



# UNOAU Bulletin

A publication from the United Nations Office to the African Union  
February 2017

**“ I join you in Profound Solidarity  
and Respect”**

UN Secretary-General at the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the  
African Union



*Opening ceremony of the AU Summit*

*Special Edition*

# UNOAU Mandate

## Background to 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 AU Peace and Security Council Members adopted the 628<sup>th</sup> Communique on the partnership between the UN and the AU on issues of peace and security in Africa, then later the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2320 (2016) on partnership between the UN and Regional Organizations in particular with the African Union, after the UN Secretary General report on a new level of partnership was presented. This was strengthened by the new UN Secretary General, through his vision and priorities that the UN and the 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 Agenda 2030.

### UNOAU is mandated 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

(A/64/762, A/RES/64/288)

\*\*\*\*

**UNOAU Bulletin:** UNOAU Bulletin aims to increase visibility and awareness of the UNOAU mandate in relation with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms in the area of Peace and Security on the continent. It illustrates the political role the United Nations is playing with the AU and other stakeholders on conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

## UN Secretary-General attends the 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit

The 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (Summit) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30-31 January 2017 under the theme “*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth*”, and was preceded by the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union on 25-27 January 2017, as well as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) meeting on 22-24 January 2017.

The issues that featured prominently in this 2017 January Summit were:

- Heads of State and Government retreat to consider the Report on AU Institutional Reform of the African Union proposed by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda
- Election of the African Union Commission
- Financing of the African Union and the AU Peace Fund
- Consideration of the request by Morocco to become a Member State of the African Union
- Peace and Security in Africa
- The International Criminal Court
- AU-UN-IGAD Consultations on South Sudan

This Special Edition features the main events attended and main discussions held by the UN Secretary-General.



### Members of the UN Secretary-General’s delegation:

1. The Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres
2. Mr. Haile Menkerios, SRSG, UNOAU
3. Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, USG, OSAA
4. Mr. Taye Zerihoun, ASG, DPA
5. Mr. Wane El-Ghassim, ASG, DPKO
6. Mr. Abdalla Hamdock, Executive Secretary a.i., UNECA
7. Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Senior Adviser, EOSG
8. Ms. Katrin Hett, Senior Political Affairs Officer, EOSG
9. Ms. Nicole Bresson-Ondieki, Deputy Chief of Protocol
10. Mr. Mathias Gillmann, Spokesperson, OSSG

## The AU Summit opens in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with a renewed commitment for peace and unity on the continent



Summit group photo

The 28<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) officially opened on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the newly elected UN Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Summit, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma warmly welcomed Mr. Guterres to his first AU Summit in his new capacity. “We appreciate the appointment of our sister, Amina J. Mohamed of Nigeria, as Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, and congratulate her on this new responsibility”, underlined Dr. Dlamini Zuma while also extending a special welcome to the members of the Assembly whose mandates were renewed and to the newly elected Heads of State.



The Summit was held under the theme “*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth*”. Dr. Dlamini Zuma recalled in this regard that the year 2017 was heralded by some important developments, while highlighting that “this year marks a number of historical milestones.”

Mr. Guterres also expressed strong support for the AU’s annual theme. He reiterated the UN will to support the African people and to contribute fully to AU peace missions in the continent. (See complete speech of the UN Secretary-General on UNOAU website: [www.unoau.unmissions.org](http://www.unoau.unmissions.org)).



The outgoing Chairperson of the Union, President Idriss Déby Itno of the Republic of Chad, warmly welcomed the new Presidents of The Gambia, Ghana, Sao-Tome and Principe, and Seychelles, who were elected through a democratic electoral process carried out in their respective countries. He also warmly welcomed both H.E Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestine National Authority, and Mr. Guterres to Africa, wishing the latter full success in his new functions, and reiterating the support of the African people to the UN given that “Africa has found in Mr. Guterres a sincere, committed and sensible person who will stop at nothing to address the issues currently faced by the continent”.

Thereafter, President Déby Itno handed over the Chairmanship to the newly elected Chairperson of the African Union, H.E Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea who, in his acceptance speech stated: “It is with honour and humility that I accept to preside at the destiny of our Organisation during the year 2017. I promise to ensure that we implement all the objectives we have set to achieve during this period with a view to enhance the development of our continent.”



