



# UNOAU Bulletin

*A publication from the United Nations Office to the African Union  
March – May, 2018*

## **Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Ms. Bintou Keita, encourages women to play significant roles in Africa's transformation**



*Assistant Secretary-General Bintou Keita at the Second African Women Leaders Network Forum (AWLN)  
African Union Commission, Addis Ababa*

# 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.

# UNOAU and partners reflect on progress achieved in the first year of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security

On 8 March 2018, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) held a joint briefing session with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) on the theme ‘Progress in the UN-AU Partnership: Deliberations on Achievements, Challenges and Lessons Learned Since the UN-AU Annual Conference and Future Collaborations’.

The joint briefing session was in line with the global agenda in peace and security, specifically, the African Union’s ‘Silencing the Guns initiative’ and the outcomes of the African Union Summit (2018) and its implications to the UN-AU partnership. Challenges highlighted in the session included, for example, the weakening of multilateral relationships. In this regard, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was cited with respect to ongoing funding challenges.



*Diana Baker, Political Affairs Officer (UNOAU) briefs participants at the IPSS-UNOAU joint briefing session on progress made since the signing of the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security*

The need for close relations between the UN and the AU in peace building and conflict resolution as well as management, was deemed mandatory. Compliance issues and technical requirements were outlined as challenges to the implementation of the joint UN-AU framework. It was noted that achieving success would depend upon the application of a tactical strategy from the early stages of the UN-AU partnership to ensure a transformative engagement. The issue of gender parity was also addressed, as the briefing session coincided with the 2018 International Women’s Day. Gender parity coordination within the UN-AU partnership to implement greater political participation was recognized as vital.

Recommendations put forward included The continuation and the implementation of multilateral engagements, Proactive relations between the organizations through improved desk-to desk consultations, The inclusion of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in conflict prevention.

In conclusion, the joint briefing envisioned a continued UN-AU partnership with improved communication in coordination and in collaboration, the strengthening of the African Union Peace and Security Council, and an increase in research capacity on peace and security in Africa. The session was moderated by Ms. Michelle Ndiaye, Director of the Africa Peace and Security Programme at IPSS and Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat. The panelists were Ms. Raheemat O. Momodu, Head of the ECOWAS Liaison Office to the AU; Ambassador Frederic Ngoga Garete, Head of Conflict Prevention and Early warning at the AU Commission; Ms. Diana Baker and Mr. Edward Kimosop, Political Affairs Officer and Military Officer respectively at UNOAU.

## The plight of women and children in conflict situations

On 13 March, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held an open session on the plight of women and children in conflict situations with the aim of taking stock of the implementation of previous recommendations and to discuss options to better protect women and children in conflict situations in Africa.

The AU Director for Women, Gender and Development, Mahawa Kaba Wheeler, highlighted the need for innovative approaches to instigate greater participation of women in peace and security in Africa, including through civic education and capitalization on lessons learnt from peaceful African countries such as Botswana and Mauritius. She further called for justice and reparations for victims of armed conflict. On a similar note, the Senior Presidential Advisor on Pan Africanism, Women and Special Group/PAWO Executive Secretary, Ms. Grace Kabayo, requested the AUPSC to foster engagement of victims and grassroots groups in peace negotiations and dialogue. UNOAU delivered a comprehensive briefing on behalf of the United Nations.

Recommendations to the AUPSC included: (i) the organization of an Extraordinary AU Summit dedicated to women and children affected by armed conflict; (ii) the appointment of a Special Envoy for Children or integrating prerogatives pertaining to children in armed conflict in the mandate of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security; (iii) reinforcing AU organs with specialized mandates, including the Gender Directorate; (iv) strengthening the women mediators' network to allow for greater involvement in preventive diplomacy, peace talks and conflict resolution, as well as the formulation of post-conflict building programs; (v) the development and the implementation of National Action Plans on women, peace and security in all AU Members States.

### ***Press Statement of the 757<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting on the theme: 'The plight of women and children in conflict situations in Africa'***

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 757th meeting held on 13 March 2018, dedicated an open session to the theme: 'The plight of women and children in conflict situations in Africa'.

