



# UNOAU Bulletin

A publication from the United Nations Office to the African Union  
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## Peace and Security in Africa: A United Nations – African Union priority



The UN Deputy-Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed (fourth from right), joins AU Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat (seventh from left), and Heads of African Governments and Representatives at the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Nouakchott, Mauritania

*“I increasingly see African leaders and citizens working together to build a great Africa. The United Nations will ensure that the African Union ambition in its Agenda 2063 is realized through the 2030 Agenda for people and planet”*

UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed at the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union

# 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 628<sup>th</sup> 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

**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.

## Incoming Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of UNOAU, Sahle-Work Zewde



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia as his Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) at the

level of Under-Secretary-General in June 2018. Ms. Zewde took up her duties on and she succeeds Haile Menkerios of South Africa to whom the Secretary-General reiterated his deep gratitude and appreciation for his dedicated service to the organization. Ms. Zewde is the first woman appointed to this position. Previously Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), she brings three decades of progressively responsible experience at the national, regional and international levels.

Ms. Zewde is expected to bring well-honed skills in building consensus among stakeholders, and her knowledge of the Organization in order to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security.

She was the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and served as Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as well as Director-General for African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

Ms. Zewde has served as the Ethiopian Ambassador to France, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and accredited to Tunisia and Morocco (2002-2006). From 1993 to 2002, she served as Ambassador to Djibouti and Permanent Representative to the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and to Senegal, with accreditation to Mali, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Guinea (1989-1993). Ms. Zewde is a natural sciences graduate of the University of Montpellier, France.

## Outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of UNOAU, Haile Menkerios



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Haile Menkerios of South Africa as the Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and Special Representative to the African Union at the level of Under-Secretary-General on 17 June 2013.

Initially, he continued his appointment as the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan before replacing Mr. Zachary Muburi-Muita, who completed his UNOAU assignment on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Mr. Menkerios completed his assignment on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. In his report, he outlined the following the ***‘primacy of politics is – now more than ever – at the core of the UN – AU partnership/ Enhanced cooperation in the area of peace and security between the UN and the AU, and RECs/RMs, has resulted in increased shared responsibilities to peacebuilding in Africa.’***

Prior to his appointment as Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan in July 2011, he was the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Mission in Sudan starting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010. From 2007-2010, Mr. Menkerios served as the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

He also served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo (2005-2007), Director of the Africa I Division in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (2003-2005) and Senior Adviser to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (2002).

From 1991 to 2000, Mr. Menkerios represented the Government of Eritrea in various capacities, including as Ambassador to Ethiopia and the then Organization of African Unity; Special Envoy to Somalia and to the Great Lakes region; and as a Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

**Read the full report of Mr. Haile Menkerios here:** <http://ppdb.un.org/Policy%20%20Guidance/End%20of%20Assignment%20Report%20-%20Menkerios%20UNOAU.pdf>

## The 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union



African Union Chairperson, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat delivering his opening remarks

The 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took place in Nouakchott, Mauritania from the 1st to 2nd July 2018. The Assembly adopted several key decisions as well as the 2019 budget amounting to USD 681,485,337. Budgetary lines agreed upon were as follows: USD 158,459,118 for operations; USD 249,757,079 for programmes and USD 273,269,140 for peace support operations.

Accordingly, African Union Member States will finance 100 per cent of the operational budget, 44.1 per cent of the programme budget, and 4.3 per cent of the peace support operations (down from 5.26 per cent in 2018). It was noted that as of 29th June, the balance of the Peace Fund stands at USD 47.7 million

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UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed in her statement noted that AU and UN are working together successfully across the continent with Africa firmly in the lead and there was a need to do more to strengthen the partnership

On the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Assembly welcomed the report presented by the President of Niger, Issoufou Mahamadou. It adopted five service priority sectors namely transport, communication, financial, tourism and business services, as well as the AU Trade Ministers' recommendation to conduct national and regional consultations on the list of sensitive goods and exclusions. The Assembly welcomed the depositing of AfCFTA Instruments of Ratification by Chad and the Kingdom of Swaziland along with information that Guinea would adopt a similar stance during the second week of July; and further commended the Republic of Burundi, Lesotho, Namibia, Sierra Leone and South Africa for signing the Agreement which led to a total of 7 ratifications and 49 signatures.