View of the Assembly at the opening ceremony

Issues of peace and security dominated many of the presentations by African and visiting Heads of State and Government. Most leaders condemned terrorism in very strong terms. Various speakers at the Summit's opening ceremony expressed their commitment to mainstreaming youth programmes in all socio-economic activities.

On 30 January, the Summit decided to accede to Morocco's request to become a Member State of the AU after a 33-year absence from both the Organization of the African Unity and the African Union, and despite strong objections from a few Member States over Morocco's position on Western Sahara. After a four-hour debate focused primarily on legal and procedural issues, the Summit welcomed Morocco "back into the African family." Morocco's membership became effective on 31 January 2017.

The Summit was preceded by the meeting of the AU Executive Council held on 25-27 January 2017, and was dominated by discussions on reports of the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Ministerial Committee on the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Prior to the Summit, on 29 January, the Heads of State and Government of the AU held a retreat to review the Institutional Reform proposals presented by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, as decided at the Kigali Summit in July 2016.

The recommendations of the report included: (i) re-orientating the AU to focus on key continental issues, namely political affairs, peace and security, economic integration, and Africa's global representation; (ii) improving the AU's management at the political and operational levels; (iii) immediate implementation of the Kigali financing decisions; and (iv) establishment of oversight, implementation and change management structures at the Assembly and Commission levels.

The Heads of State and Government broadly welcomed the report and its implementation roadmap. However, a few Heads of State and Government suggested that more time should be given to study the report. The latter was adopted during a closed session of the Assembly on 31 January.

*(See complete speech of the AUC Chairperson and key decisions on the AU website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int) ).*



*Executive Council group photo*

# Elections at the African Union Commission

## New Bureau of the African Union

*President Alpha Condé of Guinea was elected Chairperson of the African Union (AU)*



The new Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Mr. Alpha Condé (right), President of the Republic of Guinea, was elected on Monday 30 January 2017, by the Heads of State and Government of the AU during their 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. President Alpha Condé is taking over from H.E. Mr. Idriss Déby Itno (left), President of the Republic of Chad as the new Chairperson of the AU for the year 2017.

### *The newly elected bureau of the African Union is as follows:*

- Chairperson: *H.E Mr. Alpha Condé*, President of the Republic of Guinea
- First Vice-Chairperson: *H.E Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*, President of the Republic of Uganda
- Second Vice-Chairperson: *H.E Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika*, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- Third Vice-Chairperson: *His Majesty King Mswati III* of the Kingdom of Swaziland
- Rapporteur: *H.E Mr. Idriss Déby Itno*, President of the Republic of Chad.

# New Leadership of the African Union Commission



African Union Commission  
**ELECTED LEADERSHIP**

[www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

 <p><b>H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT</b> <i>Chad</i></p> <p><b>CHAIRPERSON</b> <i>African Union Commission</i></p>	 <p><b>H.E. QUARTEY Thomas Kwesi</b> <i>Ghana</i></p> <p><b>DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON</b> <i>African Union Commission</i></p>
 <p><b>H.E. CHERGUI Smail</b> <i>Algeria</i></p> <p>Commissioner for <b>PEACE AND SECURITY</b></p>	 <p><b>H.E. SAMATE Cessouma Minata</b> <i>Burkina Faso</i></p> <p>Commissioner for <b>POLITICAL AFFAIRS</b></p>
 <p><b>H.E. ABOU-ZEID Amani</b> <i>Egypt</i></p> <p>Commissioner for <b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; ENERGY</b></p>	 <p><b>H.E. ELFADIL Amira Elfadil Mohammed</b> <i>Sudan</i></p> <p>Commissioner for <b>SOCIAL AFFAIRS</b></p>
 <p><b>H.E. MUCHANGA Albert M.</b> <i>Zambia</i></p> <p>Commissioner for <b>TRADE AND INDUSTRY</b></p>	 <p><b>H.E. SACKO Josefa Leonel Correa</b> <i>Angola</i></p> <p>Commissioner for <b>RURAL ECONOMY &amp; AGRICULTURE</b></p>

The remaining two (2) portfolios of Commissioners be elected from either one (1) male from Eastern Region or one (1) female from Central Region at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Executive Council to be appointed during the Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017 in accordance with Article 16 (6) of the Statutes of the Commission of the African Union

On 30 January, the election of the new leadership of the AU Commission (AUC) took place during a closed session of the Summit. After seven rounds of voting, Chadian Foreign Minister, Hon. Moussa Faki Mahamat, was elected as the incoming AUC Chairperson. Other candidates for the position were from Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya and Senegal.