Council took note of the statements that were delivered by the Acting Director for Peace and Security Department, Dr. Admore Kambudzi, the Director for Women, Gender and Development, Ms Mahawa Kaba Wheeler and by the representative of the United Nations Office to the African Union, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh. Council also took note of the presentation made by the Senior Advisor to President Yoweri Museveni on Women and Gender and Executive Secretary of the Pan-African Women Organization (PAWO), Madame Grace Kabayo

Council recommended the convening of an extraordinary AU Summit dedicated to the plight of women and children in armed conflicts, in order to give it the highest level of political attention that it deserves, with a view to facilitating the effective mobilization of resources required to prevent and respond to the challenges women and children face in situations of violent conflict.

## A comprehensive approach towards the prevention of the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes

### ***UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy addresses the African Union Peace and Security Council***



*Photo credit UN Geneva*

*Under Secretary-General and Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (SAPG), Adama Dieng*

On 5 April, the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held a briefing session on the comprehensive approach towards the prevention of the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes. Under the chair of the month, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the meeting received briefings from the Under Secretary-General and Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (SAPG), Adama Dieng; Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera, member of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda; the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma; and the AU Commission's (AUC) Acting Director for Peace and Security, Dr. Admore Kambudzi. The meeting was attended by the Council members, AU Member States, UNOAU and the European Union.

USG/SAPG Dieng briefed the session on the various causes of and drivers for atrocity crimes and stressed the moral obligation for AU Member States and the AUPSC to act fast, including while expediting the ratification of the UN Genocide Convention. Stressing the need for enforcing strict accountability for atrocity crimes, USG/SAPG Dieng called for an expedited operationalization of the AU-mandated Hybrid Court for South Sudan. Ambassador Sezibera highlighted Rwanda's experience, emphasizing the importance of fighting genocide denial and negation. In the ensuing discussions, several recommendations were made including a call for increased sensitization and civic education, designating and commemorating 7th April every year in a results-oriented manner, and the need for countries to ratify legal instruments for fighting atrocity crimes and all their manifestations.

In addition to his participation in the AUPSC briefing session, as well in the 24th commemoration of the genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda, USG/SAPG Dieng met senior leadership at the African Union including the Chairperson, his Deputy, his Chief of Staff, Commissioner for Peace and Security, Commissioner for Political Affairs, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. The meetings mainly focused on USG/SAPG's mandate and explored opportunities for support by the Office of the SAPG based on the UN-AU Joint Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. In this regard, the UN-AU-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) meeting scheduled for 12-13 April in Nairobi on reviewing RECs provisions to fight atrocity crimes was welcomed with practical and implementable outcomes being anticipated.

Read more at <http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/press-statement-of-the-757th-psc-meeting-on-the-theme-the-plight-of-women-and-children-in-conflict-situations-in-africa>

# Workshop on the development of early warning indicators for atrocity crimes

Subsequently, the AU Commission’s Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) organized a two-day workshop on the development of early warning indicators for atrocity crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) in Nairobi, Kenya, under the aegis of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. This was done in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) and UNOAU. The workshop brought together the AU Commission Departments for Peace and Security and Political Affairs, as well as representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) working on early warning. The workshop aimed at raising awareness on prevention of atrocity crimes, discussing practical ways to monitor and report on the risk of atrocity crimes and identifying indicators to develop specific risk factors for atrocity crimes.

Participants reviewed the UN Framework of Analysis for the prevention of atrocity crimes developed by the OASPG and developed preliminary specific risk factors which could be used by CEWS and early warning systems within RECs.



*The Appeal*  
*The Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention) will mark its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 9 December 2018. The United Nations Secretary-General and the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide have launched an appeal for the universal ratification of the Convention. The appeal aims to galvanize support and encourage States that are not yet party to the Genocide Convention to ratify or accede to it ahead of the 70th anniversary of its adoption.*

Which States have not yet ratified or acceded to the Genocide Convention?

The following 45 United Nations Member States have not yet ratified the Genocide Convention

Americas	Africa	Asia
Dominica	Angola	Bhutan
Dominican Republic (signed)	Botswana	Brunei Darussalam
Grenada	Cameroon	Indonesia
Guyana	Central African Republic	Japan
Saint Lucia	Chad	Kiribati
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Congo	Marshall Islands
Suriname	Djibouti	Micronesia (Federated States of)
	Equatorial Guinea	Nauru
	Eritrea	Oman
	Kenya	Palau
	Madagascar	Qatar
	Mauritania	Samoa
	Mauritius	Solomon Islands
	Niger	Thailand
	Sao Tome and Principe	Timor-Leste
	Sierra Leone	Turkmenistan
	Somalia	Tuvalu
	South Sudan	Vanuatu
	Swaziland	
	Zambia	

