

**United Nations  
Office to the African Union**



**UNOAU**

**Bureau des Nations Unies  
auprès de l'Union africaine**

**Statement by Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga  
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**Security Council Briefing on 'Cooperation between the United Nations  
and Regional and Sub-regional Organizations (African Union)'**

**12 October 2023**

**Excellence, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Sergio França Danese, Président du Conseil de sécurité,**

**Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants permanents et distingués membres du Conseil de sécurité,**

Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier le président du Conseil de sécurité d'avoir convoqué cette importante réunion sur la "Coopération entre les Nations unies et les organisations régionales et sous-régionales", notamment l'Union africaine.

Par votre entremise, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais saluer la présence parmi nous du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine Son Excellence Moussa Faki Mahamat et reconnaître le rôle essentiel que le Secrétaire général Antonio Guterres et lui-même jouent pour renforcer le partenariat entre les Nations unies et l'Union africaine dans le domaine de la paix et de la sécurité. Je voudrais également rendre hommage au Président de Amani Africa, le docteur Salomon Dersso, dont l'Institution produit un travail de

recherche de grande qualité en appui aux activités de l'Union africaine et de ses partenaires à Addis-Abeba.

**M. le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Le Conseil de sécurité est saisi du rapport du Secrétaire général (S/2023/629) intitulé "Renforcement du partenariat entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Union africaine sur les questions de paix et de sécurité en Afrique, y compris sur les travaux du Bureau des Nations Unies auprès de l'Union africaine", et je me réjouis de l'occasion qui m'est offerte de présenter ce rapport.

Je souhaiterais féliciter les membres du Conseil de sécurité pour les échanges fructueux qu'ils ont eu la semaine dernière à Addis-Abeba avec leurs homologues du Conseil de paix et de sécurité de l'Union africaine (CPSU).

Votre visite à Addis-Abeba, la nature constructive et substantielle de vos discussions ainsi que le communiqué conjoint qui a sanctionné vos travaux, illustrent le ferme engagement des deux Conseils à relever les défis de paix et de sécurité en Afrique, en étroite coopération, et dans un esprit de respect mutuel et de solidarité.

Vos délibérations ont également confirmé l'évaluation contenue dans le rapport du Secrétaire général, selon laquelle des partenariats solides entre les Nations Unies et les organisations régionales, en particulier l'Union africaine, les communautés économiques régionales et les mécanismes régionaux, sont essentiels pour un multilatéralisme efficace.

Le partenariat stratégique ONU-UA repose sur le double principe de la complémentarité et des avantages relatifs, en tirant parti des forces de chaque organisation pour atteindre plus efficacement nos objectifs communs de paix et de stabilité en Afrique. Il met l'accent sur la diplomatie préventive et les initiatives de médiation.

Nous vous sommes donc gré d'avoir visiter le continent au moment où il est confronté à de profondes mutations dont toutes les implications sont loin d'être pleinement appréciées. Une résurgence de conflits internes extrêmement violents, où domine la logique de guerre. Une recrudescence de la menace terroriste et de la violence extrémiste, faisant le lit du terrorisme. Une succession de changements anticonstitutionnels de pouvoir, qui souvent

traduisent de graves manquements à une gouvernance inclusive et responsable.

Mais pas seulement, puisque jamais comme auparavant n'avions nous vu la nature se déchaîner avec autant d'acharnement du fait de graves dérèglement causés par le changement climatique et ne laissant derrière que destruction et désolation, reflets de l'improbable capacité des Etats à s'adapter à une planète de plus en plus incandescente; et où s'accélère aridité des sols, et précarité, accentuant du même coup la compétition parfois conflictuelle face à la rareté dans des espaces devenus inhospitaliers. Je reviendrais plus en détails sur ces questions dans un instant.

Bref, Monsieur le Président, un contexte fort préoccupant qui menace de remettre en cause les maigres gains des années pré-COVID, alors même que les efforts de relance face à la récession économique peinaient à produire les effets escomptés, en laissant la majorité des Etats africains dans un stress fiscale sévère, surendettés et à bout de souffle dans leur quête pour atteindre les Objectifs du Développement Durable. Ici apparait dans toute sa complexité le lien étroit entre développement, paix et sécurité, d'où les injonctions du Secrétaire général d'adopter

une approche holistique aux efforts de prévention des conflits, particulièrement en Afrique.

Face à cette situation et, à la demande expresse du Secrétaire général et du Président de la Commission, la Vice-Secrétaire générale des Nations unies et la Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'Union africaine ont entrepris de mieux coordonner les efforts de nos deux institutions en vue de renforcer l'impact des programmes de développement avec une vision commune, portée par deux agendas, l'Agenda 2023 et l'Agenda 2063.

### **Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today, the United Nations-African Union partnership stands out as a pillar of multilateralism, with collaboration continuing to grow in scope and depth. Furthermore, I am also encouraged by the convergence of perspectives and analyses by the two Councils on some of the key issues on your respective agendas. This presents both Councils an opportunity for even greater collaboration, particularly on some of the more complex issues.

Allow me to touch on three key issues highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General.