The Chairperson of the Commission is the Chief Executive Officer, legal representative of the AU and the Commission's Accounting Officer (Commission Statutes, article 7). The Chairperson is directly responsible to the Executive Council for the discharge of his/her duties.

The Ghanaian candidate, Ambassador Thomas Kwesi Quartey, was elected to the position of Deputy Chairperson of the AUC. The Deputy Chairperson assists the Chairperson in the execution of his/her functions and ensures the smooth running of the Commission in relation to administrative and financial issues. The Deputy acts as the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

Six out of eight Commissioners were also elected, including the incumbent Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui. Ms. Minata Cessouma Samate of Burkina Faso was elected Commissioner of Political Affairs. The complete list of Commissioners is as follows:

1. Peace and Security: Chergui Smail – Algeria (North Africa, male)
2. Political Affairs: Samate Cessouma – Burkina-Faso (West Africa, female)
3. Infrastructure and Energy: Abou-Zeid Amani – Egypt (North Africa, female)
4. Social Affairs: Elfadil, Amira Elfadil Mohammed – Sudan (East Africa, female)
5. Trade and Industry: Muchanga Albert – Zambia (Southern Africa, male)
6. Rural Economy and Agriculture: Sacko Josefa – Angola (Southern Africa, female)
7. Human Resource, Science and Technology: Election Suspended
8. Economic Affairs: Election Suspended

The Commissioners support the Chairperson in running the Commission through their assigned portfolios. Commissioners have the responsibility to implement all decisions, policies and programmes relating to their portfolios (Commission Statutes, article 11).

### ***Portfolios of the Commissioners:***

1. Peace and Security: Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and Combating Terrorism
2. Political Affairs: Human Rights, Democracy, Good Governance, Electoral Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons
3. Infrastructure and Energy: Energy, Transport, Communications, Infrastructure and Tourism
4. Social Affairs: Health, Children, Drug Control, Population, Migration, Labour and Employment, Sports and Culture
5. Human Resources, Science and Technology: Education, Information Technology Communication, Youth, Human Resources, Science and Technology
6. Trade and Industry: Trade, Industry, Customs and Immigration Matters
7. Rural Economy and Agriculture: Rural Economy, Agriculture and Food Security, Livestock, Environment, Water and Natural Resources and Desertification
8. Economic Affairs: Economic Integration, Monetary Affairs, Private Sector Development, Investment and Resource Mobilization.

# Renew partnership through Solidarity and Respect

*AUC outgoing Chairperson welcomes UN  
Secretary-General, António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres*



On 29 January 2017, Mr. António Guterres made a courtesy call to the African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Dlamini Zuma, in his capacity as UN Secretary-General for the next four years. Mr. Guterres expressed his intention to strengthen partnership with the African Union on the basis of “**solidarity and respect**”, and committed to working closely with African leaders to address peace and security issues, and other concerns and anxieties of the African people.

The Secretary-General noted that mechanisms already exist to promote the partnership between the UN and the AU, including the Joint Taskforce, which meets twice annually to discuss peace and security issues in Africa. He expressed his intention to strengthen and upgrade these engagements, and take the partnership “**to a higher level**”, including by meeting with the Chairperson “**at least once annually**”. The Secretary-General emphasized that conflict prevention should be a priority for both Organizations. In this regard, he noted that African leaders and the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs)- Regional Mechanisms (RMs) have an important role to play in conflict prevention, citing the positive role of ECOWAS and West African leaders in resolving the situation in The Gambia. He also expressed the intention to ensure that the UN supports the efforts of the RECs, the AU and African leaders to prevent conflict in Africa.

The Secretary-General commended the AU for the adoption of Agenda 2063, and noted its convergence with the global development Agenda 2030. He stressed that the UN and the AU must work closely together to implement the UN/AU partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda’ (PAIDA). He

added that development and security issues must be addressed in tandem, rather than one being prioritized over another.

The Secretary-General showed interest in the AU institutional reform process, and stated that reform was also required in the UN, including in the Security Council. The Secretary-General informed Dr. Dlamini Zuma of his intention to reform the UN peace and security architecture to ensure coherence within the Organization in the peace, security and development continuum, and called for the support of African members of the Fifth Committee once these proposals are tabled, adding that reform should not be seen purely through a cost-cutting lens, but also as ***“what would serve the world better”***.