# UN and AU Special Envoys on AMISOM funding visit Addis Ababa

The AU and UN Special Envoys on AMISOM funding, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra (AU) and Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno (UN) visited Addis Ababa from 3-6 April to brief the AUC Chairperson on the outcomes of their engagements with stakeholders, and to finalize a joint report. They also took advantage of that opportunity to brief AMISOM Troop/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and partners in Addis Ababa. The Envoys underscored the need for the AU Chairperson to leverage his position to mobilize international support for Somalia. In addition, they called for stronger international commitment for AMISOM while stressing that the mission should continue its operations until the Somali administration is able to take over security responsibilities. The envoys advised that there should be no arbitrary timeline for AMISOM’s exit from Somalia; rather, the international community should assist in building capacity for Somali Security Forces as expeditiously as possible.

The Envoys underscored the need for the international community, through AMISOM, to maintain the course, and also to scale up its political engagement on Somalia. They further stated that the next four years can be used to define a strategic vision for Somalia, and reiterated the need for the transformation of the role of AMISOM to fit the emerging needs of the Somalia transition, through greater emphasis on mentoring and increasing the number of police to undertake rule-of-law related tasks. On 6 April 2018, the Envoys submitted their report to the AUC Chairperson.

## Third meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Commission Multi-National Joint Task Force Steering Committee held in N’Djamena, Chad



The third meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Multi- National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) Steering Committee convened in N’Djamena, Chad from 3-4 April, 2018. Twenty-nine representatives from the LCBC, MNJTF, AU, strategic partners such as the UK, the US, UNOAU and the EU participated. The LCBC/MNJTF briefing highlighted the humanitarian situation wherein about 20 million individuals are vulnerable and

close to 1.4 million children are displaced. Discussions also centered on the need for Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and MNJTF to conduct pre-deployment verification exercises to assess their respective operational readiness and compliance with human rights, international humanitarian law and protection of civilians, as well as the evaluation of MNJTF’s medical support system.

At the end of the meeting, decisions were reached with regards to medical requirements for Level 1 and 2 hospitals, the need for weekly policing activities reports, particularly major crimes and initiatives undertaken to restore law and order in areas liberated within MNJTF’s Area of Operation (AoR) and the need to expedite the renewal of the MOU and Support Implementation Agreement (SIA).

## Workshop on a Regional Strategy for the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Boko Haram

From 10 to 13 April, UNOAU participated in an African Union workshop held in N'Djamena, Chad that aimed at developing a Regional Strategy for the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Boko Haram associated persons in the Lake Chad Basin countries. The AU workshop was supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Lake Chad Basin Committee (LCBC). Over 120 participants attended the workshop, including senior Government Officials from the Republic of Chad, Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Benin, Central African Republic (CAR), Niger and Nigeria, as well as representatives of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and subject-matter experts from Colombia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Colombia and Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

The workshop focused on developing a regional strategy in line with UN Security Council resolution 2349(2017), including the rights of children associated with armed forces and International Human Rights Law. The implementation plan should include resource requirements, mechanisms for the coordination of regional and international support, and monitoring and evaluation, etc.

## UNOAU joins AU to mark the International Mine Awareness Day



Participants learn about mines at the Mine Action Day exhibition hosted by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Office in Somalia at African Union Headquarters

The International Mine Action Day was marked on 4 April at the AU Headquarters by the AUC, AU Member States, UN and partners under the theme 'Advancing Protection, Peace and Development'. While successes have been registered by countries through on-going efforts to reduce the risks associated with land mines, explosive remnants of war and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), it was noted that more needs to be done. Increasing resource mobilization, developing personnel capacities and sharing information were some courses of action highlighted as recommendations.

In his statement, Ambassador Smail Chergui, AUC Commissioner for Peace and Security, commended African countries which are signatories

to the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention but also drew attention to existing challenges that include reduced donor funds, insecurity, gaps in technical know-how or capacities, and inadequate services for victims of landmines and other explosive devices. In UNOAU's statement, the funding mismatch was also highlighted with reference to the fact that, of the \$492 million requested, only 29% of the funds have so far been obtained for mine action related activities. It was agreed that more needs to be done and an appeal was made to international partners as well as AU Member States to continue to prioritize mine action on the continent. UNMAS Somalia hosted an exhibition where several types of explosives were displayed along prevention and safe landmine disposal materials.