On the Africa - Caribbean Pacific - European Union (ACP-EU), the Assembly recognized the need for further dialogue to consolidate Africa's common position post-2020, ensuring that

the African Union-European Union post-Cotonou Agreement considers "Africa as one" while preserving its specificities, diversity, interests and the acquis of each country and region and in full respect of both African and EU legal frameworks, financial and political instruments. The Assembly decided that a joint meeting of African Ministers of Foreign Affairs and European Union Ministers responsible for the negotiations of the post-2020 agreement should be convened by September to garner consensus on the Common African Position, the negotiating strategy and the content of the agreement.

On Western Sahara, the Assembly considered a report by the AU Commission Chairperson following his visits to Algeria and Mauritania in March, and to Morocco in November 2017 and June 2018. The Assembly agreed to operationalize the Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Western Sahara - comprising the African Union Troika (Rwanda, Guinea and Egypt) and the African Union Commission Chairperson, ensure the Ad Hoc Committee reports regularly to the Assembly and the African Union Peace

and Security Council (AUPSC) at the Heads of State levels, and mobilize all possible support to United Nations-led efforts towards the desired outcome. It further requested the AU Commission Chairperson to undertake consultations aimed at reactivating the African Union Office to the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara in Laayounne to facilitate operational coordination.

The Assembly considered the progress report on Institutional Reforms of the African Union and the report on the consultative meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly with the Ministerial Advisory Group of Fifteen on African Union reforms and the Chief Executives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The report covered proposals on the election of the African Union Commission's senior leadership and the financing of the Union including budget reforms, a revised scale of assessments, a sanctions regime, the implementation of the AU 0.2 per cent levy, the Peace Fund and an Issues Paper on effective division of labour between African Union, RECs and continental organizations. The Assembly decided that the African Union Commission would convene a retreat of the Executive Council to examine the proposals and recommendations and that ongoing reforms would be implemented as per timelines set out in the progress report.

### Brief Summary of the key decisions and declarations of the 31<sup>st</sup> African Union Summit

#### Peace and Security in Africa

- **South Sudan:** The Assembly reaffirmed its support for the imposition of punitive measures against those obstructing efforts to achieve reconciliation and peace in the country.
- **Ethiopia & Eritrea:** The Assembly commended commitments and progress made on the implementation of the Algiers Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea and reaffirmed its commitment to support the two countries in their efforts to normalise relations.
- **Somalia:** The Assembly welcomed the Somalia Transition Plan as a sound basis for the country to realize durable peace.
- **Libya:** The Assembly voiced deep concern over the persistent security situation in Libya, which continues to prolong the suffering of the Libyan people. While noting the progress in various situations of concern on the continent, the Assembly also outlined measures to be undertaken to resolve the crises, and allocated responsibilities to various stakeholders involved in the processes.
- The Assembly welcomed progress and gains registered in **Guinea Bissau** and **Mali** as well as in the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group.
- The Assembly also endorsed the decision of the Peace and Security Council to designate the 7<sup>th</sup> of April each year as the African Union Day of Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.
- Agenda 2063 Flagship Project Silencing the Guns by 2020.
- **Africa Amnesty Month September 2018:** Member States urged to start planning for activities to mark, the day with a the view to mobilising citizens to voluntarily surrender illegally owned weapons.
- **Zambia and Zimbabwe** commended for being the first countries to submit their written reports on their efforts in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap on Practical Steps to Silence the Guns

### 2019 was designated as the "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement"

Full summary available here: <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20180706/summary-key-decisions-and-declarations-31st-african-union-summit>

## 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee held in Nouakchott, Mauritania

The African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) conducted its 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Nouakchott, Mauritania ahead of the Summit from 25-26 June 2018. Taking on the theme of the year, “Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”, the PRC Session was followed by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council on 28-29 June and the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government from 1-2 July, 2018. Delegates were welcomed by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mauritania Mohamed Mahmoud Sweid Ahmed.



