



## CONCEPT NOTE

### UN-AU Partnership in Peace and Security: Virtual Media Briefing and Workshop

#### Background

At the 2017 African Union (AU) Summit, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, articulated his vision for an enhanced strategic partnership between the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (UN) based on shared values and responsibilities for peace and security, as well as mutual respect and solidarity. The UN Secretary-General also expressed the view that Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Similarly, during his inaugural address, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, said “the UN will be at the forefront of our partnerships,” and thanked the Secretary-General for his “new approach” and stated priority on partnership with the AU based on values of respect and solidarity.

Subsequently, on 19 April 2017, at the first UN-AU Annual Conference that was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Mr. António Guterres and Mr. Mousa Faki Mahamat endorsed a [Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security](#) (Framework hereon), as a basis for collaboration through joint mechanisms and regular consultations. In a [Joint UN-AU Communiqué SG/2239](#) issued on 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. Since then, the Secretary-General and AUC Chairperson have continued the practice of holding Annual Conferences and meet on several other occasions to strengthen collaboration and partnership in addressing common challenges.

#### Objective

Since the signing of the Framework, the AU and UN have jointly undertaken several initiatives towards its implementation. The African Union Commission Political Affairs, Peace and Security (AUC PAPS) and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) spearhead such action, and in this regard, the two entities will jointly engage African and Africa-based journalists in a virtual media briefing and workshop. A main objective of this virtual engagement is to raise awareness about the UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and provide a forum for media practitioners to receive the latest updates on joint implementation activities to date.

#### Justification

While a lot of work has jointly been undertaken by the African Union and the United Nations to implement the UN-AU framework in peace and security in Africa, advocacy around such activities requires targeted media outreach. Over the years, the AUC PAPS and UNOAU have jointly organized press briefings during high-level visits – such opportunities allow media practitioners to learn about the latest developments in implementation of the Framework. However, it is equally important to build greater awareness within the media community about the Framework itself. It is on this premise that UNOAU is organizing a virtual briefing and workshop, targeting African and Africa-based journalists covering the broad topic of peace and security.



### Format

The virtual briefing and workshop is organized as a 2 to 3-hour session in which media practitioners will be briefed by AUC PAPS and UNOAU experts/leadership on both the conceptualization and implementation of the Framework. UNOAU sections will provide briefings on respective areas of work, as well AUCPAPS representatives. Each briefing session is approximately 25 minutes. An interactive question and answer session will follow.

### Target audiences

African and Africa-based media practitioners covering peace and security in the continent.

### Expected outcomes

- Build greater awareness on the Joint Framework in peace and security.
- Promote better reporting on implementation efforts stemming from an improved understanding of both the purpose and envisioned gains from the Framework for both the UN and AU, and Africa at large.
- Revamp both AUC PAPS and UNOAU media practitioners databases (updating contacts).

### Timeline

The virtual media workshop is scheduled for Thursday, 21 December 2023 from 10:00am – 12:30pm Addis Ababa time.

### Platform

Virtual/online on MS Teams. Participation requires downloading the application in advance.