

UNOAU HIGHLIGHTS

*Official monthly newsletter of the
United Nations Office to the African Union*



Regional Economic Communities Representatives meet SRSR Tetteh

On 5 April, SRSR Tetteh held a meeting with Permanent Representatives (PRs) to the African Union of Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries. The delegation was led by the Permanent Representative of Namibia, current chair of the SADC. The meeting was part of the SRSR's ongoing engagements with key stakeholders in Addis Ababa on matters related to promoting peace and security and further followed the SRSR's bilateral engagements with the diplomatic community as well as her meetings with AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), the European Union Permanent Representatives Group and others. Specifically, the meeting with the PRs of AU-recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) is part of an outreach to promote triangular UN-AU-RECs collaboration for the systematic implementation of the Joint UN-AU Framework for enhanced partnership in peace and security, particularly in the context of the RECs' strategic position and potential to facilitate addressing peace, security and development challenges, given their close proximity to Member States and communities.

SRSR Tetteh briefed the SADC PRs on the mandate of the UNOAU, and how it has continued to evolve over time. She also drew the link with the Joint Framework on Development, and furthermore clarified the distinct roles of the UNOAU and the UNECA regarding the two Joint UN-AU Frameworks. She underscored the important role of the RECs in peace and security and promoting good governance, as the anchor to building resilient communities. She called for stronger collaboration to build internal capacities of Member States and RECs to entrench good governance and democracy, including prioritizing deployment of long-term elections observers to cover a wider spectrum of the electoral cycle. She advocated for strengthened collaboration with the RECs to fast-track realization of the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063.

Regional Economic Communities Representatives meet SRSB Tetteh, cont'd

The PRs welcomed the SRSB's briefing on the UNOAU mandate, stressing that it empowered them to strategically position the SADC region to optimize opportunities for collaboration with the UNOAU, particularly in the area of conflict prevention and strengthening the capacities elections of management bodies to ensure improved election processes. They also committed to ensure that in its report to the AU Assembly on partnerships, the AU Commission regularly presents reports on the Joint UN-AU partnerships, articulating how the joint programs are contributing to implementing AU strategic priorities.

The SRSB expressed appreciation for the meeting and observed that as part of the measures to promote ownership of the Joint Peace and Security Framework, UNOAU will engage the PRC jointly with the AUC to provide updates on implementation of the Joint Framework, subject to the availability of PRC members.

In a similar capacity, SRSB Tetteh with the Permanent Representatives (PRs) of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) member countries to the African Union (AU) on 17 April. The meeting took place at her request as part of ongoing engagement with key stakeholders on matters of peace and security and was hosted by the Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon to Ethiopia and the AU (Gabon is the current Chair of ECCAS). Permanent Representatives of Equatorial Guinea, representatives from the Embassies of Burundi, Angola, Chad and the ECCAS Liaison Officer to the AU.



SRSB Tetteh also called for stronger collaboration to build internal capacities of the AU Member States and RECs, address country-specific situations, attain respective mutually reinforcing visions, and strengthen awareness of the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations.

The SRSB further commended the ECCAS for its active engagement in UN-AU-ECCAS efforts for addressing peace and security challenges in the central African region, including the 6 February Political Agreement for Central African Republic, and the ongoing initiatives for its implementation.

The Ambassadors and other representatives welcomed the SRSB's initiative to engage with the RECs, particularly given their potential to implement timely and contextualized initiatives on early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and resolution of conflicts within their respective regions. The PRs called for further meetings in the future with parallel briefings on matters related to peace and security and UN-AU partnership, for which SRSB Tetteh committed to deliver at the PRs' request, whether as a regional entity or individual Member State.

A meeting with the Permanent Representatives of the East African Community (EAC) Member States to the African Union was held on 24 April. The EAC Ambassadors welcomed the interaction and expressed their readiness to engage with UNOAU in pursuit of the UN-AU partnership objectives.



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Ethiopia to continue supporting peace and security efforts on the continent

On 4 April, SRSR Tetteh paid a courtesy call to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Honorable Markos Tekle Rike. This was an introductory meeting to brief the Minister, who is responsible for the relationship with multilateral institutions, on UNOAU mandate and activities. SRSR Tetteh elaborated on the establishment of the UNOAU, its mandate, and how its work has evolved in recent years, particularly with the signing of the Joint UN-AU Peace and Security Framework in April 2017; the conclusion of the Joint UN-AU Development Framework in January 2018 which is coordinated by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); and the Joint Declaration of December 2018. The SRSR communicated the appreciation by the Secretary-General for the leadership that Ethiopia continues to provide on addressing peace, security and development challenges whether at the sub-regional, continental or global levels.

Minister Markos expressed appreciation for the SRSR's briefing and further expressed the readiness of the Ministry and the Government to support the UNOAU for mutual benefit. He pledged Ethiopia's commitment to continued support to peace and security initiatives. He linked attaining a peaceful, secure and stable continent and neighborhood to Ethiopia's development ambitions, and in that regard expounded on the country's efforts to leverage on the country's strategic status as Africa's diplomatic capital, including developing her aviation and tourism industry. Minister Markos also expressed appreciation for the clarifications made by the SRSR regarding the distinct mandates of, as well as the synergies with the UNECA, UN Office for the Horn of Africa and the UN Office in Nairobi, among other UN Offices and Agencies. He also called for UN's support to strengthening Ethiopia's electoral processes and the reforms in the justice sector, in response to which the SRSR referenced the UN Country Team in Ethiopia, while expressing the general readiness of the UN to render all possible support through appropriate channels, upon request by the Ethiopian government.