In his concluding remarks, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of ***“changing the narrative about Africa”***. He regretted that the prevailing narrative was on conflict and political crisis, which he viewed as unfair, and noted that African countries were developing rapidly and some of its economies are among the fastest growing in the world. The Secretary-General concluded by stating that he would do his best to ensure that this positive narrative of Africa prevails.

The outgoing AUC Chairperson welcomed the Secretary-General to the AU Commission, and expressed the desire to work closely with the UN to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two Organizations, and agreed with the Secretary-General’s views. She stated ***“We cannot sustain peace without development, and very often poverty and failure to manage the expectations of populations is the root cause of conflict”***. She stressed that Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 were not competing agendas, but complementary. Dr. Dlamini Zuma added that the AU had taken a long-term view by seeking to transform the continent, and energize its youth population. On the UN reform, the Chairperson stated that ***“reform of the Security Council was not only a necessity, it was an issue of justice”***. She stressed the fact that, although she recognized that Security Council reform was challenging, ***“we must keep pushing for it”***. The Chairperson called for more UN support to AU peace support operations, adding that troop contributions to these operations should be seen as part of Africa’s contributions, ***“not just dollars and cents”***.

The Chairperson welcomed the appointment of an African woman as Deputy Secretary-General. She described Ms. Amina Mohamed as a pan-Africanist, who knows the continent and its challenges well, and serves on the AU Institutional Reform Steering Committee. Dr. Dlamini Zuma expressed the hope that more Africans would be appointed to senior leadership positions in the UN. She concluded by wishing the Secretary-General a successful tenure.

### ***UN Secretary-General’s Priorities in respect of the AU***

- Raise the level of the AU/UN strategic partnership
- Enhance the UN partnership with Africa’s eight Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms
- Support the African Governance Architecture
- Support African efforts to realize AU initiative to “Silence the Guns by 2020”
- Support Regional Integration

## UN Secretary-General Working Breakfast with African Heads of State and Government



On 29 January, the UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres, attended a working breakfast with African Heads of State and Government which had been convened by President of Chad and the outgoing Chair of the AU, Idris Déby Itno. The participants included the African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, as well as Heads of State and Government of AU Member States. Discussions covered the issues of the UN reform, the International Criminal Court (ICC), peacekeeping, conflict prevention, and development. The meeting was highlighted by exchanges on the future of peace operations, including mandating and resourcing, the willingness of African Member States to meet security challenges, and limitations of classic peacekeeping to meet modern security challenges.

The UN Secretary-General's message of ***“solidarity and respect”*** and willingness to engage African leaders on policy questions related to the reform of global governance and support to peace operations was very well received. Several Heads of State proposed that a working breakfast with the Secretary-General should become a regular feature of the next AU Summits. In conclusion, H.E. President Idris Déby Itno made the following recommendations: (i) closer working relationship between the UN Secretariat and the AUC to reflect the AU's views on peace and security issues in Africa in the UN Secretary-General's reports; (ii) holding a meeting to review the UN-AU strategic partnership, including in the areas of peace and security, terrorism and climate change, in the margins of the AU Summits; and (iii) more regular contact between the UN and the AU leadership.



## UN Secretary-General bilateral meetings with key African Leaders during the AU Summit

On 29-30 January, the UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres, held bilateral meetings with African Heads of State and Government in the margins of the AU Summit. The Secretary-General discussed regional peace and security with particular focus on South Sudan and Somalia with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn; President of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta; as well as the President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, respectively. The bilateral meetings with the President of Tanzania, H.E. John Pombe Magufuli; the President of Republic of the Congo, H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso; and the First Vice-President of Burundi, H.E. Gaston Sindimwo, also covered regional challenges to peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region.

The Secretary-General held a wide range of discussions on continental peace, security and stability with the President of Chad and Chairman of the AU, H.E. Idriss Déby. During their consultation, it was reaffirmed that peace and stability are prerequisites to the implementation of AU's objectives through an enhanced UN-AU partnership.