Chair of the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (AU PRC), Ambassador of Rwanda to Ethiopia, H.E. Hope Tumukunde Gasatura (center) addressing 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Permanent Representative Committee (AU PRC)

In her opening remarks, the Chair of the PRC, Ambassador Hope Tumukunde Gasatura of Rwanda highlighted progress made since the African Union Summit held in January 2018 and included the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, and the implementation of Institutional Reforms of the African Union. In his opening remarks, the African Union Commission’s Deputy Chairperson, Ambassador Kwesi Quartey noted the PRC’s key role as a nexus between the African Union Commission and the African Union Member States, one which enhances coherence of African Union policy and ensures convergence of views.

Following the PRC and the Executive Council sessions, the Summit received various reports on the progress of the AU Institutional Reforms programme and the AfCFTA; the situation in Western Sahara and the African Common Position on post 2020. With regards to peace and security, the Summit considered the report of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa and the report on the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020. In addition, the AUPSC was expected to hold two meetings in the margins of the AU Summit, namely on the harmonization of initiatives and the operationalization of African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the Sahel on 27 June at Ministerial level; as well as on the situation in South Sudan on 30 June at the Heads of State and Government level. The Assembly also adopted the budget of the Union for 2019 following recommendations received from the Executive Council.

## Working Together for a prosperous and peaceful Sahel

The UN support Plan for the Sahel was launched in Nouakchott, Mauritania on the margins of the 31<sup>st</sup> African Union Summit of the Africa. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas spoke on behalf of Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Ms. Amina J. Mohammed. He underscored the UN’s support to the region noting its untapped natural resources and said that, such significant opportunities offer a path to prosperity – provided we also address the root causes of today’s crisis’.

Six priorities including cross-border cooperation, prevention and sustaining peace, inclusive growth, climate action, renewable energy as well as women and youth empowerment are set in this UN Support Plan for the Sahel.



From left to right: Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritania, Mr. Kalla Ankouraou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Niger and Mr. Pierre Buyoya, African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Mauritania and representatives from several non-profit organizations also met with the Deputy Secretary-General to explore collaboration towards implementing the support plan. DSG Amina emphasized on the need for enhanced partner collaboration towards successful implementation.



UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed in a meeting with the UN Country Team in Mauritania and non-profit organizations’ representatives that explored areas of mutual collaboration to implement the UN Support Plan for the Sahel. On her right, Mr. Mario Samaja, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Mauritania and (left) Mr. Saidou Kabore UNFPA Representative in Mauritania

UN Support Plan for the Sahel available here <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/sahel/documents/un-support-plan-sahel-working-together-prosperous-and-peaceful-sahel>

## The Second African Union – United Nations Annual Conference

*Progress achieved in the first year of implementing the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and since the signing of the AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*



*African Union (left) and United Nations (right) delegations at the Second Annual Conference led by the African Union Chairperson, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres*

On 9 July 2018, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat convened the second AU-UN Annual Conference at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The second Annual Conference reviewed the implementation of the Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and welcomed the progress made. The Conference considered security contexts on the continent and ongoing initiatives. It called for the strengthening of a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach to conflict prevention by addressing the root causes of conflicts, strengthening political processes and respect for rule of law as well as the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development. It undertook to enhance collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the search for sustainable solutions to ongoing and future challenges, based on the principles of complementarity, comparative advantage, burden-sharing and collective responsibility to respond early, coherently and decisively to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, guided by the established international norms, principles, and rules.

The Conference also endorsed the action plan for the AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It underscored the need to promote the synergy between Agenda 2030 and 2063, through coherent integration of both agendas into national development frameworks as well as building requisite research, analytical, monitoring and evaluation capacities, at both national and regional levels.