## Joint briefing on peace support operations in Africa by the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security and the United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations



United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix (left) and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui (right) briefing AU Peace and Security Council Members

The United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui, jointly briefed the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) following their visit to the Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan on 13 April. Regarding the situation in CAR, USG Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui noted that tensions remained high following recent violence in the PK 5 area of Bangui. They called for continued UN-AU collaboration, particularly to ensure that all actors participate in good faith in the peace process. AUPSC members paid tribute to victims of recent fighting in CAR, including peacekeepers and urged for concerted efforts towards the restoration of the rule of law and a renewed impetus for dialogue.

On Sudan (Darfur), the UN and AU Officials noted that the successful reconfiguration of the United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) would lead to increased cooperation with national authorities. They recommended that international partners and the UN Country Team work closely with UNAMID on recovery and stabilization initiatives, while also alluding to "a clear exit strategy for UNAMID". The AUPSC commended the joint UN-AU visit to CAR and Darfur and the subsequent joint briefing deemed indicative of a tangible commitment to the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and calling for similar joint undertakings going forward. The AUPSC plans a field visit to Darfur in May while the two Officials briefed the UN Security-Council on 18 April.

## African Union holds the fifth annual Africa Logistics Symposium

The African Union Peace Support Operations Division (AU PSOD) in collaboration with the United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM), organized the 5th Africa Logistics Symposium from 11-12 April. The symposium focused on “Enhancement of the AU Strategic Lift Capability and Provision of Networking Opportunities among RECs/RMs and Member States as well as Partners in support of AU Mandated and authorized Peace Support Operations”. This was a discussion platform for addressing challenges related to logistical capacities in Africa. The symposium was opened by the Acting Director of the Peace and Security Department, Dr. Admore Kambudzi, the US Ambassador to the AU, Mary-Beth Leonard and the Deputy Commander of the USAFRICOM in charge of civil-military engagements.

The AU PSOD shared an update on initiatives undertaken to operationalize Continental and Regional Movement Coordination Centres (C/RMCCs), introducing a one-year Action Plan to achieve effective functioning of the CMCCs. Continued support for the operationalization of the Continental Logistics Base was emphasized as well as the need for enhanced coordination between the AU and the RECs/RMs in harmonizing the strategic lift concept and to implement the action plan.

Pledges for support were also made at this symposium, including one C130 aircraft for the AU Strategic Lift capability development (Uganda, advisory and training support for standardization as well as a proposal for Field Training Exercise (FTX) from 2022-2023 (US), tailored training programmes (UK). Going forward, the AU Commission will transmit revised Strategic Lift and CMCC concepts and action plans to Member States for consideration before final submission to the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Defence Safety and Security for endorsement. The symposium was attended by representatives of the AU Commission, EASF and SADC; AU Member States, notably Cameroon, Niger, Botswana, Gambia, Nigeria, Morocco, Uganda and Libya; and AU partners such as UNOAU, US, UK, NATO, EU, Japan, Canada, China, France, Brazil, and the Netherlands.

## Fifth Meeting of the African Union High Level Committee on Libya

The African Union (AU) High-Level Committee on Libya held its fifth meeting at the ministerial level in Addis Ababa on 17 April under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Congo, H.E. Jean-Claude Gakosso. In the meeting, updates on the political, security and humanitarian situations in Libya were provided. The meeting also provided an opportunity to review regional, continental and international efforts aimed at ending violence and facilitating an inclusive political dialogue among Libyan stakeholders, with the objective of promoting national reconciliation and successfully completing the ongoing transition. The presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Libya and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Dr. Ghassan Salamé was commended as an illustration of the UN-AU partnership in peace and security in Africa. The importance of enhancing regional and international coordination and engagement on Libya was particularly highlighted.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Mauritania, Niger, South Africa, Sudan and Tunisia, as well as the leadership of the AU Commission, including the Chairperson, the Commissioners for Peace and Security, and Social Affairs and the Special Representative of the Chairperson (SRCC) for Libya.