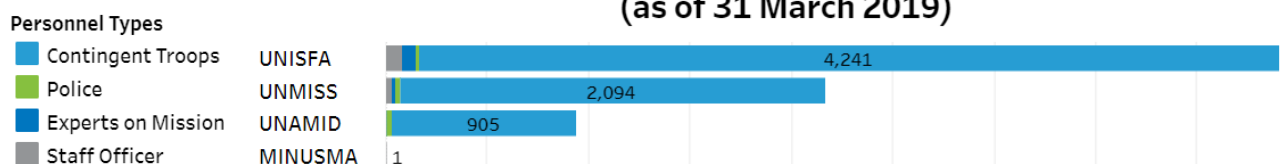
State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia H.E. Hirut Zemene also received SRSR Tetteh in a courtesy call at her Ministry in Addis Ababa on 24 April to discuss developments on the continent.



Photo: MoFA Ethiopia

Ethiopia's contribution to peacekeeping in Africa

Country contributions by mission and personnel type (as of 31 March 2019)



Source: UNpeacekeeping.org

Special Representative of the Secretary-General to South Sudan visits Addis Ababa

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), David Shearer, undertook a visit to Addis Ababa where he engaged with the AU Commission and international partners on April 11. During his visit, SRSG Shearer advocated for the international community to remain committed to ensure that momentum is not lost with regards to the peace process. He noted that the South Sudan peace process is at a critical stage, taking into consideration the delay of several agreed timelines and benchmarks, as well as the fast-approaching deadline of 12 May for the establishment of a transitional Government.

On 12 April, SRSG Shearer, together with Commissioner Chergui and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Special Envoy for South Sudan, Dr. Ismail Wais, briefed AU partners in Addis Ababa on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). In a joint statement issued after the briefing, the AU, IGAD and UN agreed to re-double their efforts in support of the implementation of the Agreement, recognized progress made, including a significant reduction in political violence, and urged all hold-out groups to adhere to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and urgently commit to the peace process. The statement noted outstanding key challenges and encouraged the parties to renew their commitment and accelerate their efforts on the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

UNOAU supports UNSOS in reviewing the Pre-deployment Training (PDT) Package for AMISOM



Photo: UNSOS

UNOAU participated in a curriculum review and development workshop in Nairobi, Kenya from 22-24 April. The aim of the workshop was to review the current AU-UN mandatory pre-deployment curriculum, update the training modules and assist trainers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) to conduct pre-deployment trainings in support of National Contingents.

The workshop was convened by the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and participants were drawn from the AU, UNOAU, AMISOM, T/PCCs and UNSOS. In their opening remarks, the Head of UNSOS, Lisa Filipetto and the AU Representative, Ken Abotsi, reiterated the need to review the Pre-deployment Training (PDT) package based on on-going current challenges in the implementation of the AMISOM mandate. The finalized package is expected to replace a previous one in July 2019.

Partnerships for peace

SRSG Tetteh undertook several courtesy calls in the month of April. Such meetings facilitate greater understanding on UNOAU mandate and activities, in addition to strengthening partnerships for implementing the UN - AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.



Nordic countries' ambassadors based in Addis Ababa met with SRSG Tetteh on April 5 to discuss multi-lateralism and collaboration to advance UN - AU partnership



April 9, SRSG Tetteh received Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, State Secretary at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs at UNOAU



April 3, SRSG Tetteh delivered a statement at the AU Peace & Security Council session on prevention of the ideology of hate, genocide & hate crimes



Ambassador Liu Yuxi of China to the African Union received SRSG Tetteh in courtesy call that explored collaboration to enhance the UN - AU partnership in peace and security in Africa



Folke Bernadotte Academy Director General, Mr. Sven-Eric Söder made a stop at UNOAU where he met with SRSG Tetteh for an exchange on joint efforts to enhance preventive diplomacy & mediation in Africa



The Head of UNEP Liaison Office to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Samba Harouna engaged with SRSG Tetteh on strengthening mediation and the nexus between effective natural resources management & conflict prevention



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for South Sudan, David Shearer (center), briefed SRSG Tetteh on developments in South Sudan during his visit to Addis Ababa



Amani Africa Managing Director, Dr. Solomon Dersso paid a courtesy visit to SRSG Tetteh on April 22



UNDP Ethiopia Resident Representative, Ms. Louise Chamberlain in a courtesy call at UNOAU



Photo: African Union Commission

AU Chairperson Moussa Faki met with SRSG Tetteh at the AU Commission on April 10 in preparation for the Third Annual UN - AU Conference set to take place at UN Headquarters in New York on May 6, 2019



UNOAU participated in an experts' workshop aimed at developing a two-year action plan to fast track the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative. The workshop took place in Addis Ababa on 18 April

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