There was an appraisal of the outcomes of the recently concluded AU Assembly session held in Nouakchott Mauritania. The AU Chairperson and the UN Secretary-General agreed to convene the next AU – UN Annual Conference in New York in 2019.

***‘All this gives us hope that the African continent will be moving more and more in the right direction in peace and security’ UN SG Guterres,  
Second AU – UN Annual Conference in Addis Ababa, June 2018***

## The Secretary-General – AU Commission Chairperson brief the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC)



*African Union Chairperson, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat (left) and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres (right) address the African Union Peace and Security Council*

The Secretary-General and the AU Commission Chairperson jointly briefed the AUPSC on “Cooperation in peacekeeping in Africa” on 9 July, 2018. The Secretary-General and the Chairperson both emphasized that the strategic partnership between the AU and the UN is critical and is one that should be deepened. The Secretary-General noted that there is a need to change how peacekeeping is being done, to refocus it with realistic mandates to support political objectives, and to ensure that troops are better equipped and resourced. The Secretary-General further noted that there is a need to continue to leverage the comparative advantages of the AU-UN partnership, particularly in areas where peace enforcement and counter terrorism interventions are required. The Secretary-General and the AU Commission Chairperson also jointly addressed media on the deliberations and outcomes of the conference.



*Secretary-General Guterres briefing media at the Second Annual AU - UN Conference in a joint media engagement at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa*

*Read full joint communiqué on page 21 & 22*

## The United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council meet for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultative meeting

On 18 July, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level informal interactive dialogue with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) on “Enhancing cooperation and coherence with the African Union (AU) in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa”. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ion Jinga, Chair of the PBC and addressed by Ambassador Sébadé Toba, Chairperson of the AUPSC, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, Sahle-Work Zewde, Acting Director of the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission Admore Kambudzi, and Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Oscar Fernandez-Taranco.

The agenda of the joint meeting included Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel region. Members of the UNPBC and the AUPSC welcomed the opportunity to discuss how to enhance cooperation and coherence between the two organizations in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa and called for more frequent formal and informal communication between the two and the institutionalization of regular PBC-AUPSC interactions.

## Enhancing cooperation and coherence with the African Union (AU) in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa



*The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde delivering remarks at the Ambassadorial level meeting between the Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council*

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## UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council undertake a 12<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting at UN Headquarters in New York



*Newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of UNOAU (seventh from the right, front row) in a group photo with African Union Peace and Security Council Members who traveled to New York Headquarters to brief the United Nations Security Council during the 12th joint consultative meeting held in July 2018*

On 19 July, members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Informal Meeting and 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Consultative Meeting in New York. The meeting was co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, H.E. Olof Skoog and the Permanent Representative of Togo to the African Union, H.E. Sébadé Toba respectively, President of the Security Council and Chairperson of the AUPSC for the month of July. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Consultative Meeting was addressed by Secretary-General António Guterres and focused on the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Informal Meeting included: Institutional Reforms of the UN and AU: Implications on the Partnership; Partnership and Financing; and Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. The meeting was addressed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, Sahle-Work Zewde, and AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Smail Chergui.



*Special Representative of the Secretary-General Sahle-Work Zewde addressing the UN Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council in July 2018*

***“Neither the United Nations nor the African Union can address complex peace and security challenges on their own. Partnership is not a choice but a necessity.”***

Members of the Security Council and the AUPSC welcomed progress in enhancing the strategic partnership between the two organizations, recognizing the interdependence between the two organizations. The meetings provided an opportunity for the two Councils to discuss how best to further strengthen collaboration in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa, including conducting joint field visits, joint analysis and assessments, and more frequent interactions between the two Councils. A communiqué was adopted at the end of the meeting.

## Under Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo makes a first official visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On 8 June, the Under Secretary-General for the UN Department of Political Affairs at UN Headquarters, Rosemary DiCarlo, visited Addis Ababa as part of her first African trip since assuming office.