The fight against terrorism was the core focus of the Secretary-General's meeting with the President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The Secretary-General emphasized the UN's readiness to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Mali in his exchange with the Prime Minister of Mali, H.E. Modibo Keita. In his consultation with the Prime Minister of Libya, H.E. Faiez Mustafa Serraj, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of inclusive participation of all stakeholders in Libya in the peace process. The meeting with the Prime Minister of Algeria, H.E. Abdelmalek Sellal, focused on challenges to regional peace and security, including stability in Libya and Mali, as well as the issue of Western Sahara. The Secretary-General also held a meeting with the President of the Palestine National Authority, H.E. Mahmoud Abbas. The Secretary-General expressed UN's continuous support for a peaceful solution of Palestine and Israel issues.



*Meeting with the Ethiopian Prime Minister*



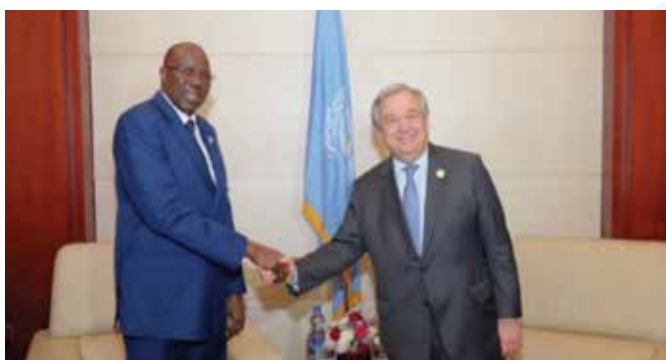
*Meeting with the President of Kenya*



*Meeting with the Prime Minister of Algeria*



*Meeting with the President of Tanzania*



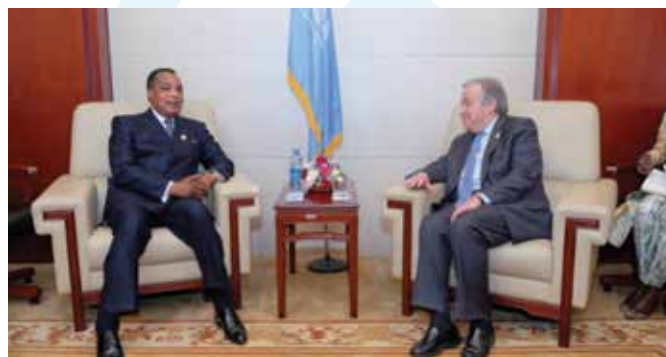
*Meeting with the Prime Minister of Mali*



*Meeting with the First Vice President of Burundi*



*Meeting with the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission of the Peace agreement on South Sudan*



*Meeting with the President of the Republic of Congo*



*Meeting with the President of Uganda*

**and others . . .**

## **Quotes from UN Secretary-General at the AU Summit:**

- *"The UN is proud to be your partner";*
- *"I am proud to be your partner";*
- *"I am convinced that we have much to gain from African wisdom, African ideas, African solutions. It is that spirit of possibility and partnership that draws me here in Addis Ababa";*
- *"Africa provides the majority of UN peacekeepers around the world";*
- *"African nations are among the world's largest and most generous host refugees";*
- *"Around the world, conflicts are internal";*
- *"We will work hand-in- hand with you wherever conflict or the threat of conflict threatens stability and people's well-being";*
- *"Security issues must be addressed in tandem, rather than one being prioritized over another".*

## UN Secretary-General meets with UN staff in a Town Hall Meeting convened on 29 January 2017



# AU-IGAD-UN Joint Consultative Meeting on South Sudan



On 29 January, the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the UN held a joint consultative meeting on South Sudan in the margins of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa. The meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chairperson of IGAD, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, was also attended by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the UN Secretary-General.

The AU High Representative for South Sudan, former President of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare, and the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), former President of Botswana Festus Mogae, briefed the meeting. Also in attendance were the Executive Secretary of IGAD, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, and other senior officials of the three Organizations. In a joint press statement issued after the meeting, the AU, IGAD and UN commended the important work performed by the JMEC Chairperson, and encouraged the AU High Representative for South Sudan to undertake active shuttle diplomacy towards ensuring the inclusivity of National Dialogue in South Sudan and the Agreement for Resolution Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) implementation, in close consultation with the JMEC Chairperson, the UN and IGAD.