## UNOAU conducts strategic training for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Standby Force

UNOAU along with experts from the AU ECOWAS and the National Defense College of Nigeria, facilitated a week-long training for the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) in Abuja, Nigeria from 16-20, April. The training was part of a series of activities aimed at building capacity for strategic and operational planning for multidimensional peace support operations. Participants acquired knowledge on integrated mission planning processes, mission management and component planning. UNOAU also provided advisory support to the ESF in a second training that took place from 23-27 April, focusing on developing the Main Event List and Main Incident List (MEL/MIL) for the ECOWAS Exercise JIGUI IV.

## Second Regional Task Force workshop of Sector Commanders of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord Resistance Army



Photo credit: Globa Security

The workshop aimed at reviewing the implementation of recommendations of the RTF Commanders' Workshop held in Entebbe on 19-20 October 2017. In his remarks, the Head of Crisis Management and Post Conflict Reconstruction Division within the AU Commission, Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, provided an update on the joint AU-UNOCA missions deployed to the Central African Republic (CAR) (7 to 14 December 2017) and the DRC (19-23 February 2018) to assess the threat and impact of the LRA in the affected areas. The main conclusions of the discussions held in plenary sessions and working groups included: (i) the necessity to increase DRC-CAR bilateral cooperation and to enable joint FARDC-FACA operations against the LRA; (ii) enhanced coordination between the RTF and UN Missions in LRA affected areas, including increased UN logistical support and joint operations; (iii) exploring the possibility of relocating the RTF headquarters in the CAR; (iv) urging the Republic of Sudan to join the RTF and the South Sudan to actively engage in RTF activities; (v) the need for increased funding of humanitarian response and improved coordination between humanitarian actors; and (vi) the need to establish DDR programmes for LRA ex-combatants and defectors, especially in the CAR.

## ASG Keita official visit to Ethiopia

### Informal discussion between African Union Peace and Security Council Member States and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

On 23 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, Haile Menkerios, organized an informal consultation between AUPSC Member States and Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Bintou Keita on the recently-launched Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and peacekeeping operations in Africa. In addition to the overall UN-AU cooperation in peacekeeping in Africa, the meeting focused on the situation in South Sudan and challenges faced by the UN, AU and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), including those pertaining to the protection of civilians, the Regional Protection Force (RPF), and the IGAD-led High Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF), which require collective UN-AU support. Financing of AU peace support operations was also deliberated on with the representatives of AUPSC Member States calling for UN assessed contributions to ensure sustainability of financing of AU peace support operations.

#### ASG Bintou Keita meets senior officials at the AU Commission

Assistant Secretary-General Bintou Keita held meetings with senior officials of the AU Commission (AUC) on 23 April. In her meeting with the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, ASG Keita briefed on the UN Reform and implications for peace and security and exchanged views on further cooperation between the UN and the AU, with a particular focus on upcoming elections. She also met with the Advisor to the AU Chairperson on Peace, Security and Governance, Ambassador Hadiza Mustapha. The two Officials discussed practical ways to implement UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhancing Peace and Security in Africa in conflict situations, including while establishing joint action plans with timelines and joint investigations on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) related to peacekeeping troops, among others. The discussion with the AU Chief of Staff, Mr. El-Ghasim Wane, covered financing of AU peace support operations based on the 75/25% burden sharing model between the UN and the AU, and views were exchanged on the situations in Western Sahara, Mali and South Sudan, among others.

Ahead of the AU-UN High Level Dialogue on Human Rights that took place at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, ASG Keita met with the UN Human Rights High Commissioner, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein to discuss the joint UN-AU framework on Human Rights.



*H.E. Mrs Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs after meeting with Ms Bintou Keita, Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations on Monday, April 23, 2018*

## ASG Keita addresses women at the African Women Leaders Forum

On Gender: Speaking at the 2nd High-Level Women Leaders Forum for Africa's Transformation in Addis Ababa in April, ASG Keita stressed the importance of women's participation and leadership in peace and security initiatives, which would ensure that African women have the power to influence debates and programmes on issues of governance, security sector reform, justice and rule of law, and economic recovery. She added that gender-specific perspectives were key to successful conflict resolution and sustaining peace. ASG Keita called for an increase in African women's leadership and influence in peacekeeping operations, including as Force Commanders, Police Commissioners, Chiefs of Staff or Heads of Political components, at both continental and international levels.



*Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita (center) at the second African Women Leaders Network Forum (EVLN) during a session on national chapters*

Women are deployed in all areas – police, military and civilian – of UN Peacekeeping, and have made a positive impact, both in supporting the role of women in building peace and in protecting women's rights. Still significantly underrepresented in UN peace operations, women peacekeepers have proven that they can perform the same roles, to the same standards and under the same difficult conditions, as their male counterparts.



*Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita addressing women leaders from Ethiopian, diplomatic missions and the UN at an event hosted by the UN Country Team*

## African Union Peace and Security Council briefing on the African Union Peace Fund

The African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held a closed meeting on May 2nd on the Peace Fund where the High Representative for the Peace Fund and financing of the Union, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, provided an update on the operationalization of the Peace Fund and the UN-AU partnership on predictable financing of AU peace and security activities. Dr. Kaberuka informed the Council that, as of 30 April, AU Member States contributions to the Peace Fund amounted to USD 42.4 million, including USD 39.9 million disbursed in 2017 and USD 2.5 million in 2018. With regard to the UN-AU partnership for predictable financing, while welcoming Resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017), Dr. Kaberuka asserted that a more comprehensive Security Council decision was required, along with active engagement of the A3 and P5.

Responding to queries regarding the Peace Fund governance and management arrangement, Dr. Kaberuka informed that the members of the Board of Trustees (two representatives from each of the five sub-regions and two external partners) would be nominated by the AU Commission Chairperson. He asserted that the AUPSC should exercise political oversight over the Board, including defining its mandate. In its communiqué issued on 8 May, the AUPSC defined a timeline for the operationalization of the Peace Fund, including the appointment of the Board of Trustees by mid-June and the implementation of all other governance and management arrangements by September. The AUPSC decided to include the predictable and sustainable financing of peace and security activities on the agenda of the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the two Councils slated for 19 July, preceded by a special dialogue session with Security Council Member States in Addis Ababa.

## African Union Committee of Ministers of Finance meet in Addis Ababa

The Committee of Ministers of Finance (F15) of the African Union held a meeting in Addis Ababa on 3rd May, to discuss the 2019-2021 budget proposal, financial accountability framework – ‘Golden Rules’- and the terms of reference of the F15 and the Joint Committee of Foreign and Finance Ministers. The F15 endorsed a new budget approval process within the AU Commission which includes a timeline with a view to improve the Union’s budgeting and financial management process.

The meeting also passed a decision to allocate five percent of the total AU budget to the Reserve Fund - with an oversight mechanism - as a provisional measure pending the full implementation of the 0.2 percent levy on eligible imports by AU Member States. Currently, 22 Member States have committed to applying the 0.2 percent import levy, while 13 Member States have begun contributing to the AU budget. The approval of the ‘Golden Rules’ was postponed to the next F15 meeting. Meanwhile, amendments to the terms of reference for the F15 was approved to expand the role of the Committee with oversight prerogatives over AU financing, as decided during the AU Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016.



*African Ministers, Ambassadors and Government representatives at the Finance meeting*

## Third Senior Female Police Officers Command Development Course conducted in Dakar, Senegal

From the 7 to 15 May 2018, the third Senior Female Officer Command Development Course organized by the Police Division/DPKO and co-hosted with the African Union (AU), the International Organization of the Francophonie and the Senegalese Gendarmerie and Police took place in Dakar, Senegal. The aim of the course, similar to two previous English speaking courses held in Addis Ababa and in Kuala Lumpur, as well as the fourth one to be held in Belem, Brazil in July 2018, is to create a talent pool of qualified nominations for senior positions at P-5, D-1 and D-2 levels.

Fifty-one participants at the rank of Contrôleur Général (Major-General) to Commissaire (Lieutenant Colonel) and observers at the rank of Captain from the Senegal Gendarmerie, representing 19 French speaking countries participated in the course facilitated by an Instruction team composed of ten experts from the UN Police Division and UNOAU. The African Union was represented by Colonel Benaired Mohamed, Senior Police Adviser who oversaw both the opening and the closing ceremonies. He delivered a presentation on AU Peace Support Operations and recruitment processes and assisted the instruction team throughout the course.

UNOAU Chief of Staff, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh shared with participants her extensive UN peacekeeping experience, as well as challenges and lessons-learned while working in security challenged environments with the UN. She particularly led the discussions in the welcome luncheon and chaired a dinner event on the ‘Challenges and Opportunities for Women’s Participation in Peacekeeping Operations’.