*State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Mr. Aferwork Kassu and USG DiCarlo dialogue on Ethiopia's role in the Inter-Governmental Development Authority (IGAD) at his office*

During her meeting with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Aferwork Kassu Ethiopia's continued role – bilaterally and through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) - in support of peace efforts in South Sudan, Abyei and Somalia was discussed. State Minister Kassu also informed that Ethiopia was embarking on reforms aimed at democratizing the country as well as opening up the economy, as reflected by the recent announcements on the semi-privatization of a number of state-owned enterprises.



*AU Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Kwesi Quartey (center) received USG DiCarlo; exchanges explored strategic support for Africa's socio-economic transformation and peace and security*



*USG DiCarlo and the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Ambassador Minata Samate-Cessouma*

USG DiCarlo also met with the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union, Kwesi Quartey, who emphasized the imperative of continuously developing the AU-UN partnership in peace and security.

Interactions with the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Ambassador Minata Samate-Cessouma focused on the situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar, as well as options for a continued close collaboration between the UN and the AU to address challenges in both countries.

## The African Union Peace and Security Council Committee of Experts workshop acquires insights on the UN Security Council

From 4 to 8 June 2018, the Committee of Experts (CoE) of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) participated in a workshop in New York as jointly organized by UNOAU and the Security Council Affairs Division from. The workshop aimed at providing opportunities for consultations on specific issues between the CoE and counterparts in the UN Security Council (UNSC) and to provide information and training on the UN system, as well as to strengthen the UN-AU partnership. The workshop also consisted of briefings on UNSC working methods, including the Sanction Committees as the AUPSC considers establishing its own subsidiary body on sanctions.

Experts from the AUPSC and UNSC exchanged views on the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Somalia and discussed ways to enhance partnership through a harmonization of programmes of work, holding joint visits and developing a shared understanding of situations on the continent. The CoE also met with A3 Member States to discuss methods for improving the promotion of African Union positions on the UNSC and received a briefing from the Security Council Report on the history of relations between the two Councils and independent views on the functioning of the UN Security Council when it comes to considering situations in Africa.

## UN Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security seeks to identify mutual areas for cooperation



*The Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Safety and Security, Fadzai Gwaradzimba (center) with UNOAU and UNDSS representatives in Addis Ababa*

On 11 and 12 June, the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Safety and Security, Fadzai Gwaradzimba, conducted a working visit to Addis Ababa where she held meetings with the UN Department of Safety and Security DSS, UNOAU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Chief of the AU Department of Safety and Security (AU DSS). UNOAU briefed the ASG on the nature of support provided to the African Union in safety and security in line with the strategic objectives of the UN-AU partnership. The meeting with the AU representative was aimed at identifying areas for collaboration between the two Organizations on safety and security. Concretely, discussions focused on short and long term operational support to AU DSS, including through sharing best practices and capacity building.

## African Union Peace and Security Council Open Session on Refugee Protection, Migration and Human Rights in Africa

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day on 20 June, the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held an open session on Refugee Protection, Migration and Human Rights in Africa. The session aimed at highlighting the plight of refugees in Africa uprooted by conflicts while also sharing best examples of how the AUPSC and other organs can contribute to finding lasting solutions for forced displacement on the continent.

In addition to briefings provided by the AU Commission, the UNHCR representative to the AU and UN Economic Commission for Africa, Cosmas Chanda stressed that there were no humanitarian solutions for political problems and the protection of civilians could only be achieved when peace is restored. He emphasized the role that the AUPSC could play in restoring peace and preventing conflicts in the continent. The session also provided an opportunity for the Council to interact with a representative of refugee communities, who called for more support to refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). During discussions, participants highlighted the need to address the structural root causes of forced displacement and invest more in conflict prevention and building strong states to tackle the challenges of forced displacement and encouraged AU Member States that have not ratified the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (Kampala Convention) to do so.

