

**United Nations
Office to the African Union**



**Bureau des Nations Unies
Auprès de l'Union Africaine**

UNOAU

**Statement by Sahle-Work Zewde
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African Union and Head of UNOAU**

**Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the
United Nations Peacebuilding Commission**

**“Enhancing cooperation and coherence with the African Union in
support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa”**

New York, 18 July 2018

Your Excellency the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Your Excellency the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council,

Your Excellencies Members of the PBC and AUPSC,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the invitation to address this august joint meeting of the PBC and the AUPSC.

This meeting is an illustration of the importance the United Nations and the African Union attach to a strong partnership, based on a recognition of our inter-dependence, mutual respect, shared values and comparative advantages.

In the Joint United Nations – African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April 2017, the Secretariat and Commission agreed to develop a predictable, systematic and strategic partnership across the conflict cycle, from early warning, preventive diplomacy and mediation to peace enforcement, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. Our two Organizations recognized that sustaining peace requires strengthened capacity to address the root causes of conflict, in all its forms, without recourse violence. We also committed to sustaining peace by strengthening governance institutions and structures, improving public service delivery, combatting corruption, entrenching decentralization and local governance, promoting inclusive development and natural resource management, and enhancing urban governance and human settlements.

The Report of the Secretary-General on *Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the Work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2018/678)* outlines the progress achieved in enhancing collaboration between the two Organizations in peace and security. Collaboration between principal and subsidiary Organs of both Organizations is now well established, as exemplified by this meeting today, and the 12th Annual Consultative Meeting of Members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council taking place tomorrow.

The partnership between the Secretariat and the Commission has also grown. Interactions between senior officials are now more frequent and constructive. The

Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission have institutionalized the Annual Conferences between the leadership of Secretariat and Commission, and also meet on the margins of AU Summits and the General Assembly, to discuss how to better collaborate in addressing peace and security challenges and to add new impetus to the strategic partnership. In addition to the Joint Framework on Peace and Security, they have signed a Joint Framework on Implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 SDGs, in recognition of the nexus between peace, security, human rights and development, and the need to dedicate due attention the socio-economic dimensions of conflict.

Senior officials of the UN and the AU now undertake joint field visits to conduct on-the-spot assessments of situations of mutual concern, and also jointly brief the Security Council and Peace and Security Council in order to ensure that the perspectives of both Organizations contribute to the decisions of the two Councils. The UN and the AU are increasingly issuing joint reports and joint statements, while also ensuring aligned or coordinated messaging.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the increasing collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and the AU Peace and Security Council, as well as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Peacebuilding Support Office and the AU Commission. The Peacebuilding Commission, through the Peacebuilding Fund, has provided critical support to sustain peace in at least 16 African countries emerging from conflict or at risk of conflict. It is critical that we continue to deepen collaboration between the two Organizations, including increasing the frequency of interactions, in order to ensure that our interventions achieve the desired result of sustain peace across the continent. We also welcome the work undertaken by the African Union to finalize and adopt its Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy.

Mr. Chairperson, let me conclude by wishing you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.