She co-facilitated sessions and activities in which participants were assisted to formulate UN recruitment documentation, including Employment and Academic Certification (EACs) and practice competency-based interviews. Sessions that covered the Strategic Guidance Framework on international policing, introduction to UNPOLICE mandate in UN missions in Mali, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and so forth. A final assessment was conducted from which 13 officers were considered ready for assignments at P-5, D1 and D2 levels (24%), 26 officers at P3 and P4 levels (51 %); 9 officers to be deployed as individual police officers.



*The opening ceremony of the Third Senior Female Police Officers Command Development Course held in Dakar, Senegal*

## Joint African Union-United Nations review of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) undertaken in Mogadishu



Mr. James Amenyah Military Logistic Planning Officer at UNOAU (right) attended the joint AU-UN review with other members of UNOAU Operational Planning And Advisory Section - OPAS

Pursuant to the UN Security Council Resolution 2372 (2017), a team of representatives from the AU Peace and Security Department, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the UN Departments of Peacekeeping, Field Services and Political Affairs, other UN entities in the country and UNOAU conducted a joint AU-UN review of AMISOM. AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries and international partners, notably the UK, the US, France and the EU, also participated in this exercise, which took place in Mogadishu, Somalia from 10 to 19 May. This joint review of AMISOM aims at assessing current situations and identifying the way forward within the framework of the Somalia Transition Plan.

Presentations were made by the AMISOM civilian, military and police components, UN Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). The joint AU-UN team engaged the FGS to ensure a comprehensive approach to the transition plan would be achieved while underscoring the requirement for surge capacity and adequate AMISOM resources to facilitate the transition.

Recommendations by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Somalia, which build on the joint report of the AU and UN Envoys for the financing of AMISOM, were considered. These included the need for a strategic shift from a military to a multidimensional approach, with an emphasis on stabilization efforts, flexibility of logistics support and training considering multipliers and enablers. Emerging dynamics related to clan conflict and political differences between the FGS and Federal Member States (FMS) would also have to be considered. A final report will be prepared by the team in order to brief the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and subsequently the UN Security Council by 15 June 2018.

**Quick facts: UNSOM Mandate:** The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) was established on 3 June 2013 by UN Security Council Resolution 2102, following a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations in support of the establishment of the Federal Government of Somalia.

Read more at: <https://unsom.unmissions.org>

**AMISOM Mandate:** As per the UN Security Council Resolution 2372(2017) AMISOM is mandated to pursue several objectives including to enable the gradual handing over of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces contingent on abilities of the Somali security forces and political and security progress in Somalia.

Read more at: <http://amisom-au.org>

## UNOAU annual retreat



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU, Mr. Haile Menkerios officially opened the retreat

SRSR Haile Menkerios highlighted the long path that UNOAU has undertaken in its relationship with the African Union in the last five years which he added has been defined by close collaboration between both Organizations. In particular, he also reflected on relations between the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) as the two main organs in a privileged position to assess international and African peace and security threats. He underscored the need for UNOAU to focus on building capacities for strengthening the role of the African Union. He further re-iterated the need for the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and ad hoc bodies like the G5-Sahel to engage with other stakeholders in order to provide solutions.



UNOAU staff during UNOAU retreat

The first part of the interaction with partners kicked off with the AUC colleagues, and focused on the Partnership Assessment/ Implementation Matrix: All the AUC presenters from the Peace and Security Council Secretariat, the Conflict Management and the Peace Support Operations Divisions, in addition to the representative of the Department of Political Affairs, provided an overview of the key achievements. They assessed that the Signed Joint Framework Implementation Matrix, is a useful tool through which planned activities have been achieved.

In a pursuant assessment conducted in a dialogue with key UNOAU partners from Diplomatic missions based in Addis Ababa, it was noted that the relationship between the AU and the UN is based on the need to have a closer collaboration on peace and security issues under the purview of both the AUPSC and the UNSC.