## Workshop on the standardisation of Counter Improvised Device training

On 22-23 June, UNOAU participated in a workshop on the standardization of Counter Improvised Device (C-IED) with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the workshop was to further develop a standardized training package to support UN peacekeeping operations, which will also be of future relevance to AU peace support operations. In addition, on request from the Head of the Defense and Security Department within the AU Commission, UNOAU met with representatives from the British Peace Support Team (BPST) to discuss an AU request for technical ammunition training for AU experts. BPST expressed interest in coordinating with UNOAU throughout future support activities, especially in CIED and Ammunition Management.

## AMISOM Mission Support Lessons Learnt Workshop

On 21-22 June, UNOAU participated in a workshop on AMISOM Mission Support Lessons Learnt in Mogadishu, Somalia. Other participants included representatives from AMISOM P/TCCs, AMISOM headquarters, EU and UNSOS. The objective of the workshop was to identify AMISOM Mission Support challenges across the strategic, operational and tactical levels, and subsequently develop recommendations on how the AU and the UN could harmonize and enhance joint planning, provision and delivery of logistics and general service support to AMISOM. Issues discussed focused on the need (i) to match operational requirements with resources and (ii) to ensure joint planning and better visibility of UNSOS/AMISOM budgeting processes. Other challenges identified include shortage of personnel in the field, delay in the rotation of senior military and police staff officers, as well as lack of logistics support and financial policies. UNOAU will continue to work with the AU Commission to support the development of these policies. Meanwhile, UNOAU has commenced work with the AU Commission in developing the civilian staff recruitment and rostering processes that may help to reduce the long delays in the replacement of specialized personnel.

## Third Heads of Police Component Intermission Retreat takes place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



*The Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions Mr. Alexandre Zouev (center) and the UN Police Adviser, Mr. Luis Carrilho (second from left) in a group photo with retreat participants*

The third Heads of Police Components intermission retreat took place in Addis Ababa from 31 July to 2 August. UN Police Division and the Ethiopian Federal Police co-hosted this with facilitation support from UNOAU. The AU Police Coordinator indicated that the concepts outlined in the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing were integrated in the AU Police frameworks.

In his keynote address, the UN Police Adviser, Mr. Luis Carrilho, informed participants of the five priorities of the Action for Peace (A4P) programme, namely politics, performance, peacebuilding, people and partnerships. He highlighted the criticality of partnerships in peace operations and reiterated UNHQ PD's commitment to the AU-UN partnership in the area of peace and security. The EFP Commissioner General commended the work of the UN Police and pledged to ensure enhanced EFP participation in peace operations.

Participants discussed their respective priorities, achievements, challenges and the way forward. UNHQ PD and SPC expressed their readiness to assist the AU in enhancing its capacity and identifying viable sources of funding for its programmes.

In his opening remarks, the EFP Commissioner General, Jamal Zeynu, admitted the good works of the UN Police while discharging its difficult role and as an important security apparatus that touch the heart and soul of people especially women and children. He congratulated the UN Police for its gender sensitivity posture and for having competent women police officers on board. He advised on the need to expedite building up the peace process in South Sudan. UN and AU HOPCs present gave presentations regarding their respective priorities, achievements, challenges and way forward while UNHQ-PD/SPC espoused on its activities including readiness to assist AU in enhancing its capacity as it works out other viable alternative source of funding its programs. The UNOAU presented on "Enhancing UN-AU Partnership: Role of UNOAU".

In closing, the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) Mr. Alexandre Zouev, thanked the AU for its participation and expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the retreat. The ASG OROLSI, Alexandre Zouev, delivered the closing remarks, expressing satisfaction with the outcomes of the retreat and the collaboration between UNOAU, the UN and the AU Police components. The recommendations and outcomes of the retreat will be captured in a communiqué, which will be circulated upon finalisation.

