

**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**

**Informal meeting between members of the Security Council and the  
African Union Peace and Security Council**

**New York, 19 July 2018**

Your Excellency the President of the Security Council,

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

Your Excellencies Distinguished Members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to you for the invitation to address the third informal meeting between members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

I am particularly honored to be with you today, eleven years after I co-chaired the Joint Consultative Meeting in 2007 in the capacity as my country's Ambassador to the African Union and Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Looking back to where we were with the partnership between the two organizations in 2007, and considering how far we have come since then, one is filled with a tremendous sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. I would like to express our commendation to all the Member States, Ambassadors, delegates, senior officials and staff members of the UN Secretariat and AU Commission, all of whom have contributed in different ways to advancing this partnership to where it is today.

Our partnership is now well established, founded on mutual respect and solidarity, as well as the shared values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

As I mentioned in my statement to the Security Council yesterday, and thanks to the hard work of many people, we now recognize that partnership between organizations is not a choice but a necessity in order to effectively address the complex peace and security challenges in Africa. I was pleased to hear a strong endorsement of this in the Security Council yesterday.

We also recognize that each organization brings comparative advantages to the table, hence the imperative for a collaborative and coordinated approach between the two organizations to ensure that we fully harness those comparative advantages in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for our joint efforts.

Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council,

Our two organizations have embarked on reform processes aimed at ensuring that we are better able to address contemporary challenges, including in peace and security. Part of the reform process for the UN involves improving internal coherence and coordination, and ensuring that we dismantle the silos and bureaucratic impediments that have undermined us for so long.

The other part is changing our overall approach, to place greater emphasis on prevention, while also ensuring that the way we do peacekeeping is more focused and centered around supporting a clear political objective. Reform of the United Nations peace and security architecture is therefore aimed at ensuring that we are stronger in prevention, more agile in mediation, and more effective in peacekeeping operations.

In his address to the Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa last week, the Secretary-General recognized that there are some conflict situations in which the United Nations lacks both the comparative advantage and the vocation to lead peacekeeping missions.

Doing things differently should as a practical imperative, involve greater collaboration with regional organizations, like the African Union, as well as sub-regional organizations based on complementarity and comparative advantages.

Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council,

The discussion on predictable and sustainable financing of AU peace support operations has been subject of discussion between the two Councils for a few years now. The Security Council adopted resolutions 2320 and 2378 which express the intention to give consideration to practical steps that can be taken, and the conditions necessary, for African Union led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council could be partly financed, on a case-by-case basis, through UN assessed contributions.

Regarding the conditions, we welcome the progress made by the African Union on the operationalization of the Peace Fund; development of compliance framework; and development of a reporting framework, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

The biggest achievement has been in financial contributions by AU Member States to the Peace Fund, which has reached the highest level of contributions since the establishment of the fund in 1993. This demonstrates the commitment of AU Member States to financial burden-sharing and greater self-reliance.

There is no doubt that further work needs to be done, not least fully operationalizing the governance mechanisms of the Fund and continuing the commendable work on the human rights and conduct and discipline compliance framework, and the reporting framework. In this endeavor, the United Nations Secretariat will spare no effort to provide the support expected of us pursuant to resolutions 2320 and 2378 and within the spirit of the UN-AU partnership in peace and security.

Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council,

Let me conclude by wishing you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.