*A full report on the retreat will be released soon.s on future opportunities in the management of peace and security situations in Africa.*

## UNOAU in Action



Mine Action Day was celebrated at the African Union on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Azeez Nurudeen, Operational Planning and Advisory Section devised a UN statement; seen here with UNOAU colleagues in the background



In April, UNOAU welcomed members of the Fifth Committee who visited UN offices in Addis Ababa



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh moderating a session on UN experiences and lessons-learned in South Sudan at the first Protection Against Sexual Violence and Abuse (PSEA) workshop organized by the UN Country Team in Addis



Representatives from UNOAU, UNWOMEN, ECA, AU and UN Resident Coordinator's Office at a planning meeting hosted by UNOAU ahead of the African Women Leaders Network Forum in April, 2018



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU, Haile Menkerios (third from left) at the AU-UN High Level Dialogue on Human Rights which was co-chaired by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein and the African Union Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki, and attended by the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the African Union Deputy Chairperson and the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs



Nurudeen Azeez (UNOAU) delivering UN statement at AU Peace and Security Council session on the Somali Transition Plan



Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Haile Menkerios at the AU Peace and Security Council session on the nexus between corruption and conflict in Africa



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh joined the African Union Commissioner for H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil (center left) at the African Women Leaders Network second forum where she facilitated a session on the formation of respective national chapters with experiences shared by representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo



UNOAU Support Unit staff during the Office's annual retreat (10 April, 2018)



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh with the Ms. Jessica Davis Bah, the Deputy Chief of the US Mission to the African Union (center) and Obinna Okamgba, Special Assistant of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU at Africa Day celebrations at the AU Headquarters in May



Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, Chief of Staff at UNOAU interacting with staff at UNOAU retreat



Dr. Admore Kambudzi, Acting Director at the African Union Peace and Security Department reflecting on UN-AU Partnership at UNOAU retreat held on 10 April, 2018



Zebeay Gebreyes, Chief of the Transport Unit at UNOAU reporting on his team and unit's achievements over the 2017/18 cycle.

## Staff Movements

### UNOAU welcomes



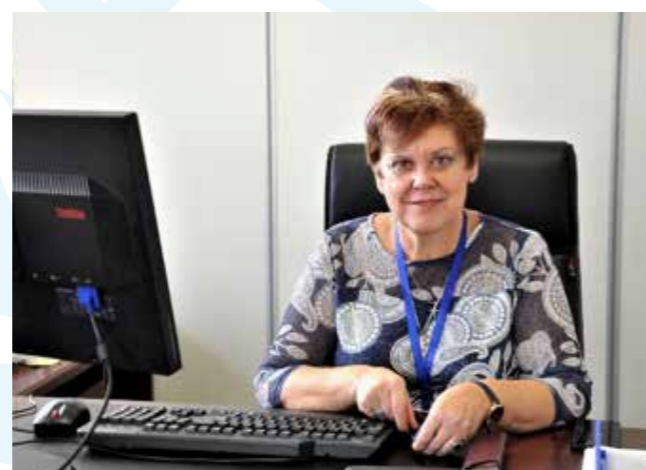
*Obinna Okamgba, Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU and Head of United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)*



*Maimouna Cherif-Haidara, Programme Management Officer/Finance & Budget and Larisa Hill, Programme Management Officer/ Human Resources*



*Michael Agboola, Security Coordination Officer*



*Hester Adriana Paneras, Head, Institutional and Operational Partnership Service*



*Marcel Clement Akpovo, Principal Human Rights Officer (UNAMID)*



*Douglas Langrehr, Chief, Mission Support Planning Section*



*Titilola Oyejola, Strategic Planner*

### UNOAU bid farewell to



*Diana Baker, Political Affairs Officer*



*Edward Kimosop, Military Planning Officer*

# Upcoming Events

- 11-12 June:** ASG UNDSS visit to Addis Ababa;
- 13 June:** UNOAU Meeting with AU Mission Support Planners on Safety and Security;
- 21-22 June:** AMISOM Mission Support Lessons Learnt Workshop;
- 18-21 June:** Tenth Annual Meeting of PKO/SPM Senior DDR Officers, Entebbe, Uganda;
- 26-29 June:** Final Planning Conference (Fpc) for AU Logex.

## ***AUPSC activities in June (Chair of the month: Sierra Leone):***

- 13 June:** AUPSC Preparation Session for the 12th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the UN Security Council;
- 18 June:** AUPSC Consideration of a Draft Report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
- 18 June:** AUPSC Consideration of a Draft Report of the Peace and Security Council on the Implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of the Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by year 2020;
- 20 June:** AUPSC Briefing on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- 20 June:** Open session on refugee protection, migration and human rights in Africa;
- 21 June:** Continuation of the working meetings of 18 June;
- 25-26 June:** 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC);
- 28-29 June:** 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union;
- 30 June:** PSC meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government.

## **UNOAU Bulletin**

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