## Quotes from African Union Commission Chairperson Dlamini Zuma:

- “A warm welcome to the UN Secretary-General on his first AU Summit in this capacity”;
- “We appreciate the appointment of our sister Amina J. Mohamed of Nigeria as Deputy Secretary General, and congratulate her on this new responsibility”;
- “The future we are building today must leave Africa integrated, prosperous and peaceful, for current and future generations”;
- “Despite the challenges we face, we have countless examples of governments leading society, acting decisively in building a better life for current and future generations”;
- “We cannot sustain peace without development, and very often poverty and failure to manage the expectations of populations is the root cause of conflict”;
- “Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 are not competing agendas, but rather they are complementary”;
- “We call for more UN support to AU peace support operations, as troop contributions to these operations should be seen as part of Africa’s contributions, “not just dollars and cents”.

## Summit on the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA)



*Commissioner Chergui Smail, AU Peace & Security Department (left), and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, chair of the meeting (right)*

On 29 January, the African Union Commission (AUC), at the request of President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, convened a Summit on the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) in the margins of the AU Summit.

The meeting was chaired by President Museveni and attended by the Presidents of South Sudan and Central African Republic (CAR); the Vice Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan. Other participants included the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, and international partners (US, UK and EU). The UN was represented by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun.

While noting the progress made by the RCI-LRA, participants stressed the continued threat posed by the LRA to the region, namely in CAR, DRC and South Sudan. Participants called for the humanitarian crisis resulting from the LRA activities to be urgently addressed, and for a renewed focus on the fight against the LRA. Going forward, participants mandated the AUC to urgently convene an Experts' planning meeting of RCI-LRA to develop a plan for the full accomplishment of the RCI-LRA mandate.

Other key elements of the meeting included the call by President Museveni for the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) to deploy more troops on CAR's south-western borders, and a request for the DRC to allow cross-border pursuit of the LRA. Finally, the Presidents of CAR and Uganda called for a lifting of the arms embargo against CAR to facilitate a re-equipment of its army.

## Interview with Nicholas Shalita, UNOAU Chief Political Affairs Section



*What role did your section play in the preparation of the AU Summit and the Secretary-General's first participation in the AU Summit in his new capacity?*

UNOAU and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) initiated preparations for the participation of the UN Secretary-General's first visit at the AU Summit. As in the previous years, it was agreed that ECA would take the lead on logistical requirements, while UNOAU would contribute in arranging substantive programmes for the Secretary-General. It is in that line that a coordination team,

led by UNECA and ably supported by UNOAU, was established to streamline the efforts of the UN family in Addis Ababa.

Consequently, as Head of Political Affairs Section, my team under the guidance of the UNOAU Chief of Staff, was tasked to prepare advanced reports on thematic issues expected to be raised in the Summit, and provide draft reports on the outcomes of the UN Secretary-General's meetings with African leaders on conflict situations on the continent. I congratulate the team on behalf of UNOAU leadership for the timely and effective support provided for the full success to the UN Secretary-General's engagements with the African leaders during his first summit as UN Secretary-General. As a result, you have all heard that the African leaders had decided to have a dialogue with the UN Secretary-General at every AU January Summit.

*What were the key outcomes of the AU Summit?*

While we are now aware of the election of the African Union Chair, President Alpha Condé; the AUC Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat; and other member of the Commission leadership, I wish to focus on the following key outcomes:

The AU Summit adopted the Report on Institutional Reform prepared by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. The report recommends that the AU focuses on key priorities with a continental focus, specifically: political affairs, peace and security, economic integration, and Africa's global representation. It also recommends that the Commission's structures should be re-evaluated to ensure that they have the right size and capabilities, and further recommends better integration of NEPAD, as the AU's development agency, and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), as the AU's mechanism to monitor governance. The report recommends measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness at the political and operational levels, including the establishment of a Troika system (Bureau) of the Assembly to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, and at the operational level, the Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners should be competitively recruited. The report further recommends the immediate implementation of the Kigali financing decisions. These reforms are expected to strengthen the AU, including enhancing effectiveness and efficiency.

The AU Summit also considered Morocco's request to become a member of the AU. The request was adopted, and Morocco became the 55th Member State of the AU on 31 January. In his address to the Assembly on 31 January, the King of Morocco expressed his country's intention to help promote unity and progress in the Union.

Another key decision of the Assembly was the adoption of the ICC withdrawal strategy, with several Member States either expressing reservations or requesting for more time to consider the strategy.

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, held meetings in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 January with the outgoing Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and the incoming Chairperson, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, respectively. At both meetings, he reiterated his intention to further strengthen the strategic

partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, including by elevating the engagement between the two Organizations through a Summit of the UN Secretary-General and the AU Commission Chairperson at least once every year.