Firstly, the **conflict landscape on the continent** is becoming increasingly complex and multifaceted and, in most cases, also intractable. As outlined in the report, the primary structural challenges to achieving lasting peace and security in Africa continue to be political and socio-economic exclusion, including gender inequality; weak governance institutions, particularly regarding human rights, the rule of law and electoral democracy; the inadequate delivery of basic services and the inequitable management of natural resources; as well as terrorism, violent extremism, and organized crime. These are compounded by a range of factors, including climate change, food, and energy insecurity, rising and entrenched inequalities in finance, trade, technology and security, both within and among nations, and external threats and shocks to which most African countries are least prepared to tackle.

As the report illustrates, there is an alarming rise in political contestation turning violent or fueling intra-State conflicts, as well as in acts of terrorism and violent extremism, which expose systemic governance deficits associated with weak or absent State institutions. We have witnessed a spate of unconstitutional changes of government on the continent. In the Sahel, the coups are further destabilizing the region while terrorism and violent extremism continue to result in grave human rights violations and abuses and exacerbate already dire humanitarian situations. In the Sudan, the conflict is creating a catastrophic humanitarian situation. In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the security and humanitarian situation remains a major concern as the country heads towards elections.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today's challenges call for renewed efforts to make collective security more effective, in line with the recommendations in Secretary-General's policy brief "*A New Agenda for Peace*" of July 2023.



The emphasis should be on global and regional early warning and prevention efforts, boosting preventive diplomacy and supporting regional peace support and peace enforcement operations, an area in which the African Union is showing commendable leadership. The new collective security machinery should be bold and fit-for-purpose. It should be able to respond effectively to contemporary threats to peace and security.

This leads me to my second point: **financing of AU-led peace support operations**. In your reflections and planning for a more effective collective security machinery, responses must be commensurate to the formidable challenges we face. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General, the role of regional organizations in addressing contemporary threats across the conflict cycle, including through peace enforcement missions, will be critical going forward. However, such missions will only be effective if underpinned by the availability of the requisite human and financial resources, through predictable, sustainable, and flexible financing of African Union-led peace support operations.

The Security Council would be encouraged to consider an empowered and resourced AU PSO-capability as an integral part of the collective security machinery - part of a toolkit with an ability to deploy peace missions relatively quickly when needed, with the aim of effectively supporting sustainable peace on the ground. In other words: by empowering AU-led peace support operations, the Security Council will also be empowering itself – strengthening its own hand in fulfilling the functions and powers outlined in Article 24 of the Charter.

As the Security Council works towards consideration and adoption of a framework resolution on financing for African Union-led Peace Support Operations, it is essential for international partners to join hands with the African Union to further enhance its capacities and agency to effectively address the complex and dynamic threats to peace and security on the continent. Working through the established mechanisms of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture, the full range of responses to conflict can be effectively supported and strengthened to deliver peace.

UNOAU will continue to facilitate support to the African Union in the areas of joint planning and analysis, assessment, and management of African Union-led Peace Support Operations, as well as the development and implementation of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework and other initiatives to ensure that the foundation is laid for the effective and efficient management of such operations.

I would also like to reiterate the importance that the Secretary-General has placed on the primacy of politics. Responses to peace and security challenges, including through peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations, need to be comprehensive and holistic, with political solutions at their core to close governance deficits and bolster nationally owned inclusive political systems in which all key stakeholders, particularly women and the youth, play a meaningful role. Political solutions should involve continuous early warning and engagement, mediation, and peacebuilding, as the cornerstones of effective responses to conflict.

We look forward to the Security Council's consideration of a framework resolution on financing of African Union-led peace support operations in the period ahead.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Following on from the two points above, my third point is: **Collaboration between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.** I welcome the strong commitment expressed last week on strengthening collaboration between the two Councils.

I also acknowledge and congratulate the Security Council on the progress made over the last few years in this regard.

I am particularly encouraged by the strong support expressed for joint field visits by the Councils to countries or regions of mutual concern and interest. I have no doubt that with an equal amount of political will you will be able to work out the required modalities.

Such visits could help advance a common understanding of the complex dynamics at work in conflict situations, explore prevention and, where appropriate, mitigation measures, and provide opportunities to deliver common messages.

I commend the two Councils for endeavoring to hold monthly informal coordination meetings between the incoming President of the Security Council and incoming Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council, which provide an opportunity to discuss priorities and programmes of work, promote synergies and share perspectives on issues of common interest with a view to enhancing strategic coordination and complementarity. At last week's informal Joint Seminar, members of both Councils expressed support for making these meetings more regular and structured to maximize the utility of the interactions.

There was also support expressed for informal consultative meetings at the level of experts, especially in advance of key decisions or events. Such informal meetings could provide an opportunity to harmonize positions, and contribute to strengthening coordination and consultation between the two Councils.

The meetings of the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the Security Council and the Committee of Experts of the AU Peace and Security Council, in advance of the annual meetings last week, paved the way for successful deliberations among the Principals, as well as the swift adoption of the Joint Communiqué at the end of the meeting.

I would like to reiterate that the United Nations, including the United Nations Office to the African Union, stands ready to provide support to these initiatives, which seem ripe for harvest, as we continue to strengthen our cooperation with the African Union and sub-regional organizations to help prevent conflict and sustain peace in Africa.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me conclude by thanking you for your continued support for the UN-AU partnership in peace and security in Africa, and the work of UNOAU.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**