## UNOAU in Action



*The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde (left) and the Deputy Secretary-General (center) chairing an interactive dialogue with the UN Country Team in Mauritania along the margins of the 31<sup>st</sup> African Union Summit*



*The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (outgoing), Mr. Haile Menkerios (right) briefs Under Secretary-General Di Carlo during her Addis Ababa visit*



*The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haile Menkerios received the Assistant Secretary-General for the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), Ms. Lisa Filipetto at UNOAU in June*



*UNOAU Mine Action Officer, Michael Hands providing explosive threat training to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) security personal in Addis Ababa. The aim of the training was to increase awareness of improvised explosive device (IED) threats, including recognition, function, blast impact and mitigation measures. The training will be rolled out to the AU in due course*



*Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, Chief of Staff at UNOAU in a meeting with representatives from the Embassy of Sweden to explore mutual areas of collaboration in support of the UN – AU framework on peace and security*



*Mr. Nicholas Haysom, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (center-right) briefing the Sanctions Committee on South Sudan (SS) during its regional tour to gather information on the Sanctions regime for South Sudan*

## Staff Movements

### UNOAU welcomes



*Mr. Gerard Mitchell, Director, Political Affairs and Deputy Head of UNOAU*



*Mr. Cheick Lamine Conde, Principal Political Affairs Officer*



*Mr. Ewolo Avoulou Joachim, Intern*



*Mr. Yonas Zewde, Intern*

### UNOAU bade farewell to



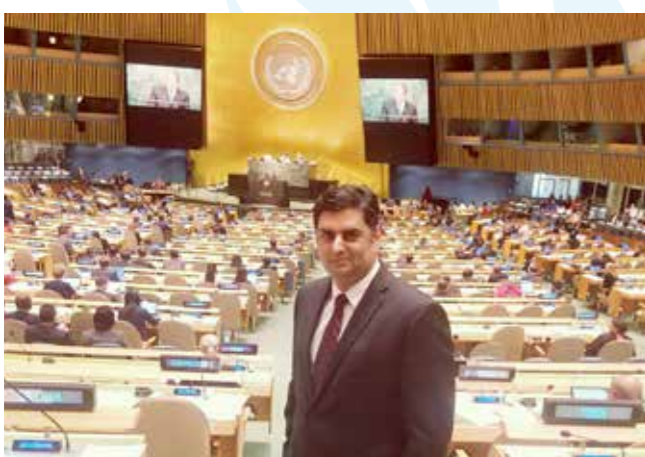
*Mr. Samuel Udoko, Political Affairs Officer*



*Ms. Nyasha Carol Bunjira, Associate Political Affairs Officer*



*Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU (center)*



*Mr. Muhammad Toufiq, Programme Management Officer (Logistics)*



*Mr. Patrick Wilton Simwaka, Military Planning Officer*



*Mr. Emmanuel Stephen Massawe, Finance and Budget Officer*

## Second African Union - United Nations Annual Conference in Addis Ababa

On 9 July, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, convened the second African Union-United Nations Annual Conference at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Chairperson and the Secretary-General welcomed the strong collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations, and expressed their commitment to further deepen the strategic partnership between the two organizations. They underscored the importance of multilateral organizations and multilateralism, as instruments for effective international governance and addressing global issues.

The second Annual Conference reviewed the implementation of the Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and welcomed the progress made. It also endorsed the Action Plan on the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The African Union and the United Nations undertook to enhance collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the search for sustainable solutions to ongoing and future challenges, based on the principles of complementarity, comparative advantage, burden-sharing and collective responsibility to respond early, coherently and decisively to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts.

The Conference expressed deep concern over the evolving uncertainties in the international order, the rifts in international relations and the negative impact on the state of global peace and security, noting the need to adhere to established international norms, principles and rules.

The Chairperson and the Secretary-General called for further strengthening of a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach to conflict prevention by addressing the root causes of conflicts, strengthening political processes and respect for rule of law, as well as the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development.

The Conference also reviewed challenges to peace, security and development on the continent, including in Burundi, Central African Republic, Lake Chad Basin, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali and the Sahel, Somalia and South Sudan, and agreed to jointly increase their support, in close cooperation with regional economic communities, for the peace, security, development and stabilization initiatives in these countries, while cooperating more closely, particularly with respect to political processes. They [the Chairperson and the Secretary-General] urged for robust action by the international community, to alleviate the humanitarian crises, risks and vulnerability in the affected communities. They welcomed continued dialogue towards the implementation of the Sahel Support Plan developed as part of the recalibration of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, and exchange on the African Union efforts in the Sahel including ongoing efforts to review its strategy.