### *How will these outcomes impact on the AU-UN partnership?*

We will continue to work to strengthen the partnership with the AU. Both the AU and the UN are transitioning to a new leadership in 2017, which is an opportunity for both Organizations to renew and perhaps re-energize the AU/UN partnership. The Secretary-General has already identified this as a priority for the UN, and has also emphasized “*solidarity and respect*” as being at the heart of the partnership.

The AU institutional reform agenda is bold and ambitious. A more focused AU, along the lines recommended in the Kagame report, which is better funded, in line with the Kigali financing decisions, would be a stronger AU. A more focused and better funded AU would be a more effective partner for the UN in the area of peace and security. It was recognized in the High Level Independent Panel on the United Nations Peace Operations (HIPPO) report, and many other reports before it, that the UN cannot address peace and security challenges by itself. Therefore, stronger regional organizations, like the AU, would enhance our collective ability to address threats to peace and security. It would therefore be good for the UN as well.



## Interview with Francis Mumbey-Wafula, UNOAU Administrative Officer

### *What was the role of UNOAU Support in the preparation of the AU Summit?*

The role of UNOAU Support Team during the preparations for the visit of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres, to attend the African Union Summit was mainly in the form of logistical and protocol services provided as part of UNOAU contribution to the efforts of the UN Country Team (UNCT) led by UNECA and supported by UNOAU.

Under the UNCT responsibility-sharing arrangement and under guidance from UNOAU Chief of Staff, UNOAU was primarily responsible for attending to the needs of UN Senior Leadership not members of the Secretary-General's official delegation. UNOAU was also tasked to oversee the initial coordination of the deployment of the vehicles fleet contributed by the UNCT to ensure that the Secretary-General, his delegation as well as technical and logistical staff assigned to the Summit would be transported, and that a close monitoring and tracking of arrivals and departures would be in place. In addition, CITS and General Services units, in coordination with UNECA, ensured that local phones were assigned, printing services and stationery were available to support the delegation and the team. Human Resource and Finance supported the on-boarding of additional drivers. Protocol was key in the follow-up and acquisition of national security badges and car passes.

### *What were your major challenges?*

While UNOAU Support Team endeavoured to provide efficient services in coordination with the UNCT and in compliance with the UN “light footprint” approach, the following challenges can be highlighted: badges issued to the technical and logistical were in insufficient number for the work to be performed by the team last minute cancellations of arrivals were difficult to address with hotels management and concerned officials, as the room reservations policy during the Summit is clear: advanced payments are not refundable. That notwithstanding, due to the excellent relations built between UNOAU and some of those hotels, a few cancellations were processed without a penalty. Other challenges and recommendations for even more successful AU Summits have been made in the debriefing organized by UNOAU Chief of Staff, and will be addressed internally. Thank you.

# UNOAU-UNECA technical and logistical team in support of the visit of the UNSG and his delegation



## Upcoming Events

- 01 February 2017 AU Solidarity Conference for CAR, Addis Ababa  
13-14 February 2017 UNOAU/UN Women workshop on Women, Peace and Security, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Addis Ababa  
16 February 2017 Open Session of the PSC on the role of Women in protecting lives in challenging security environment in Africa, Addis Ababa  
27-28 February 2017 AMISOM Lessons Learned Workshop, Nairobi  
21-25 February 2017 Annual Review of AMISOM Mission Implementation Plan (Venue: TBC).

### UNOAU Bulletin

Published by: UNOAU

#### Editorial Advisor:

Nathalie Ndongo Seh - *Chief of Staff*

#### Editors:

Nicholas Shalita - *Head of Political Affairs Section*

Azeez Nurudeen - *Head of Operational Planning and Advisory Section*

Annette Rolfe - *Special Assistant to UNOAU SRSG*

Johnstone Oketch - *Political Affairs Officer*

Yume Sato - *Political Affairs Officer*

James Amenyah - *Military Logistics Planning Officer*

#### Public Information:

Seraphine Toe - *Strategic Communication Officer*

#### Photo:

AUC & UNECA

Address: UNOAU Menelik II Avenue; UNECA compound NOF building; 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> floors;  
Tel.: +251 115442275; Fax: +251 11511652; P. O. Box: 1357; Addis Ababa-Ethiopia

[https://twitter.com/UNOAU\\_](https://twitter.com/UNOAU_), <https://www.facebook.com/UNOAU>