summit of the Future, scheduled to take place in September in New York, the Secretary-General has been urging Member States to embrace steps towards the advent of a Global financial system that works for all of humanity. More specifically, he has been encouraging Member States to undertake a series of reforms in the following key areas: Global economic governance, Debt relief and lowering the cost of sovereign borrowing, and International Public Finance (including massively scaling up development and climate financing).

In fact, multilateralism itself is at stake. Africa's permanent membership to the G20 offers key strategic engagement opportunities. I welcome and congratulate the African Union on the decisions of the Summit to ensuring the full and effective participation of the Continent in the G20.

Chairperson,

As I conclude, let me assure you of the United Nations' strong commitment to a people-driven development that harnesses the potential of African people, especially women and the youth. Indeed, their equal and meaningful participation at all levels of decision-making is paramount. We must also take urgent action to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence.

The peace, security and development nexus approach also demands that we pay close attention to the interlinkages between climate, peace and security.

The United Nations remains firmly committed to closely work with the African Union, towards the attainment of Agenda 2063, including the implementation of the Second-Ten Year Implementation Plan, and Agenda 2030.

We believe that leveraging strategic AU-UN stakeholders engagements and other relevant partnerships can help accelerate the delivery of meaningful and impactful outcomes for Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 and promote the triple nexus aspirations for all.

Chairperson, distinguished members of the Council,

I thank you for your kind attention.