The Chairperson of the Commission briefed the Secretary-General on the important decisions adopted by the African Union Assembly at its Ordinary Session in Nouakchott on the Western Sahara and Libyan conflicts. As a follow-up, these decisions will be formerly conveyed to the Secretary-General and through him to the United Nations Security Council. The African Union looks forward to working closely with the United Nations on these two issues.

The Chairperson and the Secretary-General paid tribute to the troop- and police-contributing countries, and African Union and United Nations peacekeepers for their sacrifice and continued commitment to peace on the continent. They also discussed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, which aims at making peacekeeping operations fit for the challenges faced today, including on the African continent, by jointly strengthening operations on the ground, as well as renewing the political commitment to peacekeeping. They further commended the efforts to harmonize political stances of both organizations in countries where peacekeeping missions are deployed, as illustrated by the recent joint visit of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security in Sudan and the Central African Republic.

The Chairperson and the Secretary-General renewed their commitment towards predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council. They further welcomed the significant progress achieved in the revitalization of the African Union Peace Fund, the ongoing efforts to the establish its governance and management structure, and agreed to sustain the high-level political engagement and consideration for the financing of African Union-led peace support operations through United Nations assessed contributions. In this respect, it was agreed to continue with the ongoing work pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017).

The Annual Conference discussed the need to promote synergy between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through coherent integration of both agendas into national development frameworks, as well as building requisite research, analytical, monitoring and evaluation capacities, at both national and regional levels. In this regard, the meeting stressed the critical role played by the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, and urged all international partners to support Africa's efforts to implement the two agendas as a precondition for the achievement of peace, security and development on the continent.

The Annual Conference reviewed the progress in the ongoing institutional reform processes of both organizations aimed at enhancing effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of their Member States, and ensuring that the two organizations are fit for purpose and have the right capabilities to address contemporary challenges. The meeting agreed to continue to share experiences and best practice, including through staff-exchanges and training in support of the two reform processes.

The Chairperson and the Secretary-General briefed the Peace and Security Council on cooperation in peacekeeping missions in Africa.

The Chairperson and Secretary-General agreed to convene the next African Union-United Nations Annual Conference in New York in 2019. They also agreed to meet on the margins of the General Assembly and the African Union Summit, to take stock of progress in the partnership between the two organizations.



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*Happy Ethiopian  
New Year*



*from the United Nations Office to the African Union*

## Upcoming Events

### *AUPSC meetings Chair of the month - July: Togo*

- 9 July:** AUPSC Briefing on the DRC;  
**9 July:** Joint Briefing to the AUPSC by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General on the “Cooperation in peacekeeping missions in Africa”;  
**9 July:** UN-AU Annual Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa.  
**12 July:** AUPSC Briefing on the Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo;  
**18 July:** Joint meeting of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the AUPSC, New York;  
**19 July:** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the AUPSC and Members of the Security Council, New York;  
**19 July:** 3rd Informal Seminar between Members of the Security Council and the AUPSC, New York;  
**24 July:** AUPSC Briefing on the Situation in Mali/Sahel;  
**28-31 July:** AUPSC Field Mission to Guinea Bissau.

### *AUPSC meetings Chair of the month - August: Zambia*

- 14 August:** Open Session: Ending Child Marriage;  
**16 August:** Consideration of Africa's security priorities in line with Agenda 2063;  
**18 August:** World Humanitarian Day  
**22 August:** Open Session on “Towards Peace Security and Prosperity on the Continent - Embracing the Value of Democracy and Governance: Is the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance Adequate?”;  
**23 August:** Open Session: Towards Peace, Security and Prosperity on the Continent. Embracing the Value of Democracy and Governance: Is the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance Adequate?  
**26-29 August:** Field mission to Lesotho.



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